

### **2016 First Step Programs**

During this Holy Year, the Jubilee of Mercy, we are called to renew our relationship with God and the Church. Taking the "first step" is always the most difficult. The First Step Program helps individuals to navigate the path of healing and closure. This program is offered to help anyone learn more about Catholic teaching regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage. 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. Representatives from the Ministry to the Divorced Office of the Department for Marriage and Family Ministry will be present to explain the resources they offer to the divorced. *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.**

### **Year of Consecrated Life - Closing Mass**

*World Day for Consecrated Life will be observed on Tuesday, February 2 and on the weekend of February 6-7 in parishes. As the Year of Consecrated Life moves towards its completion, a closing Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Richard Lennon, Sunday, January 31, at the 5:30pm Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Religious orders around the diocese have been made aware of this celebration to close this year of prayer, pilgrimage, petition, and witness. Faithful across the diocese are encouraged to attend. May those discerning be given great courage as they seek their vocation, and may this year bring a great harvest from our local diocese. Please pray for all 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.*

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



## **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.*

### **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.*

### **Friendly Visitors Needed!**

*Ursuline Sisters residing at Regina Health Care very much need the company of others who are willing to spend a little time with them each week. Read the newspaper, take walks within the building, talk...the task is simple but the benefit and reward great. For more information, please contact Maggie Gibson at 440-449-1200 x409 or at [volunteer@ursulinesisters.org](mailto:volunteer@ursulinesisters.org).*

### **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.**

### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

Jesus came into the world to bring the good news, to proclaim liberty, give the recovery of sight, and free the oppressed. Are you letting Him proclaim the good news to you in your marriage? Let the Lord strengthen, renew, and rekindle your marriage sacrament by attending a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on February 12-14, 2016 in Hudson, Ohio or Oct 14-16, 2016.** Apply at [greatmarriagesohio.org](http://greatmarriagesohio.org) or call 330-305-9963.

### **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.clecem.org](http://www.clecem.org) for all dates and locations. Call the Cemetery office at 330-724-1297 x7.

### **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 TBA. **Hurry! Numbers are starting to sell! For more info or to sign up, contact Jerry at 330-592-4155 or 330-535-4141 x12.**

### **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).*

### **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).

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

### **DSWC**

A "Caring and Sharing" session for those struggling with divorce, separation or widowhood will be held Monday, **January 25** from **7:30-9pm** at **Immaculate Heart of Mary's Convent Building, 1945 Portage Trail, Cuyahoga Falls**. Marlene Maruna, a Licensed Independent Social Worker, will facilitate this session. Open at no charge to people of all faiths. For more information, call Marlene at **330-607-6284**.

### **Listening, Encouraging, & Assisting Families**

Do you have families in your parish, who, because of the incarceration of a loved one, experience isolation, shame, guilt, and an overwhelming sense of being alone? The LEAF Ministry has been formed to be of support to these families. Groups meet monthly offering an opportunity to those who come to listen and share community, network and learn from others who understand their situation, challenges, fears and emotions. All are welcome to participate irrespective of faith affiliation. For more info and to verify schedules, call **216-696-6525 x3500** or **800-869-6525 x3500**, email [info@leafministry.org](mailto:info@leafministry.org), or visit [www.leafministry.org](http://www.leafministry.org). No pre-registration is necessary.

### **Open House**

Our Lady of the Elms will host an all schools **Open House Sunday, January 31**, from **12-2pm**. Parents and prospective students are invited to experience first-hand all that the Elms has to offer. Come tour the school. Faculty will be available to share the dynamic instruction taking place in their classes. Student ambassadors, coaches, and club advisors will be available to answer any questions. For more information or to schedule a **Shadow Day**, contact **Sarah Hutzler-Psihountakis**, admissions director, **330-867-0918** or [spsihountakis@theelms.org](mailto:spsihountakis@theelms.org).

### **Volunteer Opportunity**

**Touch a life...Become a Hospice Volunteer.** 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. Call **800-707-8922 x6881** or visit [www.hospicewr.org](http://www.hospicewr.org) for more info.

### **Get Catholic News Emailed to You!**

The official magazine of the Diocese of Cleveland, *Northeast Ohio Catholic*, is a great way to stay connected to timely news and information from the Vatican and our Catholic community. To sign up for our weekly diocesan eNewsletter, visit [www.dioceseofcleveland.org](http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org). If you haven't been receiving *Northeast Ohio Catholic* magazine by mail and would like to, contact **Deacon Jim Armstrong**, Executive Director for Communications at **216-696-6525 x3290** or [jarmstrong@dioceseofcleveland.org](mailto:jarmstrong@dioceseofcleveland.org).

