

The Nativity of the Lord

"She gave birth to her firstborn son." The pain of childbirth is something that boggles my mind. I'm sure I couldn't handle it. I can't even watch scenes in movies in which a woman gives birth. I understand it's

a beautiful part of nature, but there's still something awful about it and the attendant suffering.

Which is why it's worth pondering an often neglected and currently unpopular part of the Church's theology around the birth of Christ, his was miraculous because it caused no pain to his mother. Even her physical virginity remains intact. Of course, we modern scientific people scoff at such an idea.

Without obsessing over the obstetrical details, we discover a glorious illumination in the symbolic meaning of this birth that we moderns find so embarrassing. God comes into the world in an utterly non-violent way. He himself will suffer his own bloodshed but will never shed that of others. He is so peaceful and non-violent that he will even rise from the dead without breaking the seal of the tomb. All of humanity, in the Church, will give birth to him in the Church free from the terrible pain due to original sin. How badly we need the truth of this miraculous birth today!

Let's delight in this great mystery and miracle of Jesus's birth. He is the Prince of Peace and always nonviolent. We need not fear him, ever.

— Father John Muir

Mass Count

Date 2023	5:00p	8:00a	10:30a	Total
November 26	142	90	168	400
December 3	142	78	187	407
December 10	104	85	196	385

Readings for the week of Dec. 24, 2023

Sunday: 2Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts

13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3-6, 8 16-17/Mt

10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1, 2-8

Thursday: 1Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-5, 7-8/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-3, 5-6/Lk 2:22-35 Saturday: 1Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-9/Col 3:12-21

Lk 2:22-40

Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY ~ December 25 ~ Christmas

8:00AM Mass for Parish in the Church 10:30AM Mass in the Church





TUESDAY ~ December 26~ St. Stephen, 1st Martyr

8:30AM Judy Shell, Mary, Marisa & Michelle

7:30PM Livestream Rosary on Facebook

WEDNESDAY~ December 27 ~ St. John, Apostle

8:30AM Ana Bucaj, Shell Family

THURSDAY ~ December 28~The Holy Innocents

8:30AM Barbara & Edward Kovacic, *Tom & Barb Kovacic*

FRIDAY ~ December 29 ~ St. Thomas Becket

8:30AM Rev. Ralph Coletta

7:30PM Livestream Rosary on Facebook

SATURDAY ~ December 30 ~ Vigil Mass

5:00PM Philip J. Jurick, Family

5:00PM Livestream Mass

SUNDAY ~ December 31~ Feast of the Holy Family

8:00AM Mass for Parishioners

10:30AM Joan Haas, Fred Haas Family



MONDAY ~ January 1 ~ Solemnity of Mary

10:00am Dan Davison, Shell Family

**Not a Holyday of Obligation this year

Weekly Contributions December 17, 2023

The Contribution report was not available at the time of bulletin printing.

Thank you for your generous support at Christmas and all throughout the year!

Keep in touch with St. Justin's through our weekly email blast. If you are not receiving the weekly update, please email sjmoffice@stjustin.net and we will add you to the list!

If you have **discontinued your home phone**, please update your records with a cell phone! Thank you!

From the Desk of Fr. Kevin,

Dear Parishioners.

We welcome all who celebrate Christmas and God's greatest gift, His Son Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas!

Have you taught someone a new skill? Helped a friend find a job? Encouraged someone to change their life for the better? Reconciled with a loved one after some injury? Call to mind the joy, the fulfillment and the peace of that moment. A new way has been cleared. A light shines where once there was only darkness. These are the times when we experience what Advent and Christmas are all about.

Remember the story of the first Christmas? Joseph and Mary look for shelter and find only the poverty of the stable. But God is not dismayed. God does not turn away from us. The glory of God's only Son, born to us, enriches that stable. Joseph, Mary and Jesus, who found no welcome in Bethlehem, soon welcome the shepherds and the Magi to the



Good News of salvation. Where we find obstacles, God finds a way. When we welcome the Lord, He shows us the way.



Let us make ready a way for the Lord to enter our world today. Let us welcome the Lord into our hearts. Let us welcome the Lord in those who need us. May the light of faith shine in our words and actions. May we pray:

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay: give new courage to your people and by your coming raise us to the joy of your kingdom.

