

**Prayer to End Abortion**

*Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life,  
And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.  
I know there is nothing that destroys more life than  
abortion,*

*Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death  
by the Resurrection of Your Son.*

*I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.*

*Today I commit myself*

*Never to be silent,*

*Never to be passive,*

*Never to be forgetful of the unborn.*

*I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement,*

*And never to stop defending life*

*Until all my brothers and sisters are protected,*

*And our nation once again becomes*

*A nation with liberty and justice*

*Not just for some, but for all,*

*Through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen!*

[www.priestsforlife.org/novenas/novena.aspx?id=10](http://www.priestsforlife.org/novenas/novena.aspx?id=10)

**Opportunity for Service**

**Response 2016**, the most comprehensive guide of faith-based service opportunities is now available. Volunteers serve full-time for periods of one week to one year or more across the United States and in more than 100 countries worldwide. Summer and school break opportunities are also available. **Our volunteers are from all walks of life.** Contact Catholic Volunteer Network to receive your free copy/copies of Response 2016 at **800-543-5046** or [info@catholicvolunteernetwork.org](mailto:info@catholicvolunteernetwork.org). You can also visit [www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org](http://www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org).

**Volunteer Opportunity**

**Touch a life... Become a Hospice Volunteer.** Hospice is a philosophy of care, not a place. We care for our patients wherever they call home. As a vital part of our team volunteers come from all walks of life, and have a variety of skills, talents and abilities. Opportunities to serve are diverse: visit patients and families to provide companionship, socialization, and comfort, help with legacy work, transportation, light housework, meal preparation, run errands, make phone calls, help with clerical work, attend health fairs, make a presentation. Volunteers with specialized professional qualifications and training are also needed: attorneys, licensed hair dressers, Massotherapists, pet therapy dogs and their handlers. Volunteer education is held frequently throughout northern Ohio. Teen and most volunteers not having contact with patients take 4 hours of training while patient care volunteers have 16 hours. **Visit us at [www.hospicewr.org](http://www.hospicewr.org) for more information or call us 800-707-8922 x6881.**

**LOVE POWERS  
OUR MISSION.**



**Love Powers Our Mission at Catholic Charities!** Many parishioners received letters in January, inviting their support of the Annual Appeal. **Please pray for the good work of Catholic Charities and make a pledge today.** Your donation makes a difference! Your support of the 2016 Catholic Charities Annual Appeal is an act of mercy that will change the lives of your brothers and sisters in Christ. We are all family. We are our brother's keeper. In this, the Year of Mercy, we invite you to join Catholic Charities in feeding the hungry, sowing God's love, bringing light to darkness, and spreading peace. **We appreciate your donation and will take special care to use it wisely in providing essential programs and services to the needy throughout all eight counties of the Diocese of Cleveland. To view stories of inspiration and more info at [www.catholiccommunity.org/2016Appeal](http://www.catholiccommunity.org/2016Appeal).**

***World Day for Consecrated Life***

*World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated in the Church on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 and in parishes on the weekend of February 6-7, 2016. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.*

***Save The Date***

*February 9 (Fat Tuesday) at 6:30pm, Philip Keller, better known as radio personality "Trapper Jack," will deliver a special pre-Lenten talk. Come listen as he reflects on his journey of faith as a legally blind man whose blindness surprisingly led him back to the Catholic Church. He will also share his insights on the power of the Holy Rosary. Held at the **Knights of Columbus #3410 Hall at 2055 Glenmount Ave., Akron, OH 44319.** Sponsored by the Akron Serra Club and the South Akron K of C.*

***Visitation of Mary Invites You to Join 200 Club!***

You are invited to join the **Visitation of Mary Parish (formerly Annunciation) 200 Club** for 2016 for only **\$52 per person for the year!** Every month for 8 months (February through September), two lucky people will win \$100 each. PLUS in March and again in September, there will be an additional drawing for \$500! **Drawings are on the 3rd Friday of every month at the Visitation of Mary rectory. The first drawing will be February 19.** Location for the special \$500 drawings will be announced. **Hurry! Numbers are starting to sell! For more info or to sign up, contact Jerry at 330-592-4155 or 330-535-4141 x12.**

*Please check the vestibule for more information on upcoming events, registration forms, prayer cards, and notices.*

