



Communiqué

www.doy.org
144 West Wood Street
Youngstown, OH 44503-1081
330-744-8451 fax 330-742-6448

Volume 53

No. 12

December, 2021

Editor's note: Suggested announcements, suitable for bulletins and adaptable for social media, are indicated with an outlined box. Please see the attachments for flyers and graphics for select events.

CHANCERY OFFICE

SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

1. Who needs to be compliant?
 - A. All active clergy, religious, seminarians, and persons in formation are required to be compliant.
 - B. All employees in parishes, schools, and institutions, including the Diocesan Central Offices, are required to be compliant regardless of their level of contact with children or vulnerable adults.
 - C. Any volunteer who has unsupervised access to a child or vulnerable adult, or who works directly with a child or vulnerable adult, or who is responsible for a child or vulnerable adult on behalf of the Diocese, must be compliant.
2. Compliance Requirements
 - A. Signed Authorization & Verification and Acknowledgement Form submitted to local Compliance Officer.

All clergy, religious, seminarians, persons in formation, and employees, and those volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults, must review a paper or electronic copy of the *Safe Environment Policy* and sign the Authorization & Verification Form and Acknowledgement Form. A signed copy must be submitted to your parish, school, or institution Compliance Officer.

B. Fingerprinting and Background Checks

All clergy, religious, seminarians, persons in formation, and employees, and those volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults, must obtain a BCI or BCI/FBI background check.

Background checks are only valid for five years and must be renewed to maintain compliance. Any Webcheck location may be used and locations can be found at www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov.

Background check requirements and codes are included in this month's Communique attachments. Background checks **must** be sent directly to the Safe Environment Coordinator at the Diocese:

Catholic Diocese of Youngstown
Attn: Safe Environment Office
144 West Wood Street
Youngstown, OH 44503

As of January 20, 2020, background checks completed on or after this date for other agencies, employers, dioceses, etc., are not valid for compliance in the Diocese of Youngstown unless a copy is also sent directly to the Safe Environment Coordinator by BCI&I.

C. VIRTUS Account and *VIRTUS Protecting God's Children* Class

All clergy, religious, seminarians, persons in formation, and employees, and those volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults, must create a VIRTUS account with the Diocese of Youngstown and complete the *VIRTUS Protecting God's Children* in-service class.

Visit the Safe Environment page on the [diocesan website](#) for a schedule of VIRTUS in-service classes and to register in either English or Spanish. **Until the threat of covid-19 has subsided, individuals are permitted to take the VIRTUS course online.**

Child/Vulnerable Adult protection in-service courses from other agencies, employers, dioceses, Scouts, etc., are not valid for compliance in the Diocese of Youngstown.

3. Updating Information

Compliance Officers must submit updates for current and new employees and volunteers as they complete child protection compliance requirements on a Compliance Checklist. **A person is not compliant until the Safe Environment Coordinator receives a Compliance Checklist noting the dates that the requirements were fulfilled.** Visit the Safe Environment page on the [diocesan website](#) to find the Compliance Checklist.

4. Reporting Child/Vulnerable Adult Abuse

If you or someone you know has been abused at any time by a priest, deacon, religious, seminarian, person in formation, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Youngstown, or if you believe that abuse has occurred or is currently occurring, contact civil authorities and also Mr. Dominic Colucy, Safe Environment Coordinator/Victim Assistance Coordinator, (office) 330-744-8451 x293 or (response line) 330-718-1388.

Visit the Safe Environment page on the [diocesan website](#) to find our most up-to-date *Reporting Requirements and Procedures* in English and Spanish.

5. Questions or Concerns

For more information about the Diocese of Youngstown *Safe Environment Policy*, contact by mail: 144 W. Wood Street, Youngstown, OH 44503, phone: 330-744-8451 x293; fax: 330-744-5099; or e-mail: dcolucy@youngstowndiocese.org.

LETTERS OF SUITABILITY

Please note that no priest or deacon may exercise ministry within the Diocese of Youngstown without being granted faculties/permission by the bishop. It is the obligation of the pastor of the parish where ministry or speaking engagement will occur (or other responsible person outside a parish setting) to insure that the visiting cleric has obtained a letter of suitability. Without such a letter, the Diocese, the parish or school and the pastor or president could become legally liable should any wrongdoing occur.

The visiting cleric himself should ask his bishop or religious superior to send a letter of suitability to Bishop Bonnar. Letters of suitability are to be sent from one bishop/superior to another, not directly to a parish, since it is the bishop who is responsible for determining a cleric's suitability for ministry.

If you have any questions, please contact Msgr. John Zuraw, Chancellor

CANONICAL SERVICES

Tribunal In-Service Available

The Tribunal staff has made available an ongoing, in-service for pastors, associates, deacons, religious, directors of religious education, religious education coordinators and counselors in order to prepare them in facilitating pleas for nullity for persons within the community whose marriages have broken down and who may be seeking a second union recognized by the Church.

The in-service focuses on preparation of case histories, compilation of documents, witnesses and determining of the appropriate grounds of nullity. Covered also are other types of nullity procedures.