On behalf of all the parish, I would like to thank the many people who contribute to our celebration of Christmas. We deeply appreciate the sacrifice and efforts of those who clean the church, those who help with decorations, all who help us pray better in the liturgy: the musicians, acolytes, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, collectors, money counters, and our priests. Thanks, too, to the office staff who deal so well with the busyness of the season.

Peace, Fr Kevin



Nativity Blessing

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation You have made manifest Your love. When our need for a Savior was great, You sent Your Son to be born of the Virgin Marv.

To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger.
May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise up our thoughts to Him who is
God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen

We Follow Jesus in Faith, Prayer and Service

Thank you to all who have responded to our "We follow Jesus in faith, prayer &service" Program.

- The Men's Basketball Group collected food to help restock our food pantry for our Christmas Food Distribution.
- The PSR students have wrapped up their lessons for the end of the year and celebrated learning about the coming of Jesus at Christmas.
- Extra days were added by Fr. Kevin to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation to all before Christmas.
- Our Art & Environment Committee decorated the Church for the Christmas season with beautiful poinsettias through generous donations of our parishioners.
- The Maintenance Team set up all areas of the Church and Parish Hall to celebrate Mass for Christmas.
- Mark your calendars for the Frost Bite Breakfast on Sunday, January 7!
- The Beautiful Nativity in the Chapel was donated by a parishioner for our Church. Stop by to see it!

There are great things going on here at our Parish! With your continued support we are able to make a difference in our community and the world.

In the coming weeks, we will have our full report to share with the parish from our "We Follow Jesus in Faith, Prayer and Service" Program that we asked parishioners to participate in. Our parishioners are so very generous with all their gifts. Your gratitude to God for His great gift of Jesus shows in your generosity in faith, prayer and service.



All Are Welcome!

New Parishioner
Registration Packets
are available in the
Parish Office or on
our website,
www.stjustin.net,
under the registration
tab for any person or
family who would like

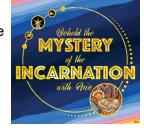
to join St. Justin Martyr Parish! If you have any questions speak with Fr. Kevin.



God's Humility in Becoming One Like Us The miracle of the Incarnation reveals the depth of God's love for humanity. At the heart of this glorious event is the humility displayed by God in choosing to become one like us. The Incarnation is a concept that goes beyond our human understanding. It is a mystery that invites us to contemplate the divine mystery of

God taking on human flesh.

The very idea of an omnipotent and eternal God choosing to enter the human experience is a staggering revelation of humility. In his letter to the Philippians (2:5-8), the apostle Paul beautifully expresses this divine humility: "Though he was in the form of God, [Jesus] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by



taking the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men."

God, in the person of Jesus Christ, willingly set aside the glory of His divine nature to embrace the limitations and vulnerabilities of human existence. The Creator of the universe entered the world as a helpless infant, born in humble circumstances in Bethlehem. This act of self-emptying reflects a profound humility that challenges our understanding of God's nature and power.

At Christmas we celebrate when God entered into our human condition. God chose to experience the full spectrum of human life—joy and sorrow, success and failure, love and rejection. In doing so, Jesus became the perfect mediator between God and humanity, bridging the gap that sin had created.

The miracle of the Incarnation that we celebrate is a profound expression of God's humility and love. By becoming one like us, God demonstrated a willingness to enter into the human story, embracing both its beauty and brokenness. The Incarnation invites us to contemplate the depths of divine humility and respond with gratitude and awe, recognizing that God, in Christ, has intimately shared in our humanity.

Peace and Blessings, Deacon Tim

Each year St. Justin Martyr collects items for Birthright on Christmas Eve. Birthright of Lake County supports the needy, working poor, and women struggling to raise their babies similar to our Blessed Virgin Mary. If you would like to join in this celebration of life, we invite you to place your gift in the crib in the Church or the bin in the Parish Hall.

Most needed items: Diapers all sizes, crib sheets, newborn outfits, onesies and sleepers, clothing size 3 months-5T, baby shampoo, baby wash, diaper cream, baby wipes, and trial size items for mom's to get a self-care pack.

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP THE ITEMS. On behalf of the Respect Life Committee, we thank you!



The Church and Parish Office will be closed on and 25 for the Christmas

Holidays and on January 1 for New Years Day. There will be no Adoration on these days. If you have an emergency, please call the office, follow the directions on the answering machine and someone will get back to you as soon as they can. Thank you!