### Keeping Warm

The Ozanam Center, run by the St. Vincent DePaul Society, is still in need of coats for the needy. **If you, or someone you know, has a coat they would like to donate (especially men's and children's), please bring it to Mother of Sorrows Parish and your donation will be dropped off at the Ozanam Center.** If you have more than one we would be happy to help you bring them in. **Thank you in advance for your generosity.**

### Engaged Encounter

**Catholic Engaged Encounter** is a comprehensive weekend of marriage preparation held three times a year at the **St. Leonard Retreat Center, 4076 Case Rd., Avon, OH 44011.** Call Alex and Lily Fuentes at 216-849-3769 with any questions. Cost is \$185 per couple. Dates for 2016 are **February 12-14, May 20-22 and October 14-16.** Visit [www.clevelandencounter.com](http://www.clevelandencounter.com) to register or for more info!

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

**Married Couples** - Do you know that more than 1,500,000 couples in over 92 countries have experienced a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend? They found something worth passing on. The **next weekend is scheduled for February 12-14, 2016** at the **Clarion Inn & Conference Center, Hudson, OH.** For more info, call 330-305-9963 or visit [www.greatmarriagesohio.org](http://www.greatmarriagesohio.org).

### Bereavement Support

A **six-week Bereavement Support Series** will begin **Tuesday, February 2 from 7-9pm** at **Our Lady of Victory Parish Center, 73 North Ave., Tallmadge.** The evenings will provide insight, understanding and support to those who mourn the loss of a loved one. Many common issues surrounding grief and healing will be discussed, grounded in faith and surrounded by those who care and understand. **For more info or to register, call 330-633-3672.**

### NFP

Keep it pure...Your body...your water...your marriage...Try NFP...it works! **All are invited to the next "Why Natural Family Planning?" session.** During this 45 minute session you will learn the latest 2015 data regarding the health risks of hormonal contraception, benefits and myths of NFP (this is not the rhythm method), the results of a contraceptive mentality since the 1960's and why the Catholic Church promotes this as the only means of family planning that is safe, healthy, and an effective means of family planning which strengthens marriages and family. The most common reaction mentioned after this session is "Why have we never heard this before?" Open to anyone, young and not so young, and will help you make an informed decision regarding the benefits of NFP. **7pm at Holy Family, Stow, Lower Church Hall Rm 1 on Monday, February 1.** Questions? Contact Leo and Toni Doty, ([akdoty@kent.edu](mailto:akdoty@kent.edu) or 330-689-0632).

*Please check the vestibule for more information on upcoming events, registration forms, prayer cards, and notices.*

### St. Mary Preschool Open House

**St. Mary Preschool (340 North Main St., Hudson)** is hosting an **Open House** for prospective students and families **Sunday, January 31 from 10:30am-12pm.** Come meet the teachers and tour the school. The Preschool goals include developing independence, cooperation, an enthusiasm for learning and acquiring kindergarten readiness skills. Religious education is an integral part of the curriculum. Lessons provide time for problem solving, creativity and fun with music, art, math, science and reading. Three year olds meet Tuesday and Thursday. Four and Five year olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday with an optional fourth day on Tuesday or Thursday. A lunch time program is also available. **You can learn more at [www.stmaryhudson.cc](http://www.stmaryhudson.cc)** under the education link. **Can't make the open house? Contact Director Linda Sucheski at 330-653-8118 x237 or [lsucheski@stmaryhudson.cc](mailto:lsucheski@stmaryhudson.cc) to schedule a tour.**

### Cemetery & Funeral Workshop

**Please join us for cemetery/funeral pre-planning workshop and presentation.** A Catholic Cemetery, like a Catholic Funeral is for the living, and the dead. Cemetery/funeral costs have become the third largest expense most families will pay for in their lifetime. **Important information you will need to know!** You will receive a Catholic personal planning guide. Choosing Cremation? Learn what the Church teaches! Held Saturday, January 30 at Holy Cross Cemetery office (100 E. Waterloo Rd. Akron, OH 44319). Workshop is free (registration is appreciated). Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. Visit [www.cleccem.org](http://www.cleccem.org) for all dates and locations. **Please call the Cemetery office at 330-724-1297 x7.**