### **Help The Needy in Northeast Ohio**

The Cleveland Furniture Bank provides basic home furnishings to people in need who are trying to rebuild their lives. They are in need of couches, chairs, kitchen tables and dressers to provide to over 3000 people referred to them each year. If you are downsizing, remodeling, redecorating or just have furniture items you no longer need, call **216-459-2265 x101** or visit [www.clevelandfurniturebank.org/donate](http://www.clevelandfurniturebank.org/donate) to schedule a pickup of your furniture. If you have other items such as clothing, household goods, pots and pans, dishes, etc. they will pick those up at the same time. Mention **Mother of Sorrows Parish** and they will waive the pickup fee.

### **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!

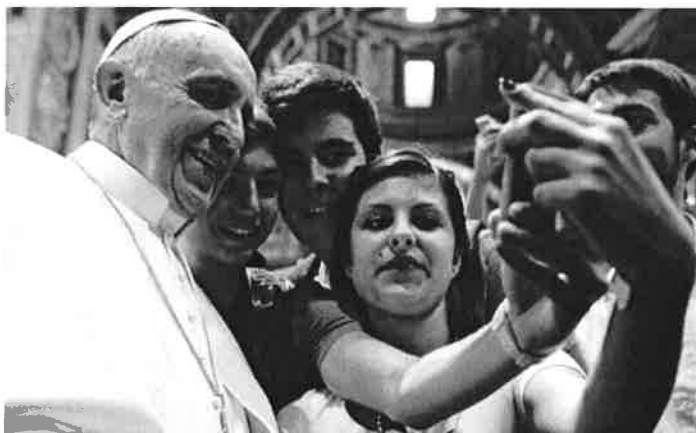
### **Pre-Cana Day**

St. Rita Parish will be holding a Pre-Cana day for engaged couples on **Saturday, March 19**. This one day marriage preparation program satisfies diocesan requirements. The cost of the program is **\$70 per couple**. For more information, call **Heidi or Drew Samuto** at **440-836-3401** or [stiritaprecana@gmail.com](mailto:stiritaprecana@gmail.com).

### **Have An Old Car?**

Wondering what to do with that old car? Help a neighbor in need by donating it to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. **Your used car can become food, medicine and rent for the poor in our community.** And when you donate your late model car, truck or boat to SVDP Cleveland, not only will you receive a **tax deduction to the fullest extent of the law**, you will be free from the troubles of insuring, licensing, repairing and selling your vehicle. We will even provide free towing within 24 hours. To donate, please call **800-322-8284** or visit [www.svdpusa.com](http://www.svdpusa.com).

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## SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Make lasting connections

Pope Francis has more than 7 million followers on Twitter and loves to take selfies. But while he's harnessed social media to broaden his reach as he spreads the Good News, he worries about the "radical loneliness" in a society that chases validation online and fears making real commitments. Jesus didn't need the Internet to accumulate "followers" or for his message to "go viral," and the Holy Father urges everyone not to worry about getting "likes" on Facebook but instead to forge close bonds. "Friending" people in real life means investing in meaningful relationships. Make a down payment today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 (69)*. "Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region."

## MONDAY, JANUARY 25

### FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE Patron saint for the conversion of religious zealots

We live in an age of religious extremism—on the one side Taliban and ISIS, on the other home-grown extremists who shoot at synagogues, attack Muslims at prayer, or firebomb churches. Saint Paul towers over our tradition with his early and vast contribution to Christianity. But the part of his story that came before he was a saint is also noteworthy, as a case study in how *not* to express your faith! Saint Paul, pray for us and our divided world!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 22:3-16; Mark 16:15-18 (519)*. "For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it."

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 26 FEAST OF TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS Faith has no minimum-age requirement

Both Timothy and Titus were companions of Saint Paul. At a young age, Timothy was entrusted with serious responsibilities in the early Christian community but apparently was not taken seriously because of his youth. Paul wrote "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." Titus may have been born a Gentile, but Paul led him to Christ and they became fellow missionaries. Paul addresses Titus with affection: "Paul to Titus, my own true child in our common faith." Two early Christians remind you that we can't journey to Christ alone. Today, encourage a young person.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Timothy 1:1-8 OR Titus 1:1-5; Mark 3:31-35 (520; Gospel 518)*. "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

### FEAST OF ANGELA MERICI, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER Love is blind

Can you imagine if you set out on the trip of a lifetime—a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, no less—lost your eyesight on the way there and regained it on the way back? Most people would feel cheated. But not Saint Angela Merici. She didn't need to see the holy sites to experience them in her heart. What she did see, back in her hometown in Italy, were poor, uneducated girls. She founded the Ursulines to serve them. The next time you volunteer, ponder what Saint Angela told her sisters of the poor: "You have a greater need to serve than they have of your service."

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 7:4-17; Mark 4:1-20 (319)*. "... some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit."