Size of the in-service is in small groups of between 8-12 participants and generally runs approximately two hours. The in-service is offered at either the offices of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Youngstown or at a parish in the Canton area.

Interested parties, who have not already registered or who need a “refresher” should call the Tribunal at (330) 744-8451, ext. 252, to have their names placed on the registrant list. You would then be contacted when there are at least eight registrants for a particular location.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES SERVICES

1. #GIVINGTUESDAY

#GivingTuesday is one of the largest giving days and one of the most successful social media campaigns all over the world. You can participate and make a difference by visiting our website (www.ccdoy.org) on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. Sponsorships are available. Also, join us on #GivingTuesday for a Zoom Q&A with Catholic Charities’ Executive Directors.

Proceeds from #GIVINGTUESDAY will help support the many programs and services offered by Catholic Charities. YOU are a light in the darkness! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Links:

Giving Tuesday: <https://www.ccdoy.org/2021/10/18/givingtuesday/>

Live Q&A Session: <https://www.ccdoy.org/2021/10/28/live/>

2. SEASON OF GIVING

Catholic Charities offers seasonal solutions to poverty. There are so many ways to get involved with Catholic Charities during this Season of Giving which begins on November 1 and runs through December 31.

- PRAY for those in need in our communities, Diocese and in our country.
- VOLUNTEER your time and talents to various projects and events.
- SEND a gift that gives back this Christmas through our Christmas Gifting Program. You make a gift; we send a customized greeting card to the recipient(s) of your choice.
- READ our semi-annual newsletter to see what's happening at Catholic Charities.
- FOLLOW us on social media.

Links:

Season of Giving: <https://www.ccdoy.org/2021/10/18/season-of-giving-2/>

3. CHRISTMAS "GIFTING"

Catholic Charities' Christmas Gifting Project is a great way to support the work of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Youngstown, while giving a gift that has real meaning. All you have to do is make a donation in any dollar amount, and we will send a personalized, customized greeting card to the recipient(s) of your choice, acknowledging your gift in their honor (but not mentioning the specific dollar amount).

Visit our website www.ccdoy.org for more information and to make your gift online.

Hurry! All donations must be received by December 17, 2021 in order for your gift acknowledgement to be sent before Christmas.

Links:

Christmas Gifting: <https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/donor-form/?svcid=renxt&formId=2708566e-e1c4-4773-a498-5afe2885bdf9&envid=p-dn6FNihuA0GZMWZHGWJvMw&zone=usa>

4. POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH / WARM HEARTS FOR WARM HOMES

(Continued on next page)

January is poverty awareness month. Living in poverty means swallowing your pride when friends or family ask why you don't move into a better apartment; why you haven't gotten your kid's broken tooth fixed; why you are eating mac & cheese for dinner for the third time this week; or a hundred other things that cost money you never seem to have. It is a feeling of hopelessness. Well-meaning friends and family who have better situations than you do, are often convinced that you have done something to deserve to live in poverty. However, nobody "deserves" to live in poverty. We all deserve the right to our most basic needs, served with dignity and grace.

"Nobody is so poor he has nothing to give, and nobody is so rich he has nothing to receive."

— Pope John Paul II

Living in poverty means that sometimes families need to ask for assistance with clothing, food, shelter and other basic needs.

Heating a home during the winter season is one of those basic needs. With the unpredictable weather in Ohio, there remains an urgent need for heat and utility assistance for households living on the poverty line.

Catholic Charities created the Warm Hearts for Warm Homes program in order to provide direct utility assistance to individuals, families with children, and older adults. This seasonal campaign will take place in January in conjunction with Poverty Awareness Month. Catholic schools participating in the First Step to Service Program will also receive Poverty Awareness activities and information in January to help educate our young students about the causes of and solutions to poverty.

Collection information will be mailed to parishes in early January. If you have any questions before then, please contact Jennifer Lucarelli at 330-744-8451 or jlucarelli@youngstowndiocese.org.

Please generously support Warm Hearts for Warm Homes.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

1. OPERATION RICE BOWL

The Diocese of Youngstown will once again participate in Operation Rice Bowl, a Lenten Program of Catholic Relief Services' (CRS), beginning on Ash Wednesday. This program is designed to help Catholics live out the Lenten themes of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Operation Rice Bowl is an integrated process for individuals, families and faith communities to live out their Lenten journey. Catholics are asked to abstain from one meal a week throughout Lent, while praying for peace and justice, and learning more about poverty here in the United States and throughout the world. Educational materials are available from parishes for those who wish to participate. The money saved from the meal not eaten each week is then collected and given to your local parish during Holy Week in order to respond to the needs of hungry families and individuals throughout the world and in the six county area of the Diocese of Youngstown.

Catholic households continue to be very generous with their contributions to Operation Rice Bowl. In 2021, we collected \$47,385. Seventy five percent (75%) of the collection is sent to Catholic Relief

Services (CRS), the official overseas development and relief agency of the United States Catholic Bishops. Twenty five percent (25%) remains in the Diocese of Youngstown and is used to address hunger and poverty in our local communities.