### Queen of Heaven Invites All Women

*After the busy holiday season we need to take a deep breath and give ourselves the opportunity to reflect on our relationship with our God and with each other. We are very fortunate to welcome Sr. Cheryl Rose, HM, as we learn about being a Mary in Martha's world. It will be two days beginning Friday, January 29th at 6:00pm with a covered dish dinner in the Parish Life Center and will end about 9:00pm and will continue Saturday, January 30th at 8:30am with coffee and donuts in the Church Gathering Space and finish at noon.*

**All Women are invited and please bring a friend!**

*A Free Will Offering will be taken.*

*Please come join us as we search to make our faith alive for our families and each other. For more information and to RSVP, please call any of the following:*

*Jan Boyea @ 330.896.4316*

*Maggie Syvanych @ 330.896.2345*

*Judy Richard @ 330.644.4514*

### 2016 First Step Programs

During this Holy Year, the Jubilee of Mercy, we are called to renew our relationship with God and the Church. Attempting to pick up the pieces of one's life after the tragedy of divorce is an area that can impact a person's relationship with God and the Church. One of the significant issues that a person faces is their place in the Church. Does the Church still care about me even though I am divorced? Am I allowed to go to Mass? Can I receive Communion? How can the Church help me heal? If I decide to marry again, what do I have to do? The Tribunal of the Diocese of Cleveland, especially during this Jubilee of Mercy, offers its First Step Program in order to help individuals deal with these questions in order to renew and/or strengthen their relationship with God and the Church. This program is offered to help anyone learn more about Catholic teaching regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage. Representatives from the Ministry to the Divorced Office of the Department for Marriage and Family Ministry will also be present to explain the resources they offer to the divorced. Everyone is welcome to deepen knowledge of the Church's teaching on marriage, learn about the Church's ministry to the divorced/separated in the Diocese, hear about the annulment process and how to submit a case, and discover a path to healing after divorce in order to strengthen and/or renew a relationship with God and the Church. In any endeavor, taking the "first step" is always the most difficult. The First Step Program helps individuals to navigate the path of healing and closure. **The 2016 general meetings schedule is: Tuesday, March 8 at St. Peter Parish, Lorain, at 7pm; Thursday, May 19 at St. Noel Parish, Willoughby Hills, at 7pm; Tuesday, September 13 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Cuyahoga Falls, at 7pm; Tuesday, October 18 at St. Ambrose Parish, Brunswick, at 7pm. Note that the Diocese of Cleveland no longer requires any fees for this process.** For testimonials about the program from past participants and for more information visit [www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal](http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal) or call the Tribunal at 216-696-6525/800-869-6525 x4000.

### Gay and Lesbian Family Ministry

The St. John Vianney Parish Support Group for Families and Friends of Gay and Lesbian Catholics and the Cleveland Diocesan Gay and Lesbian Family Ministry will co-sponsor a presentation by Eve Tushnet, Saturday, February 6 at 10am, at the St. John Vianney Fr. Kline Social Center, (7575 Bellflower Rd., Mentor). Eve Tushnet is the author of a recently released book entitled *Gay and Catholic: Accepting My Sexuality, Finding Community, Living My Faith*. Open to all. **Eve will share some of her experiences of the challenges and joys of living as a same-sex attracted individual who is deeply attached to her Catholic faith. She will also share some practical tips for helping same-sex attracted individuals, their friends and family.**

### 2016 World Day for Migrants & Refugees

Pope Francis has chosen the theme for the 2016 World Day for Migrants and Refugees: **Migrants and Refugees Challenge Us. The Response of the Gospel of Mercy.** How good it is for us as a Diocese to come together to pray for all those who have come here to the United States seeking a home and in many cases, seeking safety. **The Diocese of Cleveland will be celebrating this day on January 24, with a special liturgy at 12pm celebrated by Bishop Richard Lennon at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 3114 Scranton Rd., Cleveland, 44109.** Following the liturgy come to the hall for a reception where there will be refreshments, lively music and the opportunity to join in the dancing. **There is no cost and everyone is invited and encouraged to join us in this prayer and celebration.** Questions? Contact Sister Rita Mary at 216-696-6525 or 1-800-869-6525 x2200.



