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December 2022 Issue >>>



Parish NEWS



Rediscovering the Mass

"Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!"

-Psalm 84:4

Dear Friends:



Something I have been praying a lot about over the past few months is what is Spiritual Fatherhood, what is the role of a priest and how does that relate to my own experiences with my father. Many people have kindly said to me that they are praying for my success, and truly I always appreciate prayers, but I think that success as a spiritual father and success as a pastor can at times be at odds.

Unfortunately, we live in a world where consumerism has weaseled its way into every aspect of our lives, and the practice of the faith is no exception. We often ask the question what do I get out of going to church, not what did I put into it, or what did I offer God this week. If that is your primary question: what did I get out of it? Then your faith has become one more thing that is consumed and

judged. If this is the case you need reconciliation, not the sacrament (but all of us need the sacrament) but the fundamental shift in focus. It means turning again to be eye lash to eye lash with God. Refocusing your faith to be generous, not inwardly focused.

You see, my relationship with my own father has matured over the years. I am happy to say that we have a wonderful relationship. I have seen him move from a hero figure to an authoritarian figure, to a happy old man relishing the loves in his life. But the strand that has always run straight through him is challenging honesty. When he sees something that needs to be addressed or challenged, he will pray about it and then bring it out into the open.

Spiritual Fatherhood for me, is absolutely influenced by my relationship with my dad. Many of the things that you have told me you want, revolve around not wanting change. I am sorry change is already here. But do not let the loss that accompanies change keep you from the Sacraments.

Please spend some time reading through this newsletter focused on the importance of Mass in your faith life.





Words of Wisdom

Experiencing the Grace of Mass A Reflection by Deacon Don



Do you remember the first time you went to Mass? If you are a "Cradle Catholic," the answer to that question is likely no. But I can almost guarantee that you have childhood memories of sitting in the pew with your parents, listening to the music, readings and homilies, and watching the mysterious ritual that is the celebration of the

Eucharist. You may not have always understood what was happening, but you knew that it was important. Beyond those early years, you probably have vivid memories of your first confession, first communion, and your confirmation. My guess is that you also remember the children's Mass on Christmas Eve, often surrounded by grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

If you are a convert to Catholicism, as I am, these memories are more recent and, perhaps, even more appreciated, because you encountered them for the first time as an adult.

It took me twelve years of marriage before I finally made the decision to convert, but throughout those years, I attended Mass almost every week with my wife and children, appreciating it more and more as time went by. For several of those early years our family's Masses were celebrated in Japan. In fact, three years before I converted, I was tapped to be an altar server in our Catholic Church in Kobe, Japan. But that's a story for another time.

Over the 35 years of my Catholic life, I have grown to love the Mass even more. Its consistency and familiarity give me comfort, especially when my wife and I have celebrated it in countries far away. It is always reassuring to know that, wherever we travel, we are fed with the same Word and Eucharist as if we were home. Beyond the Mass, it is my opinion that no Christian denomination can surpass the Catholic Church when it

comes to celebrating baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals. We simply do it best!

It behooves us to keep in mind that the Church is yours. More than 99 percent of Catholics worldwide are the laity; the people in the pews. I encourage you to treat the Mass as a valued possession; a possession to bequeath to your children and grandchildren. This can only happen when we share our faith on a regular basis with those we love. Let's not be the generation that snuffs out the faith that has nurtured our families for generations. It's time to rediscover the Mass.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24 4:00 and 9:00 pm

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25 9:00 am

New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 31 4:30 pm

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1 8:30 and 10:30 am



The Meaning of the Mass

This issue of *Parish News* is all about rediscovering the Mass. We invite you to read the articles and reflections and consider what the Mass means to you. If you have drifted away from regular attendance, maybe this is a chance to see the Mass with new eyes.

Blessed be Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the altar



Why Do You Go to Mass?

"Most non-Catholics are puzzled by Catholics' fervor for the Mass. Especially does daily Mass puzzle them. 'Why,' they ask, 'do you go? Do you go when you are sad?'

Yes, we Catholics go to Mass when we are full of sorrow, but we go just as often when we are joyful. Discouraged? We go to Mass. Exultant? We go to Mass. Dejected? Hopeful? Thankful? We go to Mass. Often we mope to church and lop disconsolately into a pew as Mass begins but march out after the Holy Sacrifice with new hope in our hearts and deeper faith in our souls—because we have been to Mass. We go to Mass to adore God, because we love Him.

