NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION
Welcome to the parishes of Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Church. We are glad that you are here, and invite you to become part of our parish families not only to be nourished by both Word and Sacrament, but also to become involved in one or more of our parish ministries. To register you can pick up a form by the main entrances of our historic churches, stop by the Sacristy after Mass, visit our web sites, or contact either parish office. Welcome!

OUTREACH TO FEEDING THE POOR AND NEEDY
Saint Lawrence Haven (on the grounds of Holy Cross Church) ~ Tim Hickey (614) 228-0799
Twice-Daily Food Distribution at Saint Joseph Cathedral ~ (614) 224-1295

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL MUSIC
The next Concert in our Series: Lessons and Carols ~ Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 p.m.
The Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Brass present their annual program of music for Advent and Christmas. Scripture readings are juxtaposed with choral music to tell the story of the Christ child from the foretelling by the prophets to the visit of the Magi. The audience also has the opportunity to join the choir, brass, and organs in singing the traditional carols of the season. Admission is a suggested donation of $10 at the door.

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MEETINGS
The Saint Joseph Cathedral Pastoral Council meets monthly at 7:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month; the Holy Cross Pastoral Council meets on a quarterly basis at 6:00 p.m. The Councils are advisory and assist Fr. Lumpe, as Rector and Pastor, with parish issues, planning and coordination. Parishioners are welcome at Council meetings and can contact Council Chairs to address the Council: Cathedral: Michael Elton, (614) 407-7770, melton@columbus.rr.com; Holy Cross: Tom Duncan, (740) 881-3576, tdhusker@columbus.rr.com.

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL PASTORAL COUNCIL
Michael Elton, Chair; Nico Franano, Second Chair; Ruth Holt, Secretary; Rev. Mr. James Gorski, Rev. Mr. Thomas Johnston, Ed Wojewodka, Chris Daly, Crystal Bensonhaver, Don Leonard, Phil Renico, Eric Van Buskirk, Felicia Krakowa, Carrie Boor, Marilyn Tomasi

HOLY CROSS CHURCH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Tom Duncan, Chair; Betty Morbitzer, Vice-Chair; Jane Visocan, Secretary; Jack Kustron, Don Laird, Ann Seren, Winston Swaby, Ex Officio: Mike Agriesti, Deborah Matthews, Sr. Anne Keenan, O.P.
Mass, Liturgy and Devotion
Schedule; Mass Intentions
(C) – Cathedral (HC) – Holy Cross

Holy Cross Church renovations almost complete; Mass and Liturgy times for reference only.

Saturday, December 6 – Sunday Vigil Mass
(C): Confessions, 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
5:15 p.m. (C): Living & Deceased Members of Holy Cross and Saint Joseph Cathedral

Sunday, December 7 – Second Sunday of Advent
Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8
8:00 a.m. (C): Bill Brower
9:00 a.m. (HC): (No Confessions – Church renovation underway)
10:30 a.m. (C): People of the Diocese (HC): (No Confessions – Church renovation underway)
11:00 a.m. (HC): (No Mass – Church renovation underway)
12:30 p.m. (C): JoAnn Buttler
5:15 p.m. (C): Dominic & Beth Prunte, 25th Wedding Anniv.

Monday, December 8 – Solemnity ~ Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary ~ Holy Day of Obligation
7:30 a.m. (C): Ann Dimond
12:05 p.m. (C): Ed Luersman
5:15 p.m. (C): Donald Hall

Tuesday, December 9 – St. Juan Diego
Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
7:30 a.m. (C): Dr. Michael McAndrew
(C) Confessions: 10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m.
11:30 a.m. (HC): (No Mass – Church renovation underway)
12:05 p.m. (C): Rose & Danny O’Neill

Wednesday, December 10
Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30
7:30 a.m. (C): Fr. William Dunn
11:30 a.m. (HC): (No Mass – Church renovation underway)
12:05 p.m. (C): Fr. Ronald Schmelzer
5:15 p.m. (C): Infant daughter, Hayden Noelle Thompson
Holy Hour, Confessions follow Mass until 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, December 11 – St. Damasus I
Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15
7:30 a.m. (C): Ruth Messmer
(C): Holy Hour, Confessions: 10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m.
11:30 a.m. (HC): (No Mass – Church renovation underway)
12:05 p.m. (C): Fr. William Metzger

Friday, December 12 – Feast ~ Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zc 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab: Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47
7:30 a.m. (C): Lenny Iannarino
(HC): Confessions, 11:00 a.m. (None – Church renovation)
11:30 a.m. (HC): (No Mass – Church renovation underway)
12:05 p.m. (C): John Cassidy

Saturday, December 13
Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35– 10:1, 5a, 6-8
11:30 a.m. (HC): (No Mass – Church renovation underway)

Saturday, December 13 – Sunday Vigil Mass
(C): Confessions, 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
5:15 p.m. (C): Living & Dec’d Members of Holy Cross and Saint Joseph Cathedral

Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis During December
• Christmas, hope for humanity. That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.
• Parents. That parents may be true evangelizers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

Mass Intentions
One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead, and the greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus’ redemption. Mass stipends (offerings) are $10.00 each; only one offering per Mass. All Mass intentions will be listed in the bulletin. Please contact the appropriate parish office to schedule Mass intentions.

In Our Parishes This Week

Sunday, December 7
• Anointing of the Sick available after all Masses
• 9:00 a.m. – Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Undercroft
• 11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Sunday in the Undercroft
• 1:30 p.m. – Baptisms: Rockford Adkins, III; Margaret Tonges
• 9:00 p.m. – Office of Compline, Cathedral

Monday, December 8
• 7:00 p.m. – K of C, Council 400, Undercroft

Tuesday, December 9
• No events scheduled

Wednesday, December 10
• 6:30 p.m. – Cathedral RCIA, Undercroft

Thursday, December 11
• 7:00 p.m. – Holy Cross RCIA, Martin de Porres Center
• 7:00 p.m. – Cathedral Choir Rehearsal
• 12:00 p.m. – Deadline to get Christmas Poinsettia Remembrances into Parish Offices

Friday, December 12
• 6:00 p.m. – Rehearsal: Rubadue & Duffins

Saturday, December 13
• 9:30 a.m. – Cathedral Tour: St. Vincent De Paul School
• 2:30 p.m. – Wedding: Erica Rubadue & Timothy Duffins
• 4:00 p.m. – Van Buskirk Baptism
• 5:15 p.m. – Rite of Lector – Permanent Diaconate Candidates

Sunday, December 14
• Masses Resume at Holy Cross Church
• 9:00 a.m. – Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Undercroft
• 3:00 p.m. – Cathedral Choir Concert: Lessons and Carols
• 4:00 p.m. – Holy Cross RCIA – Penance Service, St. Thomas

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Monday, December 8, 2014 ~ A Holy Day of Obligation ~
Cathedral Mass Schedule:
7:30 a.m. | 12:05 p.m. | 5:15 p.m.
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<tr>
<th><strong>Ministry Schedule, Third Sunday of Advent, December 13 and 14, 2014</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cathedral Vigil Mass 5:15 p.m.</strong></td>
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From the Rector-Pastor...