New orders or increased orders can be placed through Ash Wednesday. Call 1-800-222-0025 or visit crsricebowl.org/order to place new orders.

This year (2021), 57 parishes participated in the CRS Rice Bowl Collection. Parish participation is essential to those who rely on the services made available through these funds. For those 57 parishes, thank you for your participation. For all others, please consider joining the program in 2022!

OFFICE OF HISPANIC MINISTRY

1. Diocesan Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Faithful from around the diocese are invited to the Cathedral of St. Columba on Saturday, December 11, for a celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Beginning at 10:00 a.m. there will be presentations of traditional dances in honor of Our Lady and a historical explanation of the apparitions in 1531 and the significance of the image left on the garment of St. Juan Diego. Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m., celebrated by Fr. Brian Smith, Diocesan Coordinator of Hispanic Ministry, and joined by priests from the diocese and assisted by members of the Hispanic communities around the diocese.

Please see the attachments for the flyer.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA OFFICES

CATHOLIC EXPONENT

Publication dates and special sections for the Exponent are as follows: Nov. 26 – Christmas Recipes/Christmas Gifts; Dec. 10 – Nativity Around the Diocese; Dec. 24 – Christmas Greetings.

The normal deadline for each issue is 12 days before the publication date. We try to get late information into the issue, but are sometimes limited by lack of available space.

Due to mail delivery schedules, some of our subscribers receive their papers on Saturday, Monday or even Tuesday rather than Friday. If you have a big event planned for the weekend the paper is published, we recommend submitting items for publication in the previous issue so that everyone will have the information in a timely manner.

The Exponent is your source for informative, reliable, and doctrinally sound news stories, features, and commentary – keeping you up to date on local events such as Catholic school Advent programs and parish events, as well as the news of the Church across the country and around the globe.

To subscribe, call 330-744-5251 or email exposubscriptions@youngstowndiocese.org to request subscription information. Thank you for supporting your diocesan newspaper.

CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK OF YOUNGSTOWN (CTNY)

1. Local Programming on the Ecumenical Television Channel:

Live Stream at doy.org/etclive-2/ the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, December 8, 2021, at 12:10 p.m. from St. Columba Cathedral.

2. Radio Programming – Wineskins

Wineskins airs every Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WKBN 570 AM in Youngstown, WRQX 600 AM in Salem at 7:30 a.m., WILB AM Canton 1060/WILB FM 89.5 Youngstown/WILB FM 94.5 Canton at 9:30 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Listen to *Wineskins* on the diocesan website by going to the “News and Media” bar, then, click on “CTNY Media Gallery.”

The Current Issue Segment will feature: December 5: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Fr. David Misbrenner in the Bishop’s Corner; December 12: Fr. Jack Lavelle on Life Issues (Poverty); December 19: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Nancy Voitus about Catholic Charities; and, December 26: Fr. Jim Korda talks with Judge Theresa Dellick from the First Friday Club.

Theresa and Miros Maszczak, members of St. Michael Church in Canfield, will tell us about the Saints celebrated this month: December 5: Saints Perpetua and Felicity; December 12: St. Peter; December 19: Ss. Joachim and Ann; and, December 26: The Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph.

The Interview Segment will include: December 5: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Bishop David Bonnar in *With a Father’s Heart*, Part IV, Segment 3; December 12: Fr. Jim Korda interviews Tia Ciferno, Part I, on Bella Women’s Center; December 19: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Tia Ciferno, Part II; and, December 26: Fr. Jim Korda interviews Tia Ciferno, Part III.

This month’s Music Segment is from the CD “Cradle in Bethlehem,” by Lorraine Hess.

Fr. Scott Kopp, Pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle in Vienna and Diocesan Director of Vocations, will give his reflections on the Sunday Scripture Readings: December 5: Second Sunday of Advent; December 12: Third Sunday of Advent; December 19: Fourth Sunday of Advent; and, December 26: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS

1. Parishes and other diocesan entities who receive inquiries from the media, especially about sensitive topics, are asked to consult with Justin Huyck, Coordinator of Media Relations: (330) 744-8451, ext. 320; jhuyck@youngstowndiocese.org
2. Please also kindly inform the Office of Media Relations when your programs, initiatives, and ministries are featured in the news media.
3. The Office of Media Relations is available to consult on news releases regarding events and initiatives. Processes will continue to be developed to assist these efforts.

OFFICE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

1. Daily Advent Video Reflections

Daily Advent Reflection videos recorded by Catholic leaders around the diocese are being posted each morning of Advent on the diocesan Facebook, Twitter and YouTube Channel pages. These are intended to supplement your own personal prayer during the season and to share with your fellow parishioners, family and friends.