Please pray for all of our parishioners who are sick or hospitalized: Margaret Abel, Susan Adler, Sandy Almasy, Patricia Bacon, June Barr, Jeff & Sue Beam, Frank Brown, John Brown, Brian Bruening, Joan Bruenina. Kathleen Cassidy, Marc Christovich, Sam Cilaberto, Kelly Cipiti, Carolyn & John Cutler, Diane DeBaltzo, Paul Dendinger, Dan & Frances Eppich, Pauline Feterman, Frank Germano, Marge Gorenc, Fran Gracco, Dave Granchi, Joanne Grisanti, Ruth Gryzmala, Julia Hill, Ann Hobart, Ed Hurayt, Melanie Hurayt, Daniel Jastredowski, Jela Katavic, Alexis Kramer, John Kelly, Katherine Kirsch, Jeri Kuzmak, Sherise Landrey, Brian Lloyd, Bob Marshall, Diane Marshall, Bud Martello, Ed Mayersky, Gary Meinke, Ann Miller, Bill Monreal, Anna Murray, Jenny Panella, Kellie Pastor, Kevin Perkins, Cindy Pike, Joe Ritzu, Joshua Rosian, Tim Rosian, Joan Rozak, Joyce Russo, Jackie Scheid, Hannah Shell, Audrey Smith, Ed Snyder, Chris Stano, Dorothy & Joe Strand, James Urbanek, Gregory Usko, Eva Variano, Phil Wolfson, Michael Wrayno, Ken Zalar, the shut-ins, those in nursing homes, needing prayers, and all of the intentions written in our Book of Prayers located in the gallery. Please call the office if you would like someone added or removed, or email sjmoffice@stjustin.net.

Eucharistic Adoration: Daily in the Chapel 9am-4:30pm

"This heart, it beats for us in a small tabernacle where it remains mysteriously hidden in that still, white host." --St. Theresa Benedicta of the Cross



Come spend time with Jesus.



St. Justin Martyr **Prayer Chain**

Contact Mary Jane, 440-953-9729 oremail mbuehner@ameritech.net.

Leave a message and we will add your intention to the prayer chain. If you would like to join us in prayer for our intentions, sign up to be a prayer warrior. Intentions will be emailed directly and confidentially to you at home for prayer support!



Mass There are still Mass intentions available for **2024.** Stipend of \$10 per Mass. Please stop in or call the Parish Office to

schedule a Mass for a loved one.

Charles Hunt, MA Director of Religious Education Charles@stjustin.net 440-946-3287

A Eucharistic Christmas Prayer by St. Peter Julian **Evmard:** O adorable tabernacle, new Bethlehem, house of bread, which encloses the Celestial Manna, open your door, and show me your treasure, as Mary raised her veil and with open arms disclosed her newborn Son. The little lamp of the sanctuary has called me here, even as the light of the angels' message guided the steps of the humble shepherds to the manger; and the shining of a star brought the Magi Kings to adore the Savior of the world. O wonderous tabernacle, show me Jesus, as Mary showed Him to the shepherds and the kings. Like Mary, give Him to me, entrust Him to my loving embraces, to my adoring homage. This Child, this Host, is mine-my bread, my life! Hail true body born of the Virgin Mary! O sweetest Infant Jesus, hidden here as in the stable; here poor as when lying on the straw; here helpless as when bound in swaddling clothes; lovely as when shedding your first tears, or lavishing your first smiles, when nestled on Mary's breast or caressed by St. Joseph. I give You all my heart. Give me purity, simplicity, the innocence of childhood. Teach me, like Mary and Joseph, to despise all the goods of earth, to desire only You, to love only You, to live but for You. Who for my sake, began in the manger that life of poverty, of suffering and of love, which You continue in the Blessed

Catholic Humor: How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus' weight when He was born? They had 'a weigh in a manger'.

What did the sheep say to the shepherds visiting the Christ Child? Merry Christmas to ewe!

Save the Dates! Our Parish Fish Fry is back this Lent!

Sacrament of the altar, Amen.



Volunteers will be needed. Watch the bulletin for details!

The Holy Name Society would like to thank Mike Klemenc and his crew at Klemenc Construction Company for the donation of the roof and labor for our outdoor nativity scene!



Be sure to drive by and see it lit up at night.

Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes & Spain | October 14-22, 2024

Hosted by Mary Ann Blase, Pam Anthony with Fr. Kevin Liebhardt

Daily Masses, shrines, sites and more. All inclusive air, hotels, breakfasts, dinners, guided tours. Register early to save! Flyers available in the gallery.