ON THIS SECOND SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT we meet up with John the Baptist at the River Jordan who boldly says: “I am the voice of One crying out in the desert.” He didn’t say, “I am one crying out in the desert,” but rather, “I am THE VOICE of one crying out in the desert.” John is the voice, the loudspeaker, the spokesperson; who is the “one crying out?” It’s the Word, Christ Jesus himself. John’s message is God’s message, which John was screaming at the top of his powerful lungs. The message was urgent and clear: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” John the Baptist is telling us that to get ready for the Lord who is coming this Advent, we, too, need to prepare a way for him. We, too, need to make straight the paths. In the ancient world, preparing such a path meant a great deal of manual work, making crooked paths straight, rough ways smooth, and even charting paths through the mountains and valleys. For us, that pathway will not be traced on the ground, but in our hearts. It will not be made in the wilderness, but in our life. The work is not something that will make our hands dirty, but our souls clean. What John the Baptist is calling us to is a conversion of mind and heart. To preach conversion is the mission of John the Baptist, which is why we encounter him every Advent, because in Advent this message must be preached and conversion must be practiced. The reason is because Jesus has come into the world – to save us from our sins, to save us from ourselves, and from what our sins lead to: death. In order for us to appreciate Christ our Savior and what he did for us, we have to realize that we are sinners who need Him to save us from our sins. That’s why John the Baptist’s message is such a gift. His whole vocation, his whole mission, was to deliver that message. Before he was even conceived, the Archangel Gabriel said to his dad, Zechariah, “He will turn the hearts of many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah, he will go before the Lord, to turn ... the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:16-17). Nine months later at his birth, Zechariah exclaimed, “You, my child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins” (Luke 1:76-77). When the Baptist arrived at the Jordan, he fulfilled those prophecies, “proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of their sins,” as we read in today’s Gospel (Mark 1:4). His first words at the Jordan were “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 3:2). Those were the identical words that Jesus himself would use to inaugurate his public ministry a little later, after his forty day retreat in the desert, “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 4:17). Thus, John was indeed the voice of Jesus crying out in the desert for “repentance” through the forgiveness of our sins. That voice and that Word continue to echo in our minds and our hearts today. Folks, the Lord is coming for us in Advent, but for him to reach his destination, we have to convert. “To make straight the paths of the Lord” means to clear the path of sin, which is the major obstacle for the Lord to come into our lives. Quoting the prophet Isaiah from today’s first reading (Isaiah 40:4), John the Baptist says, “Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth” (Luke 3:5). We have to call those topographical formations by their proper names. We have to make low the mountains of our pride and egocentrism. We have to fill in the valleys that come from a shallow prayer life and a minimalistic way of living our faith. We have to straighten out whatever crooked paths we’ve been walking – to help identify those crooked paths I have included in this week’s bulletin an extensive Examination of Conscience to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Now is the time to clear away all the sin and debris in our paths; and if we’ve been pushing Christ’s way off the side of the road, if we’ve been saying we don’t really have the time for His ways, now’s the time to get our priorities straight. This Advent — which is a gift of the Lord to us — will succeed or fail on the basis of how well we convert and clear our lives of sin so that the Lord may come to us. Let’s make a good confession as the first step in straightening our paths.

OF NOTE:
• The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is available after each Mass this weekend.
• The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is Monday, December 8, and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Cathedral Masses will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m., 12:05 p.m. and 5:15 p.m.
• On Sunday, December 14, “Gaudete Sunday,” we will resume our regular Mass schedule at our beloved Holy Cross Church following a renovation of the church interior. How appropriate that we begin anew this particular day given that “gaudete” means “rejoice!” Masses will be at the regular times of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. A reception will take place in the Cum Cristo Center after both Masses. There will still be some final work taking place after we reopen, but everything will be completed in time for Christmas.
• Cathedral cleaning volunteers needed! In preparation for Christmas, our annual pizza party and church cleaning will take place on Monday, December 15, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Information is included in this week’s bulletin, and sign-up sheets are in the Narthex (Broad Street entrance) of the Cathedral.

-- Fr. Mike Lumpe
This Advent, Invest the Time and Effort
to Make a Good Confession

by Fr. William Saunders

QUESTION: I have heard the priests of my parish encouraging us to go to confession during Advent. I admit I have not been to confession in years because I am not sure I know how to go to confession. Would you please review how to go to confession?

The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,”
but he is patient with you,
not wishing that any should perish
but that all should come to repentance.
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 2 PETER 3:9

The Second Vatican Council did decree that “the rite and formulas of penance are to be revised in such a way that they may more clearly express the nature and effects of this sacrament” (Sacrosanctum Concilium No. 72). Accordingly the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship issued The Rite of Penance in 1973. The new rite did add options for prayers, provide for a reading of Sacred Scripture, and introduce “penance services” with private confessions. Nevertheless, the norms stipulated, “It is for priests, and especially parish priests in reconciling individuals or the community, to adapt the rite to the concrete circumstances of the penitents” (No. 40). Therefore, on a Saturday afternoon with a line of penitents waiting for confession, the parish priest may follow a more “streamlined” version of the Rite, which would include by custom the traditional format for confession.

With that in mind, a person begins with a good examination of conscience. We need to hold up our life to the pattern of life God has revealed for us to live. For instance, we take time to reflect on the 10 Commandments, the Beatitudes, the precepts of the Church, and the virtues of prudence, fortitude, temperance, and justice. (Several clear, simple pamphlets with an examination of conscience may be found on line; an examination of conscience is also included in this bulletin.)

The examination of our conscience is like stepping back and looking at the picture of our life in comparison to the masterpiece of life revealed by God. Remember when we were children, we used to trace pictures. Tracing helped us learn to draw. We would take a piece of plain paper, hold it over the original picture, and then put it up to the window. The light would enable us to trace the original picture onto our blank sheet of paper. Periodically, we had to stop and step back to see if our paper had slipped and was out of kilter with the original or if we had deviated from the lines.

In a similar way, as we live our lives, we are tracing them in accord with God’s pattern of life. In examining our consciences, we step back and honestly assess how well we fit God’s pattern and have stayed within His boundaries. At this time, we reflect on the progress we have made since our last confession in dealing with weaknesses, faults, temptations, and past sins. Hopefully, we see improvement in our spiritual well-being. However, when we have gone out of kilter or gone out of bounds with God’s masterpiece, we have sinned. We must recognize the venial sins — those lighter sins which weaken our relationship with the Lord — from the mortal sins — those sins which sever our relationship with the Lord and “kill” the presence of sanctifying grace in our souls. Here we remember the words of Jesus, “Everyone who practices evil hates the light; he does not come near it for fear his deeds will be exposed. But he who acts in truth comes into the light, to make clear that his deeds are done in God” (Jn 3:20-21).

Given this examination of conscience, we have contrition for our sins. While we are sorry for sin because we do fear the fires of Hell and the loss of Heaven, and the just punishments of God, we are sorry most of all because our sins offend God whom we should love above all things. The love for God moves us to repent
of sin and seek reconciliation. All of the great saints regularly examined their consciences and made frequent use of the Sacrament of Penance. (Even Pope Saint John Paul II confessed his sins weekly, as did Mother Teresa.) One must ask, “Why? What sins did these saints possibly commit?” They loved the Lord so much that even the slightest omission or commission moves them to confession. They do not want even the slightest sin to separate them from the love of God. For love of God, we too are sorry for our sins.

Sorrow for sin moves us to have a firm amendment not to sin again. We probably will sin again, but we try in earnest not to do so. We do not plan on leaving the confessional and committing the same sins again.

We then confess our sins. When we enter the confessional in most Churches, we have the option of remaining anonymous or facing the priest. Whichever option a person chooses, always remember that whatever is said during the confession is held in secret by the priest.

Remember also that we confess to the priest for three reasons.

First, the priest has the authority of the Apostles by virtue of his ordination. On the night of the resurrection, Jesus said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men’s sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound” (Jn 20:22-23). The priest is the minister of the sacrament acting in the person of Christ.

Second, he is our spiritual father. Just as we see a doctor for healing when we are physically sick, we see a priest when our soul is sick and needs healing.