Twitter: @DOYoungstown

<https://twitter.com/DOYoungstown>

Facebook: "Catholic Diocese of Youngstown"

<https://www.facebook.com/DOYoungstown>

YouTube: "Catholic Diocese of Youngstown" Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKwcSOhoUOePs1qJjTGlgxA>

2. Social Media Profiles for parishes, Catholic schools, agencies and offices

Catholic institutions in the Diocese of Youngstown are asked to complete a brief Social Media Profile so that we know what is currently being used around the diocese, and to help network those seeking support in various areas. Thank you to the 34 parishes/offices that have already done so! Click on the link to complete: <https://forms.gle/CeXEPBw65YP1cWgD8>

3. Private Facebook Group for DOY Social Media Networking

A private Facebook group ongoing networking regarding social media can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2882358088720802>

This is a great place to share resources, ask questions and meet others around the diocese doing social media for their parishes, schools, offices and agencies.

4. Helpful Hint: Supporting parents *(Continued on next page)*

Remind parents to monitor their children's activity on digital devices. One great starting point for discussing the topic is to point out the MINIMUM age to legally hold accounts for several popular applications:

Facebook	age 13
Instagram	age 13
TikTok	age 13
SnapChat	age 13
Twitter	age 13
WhatsApp	age 13
YouTube	age 13 with parental permission
GTA (Grand Theft Auto)*	age 13

You see the trend here. In keeping with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) Rule, since 1998 users must be at least 13 years of age. By the way, this is the minimum age, meaning parents need to gauge the maturity level of their own sons and daughters to determine when might be safe and advisable to grant access. Questions to consider as you begin discerning: Are they (your child or children) honest with you about any difficulties they are having at school or with other children? Do they follow rules you set in other areas in life? Do they realize that they should not share personal information with strangers and to only friend/follow/like/connect with people they know in real life? Can they distinguish between reality and fantasy? Can they resist taking comments personally? Do they understand permanence?

If you do decide to allow your child to use a social media platform, also consider utilizing parental controls, selecting strict privacy settings, mandating that you are one of their account connections/friends, and setting time limits for use. Watch for any changes in your child's behavior that may indicate that they are experiencing cyber-bullying, self-esteem shifts, or "fear of missing out" of activities that they see friends posting, etc. and intervene as needed.

*Please note that for video games, several are rated for ages 17 or 18 and older due to extreme violence, so check the age requirements for EVERY App prior to approving usage. And pay closer attention to the games that feature live chat, Internet Relay Chat, SKYPE, or messaging services.

While social media can be a great means of communication, sharing, learning, and fun, just remember that children's brains are still developing and maturing, so we need to support and protect them as best we can!

CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS SERVICES

OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES

1. Advent Day of Recollection
"The Word Became Flesh and Dwells Among Us"

An Advent Day of Recollection will be held on Wednesday December 15, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for priests at Saint Michael Church, Canfield and will include lunch. The Day of Recollection will conclude with the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Rev. John Thomas Lane SSS, pastor of St. Paschal Baylon and a member of the Blessed Sacrament Community in Highland Heights, Ohio will be the featured presenter. Fr. Lane has a Master of Art Degree in Liturgical Studies from the University of Notre Dame and Master of Divinity Degree from Catholic Theological Union. He has served in parishes in Albuquerque and Houston and as the Director for the Office of Worship in the Diocese of Salt Lake City. He is frequent contributor to many LTP yearly liturgical resources and the author of Guide to Celebrating Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass. (LTP, 2015). Those planning to attend are asked to make a reservation by calling/emailing the Office of Clergy Services.

2. Homily Preaching Workshop for Clergy – Save the Date!

Save the Date! – Homily Preaching Workshop for Clergy – Monday, March 14, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Individual Practicum Groups on Wednesday, March 16 and Thursday, March 17.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

1. Seminarian Posters and Prayer Cards

The Seminarian Poster and Prayer Card for 2021-22 is currently being designed. They will be passed out to parishes, schools, and other institutions soon. Design is being finalized as of the first week of November. Hopefully when this is published, you should have them.

2. Vocation Director at Your Parish / School

Diocesan Vocation Director Fr. Scott Kopp has a weekly cycle of visiting our 6 Catholic high schools. If you have a special youth ministry, parish, retreat, or vocational event, consider asking him to attend or speak. 330-744-8451 or by email at skopp@youngstowndiocese.org.

3. Come and See Weekends

Weekend visits to the seminary are being put on hold for the year because of COVID and construction at the Cleveland seminary.

4. Seminarian Visits to Your School or Parish

Please remember all of the seminarians we have currently studying in our diocese. They are all willing and available to come and speak at your parish or school. To schedule one, please contact Father Scott Kopp at 330-744-8451 or by email at skopp@youngstowndiocese.org.

5. Seminary Field Trips

Field trips to the seminary are being put on hold for the year because of COVID and construction at the Cleveland seminary.

6. Vocation Intercessions and Bulletin Blurbs for December

Attached to the Communiqué are vocation intercessions and bulletin blurbs for the month of December. Please use these in your bulletins and at Mass to help promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life in your parish community and school.