-Max Greedy, excerpted from an undated Catholic Telegraph column from the 1940s

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.
God is love.
Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

1 John 4:16



The Meaning of the Mass

The Body and Blood of Christ

The greatest privilege of my life is celebrating the Mass, to have God in persona Christi through me is nothing short of a miracle and the deepest honor of my life. The priest stands as a conduit to bring the sacrifice of the Altar from the lives of the people to God, and in return to bring Christ's very Body and Blood to His Children. In other words, the sacrifice of the Mass is not about me.

I remember as a young man complaining to my mother about not getting anything out of the Mass. Her response was simple. She asked me, what was I putting into it? You see, the Church assumes that you are putting in the work the other six days of the week, praying, sacrificing for others, trying to die to self. In that daily struggle of discipleship, we then bring our struggles and triumphs to the altar and spiritually offer them up as the bread and wine are brought forward and offered. The sacrifice of the Mass is not just a symbolic offering, it is our very hearts and lives lifted up, consecrated, and returned to give us strength in Christ's very Body and Blood.

Recent research has stated that among Catholics consistently fulfilling their Sunday obligation, 30 percent do not believe that the Eucharist is truly Christ's Body and Blood. They think it is only a symbol, not a miracle of Grace. Perhaps a spiritual mystery (a reality that we can never plumb the depths of) is too old fashioned in this culture of scientific proof. Perhaps they fool themselves into believing that it is not really Jesus' Body and Blood, in order to say it is not important to go to Mass. They may even believe that salvation is attainable without the sacraments given to us by Christ to help us. Whatever the foundation for their struggling faith, the question is: how do we show in our reverence at Mass and in our lives, that the Eucharist is the source and summit of intimacy with God?

In the moment we consume our Lord's true Body and Blood, we can no longer tell where Christ ends and we begin! The lines of separation between God and myself are destroyed; there is nothing on earth as beautiful as that moment. It is belonging, it is the depths of intimacy, it is the only spiritually sustaining food for the soul. Come sacrifice and be fed. Come to Mass!

May the Love, Peace, and Grace of God be with You,

Father Adam









Catholics Need Better Understanding of the Mass, Pope Says

The "sense of mystery" and awe Catholics should experience at Mass is prompted by an awareness of sacrifice of Christ and his real presence in the Eucharist, Pope Francis said.



VATICAN CITY — The "sense of mystery" and awe Catholics should experience at Mass is not one prompted by Latin or by "creative" elements added to the celebration, but by an awareness of the sacrifice of Christ and his real presence in the Eucharist, Pope Francis said.

"Beauty, just like truth, always engenders wonder, and when these are referred to the mystery of God, they lead to adoration," he wrote in an apostolic letter "on the liturgical formation of the people of God." Titled *Desiderio Desideravi* ("I have earnestly desired"), the letter was released June 29, 2022, the feast of Saints Peter and Paul. The title comes from Luke 22:15 when, before the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples, "I

have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."

In the letter, Francis insisted that Catholics need to better understand the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council and its goal of promoting the "full, conscious, active and fruitful celebration" of the Mass.

"With this letter I simply want to invite the whole church to rediscover, to safeguard and to live the truth and power of the Christian celebration," the pope wrote. "I want the beauty of the Christian celebration and its necessary consequences for the life of the church not to be spoiled by a superficial and foreshortened understanding of its value or, worse yet, by its being exploited in service of some ideological vision, no matter what the hue."

"The priestly prayer of Jesus at the Last Supper that all may be one judges every one of our divisions around the bread broken, around the sacrament of mercy, the sign of unity, the bond of charity," he said. While his letter offered what he called a "meditation" on the power and beauty of the Mass, Francis also reiterated his conviction of the need to limit celebrations of the liturgy according to the rite in use before the Second Vatican Council.

"We cannot go back to that ritual form which the council fathers, 'cum Petro et sub Petro,' (with and under Peter) felt the need to reform, approving, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and following their conscience as pastors, the principles from which was born the reform."

The liturgical books approved by "the holy pontiffs St. Paul VI and St. John Paul II," he said, "have guaranteed the fidelity of the reform of the council."