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

### FEAST OF THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Know your own measure

In the canon of great theologians and Doctors of the church, none outshines Thomas Aquinas, who has influenced thinkers of all disciplines, religious and secular alike, since the 12th century. Yet this great man left his greatest work, the *Summa Theologiae*, unfinished. When asked why he stopped working on it, he said, "I cannot go on. . . . All that I have written seems to me like so much straw compared to what I have seen and what has been revealed to me." It is good to strive to create works of lasting significance. It is also good to realize that in the end, in the pure light of the Divine, our greatest works do indeed pale.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29; Mark 4:21-25 (320)*. "A lamp to my feet is your word, a light to my path."

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

### Live on the edge

Farmers have to have a high tolerance for uncertainty, and that hasn't changed since the time of Jesus. An unpredictable storm, an early frost, an unseen blight could ruin a crop, a season, a livelihood, then and now. Yet farmers keep farming (and the rest of us hungry souls are grateful they do!). Where in your own life is the edge of uncertainty, the scary place where you can no longer fool yourself into believing that you are fully in control? That is where you are likely to find God, who comes at what theologian and storyteller John Shea called the "hour of the unexpected." Embrace your uncertainty, God will meet you in the midst of it.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mark 4:26-34 (321)*. "If a man were to scatter seed on the land . . . the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how."

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Your life is an act of God

According to the Genesis creation story, God made the natural world with loving, deliberate care. And indeed, the earth is a delicately balanced ecosystem, in which even destructive natural forces—what insurers call "acts of God"—can serve a necessary purpose. The same goes for human experience. When your life is hit by storms, you may not know God's intentions, but rest assured that by trusting God you will find the strength to weather whatever comes your way. And when the clouds break, open up to the possibility of seeing new horizons.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mark 4:35-41 (322)*. "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"



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

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# CatholicMom.com Gospel Activity - Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21



CERTAINTY

FULFILLED

LUKE

NAZARETH

SABBATH

TEACHINGS

WORD

EVENTS

GALILEE

MINISTERS

PRAISED

SCRIPTURE

THEOPHILUS

WRITE

EYEWITNESSES

ISAIAH

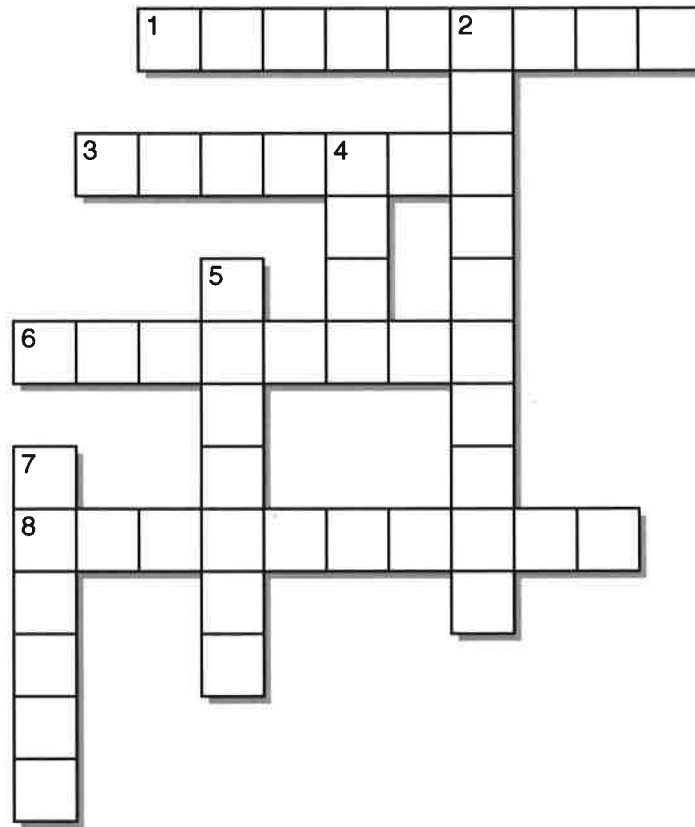
NARRATIVE

PROPHET

SCROLL

TODAY

# CatholicMom.com Gospel Activity – Luke 1:1-4, 4\_14-21



## Across

1. "Today this \_\_\_\_ passage is fulfilled in your hearing."
3. "Jesus returned to \_\_\_ in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region."
6. Where did Jesus grow up?
8. Jesus taught in the \_\_\_ and was praised by all.

## Down

2. To whom is Luke writing in the beginning of this gospel?
4. Our Gospel passage this week is from the beginning of the holy Gospel according to \_\_\_\_.
5. Jesus went into the synagogue in Nazareth on the \_\_\_ day.
7. In this gospel passage, Jesus read from a scroll of the prophet \_\_\_\_.