7. Vocations Social Media

Website: www.doy.org/vocations
Facebook: [doyvocations](https://www.facebook.com/doyvocations)

OFFICE OF VOWED RELIGIOUS

1. World Day for Consecrated Life

World Day for Consecrated Life liturgy will be celebrated at St. Columba Cathedral on Sunday, February 6, 2022 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Be sure to mark your calendars for this annual diocesan celebration of Consecrated Life.

2. New and Returning Religious

This is a reminder for any religious (involved in ministry, student, or retired) who is new, or has recently returned to the Diocese of Youngstown, and has not yet contacted the Office of Vowed Religious, to kindly do so as soon as possible. Please also note that there are some new requirements for our Child Protection Policy. Please call (330) 744-8451, ext. 238 or e-mail sjcandidi@youngstowndiocese.org

3. Religious Jubilee Celebration

If it is safe to gather in person, the Diocese of Youngstown plans to celebrate the jubilees of those religious who generously served the people of this diocese on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at Holy Family parish in Poland, Ohio. God willing, we will honor the Jubilarians from 2021 and 2022. The day would begin at 1:15 p.m. with registration and a social. Ursuline Sister Regina Rogers will be our presenter. In addition we will have a catered dinner, concluding with Holy Mass at 4:30 p.m. and a group photo.

DEVELOPMENT/STEWARDSHIP

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP'S APPEAL

1. 2022 Appeal

As we prepare for the 2022 Appeal, it is essential that our records be accurate for the mailings sent on behalf of Bishop Bonnar. We will be using ParishSOFT to manage all Appeal operations starting in 2022. To assist us in maintaining a current and accurate database, all parishes *not* using ParishSOFT should email a list of all registered parishioners to Peggy McMahon at pmmahon@youngstowndiocese.org. Please refer to the memo that was sent to all parishes not using ParishSOFT in mid-August.

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT & STEWARDSHIP

1. One-Time Gift Direct Mail Program

Parishes and schools can solicit one-time gifts through direct mail services to parishioners, donors, and friends. We develop the content (either a letter or a brochure), have them printed, and you tell us who to send them to! For more information, contact Luke Politsky at lpolitsky@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

2. In-Pew Offertory Envelopes

Enhance your evangelization and stewardship efforts with custom in-pew offertory envelopes to welcome visitors and invite them to share their gifts with the parish. For more information, contact Luke Politsky at lpolitsky@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

3. Endowments with the Diocese of Youngstown Foundation

You are invited to *Leave a Legacy* for your parish, Catholic school, or Catholic ministry by establishing a perpetual endowment fund within the Diocese of Youngstown Foundation. The income from these funds is available to the designated parish, school, or ministry, and is restricted to the purpose(s) which the donors establish. For more information, contact Luke Politsky at lpolitsky@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

4. *Stewardship Thoughts for parish bulletins are in the attachments.*

PASTORAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF PRO-LIFE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

1. Supreme Court Case May Impact Abortion

On December 1, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization. Many speculate that this case could overturn Roe v. Wade—the Supreme Court decision which made abortion legal in all 50 states. Many organizations are appealing for prayer that there will be a life protecting outcome to the case. For more information contact dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 ext. 272.

2. Pray for Dobbs

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities is encouraging participation in “Pray for Dobbs.” The Supreme Court case Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization could impact the fate of millions of preborn children and their mothers. Join thousands of Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant Christians uniting in prayer and fasting! Learn more and sign up for updates at www.prayfordobbs.com.

The www.prayfordobbs.com website also contains resources, such as announcements, images, flyers and action ideas to promote this unique opportunity to unite in prayer.

3. 40 Days for Life: Prayer Vigils for Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health – Nov. 30-Dec. 1

- East Liverpool Vigil Location: Diamond downtown, E 6th St & Market St East Liverpool, OH. For more information go to <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/eastliverpool> or contact 330-831-5947 drbuehler@hotmail.com.

- Warren Vigil Location: Planned Parenthood, 375 North Park Ave., Warren, OH. For more information go to <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/warren> or contact 330-372-6147 or mgoffos@hotmail.com.

4. Stark County Right to Life Prayer Rally to Overturn Roe

Wednesday, December 1, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. on the Stark County Courthouse steps, 115 Central Plaza North, Canton, OH 44702. For more information go to <https://overturnroe.org/blog/site/rally-in-canton/>

5. National Night of Prayer for Life at the Basilica of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Youngstown

As part of the annual National Night of Prayer for Life on December 8, the Basilica of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel at 343 Via Mt. Carmel, Youngstown is hosting a Mass at 7:00 p.m. and Eucharistic Adoration from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

6. Two Masses for Life Scheduled this January 2022

Each year in January we recall the infamous Supreme Court decisions Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton that effectively legalized abortion on demand throughout the United States. Our diocese hosts two Masses for Life as a prayerful reminder that we “must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence.”

Bishop Bonnar will preside at the Masses for Life on:

- Tuesday, January 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel at Walsh University, North Canton (2020 E. Maple St.), and
- Sunday, January 23, at 4:00 pm at St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown (154 W. Wood St.).

Each Mass for Life will include a Blessing of Children in the Womb and will be followed by a reception. All are welcome – no reservations needed. For more information contact dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 ext.272.