Although the post-Vatican II Mass is celebrated in Latin and dozens of vernacular languages, he said, it is "one and the same prayer capable of expressing her (the church's) unity."

"As I have already written, I intend that this unity be reestablished in the whole church of the Roman rite," he said, which is why in 2021 he promulgated Traditionis Custodes (Guardians of the Tradition), limiting celebrations of the Mass according to the rite used before the Second Vatican Council.



-Cindy Wooden

Prayer Life

Scripture Comes to Life: The Wednesday Women's Bible Study Group

For 25 years Patty Green has journeyed into an ever-expanding experience of her faith through the study of scripture. That journey began over two decades ago in Singapore. Patty attended her first formal bible study with a group of American expatriates of various Christian backgrounds.



When Patty and her family moved back to Cincinnati and to Christ the King, she joined a weekly group that met in the basement of the rectory to review and discuss the upcoming Sunday readings. That experience grew into a deeper study as they started reading books and learning through more formal bible study programs. Eventually, Patty attended the Lay Pastoral Program at the Athenaeum of Ohio – Mount St. Mary's Seminary.

With her expanding knowledge and deepening spirituality, Patty felt called to lead the bible study group at Christ the King. In 2020, soon after the Cross and Crown Atrium was built, the gathering space became an ideal meeting spot where people could spread out during the pandemic.

Today, Patty leads our Wednesday Women's Bible Study.

This fall the group has been focused on a series from Ascension Press called "What We Believe." The women meet for 10 weeks, with many members attending as their schedules permit. She says, "The Holy Spirit guides us as we grow and evolve through the group of women and the studies."

At the beginning of the meetings they pray for the Holy Spirit to open their ears so they can hear what God is speaking. They ask God to open their eyes to new ways of seeing God. Patty said, "It is amazing how often someone may explain how they see the scripture and it is right on point with what another person needs to hear." She believes the group fellowship is important, but it is also personal growth that everyone enjoys. "I would encourage anyone to join or start their own study group."

Sharing her faith comes naturally to Patty. Ultimately, she believes the women who participate in these classes deepen their own relationship with God.

"There are so many touchpoints for Catholics. We have prayer, the Rosary, the Mass, the Sacraments, the Saints, and Adoration. For me the bible is at the heart of them all. The more I learn about the bible, the more it deepens my faith in those other areas."

If you would like to join the Women's Bible Study Group, please contact **Patty Green** at **pattydgreen@gmail.com** or **513-910-8402**. There will be a new session offered starting in the New Year. Details to follow in the Bulletin & *The Connector*.



Introducing the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Eucharistic Revival Initiative

To help further encourage Eucharistic understanding and devotion among the faithful as part of National Eucharistic Revival, I am pleased to announce an archdiocese-wide study of the Holy Eucharist during six weeks or Ordinary Time between Christmas and Lent.

-Archbishop Schnurr

"I don't get anything out of Mass."

This is what many people say who have drifted away from the Church. But Jesus told us He came so that we might have "life to the fullest" ... and that life is found in communion with Him in the Mass.



Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr invites you to join him in exploring the wonder of the Mass through a special video series featuring Bishop Robert Barron. Each Sunday from January 8 through February 12, Archbishop Schnurr will email you his own brief insights along with a 25-minute episode from Word on Fire's *The Mass*. Series available in English and Spanish.

Join Archbishop Schnurr and fellow Catholics across the archdiocese and

experience the Mass in a whole new way.

SIGN UP HERE

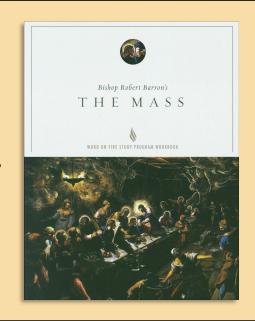
Sign up for free at CatholicAOC.org/theMass

The Mass - A New Adult Faith Study Group

Are you ready to learn more?

Join us **Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm** beginning January 10, 2023 to view **Bishop Barron's newest study program**, "**The Mass.**" **Fr. Eric Roush and Fr. Adam Puntel** will join **Emily Daley** in facilitating this 6-part video-based walk through the Liturgy of the Mass. The series is designed to help us grow in our understanding of how to fully, consciously, and actively participate in the source and summit of the Christian life.