Third, the priest represents the Church and the people we have sinned against. In the early days of the Church, people publicly confessed sin at the beginning of Mass and were absolved. Much to our relief, for centuries now we have had private confession.

We proceed by making the sign of the cross and saying, “Bless me father for I have sinned.” One could also simply begin, “In the name of the Father...” We should then state when we made our last confession: “It has been (so long) since my last confession.”

We then confess our sins. We must be specific. Sometimes people say, “I broke the sixth commandment,” which covers everything from a lustful thought to rape and adultery. We do not need to provide the full-blown story, just the basics to enable the priest to help. We need to give some quantification — missing Mass once is different from several times which is different from all the time. When we are finished confessing our sins, we state, “I am sorry for these and all of my sins.” With this information, the priest may counsel us. He also assigns a penance for the healing of the hurt caused by sin and the strengthening of our soul against future temptation. He then asks us to say an act of contrition, which is generally the traditional prayer: “Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee. I detest all of my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who are all good and deserving of all of my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.”

Finally, the priest imparts absolution. Ponder these beautiful words: “God the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of His son, has reconciled the world to Himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” This formula emphasizes our merciful Heavenly Father, the saving mystery of our Lord’s passion, death, and resurrection, and the healing ministry of the Holy Spirit through the Church.

The priest then dismisses us, saying, “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,” to which we respond, “His mercy endures forever.” (Many priests may simply say, “May God bless you.”) We then leave the confessional to do the assigned penance.

The Sacrament of Penance is a beautiful sacrament through which we are reconciled to God, ourselves, and our neighbors. Remember the words of St. Paul, “God is rich in mercy; because of His great love for us, He brought us to life with Christ when we were dead in sin” (Eph 2:4). As we draw closer to Christmas, make the time to give a good confession.

Fr. Saunders is a professor of catechetics and theology at Notre Dame Graduate School in Alexandria, Virginia. His book Straight Answers is available in many Catholic bookstores, or online. This article is reprinted courtesy of THE CATHOLIC HERALD, the newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington.
Examination of Conscience for Adults
Based on the Ten Commandments

"O God, be merciful to me, a sinner." (Luke 18:13)

If possible, prepare yourself for confession with regularity, not allowing too much time to pass. Always go to confession when you are in state of mortal sin. Prepare your confession in a climate of prayer, responding to these questions under the gaze of God, seeing Him as the one you can go to for help to progress more quickly along the path of the Lord.

1. "I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before Me." (Exodus 20:2,3) "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37).
   Do I love God like this? With my whole heart, soul and mind?
   Do I give him the first place in my life?
   Do I listen with faith to the Word of God and His Son, Jesus Christ?
   Do I persevere in prayer?
   Do I doubt or deny that God exists?
   Do I refuse to believe what God as revealed to us?
   Do I believe in fortune telling, horoscopes, dreams, the occult, good-luck charms, tarot cards, palmistry, Ouija boards, séances, reincarnation?
   Did I deny that I was Catholic because I was embarrassed about my faith?
   Do I give time to God each day in prayer?
   Did I despair of or presume on God's mercy?
   Did I have false gods in my life that I give greater attention to than God, like money, profession, drugs and/or alcohol, TV, internet, social media, fame, pleasure, property, etc.?

2. "You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain." (Exodus 20:7)
   Did I blaspheme or insult God?
   Do I take God's name carelessly or uselessly?
   Do I curse, or have I broken an oath or vow?
   Do I get angry with God? Do I respect the holy name of God?
   Do I abuse him in my references to him, offending him, using of him, instead of serving him?
   Do I bless God in each one of my actions?
   Do I surrender myself without reserve to his will for me, trusting entirely in him?
   Do I entrust myself with humility and confidence to the guidance and teaching of the pastors which the Lord has given to his Church?
   Do I make an effort to go deeper in and strengthen my life of faith?

3. "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath Day." (Exodus 20:8)
   Did I miss Mass Sunday or a Holy Day of Obligation through my own fault?
   Do I come to Mass on time? Leave early?
   Do I perform work on Sunday that is not necessary?
   Do I set aside Sunday as a day of rest and a family day?
   Do I show reverence in the presence of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament?
   Do I make Sunday the center of my week, beginning with the most important moment, the celebration of the Eucharist?
   Do I use it, and the other days consecrated to the Lord, to praise and give thanks to God, to entrust myself to him and take rest in him?
   Do I participate faithfully and actively in the liturgy, preparing myself beforehand with prayer, and making the effort to obtain its fruits during the entire week?

4. "Honor your father and your mother." (Exodus 20:12)
   Did I disobey or disrespect my parents or legitimate superiors?
   Did I fail to love and respect those who have given me life?
   Did I make every effort to understand and help them, above all in their weaknesses and limits, in their time of need?
   Did I neglect my duties to my husband, wife, children or parents?
   Did I neglect to give good religious example to my family?
Did I fail to actively take an interest in the religious education and formation of my children?
Did I fail to educate myself on the true teachings of the Church?
Did I give scandal by what I said or did, especially to the young?
Have I caused anyone to doubt the faith or leave the faith?
Do I cause tension and fights in my family?
Do I care for my aged and infirmed relatives?
Do I give a full day’s work for a full day's pay?
Do I give a fair wage to my employees?

5. "Thou shalt not kill." (Exodus 20:13)
Did I kill or physically injure anyone?
Did I have an abortion, or advise someone else or support someone in having an abortion?
Did I use or cause my spouse to use birth control?
Did I attempt suicide?
Did I take part in or approve of "mercy killing" (euthanasia)?
Did I get angry, impatient, envious, unkind, proud, revengeful, jealous, hateful toward another?
Did I give bad example by drug abuse, drinking alcohol to excess, fighting, quarreling?
Have I abused my children?
Do I make the effort to respect and promote life in all of its stages and aspects?
Do I do everything in my power to promote the good of the others?
Have I done evil to someone with the explicit intention of doing it?

6 and 9. "You shall not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14) "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife." (Exodus 20:17)
Did I willfully entertain impure thoughts or desires?
Did I use impure or suggestive words? Tell impure stories? Listen to them?
Did I deliberately look at impure TV, videos, plays, pictures or movies, internet, etc.?
Did I commit impure acts by myself – self-gratification?
Did I commit impure acts with another - fornication (premarital sex, sex outside of marriage),
or adultery (sex with a married person)?
Do I practice artificial birth control (by pills, devices, etc.)?
Did I avoid the occasions of impurity?
Given my state in life, have I been chaste in my thoughts and actions?
Have I engaged in sexual activity with persons of the same sex?
Did I respect all members of the opposite sex, or have I thought of other people as objects?
Did I or my spouse have sterilization done?
Did I abuse my marriage rights?

7 and 10. "You shall not steal." (Exodus 20:15) "You shall not covet your neighbor's goods." (Exodus 20:17)
Did I steal, cheat, help or encourage others to steal or keep stolen goods?
Have I made restitution for stolen goods?
Did I fulfill my contracts; give or accept bribes; pay my bills; rashly gamble or speculate;
deprive my family of the necessities of life?
Did I waste time at work, school or at home?
Did I envy other people's relationships or possessions?
Do I make material possessions the purpose of my life?
Do I respect the goods of creation?
Am I honest in my work and in my relations with my neighbor?

8. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16)
Have I lied? I lying a habit for me?
Did I deliberately deceive others, or injure others by lies?
Did I commit perjury?
Do I gossip or reveal others' faults or sins?
Have I failed to keep secret what should be confidential?
Am I sincere and loyal in each word and action?
Do I always speak the truth?
Do I mislead others?
Do I try to give confidence and act in a way that inspires confidence in the others?
OTHER SINS
Did I fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday?
Did I eat meat on the Fridays of Lent or Ash Wednesday?
Did I receive Holy Communion in a state of mortal sin?
Did I make a bad confession?
Did I fail to contribute financially to support of the Church according to my means?

NINE WAYS OF AIDING ANOTHER IN SIN
• (1) Counseling or advising another to sin;
• (2) Commanding another to sin;
• (3) Provoking another to sin;
• (4) Consenting to another's sin;
• (5) Showing another how to sin;
• (6) Praising another's sin;
• (7) Concealing, remaining silent about, doing nothing to prevent another's sin;
• (8) Taking part in, or enjoying the results of another's sin;
• (9) Defending another's sin.

An Examination of Conscience for Young Men and Women

"What God commands He makes possible by grace," states paragraph 2083 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. "Jesus says, 'I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.' The fruit referred to in this saying is the holiness of a life made fruitful by union with Christ. When we believe in Jesus Christ, partake of His mysteries, and keep His commandments, the Savior Himself...becomes, through the Spirit, the living and interior rule of our activity" (CCC #2074).

In other words, it is only when we have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ that we are empowered to live more and more the way that God commands us to – to do God's will. Jesus gives us His Holy Spirit to help us understand and obey the Father's commands.

God’s laws and teachings are for our benefit! Our obedience opens us to receive more of God: more of His love, His help, His comfort, His healing, etc. "The gift of the Commandments is the gift of God Himself" (CCC #2059). Any time we disobey God, we make our lives more difficult because we are turning away from love: "Sin sets itself against God’s love for us and turns our hearts away from it" (CCC #1850).

This is why it’s important to make a good examination of conscience. Use this Examination of Conscience prayerfully. Make note of the sins you’ve committed as they come to mind. Then reflect on how these sins have opposed love. Remember that God is a God of mercy. His mercy doesn't give us permission to do anything we feel like doing. Rather, it gives us love even when we don’t deserve it.

Once you've confessed your sins and received absolution from a priest, you're set free from these sins (even though you might still need to undo the damage you've caused) and you never need to confess these sins again unless you recommit them. Examine your conscience...

For the times I have forgotten you and turned my back on you, Lord...
For the times I have failed to praise You and to recognize Your greatness in creation...
For the times I have failed to love You with all my heart...
For the times I have idolized myself instead of worshipping You...
For the times I slept in, went to sports practice, and placed other things above going to Sunday Mass...
For the times I thought “do I have to go to Mass” versus “I want to go to Mass to praise You”...
For making things, money, or people more important than You...
For not making time to try to understand Scriptures better and live according to them...
For not accepting Church teaching, tradition and Church authority...
For not obeying the commandments because I didn’t agree with Your laws...
For not accepting the truths of the Gospel because I didn’t agree with them...
For sinning, and blaming others (friends, family, others) for my sinful behavior...
For not loving the Church while I criticize her...
For presuming so often on Your mercy while ignoring Your justice...
For picking and choosing only the convenient parts of Your message in Scripture...
For closing my heart to the guidance of Your Spirit...
For the times I have been ashamed to show my religious convictions...
For being ignorant and uninformed in my religion because of laziness or lack or interest...
For believing in superstition and astrology...
For the times I have cursed...
For using Your name in vain, Lord...
For times I have used Your name lightly, without respect...
For the times I have hurt You and others with foul language or harsh words...
For my unwillingness to dedicate time to pray...
For praying “mechanically” and without conviction...
For all the times I was not giving praise and worship to God at Mass...
For the times I have not taken part in the Eucharist because of laziness...
For making excuses claiming that other things are more important than going to Mass...
For lack of respect for the Sacraments, especially Penance and Eucharist...
For not trying to understand my parents, and not being thankful for my parents...
For disobeying my parents and not being respectful of them...
For disrespecting my parents and others in authority (teachers, principal, supervisors, etc.)...
For not showing love toward my parents and for taking them for granted...
For my moments of impatience at home, school, at work, with friends...
For being uncharitable toward my brothers and sisters, and all persons...
For the times that I have not been grateful toward those who have helped me grow...
For all the times I have wished evil upon someone...
For putting people on my “black list”, giving them the cold shoulder, and not forgiving them...
For the moments that I have hurt others’ feelings with my words or actions...
For the times I have ignored the needs of others or refused to help those in need...
For refusing to forgive myself and others...
For not challenging myself and being lazy at home or work...
For the gifts and talents I have failed to cultivate...
For looking at pornography and engaging in immoral conversations...
For flirting too much at school or work...
For having neglected my human dignity and that of others...
For the times I have misused God’s gift of my sexuality by myself or with others...
For the times I have cheated...
For the times I have stolen, or taken things without permission...
For the times I thought I was entitled to something, or owed something...
For wasting Your gifts of food and natural resources...
For the times I have been jealous of others’ looks, friends or possessions...
For forgetting the poor, the lonely, the ill, the aged, and those who are in need...
For not trying to become more competent with my gifts and talents...
For the greed that makes me want so many useless things (wasting time)...
For the times I have spread rumors and gossiped and hurt others, especially through social media...
For ridiculing others in front of them or behind their back...
For lying or not telling the whole truth...
For playing games with the truth in order to be accepted...
For not living according to or standing up for my Catholic faith in order to be accepted...
For hypocrisy in my words and actions...
For the times I have been too proud to admit I was wrong...
For the times I have been prejudiced and/or biased toward others...
For the times I have judged people...
For taking advantage of others, using them for my own good...
For not keeping my promises...
For the times I have been sarcastic at the expense of others...
For the times I was unjust toward my neighbors...
The Holy Cross Church and Saint Joseph Cathedral Christmas “Giving Trees” are located in the Narthex (Broad Street entrance) and by the Fifth Street side entrance of the Cathedral. The trees will be decorated with scrolls for residents of Bryden Place and Christmas, ornaments for the Joint Office for Inner-city Needs – J.O.I.N. – and tags for some of our parishioner families who are having a difficult time. The scrolls request participants to purchase a Christmas gift for a resident living at Bryden Place. The gifts will be collected each week to be delivered to residents on Monday, December 22nd. Ornaments for J.O.I.N. will offer a suggestion for a gift card on the back. The gift card and ornament should be placed in an envelope marked J.O.I.N. and dropped in the Offertory basket. The gift cards will be delivered to J.O.I.N. to help those in need during and after the Christmas season. If you have registered your Kroger card to benefit Saint Joseph Cathedral, why not buy the gift card there so the Cathedral will receive a percentage back? A 2-for-1 blessing!

Thank you for caring for the needs of others and for your generosity during this season of giving!
DEADLINE IS THIS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11!

Honor Your Family Members, Friends and Loved Ones this Christmas with Poinsettia Flowers in Your Parish Church.

Each year our parish churches of Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross are decorated so beautifully for Christmas ~ appropriately so to celebrate the Birth of our Lord, Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

If you would like to have one or more poinsettias placed in the Church “in honor of” or “in memory of” a family member, friend or loved one, please fill out the form below and return it via the Offertory or to either parish office BEFORE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11th TO MEET OUR EARLY BULLETIN PRINTING DEADLINE (BULLETIN GOES TO PRESS ON DECEMBER 12th) along with a check made payable to Saint Joseph Cathedral or Holy Cross Church. Poinsettias are $10.00 for each listing, and will be included in our special Christmas bulletin (bulletin listing space is limited; editing may be necessary).

Thank you for helping to adorn our churches in this special way, and for remembering someone special during this joyous time of the year.