7. 9 Days for Life – Wednesday, January 19 to Thursday, January 27, 2022

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life, surrounding the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions that effectively legalized abortion on demand throughout the United States. Each day’s intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. For more information go to <https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-for-life>

8. 2022 March for Life and Related Events –Options & Alternatives

Lingering COVID concerns have necessitated making alternative plans regarding the National March for Life in Washington DC and events normally associated with it. Included in the attachments section of this Communique is a list of options for groups and individuals to uphold that equality begins in the womb. As additional details are learned, updated versions of this list may appear on the webpage of the Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Life at <https://doy.org/ministries-2/pro-life-marriage-family-life/> in the “Upcoming Events” box. For more information contact dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 ext. 272.

9. January 22, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children": "In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion." Additional information and resources may be found at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources/january-22-day-of-prayer-leader-resources.cfm> and <https://www.respectlife.org/january-22>

10. Marriage Preparation Engaged Couple Retreat Day

The next diocesan-sponsored one-day marriage preparation retreat days for engaged couples will be held Saturday, February 5 in the social hall at St. Columba Cathedral. Reservations are required. Registration information may be found at www.doy.org ; go to the "Ministries" drop-down menu and press on "Pro-Life, Marriage & Family Life."

For more information on this, and other opportunities for marriage preparation formation, contact dschmidt@youngstowndioocese.org or 330-744-8451, ext.272.

11. Intercessions for Life and Pro-Life Bulletin Briefs

Recommended intercessions and bulletin briefs for December, prepared by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, may be found at <https://www.respectlife.org/word-of-life> and on the Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Life page of www.doy.org

12. Project Rachel Outreach

Jesus came for all of us and knows our pain. There is Hope and Healing from abortion. For CONFIDENTIAL help text or call Project Rachel of Northeast Ohio at 330-360-0430 or go to <https://hopeafterabortionneo.weebly.com/>

13. Year of the Family – Amoris Laetitia

In March, on the fifth anniversary of the publication of his apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, on the beauty and joy of love in the family, Pope Francis launched the Year of "*Amoris Laetitia* Family, which will conclude on June 26, 2022, during the Tenth Meeting of Families in Rome. Resources for the Year of *Amoris Laetitia* Family may be found on the USCCB website at <https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/year-amoris-laetitia-family> and on a special Vatican website at <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia.html#esortazione-apostolica>

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1. Ethical Trade/Christmas Shopping

The Office of Religious Education/Evangelization continues to offer an opportunity to participate in global solidarity through the Ethical Trade small store open 8:00 am – 4:00 pm weekdays. Gift giving becomes socially responsible when the purchase assists the artisans from around the world to provide for the needs of their families. Explore beautifully hand crafted olive wood décor, jewelry and household goods from Holyland Handicrafts of Bethlehem. Fair trade chocolate from Equal Exchange is a delicious treat. Many Christmas gift ideas from Serrv International may be the perfect answer for that person “who has everything.” Serrv continues to empower artisans and farmers to build sustainable employment, resources and a vision of hope for their families. Avoid shipping delays, congested parking areas, and other holiday stress by visiting our friendly staff and enjoy a pleasant shopping experience.

2. Resources to Implement Bishop Bonnar’s First Pastoral Letter

With Bishop Bonnar’s letter, “Testify to the Light” many parishes may embark on new or enhanced efforts in the five areas he has prioritized. The Office of Religious Education/Evangelization has curated a list of resources which may be reviewed on the home page of www.catechistcafe.weebly.com. Please feel free to contact the staff of the Office of Religious Education/Evangelization to borrow these and other resources to develop Faith Formation, Evangelization, Pastoral and Catechetical processes. The staff is anxious to help parishes design new initiatives to respond to the needs in the diverse church communities.

3. New Books in the Library (*Continued on next page*)

Mystagogy of the Eucharist: A Source for Faith Formation. Gilbert Ostdiek, OFM. Liturgical Press, 2015. Explore the deeper meaning of Eucharistic celebration with a highly regarded expert on liturgy. In *Mystagogy of the Eucharist* Gilbert Ostdiek, OFM, draws on ritual actions, liturgical symbols, prayer texts, and reflective commentary to help participants in the liturgy name and reflect on the meaning that Eucharist has for daily life. This book is offered as a practical, pastoral resource for those engaged in the ongoing formation of worshipers and their liturgical ministers.

Hearts on Fire: A Guide to Catholic Spirituality for Teens. Margaret Felice. Twenty-Third Publications, 2020. Our Catholic faith has a rich treasury of spiritual practices that can help you deepen your spirituality and discover the many ways God is working in your life. Some of them might be familiar to you, like the Rosary and the sacraments. Others might be new. Still others might simply be spiritual approaches to everyday experiences, like taking a walk or hanging out with friends. This booklet can show you how to develop spiritual practices that can help you grow and find new meaning in your faith today and tomorrow.

