

**PLEASE TAKE THIS BULLETIN HOME!**

**Sunday, December 25 ♦ Nativity of the Lord**

10:00 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Holy Cross Family  
 – Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

**Monday, December 26 ♦ NO MASS**

**Tuesday, December 27 ♦ St. John, Apostle**

6:15 p.m. Ken Bowers  
 – 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1, 2-8

**Wednesday, December 28 ♦**

**The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

11:30 a.m. John Matous  
 – 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

**Thursday, December 29 ♦ Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

11:30 a.m. Poor Souls  
 – 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2; 22-35

**Friday, December 30 ♦**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

11:30 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Cullinan Family  
 (Jeanne C. Brown)  
 – Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

**Saturday, December 31 ♦ Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

11:30 a.m. In memory of Kathleen Walsh  
 (Daniel & Margaret Christie)  
 – 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

**Sunday, January 1 ♦**

**Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**

9:00 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Holy Cross Family  
 11:00 a.m. In memory of Kathleen Albert  
 (Christine Farris)  
 – Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**+ Please remember in your prayers** our homebound parishioners, and those who are ill: Michael Baker, Betty Cockran, Richard Deneski, Herbert Froesch, Sr. Sally Groom, Robert Hackett, Dr. Glenn Haninger, Julie Litsinberger, Susan Luck, Ellen McMillen, Mary McNellis, Marilyn Scott.



Special Christmas Blessings to our Holy Cross Family, Guests and Visitors  
*from*  
 Fr. Dwayne, Mary Anne,  
 Sr. Ruth Ann & Mike

**All Christmas Angels**

Thank you for supporting this year's Angel Tree. JOIN was so excited about the number of gifts that we provided to the poor families that were in need. May our Lord continue to bless you and your loved ones throughout the New Year.

**St. Lawrence Haven – January 8, 2017**

Attention, all our "Lil Larry" sandwich makers. Sunday, January 8, 2017 is your next opportunity to support St. Lawrence Haven is following the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Cross School.

**WEDDING BANNES**

Prayerful best wishes to Matthew Durst & Danielle Santos who will be married in our Parish Church Saturday, December 31.

**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. We are in need of daily Mass intentions. Please contact Mike Agriesti by regular mail, or drop a note into the collection basket on Sundays or email [admmike@columbus.rr.com](mailto:admmike@columbus.rr.com) to schedule a Mass.**

**Diocesan Charities Collection**

A collection will be taken for the Diocesan Charities during the Christmas Masses. This collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations, including J.O.I.N., St. Stephen's Community House, Catholic Social Services, St. Lawrence Haven, St. Vincent Family Center and St. Vincent de Paul Society.

**THANKS!**

**DECEMBER 18, 2016 OFFERINGS**

<b>Designated Collections</b> (Funds forwarded directly to the Diocese)	Offertory.....\$2,494.00
	Mail-in .....\$1,188.00
	Repair Collection .....\$ 250
	Mail-in Repair.....\$ 405.00
	less 6% Diocese tax .. (\$ 260.22)
<b>Mass Attendance</b> 9:00 a.m. = 71 11:00 a.m. = 76	<b>Net To Parish .....\$4,076.78</b>

# THE WORD

The beautiful feet of Isaiah's messengers announcing peace and bringing glad tidings can seem distant from our lives. Living in the digital age can diminish any excitement at receiving a message, since they pour in all the time. E-mail, cell phones, and digital intersections like Facebook and LinkedIn bring instantaneous connection, obliterating time and space barriers once crossed by such "antiquated" forms as snail mail, the telegram, and .... does anyone remember the rotary phone?

But still, at the heart of all communication is the word, and that is the image today's readings present to us in speaking of the mystery of the incarnation, our God becoming human. Luke's baby of Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, is first presented in John's Gospel as the eternal Word of creation, as life, as light shining in the darkness, as the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth, and finally, as the Word become flesh who dwelled among us, true God and true man.

Give yourself time over these days to *ponder* (a good Christmas word) not only the babe in the creche but also the profound mystery of the Word of God in whom and through whom all things were made, this Word who became human, revealing the image of the invisible God. The human warmth Luke presents in his Bethlehem story is matched by John's image of Jesus as the only Son, standing (as the *New English Bible* translation has it) "nearest to the father's heart."

– *When have you experienced the light of Christ as stronger than darkness in your life?*

– *What is one way that you can testify to the power of the Christ-light this Christmas?*

– *"Living the Word"*

## LOVED ONES REMEMBERED BY POINSETTIAS DONATIONS

(as of December 20, 2016)

The usual listing has been made into an insert page reflecting the loved ones remembered and who made the request.

## Special Parish Dates

Mark your calendars for the following important dates for the parish:

- 1) **Sunday, January 1, 2017, Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God – Both 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. will be celebrated.**

## New Years Blessing

God of the ages and God of now, give us what we need to undertake new things – new trials and new triumphs, new blessings and new burdens, but also a new year that might bring more of the same. God of the new covenant and a new commandment, help us take new directions in our lives without losing our appreciation for the old. Help us not to seek new for newness' sake – new friends, new clothes, new jobs – but as the next right step in fulfilling your timeless plan for us. God who forever creates and renews, let us honor your example by giving people second chances, reclaiming our right to hope, and looking for you in unexpected places. Let us never forget what you did through Jesus, the new promise of your ancient love.

## The "German Epiphany" Celebration

The celebration of the Columbus Germania Verein for the feast of the Epiphany will take place at Holy Spirit Church next year on Friday, January 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. The ecumenical prayer service will feature lessons and carols in German for the celebration of the traditional Epiphany, which historically was always set on January 6. You are invited to attend. Refreshments served afterward in Holy Spirit Parish Hall.

## BOSCO BASH – FEBRUARY 11, 2017

The Bosco Bash is a youth gathering for middle school Catholic teens (grades 6-8). It is being held on February 11, 2017 from 2:30 to 9:00 p.m. at St. Timothy Roman Catholic Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus 43220. The price is \$25.00 per youth which includes dinner and a T-shirt. Keynote Speaker: Paul J. Kim. Come join the fun, food games and music by Station 14.

More info: [www.cdeducation.org/BoscoBash](http://www.cdeducation.org/BoscoBash)