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PLEASE PRINT ~ ATTACH CHECK PAYABLE TO:   
SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL OR HOLY CROSS CHURCH

DONATION IS FOR (Circle one): SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL   HOLY CROSS CHURCH

YOUR NAME ______________________________ PHONE ______________________

NUMBER OF FLOWERS _________ x $10.00 each: TOTAL AMOUNT $_______________

IN HONOR OF __________________________________________________________

IN MEMORY OF _________________________________________________________
"If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don’t like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself. Order your soul; reduce your wants; live in charity; associate in Christian community; obey the laws; trust in Providence.”

– Saint Augustine

Monday, December 8 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Patronal Feast Day of the United States if America
~ A Holy Day of Obligation ~

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end.” But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Meditation: Do you want to live a grace-filled life? I think we all do. The angel Gabriel salutes Mary as “full of grace.” To become the mother of the Savior, Mary was enriched by God with gifts to enable her to assume this awesome role. There is a venerable tradition among many Christians, dating back to the early church, for honoring Mary as the spotless virgin who bore the Son of God in her womb. A number of early Church fathers link Mary’s obedience to this singular grace of God. One of them Saint Irenaeus, wrote: “Being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race. The knot of Eve’s disobedience was united by Mary’s obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith.”

Prayer: O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they immediately experienced the consequence of their action – separation from the God who loved them. God in his mercy promised them a Redeemer who would pay the price for their sin and the sin of the world. We see the marvelous unfolding of God’s plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. Mary’s prompt response of “yes” to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God’s promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God’s will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heart-felt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the grace, strength, and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God’s promises and do you yield to his grace?
Tuesday, December 9 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent
Saint Juan Diego, Convert

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:12-14 Jesus said to his disciples: “What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost.”

Meditation: This parable gives us a glimpse of the heart of a true shepherd, and the joy of a community reunited with its lost members. Shepherds not only had to watch over their sheep by day and by night; they also had to protect them from wolves and lions who preyed upon them, and from dangerous terrain and storms. Shepherds often had large flocks, sometimes numbering in the hundreds or thousands. It was common to inspect and count the sheep at the end of the day. You can imagine the surprise and grief of the shepherd who discovers that one of his sheep is missing! Does he wait until the next day to go looking for it? Or does he ask a neighboring shepherd if he might have seen the stray sheep? No, he goes immediately in search of this lost sheep. Delay for even one night could mean disaster leading to death. Sheep by nature are very social creatures. An isolated sheep can quickly become bewildered, disoriented, and even neurotic. Easy prey for wolves and lions!

Prayer: O God, who by means of Saint Juan Diego showed the love of the most holy Virgin Mary for your people, grant, through his intercession, that, by following the counsels our Mother gave at Guadalupe, we may be ever constant in fulfilling your will. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: What was new in Jesus’ teaching was the insistence that sinners must be sought out time and time again. How easy to forget and be distracted with other matters while the lost become prey for devouring wolves of the soul. The Apostle Peter reminds us that the "devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (ref. 1 Peter 5:8). God does not rejoice in the loss of anyone, but desires that we be saved and restored to friendship with him. That is why the whole community of heaven rejoices when one sinner is found and restored to fellowship with God. God is on a rescue mission today to save us from the destructive forces of sin and evil. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, watches over every step we take. Do you listen to his voice and heed his wise counsel? Do you follow the path he has set for you - a path that leads to life rather than death? Getting back on the right path always begins with the Sacrament of Reconciliation – don’t let anything hold you back from making a good confession!

Wednesday, December 10 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said to the crowds: “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

Meditation: The Jewish people used the image of a yoke to express submission to God. They spoke of the yoke of the law, the yoke of the commandments, the yoke of the kingdom, the yoke of God. Jesus says his yoke is “easy”. The Greek word for "easy" can also mean "well-fitting." Yokes were tailor-made to fit the oxen well. We are commanded to put on the "sweet yoke of Jesus" and to live the "heavenly way of life and happiness". Oxen were yoked two by two. Jesus invites us to be yoked with him, to unite our lives with him, our wills with his will, our heart with his heart. Jesus also says his "burden is light". There's a story of a man who once met a boy carrying a smaller crippled lad on his back. "That's a heavy load you are carrying there," exclaimed the man. "He ain't heavy; he's my brother!" responded the boy. No burden is too heavy when it's given in love and carried in love. When we yoke our lives with Jesus, he also carries our burdens with us and gives us his strength to follow in his way of love. Do you know the joy of resting in Jesus' presence and walking daily with him along the path he has for you?

Prayer: Almighty God, who command us to prepare the way for Christ the Lord, grant in your kindness, we pray, that no infirmity may weary us as we long for the comforting presence of our heavenly physician. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: In the Season of Advent we celebrate the coming of the Messianic King who ushers in the reign of God. The prophets foretold that the Messiah would establish God's kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy. Those who put their trust in God and in the coming of his kingdom receive the blessings of that kingdom - peace with God and strength for living his way of love and holiness (ref. Isaiah 40). Jesus fulfills all the Messianic hopes and promises of God's kingdom. That is why he taught his disciples to pray,
"thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (ref. Matthew 6:10). In his kingdom sins are not only forgiven but removed, and eternal life is poured out for all its citizens. This is not a political kingdom, but a spiritual one. The yoke of Christ's kingdom, his kingly rule and way of life, liberates us from the burden of guilt and from the oppression of sin and hurtful desires. Only Jesus can lift the burden of sin and the weight of hopelessness from us. Jesus used the analogy of a yoke to explain how we can exchange the burden of sin and despair for a burden of glory and yoke of freedom from the grip of sin. The yoke which Jesus invites us to embrace is his way of grace and freedom from the power of sin. Do you trust in God's love and submit to his will for your life? If not, why not?

**Thursday, December 11 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent**  
**Saint Damasus I, Pope**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:11-15** Jesus said to the crowds: "Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force. All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah, the one who is to come. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

**Meditation:** John the Baptist is the last and greatest of the prophets of the old covenant. He fulfilled the essential task of all the prophets: to be fingers pointing to Christ, God's Anointed Son and Messiah. John proclaimed Jesus' mission at the Jordan River when he exclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (ref. John 1:29). John saw from a distance what Jesus would accomplish through his death on the cross — our redemption from bondage to sin and death and our adoption as sons and daughters of God and citizens of the kingdom of heaven. John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets who point the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus the Messiah. Jesus confirms that John has fulfilled the promise that Elijah would return to herald the coming of the Messiah (Malachi 4:5). Jesus declares that John is nothing less than the great herald whose privilege it was to announce the coming of the Messiah. Jesus equates the coming of his kingdom with violence. John himself suffered violence for announcing that the kingdom of God was near. He was thrown into prison and then beheaded. Since John's martyrdom to the present times the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence and persecution at the hands of violent men. The blood of the martyrs throughout the ages bear witness to this fact. The martyrs witness to the truth — the truth and love of Jesus Christ who shed his blood to redeem us from slavery to sin and Satan and the fear of death. The Lord Jesus gives us the power of his Holy Spirit to overcome fear with faith, despair with hope, and every form of hatred, violence, jealousy, and prejudice with love and charity towards all — even those who seek to destroy and kill.

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may constantly exalt the merits of your Martyrs, whom Pope Saint Damasus so venerated and loved. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** God may call some of us to be martyrs for our faith in Christ. But for most of us our call is to be dry martyrs who bear testimony to the joy and truths of the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ in the midst of daily challenges, contradictions, temptations and adversities which come our way as we faithfully follow the Lord Jesus. What attracts others to those who follow the truth of God and his son, Jesus Christ? When they see Christians loving their enemies, being joyful in suffering, patient in adversity, pardoning injuries, and showing comfort and compassion to the hopeless and the helpless. Jesus tells us that we do not need to fear our adversaries. He will give us sufficient grace, strength, and wisdom to face any trial and to answer any challenge to our faith. Are you eager to witness to the joy and freedom of the gospel?