Loyola Kids Book of Catholic Signs and Symbols: An Illustrated Guide to Their History and Meaning. Amy Welborn. Loyola Press, 2018. For centuries people learned about the Christian faith through paintings, sculptures, objects, and gestures. Simple images still convey deep messages if we learn how to see and understand them. Award-winning children’s author Amy Welborn has created a friendly and fascinating sourcebook on the signs and symbols of the Catholic faith. The exquisite illustrations throughout will inspire conversation and prayerful reflection for readers of all ages. Each image appears with a brief, child-friendly explanation coupled with a more detailed description on the opposite page.

Empowering the Parking Lot Parent: A Catechist's Guide to Coaching Family Spirituality. Sr. Patricia M. McCormack, IHM, ED.D. Twenty-Third Publications, 2021. The newest book from beloved author Sr. Pat McCormack gives catechists and DREs powerful tools to help parents fulfill their mission as “first heralds of the gospel” for their children. Sr. Pat shows how catechists are uniquely positioned to provide the support parents need “to find their own voice, to name and claim their personal spirituality, and to be comfortable in passing it on to their children.” Brimming with ideas, plus reproducible materials (full of even more great ideas!) to share with families, this invaluable resource equips catechists with the practical and spiritual insights they need to guide and coach parents to be the spiritual leaders God calls them to be.

4. Look into LIMEX!

Loyola University New Orleans offers degrees and certificates in Ministry and Theology Certificates and Degrees in an Extension Program. Plans are to begin a local learning group in early 2022. For additional information, contact Joan Lawson in the Department of Religious Education, 330-744-8451 x290, or email jlawson@youngstowndiocese.org

5. Religious Education Certification for Catechists and Teachers

A listing of the Religious Education Certification Opportunities for Catechists and Teachers is available at Catechist Cafe. Core courses, general courses, parish-sponsored, college/university-hosted, and other regional organizations are included in the list of online and onsite sessions. Visit <https://catechistcafe.weebly.com/catechist-courses.html> (CHECK THIS PAGE OFTEN FOR LINKS TO FREE WEBINARS and ONLINE EVENTS FROM CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PUBLISHERS. NEWS IS ADDED WEEKLY.)

This diocesan online course is offered for Advent:

Advent Journey Through Scripture, GENERAL course, 8 hours
November 22 - December 20, 2021
Online facilitator: Carla Hlavac
\$15 fee

6. Online Learning Centers (*Continued on next page*)

These online learning centers have Advent/winter offerings. Contact the Office of Religious Education for information about catechist certification hours for these and other courses, webinars, and other online catechist formation opportunities. Visit CatechistCafe/For Catechists/Catechist Courses for connections to these learning centers and courses:

STM Crossroads (Boston College School of Theology and Ministry) has registration open now for these courses running November 24 – December 14:

- A People of Hope
- Jesus Foretold and Fulfilled

VLCFF (Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation) from the University of Dayton has registration open now, closing January 12, for these courses running January 17 – February 19, for more than 30 courses, including these:

- Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church

- Echoes of Racism: Whispers of Healing
- Emotional Intelligence and Its Impact on Faith Formation
- Faith and Human Development
- Foundations for Liturgy
- The Mass

The University of Notre Dame Satellite Theological Program has registration open now for 16 courses that begin January 5, including these:

- Introduction to Sacramental Theology
- The Gospel of John: The Book of Glory
- The Intercultural Church: Theological Foundations and Pastoral Practices
- The Letters of Saint Paul

OFFICE OF WORSHIP

1. Liturgical Calendar Advisories for Upcoming Holy Days and Christmas/New Year

The following Liturgical Calendar Advisories are provided.

~Wednesday, December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception: A holy day of obligation and the patronal feast of the United States.

~Sunday, December 12 - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe usually celebrated on December 12, 2021 is omitted this year. Sunday, December 12, 2021 is the Third Sunday of Advent. Our Lady of Guadalupe may be appropriately honored in the homily, Universal Prayer, and hymns during the Sunday liturgy. If pastoral advantage calls for it, (cf. GIRM 376), a Votive Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe may be celebrated on a weekday before or after December 12 (December 9, 10, 11, 15 or 16), with the proper readings and prayers.

~Saturday, December 25 - Christmas: This year the Nativity of the Lord falls on a Saturday and is immediately followed on Sunday by the Feast of the Holy Family. The obligation for Christmas is fulfilled on Christmas Eve through Christmas Day morning. The obligation for the Feast of the Holy Family is fulfilled from the evening of Saturday, December 25 through Sunday, December 26. The question of satisfying one's obligation to attend Mass for both Christmas and Holy Family arises. For pastoral reasons and due to the number of Masses for Christmas, (and for the well-being of all liturgical ministers) it might be wise to consider not having an anticipated Mass on December 25 evening for the Feast of the Holy Family.

~Saturday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God: In the United States, the obligation to attend Mass on January 1st is abrogated when this day occurs on a Monday or a Saturday. Therefore the obligation to attend Mass on Saturday, January 1, 2022 is dispensed this coming year. Mass on Saturday evening, January 1, would be the Vigil of the Epiphany.

