

Catholic Charities Annual Appeal Statistics

Mother of Sorrows Parish Catholic Charities Appeal Statistics as of November 30, 2015 are as follows: Number of Households: 581, Number of Donors: 68, Percent Participation: 12%, Amount Pledged: \$15,886, Amount Paid: \$14,505, Percent Fulfillment: 91%, Goal: \$21,065, and Percent to Goal: 74.51%. If you would still like to donate, please complete an envelope and drop it in the collection basket at Mass, call 800-869-6525 x1049, or donate at www.catholiccommunity.org/2015Appeal. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Coats Still Needed

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.**

Cleveland Retrouvaille

Someone once said "marriages may be made in heaven, but they sure take a lot of work on earth." Have you become so distracted by outside pressure that you neglect your spouse? The Retrouvaille program can help you put your troubled marriage back on track. This program is supported by the Catholic diocese of Cleveland. The next Cleveland Retrouvaille weekend will be held January 15-17, 2016. A registration fee of \$150 is required to confirm your reservation. For more info concerning the program, or to register, call Diane or Al Miskinis in complete confidence at 330-665-3506 or (from a 216 or 440 area code) 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.helpourmarriage.org.

Camp Christopher Winter Family Camp

Take a break this winter and join us at **Camp Christopher** for a fun-filled family camp weekend, **January 15-18, 2016**, where there's something for everyone! Children can enjoy activities with their parents, as well as activities designed just for them. Program options include snowshoeing, sledding, the ropes course (weather permitting), arts & crafts, and more. Alternatively, you may prefer to relax by the blazing fire with a good book! Accommodations are in heated cabins. Cabins are equipped with bunk beds and are of varying sizes. Participants are responsible for bringing their own blankets, pillows, linens, and towels. Enjoy delicious, hearty, and well balanced meals family style in the St. Francis Dining Hall. A one-of-a-kind family get-away where adventures abound and where friendships are made to last a lifetime. **For more information and to register, visit: www.campchris.org or call 1-800-296-2267.**

Christmas-Ever Ancient, Ever New

The Music Ministry of St. Columbkille Catholic Church presents our annual Christmas Concert, "Christmas-Ever Ancient, Ever New", Sunday December 20, 2015, at 4pm in the church, at 6740 Broadview Rd., Parma. Some highlights of this year's event will be The First Noel/Pachelbel Canon, The Huron Carol, Carol of the Star, Of the Father's Love Begotten, Noel! Noel! Sing Glory! Glory Hallelujah to the Newborn King, Carol of the Bells, O Holy Night, Fum, Fum, Fum and more, and will feature the eight choirs of the parish, soloists, and instrumentalists. A reception will follow the church vestibule. The Music Ministry at St. Columbkille includes an adult chorale, an adult contemporary choir, a men's chorus, a newly-formed women's chorus, a children's choir, a handbell choir, a handbell quartet, and a children's chime choir, all under the direction of Mr. Jon Thibo, Director of Music. **For more information, contact Jon Thibo, Director of Music at St. Columbkille, 216-524-1987, x27.**

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 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.**

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.**

Attention Young Adults

Looking for social, spiritual, and service activities for young adults? Check out the Northeast Ohio Catholic Young Adults Meetup Group at www.meetup.com/Northeast-Ohio-Catholic-Young-Adults The group is free to join and the online interactive calendar is easy to use! If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Sullivan at groundsforfaith@yahoo.com or 330-217-1064 (home).

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

O Antiphons

Each evening, in the Church's Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, we sing the magnificat, the canticle of Mary (Luke 1:46-55). In this great song of praise, Mary sings of God's blessings and his great, saving presence and action in her life.

An antiphon is sung before the canticle. This is a short verse which, unique to each day, is meant to provide focus for this sung prayer. During the last week of Advent, these verses are taken from the collection of prayers that date back to the seventh century. They are known as the O Antiphons because each one begins with that most simple of exclamations, "O!"

Most of us know these antiphons because they comprise the verses of the well-known song, "O Come O Come Emmanuel." Each verse - or antiphon - is a prayer unto itself. Each one first addresses Christ, using an ancient title from scripture. The prayer continues with the request that Christ will come and save us. In each of these prayers, the Church expresses the very heart of our Advent Prayer: Lord Jesus, come! Save us! Redeem us, again!

The O Antiphons begin on December 17th. Perhaps families might pray them together as they gather for their evening supper. Parish groups can use them as a gathering prayer if they have reason to meet this week. Anyone can use them throughout the week to help prepare themselves in this final week before celebrating Christmas. Find a copy of "O Come O Come Emmanuel" and each night pray a different verse. In these last days of Advent, call upon the one for whom we wait and pray, in faith and in hope, to come!

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17 December 2015

"O Wisdom" (*O Sapientia*)

The blessing of Judah is fulfilled in Jesus, born of the line of David. In Christ all shall be blessed.

18 December 2015

"O sacred Lord" (*O Adonai*)

A descendant of David, born to Mary and Joseph, will govern with justice and pity the lowly and the poor.

19 December 2015

"O Flower of Jesse's stem" (*O radix Jesse*)

What mighty deeds! As an angel announces the birth of Samson, so, too, Gabriel heralds the birth of John.

20 December 2015

"O Key of David" (*O clavis David*)

The Immanuel is a blessing and a sign for David's house; his role is accomplished perfectly in Jesus.

21 December 2015

"O Radiant Dawn" (*O Oriens*)

Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting and is glad and exults. With the advent of the Savior, born of Mary, the winter is past and new life is upon us.

22 December 2015

"O king of all the nations" (*O Rex gentium*)

Hanna's thanksgiving for her son is echoed in the great hymn of Mary, the Magnificat.

23 December 2015

"O Emmanuel"

Jesus is Immanuel, "God with us", risen from the dead. He is the King of glory.

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