**Friday, December 12 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent**  
**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38** The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end.” But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?”
And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Meditation: How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? She knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done previously. Her question, “how shall this be, since I have no husband” is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and trust. Mary’s prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God’s promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the “mother of God” because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. When we pray the Nicene Creed we state our confession of faith in this great mystery: “For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man”. God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heart-felt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the help, strength, and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises and do you yield to his grace?

Prayer: O God, Father of mercies, who placed your people under the singular protection of your Son’s most holy Mother, grant that all who invoke the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe, may seek with ever more lively faith the progress of peoples in the ways of justice and of peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Do you know the favor of the Lord? God lavishes his grace upon all who believe in him. He shows his favor to the lowly, to those who are humble and receptive to his word. We see the unfolding of God’s plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. The new era of salvation begins with the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. This child to be born is conceived by the gracious action of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, who finds favor with God. As Eve was the mother of all humanity doomed to sin, now Mary becomes the mother of the new Adam who will father a new humanity by his grace (Romans 5:12-21). This child to be conceived in her womb is the fulfillment of all God’s promises. He will be “great” and “Son of the Most High” and “King” (Luke 1:32-33), and his name shall be called “Jesus”, which means “the Lord saves”. “He will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). The promise of an everlasting kingdom to the house of David (Isaiah 9:6-7) is fulfilled in the King to be born in Mary’s womb. Let us prepare ourselves in these weeks of Advent to come and adore him.

A LIFE IN CHRIST THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS
AT SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL AND HOLY CROSS CHURCH

“Every encounter with Christ, who in the Sacraments gives us salvation, invites us to ‘go’ and communicate to others the salvation that we have been able to see, to touch, to encounter and to receive, and which is truly credible because it is love. In this way, the Sacraments spur us to be missionaries, and the Apostolic commitment to carry the Gospel into every setting…” ~POPE FRANCIS, NOVEMBER 6, 2013

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Congratulations on the planned baptism of your child! Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Church welcomes her families to celebrate with great faith and joy the baptism of their children and are pleased to be the Church where this first Sacrament will be celebrated. The Sacrament of Baptism is administered following the 12:30 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral, and following the 11:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross.

Baptism is the first sacrament of Christian initiation. It is the sacrament that frees a person from original sin and makes that person a member of Christ and His Church, thus beginning the way to a new life in Christ. It is administered by a priest or deacon pouring Holy Water on the person’s head “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” One must be baptized before receiving any other sacraments. Baptism is the foundation for all ministry and life in the church, and confers a commitment to follow Christ and spread His message throughout the world. Furthermore, in baptism, one is incorporated into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and thus participates in the gift of resurrection and eternal life with Christ. Infants can be baptized soon after birth. At the time of baptism, parents vow to practice their faith and provide a Catholic upbringing for the child. Adults who have never been baptized take part in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), and will typically be baptized during the Easter Vigil Mass.

Selecting a godparent or sponsor: The duties of godparents are more than ceremonial. The principal responsibility of a godparent is to give witness to the Catholic faith by his or her words and actions, thus parents need to find practicing Catholics to faithfully serve in the role as godparents. As noted in the Code of Canon Law, “Insofar as possible, one to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who is to assist an adult in Christian initiation, or, together with the parents, to present an infant at the baptism, and who will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it” (Canon 872). In selecting godparents, the Catholic Church requires:

- A godparent must have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation;
- A godparent or sponsor must be at least 16 years of age;
- A godparent must be living a life consistent with faith and morals as taught by the Catholic Church;
- A godparent must be a registered, active Catholic in their parish church, and needs to provide a letter of suitability from their pastor; a non-Catholic, baptized Christian must also be a registered, active member of their Christian faith community, and also must provide a letter of suitability from their pastor;
- There must be one Catholic godparent; a non-Catholic, baptized Christian may be chosen as a Christian Witness.

If this is your first child, both parents must participate in our Baptism Workshop prior to the Baptism of your child. The Workshop is also recommended for any godparent who has not previously taken a baptism workshop. Baptism Workshops for both Saint Joseph Cathedral and for Holy Cross are offered through the Cathedral, and are held the second Tuesday of every other month at 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral Undercroft; please register in advance (no walk-ins) by calling Carol at (614) 224-1295, or cathedral@columbus.rr.com. To inquire about possible dates for the actual Sacrament of Baptism, for the Cathedral contact Carol, for Holy Cross please contact Sr. Anne at (614) 224-3416, or sranne@columbus.rr.com. THE NEXT BI-MONTHLY WORKSHOP IS TUESDAY, JANUARY 13.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confession is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ in His love and mercy to offer sinners forgiveness for offenses committed against God. At the same time, sinners reconcile with the Church, because it also is wounded by our sins. We know this sacrament by various names: the Sacrament of Penance, Confession, or Reconciliation. This is good news for all of us, because we all are sinners and in need of God’s mercy, compassion and forgiveness. In the Sacrament of Penance, we meet Christ in the person of the priest, ready and eager to absolve us and restore us to new life. We confess our sins to God through His minister, the priest, who absolves us in the name of Christ.

Why should we confess our sins? The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament of healing and a sacrament of conversion, returning us to the Father after our sin. We are to confess serious sins at least once a year; those aware of committing a mortal sin must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving Holy Communion. The Church also encourages us to go to confession more frequently, in order that we might deepen our relationship with God, grow in humility and virtue, and help us to avoid future sin. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1458)

Please refer to the bulletin cover for the availability and locations of this grace-filled Sacrament.
SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Congratulations on your engagement! Your decision to enter into the relationship of married life is a sign of love, hope and strength for the entire community. We support you in your commitment for a faithful and lifelong Christian marriage. Because Matrimony is a sacrament, the Catholic Church wants couples to be well-prepared. Marriage preparation helps couples develop a better understanding of the sacrament, to evaluate and deepen their readiness to a life-long married life, and to gain insights into themselves as individuals and as a couple.

The Church has a rich tradition on sacramental marriage and covenantal union. The Old Testament authors write of God making a covenant with the chosen people and promising them that they will never be forsaken. The New Testament authors write of Jesus as the new covenant and compare the relationship of Jesus with the Church to the relationship of a husband and wife. The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership for the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring.

Couples wishing to marry at Saint Joseph Cathedral or Holy Cross Church may request setting a date to be married ensuring that the following are completed:

- Couple contacts the Parish Office and schedules a meeting with one of the clergy in the parish;
- Couple meets with the clergy, completes an initial interview, and explore the couple’s freedom to marry;
- Clergy discusses any obstacles that may exist before the couple is free to marry and confirms a date;
- Couples agree to follow the established Marriage guidelines at Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Church.

For initial marriage inquiries, the couple needs to contact Nancy Thornock (nthornock@msn.com) for marriages at the Cathedral, or Sr. Anne (sranne@columbus.rr.com) for marriages at Holy Cross.

THE EUCHARIST ~ FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Eucharist is the most special sacrament, in which the Body and Blood of Christ Himself is contained, offered and received, and by which the Church constantly lives and grows. The Eucharistic sacrifice, the memorial of the death and resurrection of the Lord, in which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated over the centuries, is the summit, source, and center of our Catholic faith, life and worship.