2. Sunday of the Word of God

On September 30, 2019, a Motu proprio Apostolic Letter “Aperuit illis” issued by Pope Francis established the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time as the “Sunday of the Word of God.” This year, January 22/23, 2022 will be designated as “Sunday of the Word of God” and is to be devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God. Recalling the importance given by the Second Vatican Council to rediscovering Sacred Scripture for the life of the Church, Pope Francis explains the celebration has “ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity.” Parishes are invited to find ways to mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity. For more resources:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/sunday-word-god>

3. Liturgical Directory

The Liturgical Directory contains valuable information about Liturgy Committees; liturgical minister formation guidelines; guidelines for the celebration of sacraments; music in liturgical celebrations; and art and architecture directives. The directory can be accessed and downloaded from the diocesan website by clicking on “Worship” under the “Ministries” tab.

OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

1. November Recap

The month of November there were many great Youth and Young Adult Ministry Events held around the diocese. Some diocesan events included cemetery walk at Calvary Cemetery on November 7. Also, there was a gratitude pumpkin day at St. Christine on November 14. This event included pumpkins to be distributed with warm wishes and rosaries to the homebound. The Night also included adoration praise and confession opportunities for youth. Many more diocesan wide events are going to be planned in the coming months. Stay tuned for more details.

2. Local and Regional Events

Many great youth and young adult activities are happening at the local and regional level. If you would like me to open them up diocesan wide, please let me know!

3. Youth and Young Adult Ministers Retreat

There will be three opportunities for youth and young adult ministers to partake in a day of retreat and reflection in the coming new year. Stay tuned for more details.

4. Eagle of the Cross

A committee for Eagle of the Cross is being put together, please start thinking of nominations. The nomination materials will be sent out in the next few weeks.

5. Eucharistic Procession for Life

A diocesan wide Eucharistic procession for life will be held in January at St. Jude in Columbiana, for youth and young adults. Please contact me for more details.

MISCELLANEOUS**CHRISTMAS OF REMEMBRANCE | DIOCESAN CEMETARIES**

You and your family are cordially invited to attend our Christmas of Remembrance Event on December 6 at 5 pm at all four diocesan cemeteries: Calvary Cemetery in Youngstown, Resurrection Cemetery, All Souls Cemetery and Calvary Cemetery in Massillon and hang an ornament on our Christmas Tree in remembrance of your dearly departed loved one. The program will include a choir and a brief prayer service. Light refreshments will be available and everyone is welcome.

Please see attachments for flyer.

GRIEF, STRESS AND FA LA LA:

Coping during the holiday season

Do you wish you could press pause on grief during the holidays?

How can you celebrate togetherness with family during the holidays?

Presented by Deacon Randy Smith

December 2, 2021, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

St. Mary/St. Benedict Parish

St. Benedict worship site, 2207 Third Street SE, Canton, OH 44707

Please see attachments for flyer.

IN MEMORIAM

	<u>December</u>
Rev. William Shipe	1/04
Rev. Joseph R. Lucas	2/95
Rev. William J. McLaughlin, OP	3/58
Deacon George Mastrovich	4/03
Rev. Joseph Czaja	5/14
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Gordon G. Gutman	6/98
Very Rev. Ronald Klinger	6/20
Rev. A. Patrick Dempster	7/97
Rev. Clement Falter, CPPS	8/42
Rev. Valentine Fleckenstein, CPPS	10/61
Rev. John J. Pallante	10/71
Rev. John Lyons	10/11
Rev. Richard Reis	12/98
Rev. Bartley J. Kennedy	13/91
Rev. Matthew Herttna	13/06
Rev. George R. Bobal	14/51
Rev. Cyrill M. Stolarik	14/90
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Andrew A. Prokop	15/95
Rev. Paul Hill, MSC	16/02
Rev. William J. Keefe	17/45
Rt. Rev. Msgr. James Eischen	17/53
Rev. J. Robert Coleman	17/86
Rev. Charles Crumbley	17/16
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Alfred J. Heinrich	18/64
Rev. Theodore T. Coward	18/87
Rev. Francis J. Palm	19/54
Rev. Robert J. Novotny	19/92
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Anthony P. Boeff	20/73
Rev. Robert Brengartner	21/99
Rev. Joseph Raible, CPPS	22/96
Deacon Robert Rapp	23/15
Rev. Austin W. Scully	25/53
Deacon Thomas Shay	25/10
Rev. Ernest Smith	26/53
Rev. Patrick O'Leary	26/10
Rev. Edgar R. Landy, OP	27/47
Rev. Joseph R. Bennett	27/85
Deacon David Beil	27/13
Rt. Rev. Msgr. John H. Lenz	28/59
Rt. Rev. Msgr. John L. Bardon	29/70
Rev. Edward J. Dierker	29/91
Rev. Maron Abi-Nader	29/96
Rev. Gabriel Takacs, OFM	30/73
Rev. Daniel Higgins, sP	30/82
Rev. Albert Klein	30/01
Rev. William J. Fitzgerald	31/85
Rev. William Ellis, MSC	31/95

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