Beth Rossetti, Pastoral Associate beth@stjustin.net 440-946-1177

CONFIRMATION 2024 Our next session is our **Confirmation Retreat on Saturday, January 20 beginning at 9am-10pm**.

Thanks to our prayer partners for remembering our candidates during this Christmas season. Cards can be dropped off anytime and I'll mail them.



We are once again selling St. Justin Martyr Spirit Wear.

Order forms will be in the Bulletin next week and can be found in the gallery of the Church along with sample shirts.



Read the order forms for important ordering directions.



The Funeral Ministry is in need of altar servers. You will be trained to be an altar server. You do not have to serve Sunday Mass only funerals on occasion. Contact Beth if you can help out.

Coffee & Conversation

Coffee and Conversation

Due to Christmas and New Year we will not be meeting until January 4. **Enjoy your Christmas Break!**

Our Christmas card writing campaign was a huge success. We, as an entire parish, bought cards, wrote cards and



completed 3,294 cards. These were written by our parishioners both at home and on our card writing day. They will be distributed to 24 nursing homes, shut ins, Sisters of Notre Dame, University Hospital Systems Lake County and the incarcerated. Thank you to

everyone who helped in anyway that made this possible. Those receiving the cards are so grateful. Merry Christmas and may you be blessed with great



abundance through Jesus birth.





I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. May you be blessed with peace and joy during this holy season.





Love for Life

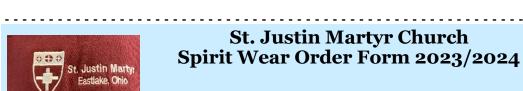
Making Medical Decisions... for Ourselves & Those We Love: A Guide for Catholics

Speaker: Andrew Trew

Cleveland Catholic Medical Association Guild & **Bioethics Professor John Carroll University**

January 14 at 1:00 pm in the ATR Room

RSVP at (440) 946-3287 or charles@stjustin.net



Name: **Email Address:** Phone:

All items will be embroidered with SJM name & coat of arms.

Item	Size Adult S-4X Child S-XL*	Qty	Color Blue or Maroon	Cost (add - \$4 2xl, \$5 3xl, \$6 4xl)	Total
Short Sleeve T-Shirt*				\$17 each	
Long Sleeve T-Shirt*				\$19 each	
Sweatshirt*				\$23 each	
Women's Polo Shirt				\$24 each	
Men's Polo Shirt				\$24 each	
Adult Zippered Hoodie				\$29 each	
Women's Stretch ½ Zip Pullover				\$40 each	
Men's Stretch ½ Zip Pullover				\$40 each	
GRAND TOTAL					

]	PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO:	Vector Screen Printing				
ł	*Only these items are available in adult and child sizes.					
	Samples are in the Parish office. Co					
	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Check #	Cash				



Prepare your heart for Jesus with AM1260 The Rock.

During the Holy Season of Advent as we await the Birth of Jesus Christ, AM 1260 The Rock is broadcasting special programming to enrich your preparation. In addition, we will be offering EWTN's "The 48 Hours of Christmas," with special programming and Masses for your Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

4th Sunday of Advent Masses

8:00 AM Mass from EWTN

10:30 AM Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Mass for the Homebound

Christmas Eve Masses

1:30 PM Solemn Mass of Christmas Eve from Rome

10:00 PM Solemn Mass of Christmas Eve LIVE from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC

Christmas Day Masses

1:00 AM Midnight Mass from the Holy Land

8:00 AM Solemn Mass of Christmas LIVE from EWTN

12:00 PM Solemn Mass of Christmas Day LIVE from the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington DC

Guatemala Medical Mission Pharmacist Needed April 6 -15, 2024

The Guatemala Medical Mission Team from Guatemala Family Development returning to Guatemala in April of 2024. Currently we are in need of a Pharmacist & Assistant Pharmacist. These very important positions. You will work closely with interpreters educating the patients in the use and special precautions of their If you believe medications. God is calling you or someone you know to share your gifts and heart with others - please contact Margie or Tom Drew at, thedrews1972@yahoo.com.