As children reach the age of reason, at age seven, the Church extends to them an invitation to celebrate the Sacrament of Eucharist by making their First Holy Communion; adults receiving the Eucharist for the first time generally takes place at the Easter Vigil Mass. Preparation for children is made through the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, for adults preparation is through the RCIA program. For information about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd contact Deborah Matthews at matthews9244@sbcglobal.net; for Adult catechesis and RCIA please contact at the Cathedral Jake Neal at jake.t.neal@gmail.com, and at Holy Cross Sr. Anne at sranne@columbus.rr.com.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is one of the sacraments of initiation, along with Baptism and Eucharist. While Baptism is the sacrament of rebirth to a new and supernatural life, Confirmation is the sacrament of maturity and coming of age. It is conferred by the anointing of Chrism oil and the laying on of hands by Bishop Campbell. Through this sacrament, we confirm the presence of the baptismal gifts we have already received and are sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Preparation for children is made through the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, for adults preparation is through the RCIA program. For information about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd contact Deborah Matthews at matthews9244@sbcglobal.net; for Adult catechesis and RCIA please contact at the Cathedral Jake Neal at jake.t.neal@gmail.com, and at Holy Cross Sr. Anne Keenan, O.P., at sranne@columbus.rr.com.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK; PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

The priests will administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick to any Catholic who is facing serious illness, is preparing for surgery, is elderly, is chronically ill, or who is nearing death, by calling the parish offices. In addition to Anointing, those desiring to receive the Eucharist at home, at a hospital or nursing facility can contact Deacon Thom Johnston at (614) 267-1903 or Thomjohnst@aol.com, or Sr. Anne at (614) 224-3416 or sranne@columbus.rr.com.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS ~ RELIGIOUS AND CONSECRATED LIFE

“Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to His apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time: thus it is the sacrament of apostolic ministry. It includes three degrees: episcopate, Presbyterate, and diaconate” (Catechism 1536). “The state of life which is constituted by the profession of the evangelical counsels, which while not entering into the hierarchical structure of the Church, belongs undeniably to the Church, belongs undeniably to her life and holiness” (Catechism 914). This consists of eremitic life, consecrated virgins and widows, religious life, secular institutes, societies of apostolic life and consecration and mission. For information about vocations please contact Fr. Paul Noble, Director of Vocations, at (614) 221-5565, or noble@seekholiness.com.
SAINT LAWRENCE HAVEN OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Members of Holy Cross Church meet monthly to prepare sandwiches for the needy. If interested please contact Eileen or Ray Kiersh at rletkiersh@aol.com.

CATHEDRAL EVENTS COMMITTEE: The Events Committee plans social and fund-raising events throughout the year to foster a sense of community within the Cathedral Community. Meetings are scheduled as needed for any particular event. Contact Ed Wojewodka at (614) 547-0055 or edsgot2much@yahoo.com.

IT COMMITTEE: This committee advises the Webmaster and associated IT computer services for the Cathedral and Holy Cross communities. Meetings are held on a regular basis as needed. Contact Chris Daly at chris@tbgmarketing.net.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: The K of C is a fraternal organization of Catholic men engaged in charitable works. The Council 400 meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, September through May and the 2nd Monday of the month, June through August. The Chapter meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the 1st Thursday of the month year-round. All meetings are in the Cathedral Undercroft. Contact Phil Renico at (614) 864-0223 or prrenico@yahoo.com.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS: Members of the Cathedral Community take part in the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy as Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Hospitality Ministers/Greeters and Altar Servers. Review and training sessions are scheduled routinely with advance notification. At Holy Cross, please contact Sister Anne Keenan, O.P., at sranne@columbus.rr.com or (614) 224-3416; at the Cathedral, contact Michael Elton at (614) 405-7770 or melton@columbus.rr.com.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA): Interested in coming into the Catholic faith? RCIA sessions have already begun for this year. For more information about RCIA and the process of becoming a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church, at Holy Cross please contact Sr. Anne at sranne@columbus.rr.com or (614) 224-3416; at the Cathedral please contact Mr. Jake Neal at jake.t.neal@gmail.com or (614) 224-1295; or Carol Keene at keene9@gmail.com or (614) 657-9528.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR) – CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: As parents you are the primary religious educators of your children. Our catechetical classes are here to support you. It is our goal to partner with you and your family along your faith journey. Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Church provide a joint program using the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd model for students enrolled in Grades 1-8 who do not attend a Catholic School. Classes this year are held in the Cathedral Undercroft. For more information, please contact Deborah Matthews, Coordinator of Religious Education, at matthews9244@sbcglobal.net.

SAINT VINCENT De PAUL SOCIETY: For as little as 60 minutes a month, you can grow spiritually by offering service to those who are needy and suffering. Participate in outreach programs for Saint Lawrence Haven, Bryden House Apartments and Joint Organization for Inner-city Needs (JOIN). If interested, please contact Kevin Dunleavy at (614) 436-3943 or e-mail kevin.dunleavy@abbott.com or come to our monthly meeting at 9:00 a.m. on the First Sunday of the month, year-round, in the Fulcher Room.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Holy Cross Finance Committee meets quarterly on the Second Tuesday of November, February, May and August. For more information, contact Terry Creedon at terry.creedon@sbcglobal.net.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CONCERNS COMMITTEE: This committee dedicates its efforts to those who are in need due to hunger and poverty, domestic and family violence, capital punishment, health and bioethics issues. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Michael Elton at (614) 405-7770 or melton@columbus.rr.com.

VOCATIONS COMMITTEE: The Vocations Committee prays for vocations of Priests and Religious from our parishes and for the Holy Catholic Church throughout the world. Through programs, prayer, discussion, and the encouragement of young people, parishioners can make the whole community more “vocation conscious.” The committee meets at 9:00 a.m. on the Third Sunday of the month in the Fulcher Room. Contact Barbara Garick at (614) 877-0168 or barbaragarick@gmail.com.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP – (TRIPLE V) – VIA, VERITAS ET VITA: Young adults between the ages of 18 and 40 gather to foster community among fellow parishioners. Meetings are held at least once a month. Contact us via: Facebook – St. Joseph Cathedral Young Adult Group (http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=194497085915); E-mail: yagroup.stjosephcathedral@gmail.com if you would like to be included in the email distribution list. Web: http://stjosephcathedraltriplev.weebly.com.
This Week is “Fellowship Sunday” in the Undercroft at 11:30 Am: The Vocations Committee will serve refreshments next Sunday between the 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Masses in the Undercroft (use elevator at the back of the church by the Reconciliation Room). All new Parishioners are cordially invited to attend and meet other parishioners, Priests, Deacons, Liturgical Ministers, Pastoral Council Members & visitors. Everyone is encouraged to come enjoy the refreshments, fellowship with others & learn more about the Cathedral Events Committee.

Advent is a Time of Waiting and Preparing: It’s time for preparing the Cathedral for Christmas by cleaning it. Please join us and other parishioners in preparing the Cathedral for the Christmas celebration. A sign-up binder is located on the table at the Broad St. entrance, or by emailing me as to your willingness to help with the Cathedral Christmas Cleaning on Monday, December 15, 6:00-9:00 p.m. A pizza, pop and sandwich supper will be ready for you at 6:00 p.m. in the Undercroft. Please sign up so we can get an accurate count for the amount of food we order. Call or email Deacon Tom at 267-1903 or thomjohnst@aol.com if you need more information. You will enter from the alley at the door to the Undercroft.