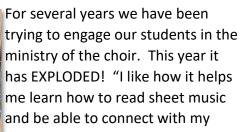
Dates: Tuesdays: Jan 10, 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 21 at 7:00 pm Dessert, Drinks, and Discussion in the Atrium



Cardinal Pacelli School News

All School Mass at Cardinal Pacelli

If you ever want to be inspired, come join the Cardinal Pacelli students for their All-School Mass on Fridays at Christ the King. Post-COVID, this year the students go to Mass together once a week on Fridays as opposed to small grade level groups. They project a joyful noise in their responses and in their singing. Our teachers help the students prepare the Mass by reviewing the Readings of the day and Responsorial Psalm. They also work together to create the petitions that are read. Students are chosen to carry up the Gifts and our student altar servers have been instructed on when to ring the bells which is new for us this year. I love the bells!



teachers and friends," states one 8th grade student. Responses from students in grades 3 and 4 are, "I love to sing. I especially love to sing church songs." "I like to worship and pray to God through singing." "There is something special about singing in Church." And finally, "I like to express myself in a different way instead of just words."

We had so many who wanted to be part of this group that our School Music Director, Mr. George Drewyor, needed to create three separate groups who rotate on each Friday. As we assemble into the church quietly and proceed to assigned seating, a feeling of pure joy and reverence comes over the Church. The JOYFUL noise of our young voices during the Mass, especially through song, gives the

congregation a warm feeling and you definitely feel the presence of our Lord within you.

Mrs. Terri Cento, Principal



Cardinal Pacelli's Catholic Schools Week Open House

Sunday, January 29, 2023 11:30 am—1:00 pm Please join us!







Cardinal Pacelli School News

Perspectives on All School Mass from the Eighth Graders

I love that this year we are all together. Mass is a time where we are in the presence of God and can give thanks to him for everything he has done. It is a place where we can all come together as Catholics. Virtual Mass just wasn't the same as being there in person. The experience of being there is you can feel his presence. At the end of Mass, when everyone is singing together, it is just so powerful.

-Cate Kitchen

I enjoy going to Mass because it helps us all bond together over something we all share. Everyone can bond over and enjoy the same things, so no one is different. Mass also helps us bond by singing and going to receive Communion. Everyone is alike there, so no one feels left out.

-Luke Mason

When I am at Mass, I experience a sense of calmness. Being at Mass is a good way to calm me down before the day starts. I also think that it is good

that we have our Mass in the morning. I like being able to start the day with welcoming Jesus into my life. It sets a good example for the day. I like being able to also to put my anxieties on Jesus. If it's the day of a big test or just a quiz, I enjoy being able to calm myself down and take a moment of reverence for God.

-Annabelle Cofer

Masses at Pacelli are very inclusive for all. I have always found it easy to relate to all parts of the homily and Mass. Coming together on Fridays during All School Mass is a way for us to connect with each other and ourselves. I have been going to Masses at Pacelli for as long as I can remember. With our old priest Masses are great, and with our new priests Masses are great. No matter who is there, no matter what the readings are, I am always able to learn new things about God and myself.

-Elizabeth Hines

At Mass I like the feeling of taking things off my chest and just telling it to God. I like praying for people in need because it makes me feel like I can help them even though I'm not there. I also like the singing at Mass because it's cool hearing the whole school sing at once.

-Peter Lynch



When I was younger, I didn't really understand Mass that much and what it really meant. But, I feel that after Covid, I have understood the meaning of Mass a lot more and the church is a very good place for me to go and talk to God. It is very peaceful and whenever I'm there, all of my stresses go away, and I can just be with God and not worry about anything else.

-Laney Thurman

A Dream Come True: The NEW Pacelli Village Playfield

Our new, state-of-the-art playfield has transformed a boggy, underutilized grass field into a dynamic play area that includes a turf soccer field, several playsets, a basketball and pickleball court, and an outdoor classroom.

On October 5, 2022, the Pacelli Village Playfield was officially blessed and dedicated before the Cardinal Pacelli and Christ the King communities. The field was named in honor of our former pastor, Reverend Ed Smith. The outdoor classroom was named in honor of Reverend Frank Voellmecke, deceased. It is an honor that would surely have meant a great deal to this lifelong educator and learned man.