### Seton Catholic School

*Seton Catholic School (6923 Stow Rd., Hudson OH, 44236) will host an Open House and Kindergarten Registration on Sunday, January 31 from 2-4pm for the entire community and all families with school age children entering Kindergarten through Grade 8. During the Open House, guests will be invited to tour all the classrooms, including homerooms, science, art, music, computer, Spanish and P.E. Teachers from each grade level and specialty will be available to answer questions. Seton administration, current parents and student ambassadors will also be present. Children are welcome to attend with parents. Complimentary refreshments will be provided. Time will be available after campus tours to answer questions about the school, academic programs and curriculum, student life, tuition assistance, and the application and admissions process. Seton is an independent regional coeducational Catholic elementary school serving families from over 20 communities in Northeast Ohio. Kindergarten (full day) through 8th grade; one campus schedule for all students (8:20am-3:15pm); and an extended day program (6:50-7:50am and 3:15-6pm) are available. Seton is a U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in STEM Education. Admissions information and applications for all grades for the 2016-17 academic year are available. For more info or to schedule a personal tour, call Mrs. Pat Fritz at 330-342-4200 x226 or [fritzp@setoncatholicsschool.org](mailto:fritzp@setoncatholicsschool.org) and visit [www.setoncatholicsschool.org](http://www.setoncatholicsschool.org). All are invited to visit, tour the campus, and learn more about the Seton experience.*

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# CatholicMom.com Gospel Activity - John 2:1-11



BEGINNING

BRIM

GALILEE

HOUR

JESUS

WASHINGS

WOMAN

BELIEVE

CANA

GLORY

INFERIOR

MOTHER

WATER

BRIDEGROOM

DISCIPLES

HEADWAITER

JARS

TASTED

WEDDING





**T**his year we celebrate the important milestone of 50 years of solidarity with the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Church there faces many challenges, including lack of access to resources the faithful need to nourish their spiritual lives. Often, there are too few priests to meet the needs of the many communities they serve, or the communities themselves are simply too isolated to have access to other important resources for the faith. Strategies to train and support evangelization leaders are vital to reach those who are disconnected from the life and mission of the Church.

For the past 50 years, through the Collection for the Church in Latin America (CLA), you have helped the Church in 25 countries in Central and South America as well as the Caribbean to address challenges to the faith. Only with your committed support can we continue help develop evangelization and catechetical programs and fund activities that promote an encounter with Jesus Christ, so that the faithful can become missionary disciples. Your renewed support funds several ministries and projects that ensure the people in Latin America and the Caribbean can share their faith and strengthen connections with members of the church community.

In Peru, the 14 villages of Chazuta, in Moyobamba, are all located away from the city center, with the most remote only accessible by boat. The faithful in these communities do not have access to catechetical formation, and members often feel separated from the life of the universal Church. Through a grant from the Collection for the Church in Latin America, the religious congregation of the Missionaries of Jesus was able to provide faith formation, spiritual retreats, and workshops to nearly 250 people. Upon completion,

participants were better equipped to help others deepen their faith and answer questions. The program also renewed their sense of commitment to their parishes and created stronger bonds within their own families. Through this program, members of the Chazuta villages felt the love and support of the universal Church.

In the Archdiocese of Santiago de Los Caballeros in the Dominican Republic, many people are very dedicated to their parishes but do not have access to formation resources to fully understand the mission of Jesus to spread the gospel message. To address this problem, the archdiocese developed a three-stage plan to prepare people to become missionary leaders. Thanks to a grant from the CLA, the archdiocese was able to implement the first stage of the plan to provide workshops, retreats, and door-to-door missions.

Now, 90 participants are leaders in their communities. They offer formation and catechesis as well as seek out parishioners who may be interested in becoming missionaries themselves. This program strengthened both the participants' connections to the universal Church and their bonds with their neighbors and fellow parishioners. As one participant noted, "This training and course helped me, as a mother and wife, to feel loved by Jesus, to know a God that is alive, and to carry my burden each day with love, patience, and strength."

Through projects like these, the Collection for the Church in Latin America empowers the people of Latin America and the Caribbean to deepen their faith and share it with the world. For more information on how you can help the Church in Latin America, visit [www.usccb.org/latin-america](http://www.usccb.org/latin-america).



Collection for the Church in Latin America | Office of National Collections  
3211 Fourth Street NE | Washington, DC 20017-1194 | (202) 541-3346 | [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections)

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2016** SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
**Finer than the finest wine**

Wedding miracles? At the reception, the groom, a young man with the build of a linebacker, surprised the crowd with the simplicity and power of his words of gratitude to parents, guests, and even the priest who'd witnessed the marriage. He and the crowd had tears in their eyes, but no one was embarrassed to be so moved by love. And after dinner, before the dancing began, suddenly the entire University of Wisconsin marching band paraded into the hall thunderously playing "On Wisconsin!", a gift arranged by the groom's parents for the football-fan newlyweds. Wedding miracles? Just hearts intoxicated—not by water changed to wine but by the change that love creates!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11 (66)*. "You have kept the good wine until now."