This Sunday—Cathedral Choir—The Office of Compline: On the first Sunday of the month, the men of the Cathedral Choir chant the Office of Compline. The Office lasts about 30 minutes and consists of psalms, short passages from scripture, an office hymn, a canticle (Nunc Dimittis), a responsory, collect and additional prayers. In keeping with the earliest practices of the monastic communities, Compline is offered when the work of the day is completed, and the quietness of evening settles over the hearts and minds of those who have come together in thankfulness for the blessings of the day which has passed and in anticipation of God’s gift of a new day. The Office begins at 9:00 p.m. on the First Sunday of the month. We hope you will join us for this unique spiritual experience.

Simbang Gabi! Come and join us at Holy Cross Church in celebrating the Filipino Nine Day Novena in preparation for Christmas! The Nine Day Novena will start on Monday, December 15, 2014 at 7:30 and will end on Tuesday, December 23 concluding with Mass at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Cross. Our presider is Fr. Ramon Owera, CFIC. A reception at St. Patrick Church will follow the Mass on December 23.

The Columbus League of St. Dymphna: St. Dymphna is the Roman Catholic patron saint for Mental and Nervous Disorders, including depression. The only shrine in North America is located in Massillon, OH. A devotional prayer group will meet immediately after the 12:30 Mass on the second Sunday of each month at St. Joseph Cathedral. For more information about this Columbus League of St. Dymphna, contact Josephine at 614-209-3337.

Columbus Theology on Tap – Thursday, December 11th at the El Vaquero Restaurant, 3230 Olentangy River Road. Are faith and science enemies? When we become a Catholic Christian are we supposed to “check our brain at the door?” Can a person who has strong faith be a scientist, or scientific? Fr. Thomas Blau, O.P. [a Dominican priest with degree in Microbiology] will look at some of the latest findings from science and see if they negate a belief in the Divine Creator to whom Christians attribute the origins of the Universe. “Theology on Tap is an invitation for young adults to learn more about their faith and to share in the Catholic community.”

Bethesda Healing Ministry: Will I always feel this way? Will I always ask myself the “what if’s” and “if onlys?” Bring these questions with you to Bethesda Healing Ministry where it is safe to talk about the pain in your heart and find comfort in the sharing. Or sit in quiet as others witness the healing and hope you so desire. Confidential lines: 614-309-0157 or 614-309-2651. For more information visit our web site: www.bethesdahealing.org.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CATHEDRAL AND HOLY CROSS ALMS FOR THE POOR BOXES? At the Cathedral it is located in the wall inside the Cathedral near the Broad Street entrance; at Holy Cross it is located in the rear of the Church by the Fifth Street entrance. These boxes and the funds you provide are important:

- At the Cathedral these Alms for the Poor go to pay for the food that is distributed daily at the Cathedral to the poor and needy – up to 150 food bags (usually containing a sandwich, fruit, chips & cookie, bottled water), and on many winter days hot coffee and hot cocoa. Help us provide this most basic necessity – food – to those in need by donating to our poor box.
- At Holy Cross these Alms for the Poor go to help needy persons with bus passes, in addition to helping the poor and needy with particular needs.

THANK YOU for helping us help those in need!

LOW-GLUTEN* HOSTS are available at the 10:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. Sunday Masses. Worshippers can receive low-gluten Holy Communion from the center aisle from the Master of Ceremonies (please identify yourself to the Celebrant). *contains less than 0.01% gluten content & meets the standard set by the Holy See & U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

ADVENT IS A TIME OF WAITING AND PREPARING: It’s time for preparing the Cathedral for Christmas by cleaning it. Please join us and other parishioners in preparing the Cathedral for the Christmas celebration. A sign-up binder is located on the table in the Narthex (Broad Street entrance), or by e-mailing me as to your willingness to help with the Cathedral Christmas Cleaning on Monday, December 15, 6:00-9:00 p.m. A pizza, pop and sandwich supper will be ready for you at 6:00 p.m. in the Undercroft. Please sign up so we can get an accurate count for the amount of food we need to order. Call or e-mail Deacon Tom at 267-1903 or thomjohnst@aol.com if you need more information. You will enter from the rear door to the Cathedral Undercroft.

Plan ahead to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ with family and friends at Holy Cross Church and Saint Joseph Cathedral

December 24, Christmas Eve
Mass Schedule
4:00 p.m. ~ Holy Cross Church
4:00 p.m. ~ Saint Joseph Cathedral
6:00 p.m. ~ Saint Joseph Cathedral
11:00 p.m. ~ Cathedral Choir Concert
12:00 Midnight Mass ~ Cathedral

December 25, Christmas Day
Mass Schedule
10:00 a.m. ~ Holy Cross Church
10:00 a.m. ~ Saint Joseph Cathedral
Stewardship: Time ~ Talent ~ Treasure

“One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.” Many of us may recall that proclamation from St. John the Baptist. It certainly reflects the humility expected from all of us as stewards of the Lord. Nevertheless, there is a deeper meaning in that statement which has both implication and applicability to us and our lives. At that time, the time of John the Baptist and Jesus, one of the basic teachings of Jewish rabbis was that a teacher might demand almost anything of his students and followers with one exception: that was to remove the teacher’s sandals. John tells us he is not worthy to do even that. This Advent season asks us to evaluate how we relate to God, and how prepared we are to serve Christ as His disciple, His steward. (www.thecatholicsteward.com)

### DONATE TO SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

By scanning the QR code with your Smartphone or mobile device QR code reader to donate via PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account to donate. Visit www.saintjosephcathedral.org to learn more about contributing to the Cathedral in this manner. Note: We are in the process of obtaining a QR code for Holy Cross Church.

**YOUR OFFERTORY IS A GIFT TO GOD:** If your Offertory is not made electronically, please use your parish Offertory envelope to thoughtfully, prayerfully choose your gift and present it eagerly to Our Lord. Many times families will ask for a letter stating that they are registered, participating members of our parishes in order to become a Godparent, Confirmation Sponsor or simply to honestly say, “Yes! This family is registered and actively participating here in our parish!”

**YOUR OFFERING TO GOD ~ November 29 & 30, 2014 ~ THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

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**Automatic debits are processed on or after the 1st & 15th of each month (monthly or bimonthly deductions) and are reported the following week.**

**My Discipleship at Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Church ~ It’s as simple as 1-2-3:**

1. Participate at least 1 hour per week in community prayer (Sunday Mass).
2. Devote at least 1 hour per week volunteering in a parish ministry.
3. Contribute at least 1 hour of weekly income (2.5%) for financial support.

**Fraternity of Kindness**

**Don’ts**

1. Don’t speak unkindly of anyone.
2. Don’t speak unkindly to anyone.
3. Don’t act unkindly toward anyone.

**Do’s**

1. Do speak kindly to someone at least once a day.
2. Do think kindly about someone at least once a day.
3. Do act kindly toward someone at least once a day.

For any unkindness committed;

1. Make a brief act of contrition, such as “My Jesus, mercy!”
2. Offer an apology, if possible.
3. Say a little prayer – such as “Bless N., O Lord” – for the one to whom you have been unkind.

For any unkindness committed:

1. Make a brief act of contrition, such as “My Jesus, mercy!”
2. Offer an apology, if possible.
3. Say a little prayer – such as “Bless N., O Lord” – for the one to whom you have been unkind.

**ADVERTISE IN OUR BULLETIN!** Through the generosity of our advertisers, we are able to offer an expanded bulletin format, while eliminating the expense of printing our weekly bulletin for the Cathedral and Holy Cross Parishes. As a way of saying thank you, please contact our bulletin advertisers when you are in need of the goods and services they offer. It’s not too late for you to place an ad in our bulletin for your business or to promote your favorite charity. Please contact Dee Printing at (614) 777-8700. Thank you to our advertisers.

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