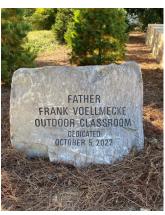
BEFORE

A majority of the construction took place during the summer of 2022. Students benefit from the new playfield as a place for learning, recess, sports and extracurriculars. Terri Cento, the principal at Cardinal Pacelli said, "The Fr. Ed Smith Playfield has not only become part of our Cardinal Pacelli community, but it has become part of our Mt. Lookout community too. After school and on the weekends, you can see families and groups of children coming together in fellowship. It has made our church community come alive!"

"The thing I really like about the new playground is how there is so much to do. You can run around and get out your energy to better help you get focused for the next class," said Annabelle Cofer, an eighth grader.





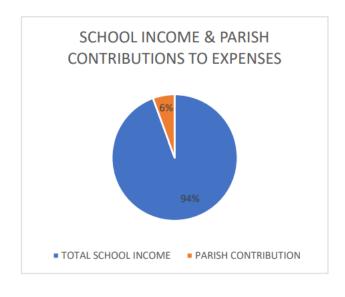


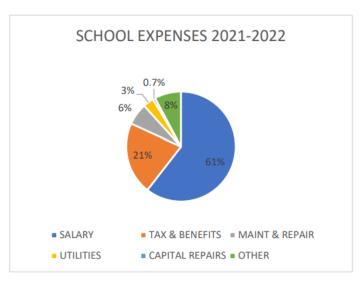
AFTER



Annual Report 2021-2022

CHURCH	SCHOOL		
	Fiscal Year		Fiscal Year
	21/22		21/22
OFFERATORY	\$1,145,524	TOTAL TUITION	\$1,880,921
JUNEFEST	\$220,733	SCHOOL/STATE FUNDS	\$136,127
OTHER CHURCH INCOME	\$23,622	OTHER SCHOOL INCOME	\$81,692
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,389,879	TOTAL SCHOOL INCOME	\$2,098,740
SALARY	\$335,229 38%		
TAX AND BENEFITS	\$112,307 13%	SALARY	\$1,345,460 61%
MAINT & REPAIRS	\$75,331 9%	TAX & BENEFITS	\$474,056 21%
UTILITIES	\$85,981 10%	MAINT & REPAIR	\$143,236 6%
CAPITAL REPAIRS	\$41,868 5%	UTILITIES	\$70,229 3%
ARCHDIOCESE ASSESSMENT	\$124,435 14%	CAPITAL REPAIRS	\$15,940 0.7%
OTHER	\$98,306 11%	OTHER	\$174,473 8%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$873,457	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,223,394
NET	\$516,422	NET	-\$124,654
		PARISH CONTRIBUTION	\$124,654





SUMMARY 2021-2022

The 2021-2022 fiscal year ended with a combined parish and school positive change in net assets of \$391,768! This huge jump from 2020-2021 is largely due to a successful Gala and the return of our beloved festival, JuneFest. These 2 fundraisers combined raised over \$220,000! In addition to managing school costs and maximizing the use of COVID supplemental funds we were able to reduce the parish subsidy to the school to \$124,654 which is 6% of the total school expenses down from the prior year subsidy of 12%.

We were able to complete the church tower lighting project this summer and have begun work to repair the limestone on our beautiful buildings as well as several other maintenance and beautification projects across the campus.

We are excited that out enrollment continues to grow. It has jumped from 374 in 2021-2022 to 402 for the current 2022-2023 school year. We continue to review and analyze trends and projections to keep our tuition affordable while providing a superlative education for our students. The wonderful addition of the Pacelli Village Playfield and outdoor learning space will benefit our school and parish families for years to come!

Stewardship is a shared responsibility, and we are blessed that so many give of their time, talent, and treasure. We pledge to continue to be good stewards of this generosity. God bless you and for all you give to our community.



Come out and join your parish family for a wonderful night of merriment at the

20th Century Theatre in Oakley Square!

You'll enjoy

"A Taste of Italy," featuring an open bar, full dinner, live music & dancing, auction and raffle.

Please scan to

view Sponsorship Opportunities!





Parish Finances—Current

Declining Sunday Contributions

Our parish is fortunate to be blessed with the generous financial support of its parishioners. As we look around our campus, we see the results of this stewardship: our facilities are well maintained, we are utilizing every room in the Atrium, our CCD and Sunday preschool religion programs are thriving, and we have the highest enrollment at Cardinal Pacelli since 2011-2012. Currently we have a 95% retention rate within our school!