Living a Eucharistic Life: A Lenten Parish Mission St. Justin Martyr Church Eastlake, Ohio March 16-19, 2024 with Very Reverend John Thomas Lane, SSS



Helping us to grow in our desire of Eucharistic living, worship and prayer especially through the season of Lent

Weekend Masses March 16/17, 2023: Preaching and Presiding:

Homily during the Regular Mass Times – 5th Sunday of Lent

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunday, March 17, 2024, at 7:00 PM:

Eucharistic Holy Hour - Praying Together in Communion

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with some Taizé songs, mediation, prayer, incense, silence & praise through the style of prayer and spirituality of this holy man that made him a saint

90-minutes of prayer and reflection ending with Benediction.

Monday, March 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM AND Tuesday, March 19, 2:00 PM:

Why Do We Do What We Do at Mass?

Taking some time to ask the questions and raise concerns about the gestures, symbols and meanings of various parts of the Mass for an hour with some social time in a casual setting.

This talk will be repeated so join for either one of these sessions.

Monday, March 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM:

8 MOMENTS OF A EUCHARISTIC LIFE:

A PRAYER-FILLED REFLECTION and NOVENA

Through the eyes of the "Apostle of the Eucharist," Saint Peter Julian Eymard, we learn how moments in our world and life need our gifts to transform us and our world.

Celebrated in the context of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with music, incense and Benediction.

<u>Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:00 – Solemnity of Saint Joseph:</u>

A Healing Mass: Eucharistic Living That Heals and Glorifies God

This talk will part of the Mass at the homily time, followed by the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Blessed Sacrament Father Lane currently pastors his home parish, Saint Paschal Baylon, Highland Heights, Ohio and is Provincial Superior of his religious order. He directed the Office of Liturgy for the Diocese of Salt Lake City, worked as his religious order's vocation director and served as pastor in Houston and Albuquerque. He speaks about pastoral liturgy and wrote a column for Emmanuel Magazine (for 23 years), featured on YouTube for singing the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass and authored Guide for Celebrating Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass, Sourcebook for Seasons 2012, 2013 & 2017, and Daily Prayer 2019 by LTP.

Mark your calendars and save the dates to join us for our Lenten Mission!





Thank you for your generous donations toward our Church Flowers that help us remember our loved ones at Christmas as the beautify our worship space!



Please keep in your prayers those names listed below.

Barb Aurand Barry Aurand Jack Aurand Annette Barzal Thomas A. Beam The Bender Family Melvin "John" Black Wayne Black Jean & Frank Bonislawski Charles Broome The Carter Family The Daubenmire Family Cecelia & Michael DeBaltzo Mom & Dad DePetris Joann Dragas Jimmy & Dorothy **Dunsworth** James & Jacqueline Egan Fred Fedeli Frank Fraczek The Furioso Family William & Vern Goga Tom Golenburke Ralph & Edline Goshe The Graziano Family Ron Green George & Carol Ann Greaus



Joan Haas Zoe Haas Rose Hart Betty & Joseph Henikman Daniel & Rita Horgan James Horgan Victor Hubany E. Paul Hurayt Florence Hurayt Michael & Clara Iafigliola The lafigliola Family Tony & Irene *Immormino* Mary & Robert Kehoe Robert Kenneally, Jr. The Klemenc Family Denise Kopera Adam Kozlowski John Kropf, Jr. Russell LaBue Ernie & Carol LaManna Edward Legat Irene & Peter Lillash Ronald Macks Deborah Macks Andy & Ann Macuga Ed Macuga Bill & Helen Malinowksi George & Dortha Michaels Robert Michney

John & Agnes Michney Ivan & Marija Miljak Deceased of Miljak & Kresic Families Al Milnar Ann Milnar Helen & Bill Miska Adam & Sophie Miska Carolyn Mollica William & Helen Monreal William & Geraldine Monreal Bill Paolucci Ashley Paolucci The Peluso Family Tim Petrus *Irene & Ed Pisarczyk* Bernice Pisarczyk Alice & Bob Prohaska Eleanor Mae Reagan John & Kay Russ Ivica & Anka Saric Deceased of the Saric & Jeras Famillies Leonard A. Scott Antonio Severino

Carmela Severino Joseph Severino Melvin & Judy Shell Jeffrey Simpson Robert & Eileen Simpson Nancy & William Skupic The Slavick Family Raymond & Florence Stopar The Talcott Family The Tanski Family Sophia Taskes Michael Taskes Rita & Alphonse *Vanagas* Raymond Vanagas Steve Vitanza David & Florence Vulich Henry Wilson Wayne & Laura Winslow Jeanette & Robert Wolf The Yahner Family