**MONDAY, JANUARY 18**  
**Mercy holds all things together**

Pope Francis continually invites us to consider mercy as the guiding principle of actions and decisions. Often his challenging words of change are met with confusion or resistance. Yet as Irish writer Brian McKee, director of Seedlings, a program for pastoral renewal, points out: "Every tenth line in the New Testament demands that we reach out to the physically poor; in the gospel of Luke it is every sixth line; in the epistle of James it is every fifth line. Without a lived commitment to the poor, the Bible, and the church, falls apart." Find the courage to commit to the poor for all of our sakes.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22 (311)*. "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak."

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19**  
**Get happy**

"We all want to live happily," Saint Augustine wrote. "How is it, then, that I seek you, Lord? Since in seeking you, my God, I seek a happy life . . ." For the answer, look to the Beatitudes—a word that means "ultimate happiness" or "bliss"—in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus explains how to be comforted, shown mercy, filled, even to inherit the earth and see God. Happiness doesn't come from money or power or fame, as tempting as they might be, but from humility, purity of heart, faithfulness—all the virtues Jesus extols. When happiness eludes you, it can be recovered by recalling the words of Saint Thomas Aquinas: "God alone satisfies."

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 16:1-13; Mark 2:23-28 (312)*.  
 "... the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20**

**FEAST OF FABIAN, POPE, MARTYR; SEBASTIAN, MARTYR**  
**Find your own way to serve heroically**

Fabian was a pope who died a martyr in 250, the first layman to be elected pope (no, you do not have to be a priest or bishop). We also remember Sebastian, a Roman soldier who kept his faith secret so that he could more easily be of assistance to persecuted Christians. But his love for Christ broke through and he himself was martyred in 288. A Roman soldier who was a secret Christian, a layperson who became pope. Do something heroic for Christ today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mark 3:1-6 (313)*. "They watched Jesus closely to see if he would cure him on the sabbath so that they might accuse him."

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 21**

**FEAST OF AGNES, VIRGIN, MARTYR**  
**Take a stand for interfaith tolerance**

According to legend, Saint Agnes was born into a wealthy Roman family and was so beautiful that many young men wished to marry her. Agnes, however, was totally devoted to her faith and refused to consider marriage. This angered her suitors. They told Roman authorities that she believed in Christianity, a religion whose followers were being persecuted at that time. Consequently, Agnes was treated brutally, resulting in her death. Although Agnes lived many centuries ago, the great need for understanding and respect across religions continues today. In the spirit of Agnes, let us pray for interfaith dialog and peace.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Mark 3:7-12 (314)*.  
 "In God I trust, I shall not fear."

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 22**

**Disagree without being disagreeable**

Our faith as well as our common humanity calls us to treasure and protect all of life, from womb to tomb. Yet our country remains deeply divided and unable to agree on how to protect the gift of new life, the life in the womb. In a culture in which dialogue is rarely attempted, let alone achieved, how do we bring people together to listen to one another and then work collaboratively to ensure a consistent ethic of life? On this Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn, let's renew our efforts to listen with generosity to those with whom we differ, seeking common ground and calling them not enemies, but friends who disagree.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 24:3-21; Mark 3:13-19 (315)*. "May the Lord reward you generously for what you have done this day."

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 23**

**FEAST OF MARIANNE COPE, VIRGIN**  
**Every little bit helps**

In the 19th century, medicine was primitive. A hospital offered no more than "a bed to lie in and to die in." Franciscan Mother Marianne Cope strove to offer one thing more to the sick in upstate New York: hope. Hearing of the plight of those afflicted with leprosy in the Sandwich Islands, later known as Hawaii, she didn't hesitate to join the cause. Introducing one simple change to the procedure of their care—hygiene—Cope and her sisters immeasurably improved the lives of those afflicted. However small, make your contribution.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mark 3:20-21 (316)*. "This is the day of which the Lord said to you, 'I will deliver your enemy into your grasp.'"



*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.*

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