Sunday contributions sustain the operating expenses of our church and school. Providing a Catholic education is an essential part of our mission and that is why the parish subsidizes the cost of a Pacelli education. The strong enrollment has helped to reduce the necessary subsidy to \$124,654 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, which is only 6% of the school budget.

Although we ended our 2021-2022 fiscal year in the black, inflation and expenses continue to rise. Current Sunday contributions are down, and if this lower level of Sunday contributions continues, we will feel a \$340,000 impact to our bottom line for the current fiscal year. This decline is not sustainable and would put our financial situation in a critical state.

While Catholics do not tithe, it is still helpful to consider what percentage of your income is reasonable to donate. Protestant churches routinely recommend 10%. When we value something, we tend to take very good care of it. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Christ the King relies upon your support. If we are to continue to do the good work we do, and to keep school tuition affordable, then we must encourage everyone to contribute. Stewardship is our shared responsibility.

As you pray over your financial commitment to Christ the King, please take a moment to consider our mission:

Our Lord Christ the King Parish is a Roman Catholic Community dedicated to serving the Lord with gladness so that, united by the Eucharist, nurtured by education, and strengthened by Christian service we may be a tower of faith for all God's people.

Making a change to your Sunday contribution level is easily accomplished through WeShare via our website at www.olctk.org. Select "Giving" from the top drop-down menu on our homepage. You can also give stock donations or remember us through your will. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions you may have.

With Gratitude,

The Finance Committee
Brian Albanese, Diane Altmix, Larry Grypp, Jack Hardy, Jim Loeffler, Mark Sims, and Tom Wimberg



The Online Giving tab on our website includes easy-to-follow instructions about how to update your WeShare account or adjust your contributions www.olctk.org

Our Family of Parishes

Beacons of Light is a multiyear process of pastoral planning under way in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Rooted in prayer, groupings of parishes will come together as one faith community. Fr. Adam Puntel, our pastor, and Fr. Eric Roush and Fr. Barry Windholtz, our Parochial Vicars, work together to shepherd our flocks. St. Francis de Sales, which is also a member of our family, will continue to be operated by the Marianists for the time being.

Visit their website at www.stfrancisds.com for their Christmas Mass times.



Our Lord Christ the King (Mt. Lookout)

Christmas Eve—Saturday, December 24 4:00 & 9:00 pm Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25 9:00 am

Address

3223 Linwood Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45226 www.olctk.org (513) 321-4121



St. Rose (East End)

Christmas Eve—Saturday, December 24 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 11:00 pm Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25 8:30 & 10:30 am, 12:00 pm

Address

2501 Riverside Dr. Cincinnati, OH 45202 www.strosecincinnati.org (513) 871-1162



St. Stephen (Columbia Tusculum)

Christmas Eve—Saturday, December 24 4:30 & 10:00 pm Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25 10:15 am

Address

3804 Eastern Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45225 www.saintstephen.church (513) 871-3373



Holy Cross-Immaculata (Mt. Adams)

Christmas Eve—Saturday, December 24 4:00 & 10:00 pm Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25 11:00 am

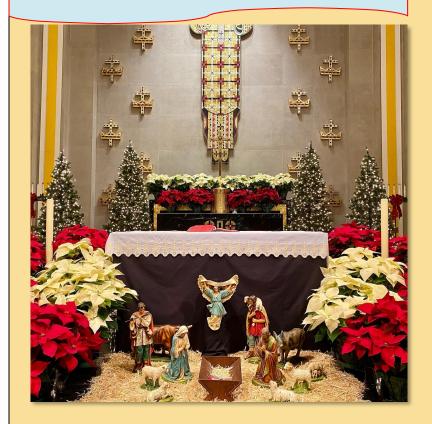
Address

30 Guido St. Cincinnati, OH 45202 www.hciparish.org (513) 721-6544

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Christ the Savior is Born!



May God bless you with Joy during the Christmas Season, With Love, Fr. Puntel, Fr. Eric, and the Parish Staff

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Masses See pgs., 2 & 15

January 10, 2023 Adult Faith Study "The Mass"

January 29, 2023 Catholic Schools Week Open House

> February 25, 2023 JuneFest Gala "A Taste of Italy"

March 10 and 24, 2023 Lenten Fish Fries



Our Lord Christ the King & Cardinal Pacelli

CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL