SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

14040 PURITAS AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44135
Phone: 216-671-5890
Fax: 216-938-9843
Email: office@blessedtrinitycleveland.org
Website: www.blessedtrinitycleveland.org
https://instagram.com/btp216
Facebook: facebook.btp216.org

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS
Monday–Wednesday: 9:00 am–8 pm
Thursday, Friday: 9:00 am–5:00 pm
(Closed for lunch 12:30–1:00 pm)
Saturday: 1:00–3:45 pm

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am
Children’s Liturgy of the Word: 11 am
Monday: see worship calendar
for time & location
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 am

RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 3:00—3:30 pm
Other times by appointment

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
Blessed Trinity Parish is an open
and welcoming Catholic community,
centered in the Eucharist and
celebrating God’s gift of Diversity. We
bring God’s love to one another and
support one another in responding to the
challenge of living the Gospel. We strive
to deepen participation and encourage
all parishioners to take ownership for the
everyday life of their church, especially
Spiritual Growth, Community Life, the
Building of a Just Society, and Service
to All God’s People.

Psalm 72: Every Nation on Earth

Refrain I
Ev’ry na-tion on earth will a-dore you, Lord;
ev’ry na-tion on earth will a-dore you, Lord.

FROM FR. DOUG’S DESK

From Fr. Doug’s Desk...

I better lose more weight

Due to recently publicized events, a number of you, especially Eucharistic Ministers, have asked me if they are ever supposed to refuse communion to someone who presents themselves for it. Here is a recent story about this topic.

A church in Michigan denied Holy Communion to a state district court judge because she is married to a woman. Judge Sara Smolenski married her partner of over 30 years, Linda Burpee, in March 2016 following the Supreme Court’s marriage equality law. The marriage was publicized, not by choice, but because Smolenski is an elected official, she said. She and Linda have given financially to the church, including $7,000 in June 2017 for the renovation of St. Stephen.

Let me explain what the Christian response in this situation should be by editing the article, changing only the words same sex marriage to gluttony and obesity.

Judge Sara Smolenski, the chief judge of Michigan’s 63rd District Court, received a call from the priest at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, requesting she not attend communion.

"This is not about me against the priest, and it's not really me against the church," Smolenski told CNN. "This feels like selective discrimination. Why choose fat people, and why now?". Why is it that those who judge and condemn gluttons are so often themselves gluttons and obese?

Smolenski, 62, said that the Rev. Scott Nolan, the priest at St. Stephen for approximately three years, called her on November 23 and told her, "It was good to see you in church on Sunday. Because you and Linda are gluttons, I'd like you to respect the church and not come to communion."

Smolenski was baptized at St. Stephen. She and her nine siblings attended the church’s school from first through eighth grade. Her parents were married in the church in the 1940s.

Communion is a significant and sacred act in Catholicism. Through this sacrament, Catholics unite with Christ and symbolically form a single body, according to Catechism of the Catholic Church on the Vatican's website.

To be denied communion is essentially to be denied one’s right to the holiness of Catholicism. Denying communion is done on a case-by-case basis. Other parishes are more accepting of gluttons and fat people and would not hold back this sacrament, Smolenski said. She had already been distancing herself from the church in recent times after tensions rose when the priest denied communion to an obese heterosexual couple during Mass earlier this year.

"He publicly shunned the couple," Smolenski recalled.

It prompted her to branch out to another church for a while. But St. Stephen was Smolenski’s lifelong parish. She returned, and even received communion by Nolan on November 17. Six days later, she received the phone call from Nolan.

"It definitely felt like a slam dunk," Smolenski said. Fr. Nolan said denying communion is 'painful', Nolan told CNN affiliate WOOD that Catholic teaching gives him no choice in the matter of giving Holy Communion. He told the station that he does not want any of his conversations about receiving communion to be public, but that denial happens with some degree of regularity.

"Some of that criteria are just around what's happening in that person's life and what do they believe and what are they doing and what are they not doing," Nolan said.

"To me, this is also a cause of great sadness in my own life as a priest," Nolan said. "I have many overweight priest friends. Their gluttony, one of the seven capital sins, resulting in their overt obesity, has always been contrary to Catholic church teaching. And while same sex marriage doesn’t hurt anyone else, obesity leads to diabetesthe leading killer in our country costing all of us taxpayers billions of dollars each year in health care premiums.

The Diocese of Grand Rapids issued a statement on behalf of its bishop supporting Nolan's decision. The statement said that inclusion and acceptance are a hallmark of the diocese, but that acceptance is presumed upon "a respect on the part of individuals for the teachings and practice of the wider Catholic community." In other words. No gluttony. Period. You fat? You don’t get communion.

"No community of faith can sustain the public contradiction of its beliefs by its own members," the statement said. "This is especially so on matters as central to Catholic life as one of the seven capital sins, gluttony, which the Church has always held, and continues to hold, as a serious offense against one’s own body, the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Catholics are discouraged from attending same sex weddings. Diocesan employees can be fired for it. Should we not be consistent in our thinking? Shun fat people. Let us refuse to dine with them lest our sharing in their many calories be considered as an approval of their obesity not to mention their gluttony. May those who dine with overweight people be denied communion. Holiday season be damned!

Oh, and if obese people donate money to church, be sure to return it to them as we cannot take money from gluttons. It’s a sin.

So, in short, “No, an EM shouldn’t deny communion to anyone” unless they are going to deny it to all public sinners, like liars, because lying also is against Catholic teaching. Sorry Kellyanne, no communion for you either.

Next Sunday 12/15 at 1 pm in the church, the Stephen Ministry leadership team will conduct an informational session for those considering serving in the role of a Stephen Minister. Each member of the leadership team will present details and answer questions. If you believe you are being called by the Holy Spirit, please plan to attend some or all of the session.
AROUND THE PARISH & OTHER PARISH NEWS

PASTORAL TEAM
Rev. Mr. Dick Beercheck, Deacon
dbeercheck@blessedtrinitycleveland.org
Mrs. Katie Corbett BS Ed., Pastoral Associate
kcorbett@blessedtrinitycleveland.org……..Ext 20
Ms. Sonia Hu, Music Minister
soniaxinyuanhu@gmail.com
Fr. Doug Koesel, Pastor ……………….……..Ext 21
dkoesel@blessedtrinitycleveland.org
OFFICE STAFF
Ms. Ginger Needham, Office Manager……..……..Ext 10
office@blessedtrinitycleveland.org
Mrs. Linda Wilson, Business Manager………………….Ext 26
linda@blessedtrinitycleveland.org
Society of St. Vincent DePaul @ Blessed Trinity..Ext 14
Stephen Ministry…………………………….….….….Ext 19
E-MAIL BULLETIN NOTICES TO:
bulletin@blessedtrinitycleveland.org or deliver them to the rectory office. Notices MUST be in by Monday of the week before the bulletin is distributed.
E-MAIL PRAYER LINE REQUESTS TO:
gracesamarin@att.net

Thank you for your generous support!
Sunday, 11/24 $4,035.00
Special Gifts $2,360.00
SCRIP Gift cards $333.63

The Bountiful Basement has a wish list: They wish to have paper goods (toilet paper, Kleenex, etc.) Thank you for your continued generosity!

Dec. 15 Advent Collection Help our parish and St. Vincent de Paul Society assist our parishioners and neighbors in need. Please make checks out to Blessed Trinity with SVDP in the memo line. Place cash/checks in an envelope marked SVDP. Place in the regular collection.

There will be a communal penance service on Tues., Dec. 10 at St Mel on Triskett at 7:00pm.

SCRIP Gift Card Program Holiday Special:
The following brands are offering $5 and $10 gift cards especially for the holidays. They’re perfect as holiday gifts for kids, teachers, mail carriers, priests and more people who deserve a special treat. These gift cards will be available through December 15th, only while supplies last. $5 Cards: Barnes & Noble • Blimpie • Cold Stone • Panera • Starbucks • Taco Bell. $10 Cards: Amazon • Applebee’s • CVS • Darden • The Home Depot • IHOP • Meijer • Outback • Red Lobster • Regal • Safeway • Target • Walmart. Fill out an order form at the Gift Card table. Your cards will be in the following week. Call the office with any questions. Buy!

Please pray for:
Thomas Ausnehmer, Doris Eikens Azzarello, Annie Badit, Tom Baldwin, Jr., Mary Brennan, Adele Burke, Ann Busch, Nancy Butler, Mary Chapin, Pat Chapin, Romualdo Cipro, John Darmstadt, Diane Dorendt, Dukles Family, Martin Patrick Dugan, Barb Dylag, Edward Dzuo, Bill Eikens, Donald Flanagan, Alice Friedel, Vesna Góberovská, June Grace, Michael Graham, Catherine Heidinger, Agnes Hocevar, John Iayem, Nicola Iandric, Roubir Jesri, Jr., Ann Jones, Veronica Juris, Betty Kensi, Tony Kerman, Fr. Dennis Kristancic, Eileen Mangan, Sr. Rita Marra, SND, Rosemarie Martin, Kathy McAvinue, George McKee, Molly McQuillan & family, Sandra McRae, Andrea Medina, Betty Ann Menzinger, Mary Jo Menzinger, Rosemary Metzger, Tony Miller, Tom O’Boyle, Jose Ortiz, John Pelcic, Laura Radea, Catherine Rainiecek, Lew Rapp, Henry Reitinger, Sr., Carol Roberts, Ron Ruble, Judy Runyan, Kayana Ryniak, Marilyn Samonte, Arleen Schwab, Mary Ellen Salo, Carolyn Sesplankis, Brandy Shauter, Debbie Shavorinsky, Ann Shuttera, Marilyn Simmons, Grace Staab, Kevin Thompson, Pete & Teri Thayer, Marie Toula, Dennis Tyburski, Celine Whelpley, John Williams, Jay Yesenko, Mary Zavada.

Please pray for all who are serving in the military, especially the men and women connected to our parish:
• Brook Robinson (Navy), son of David & Michelle and grandson of Dolores Coleman
• Kyle A. Riley (Air Force), nephew of Robert Hollowell
• Greg Koch (Air Force), nephew of Nancy Koch
• James Ashenhurst (Navy), stepson of Stephen Flynn and son of Jenny Simons
• Nicholas Parente (Army), grandson of Linda Parente
• Yoshi Cacho (US Marine Corps), son of Medel & Mari-anne Cacho
• Nicholas Cassell (Army medic), cousin of Marge Buffurine

May the Peace of Our Lord be with
Diane Marie Griffith
And
Rita McKenney
May God grant comfort to their families and friends.

This Friday, December 13th is our 2nd Annual Christmas Concert! Arrive early, last year was standing room only. Concert begins at 7:30pm. Featuring the Blessed Trinity Choir, Bell Choir, Instrumental Ensemble, Joined by professional guest artists. Come join us for Holiday Classics and music from Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker. Concert is FREE and open to the public. Freewill offering. Refreshments to follow. See you then!

Advertiser of the week:
Ohio Valley Supply & Maintenance Company
**This Week at Blessed Trinity**

**Sunday, December 8**
- 9:00am—10:45am CGS (Atrium Level 1)
- 9:00am—10:45am PSR Grs 1-3 (Atrium)
- 9:00am—10:45am PSR Grs 6-7 (Rectory Basement)
- 9:15am—10:30am RCIA (Rectory Living Room)
- 12:30pm—1:30pm Community Meal (Fogarty Hall)
- 3:00pm—5:00pm P.I.E. Meeting (Joseph Center)

**Monday, December 9**
- 9:30am—10:30am Legion of Mary (Church)
- 8:30pm—9:30pm AA Meeting (Rectory Basement)

**Tuesday, December 10**
- 8:30am—10:00am H. O. C. Silent Prayer Group (Rec. Lib.)
- 9:30am—12:00pm Bountiful Basement
- 10:30am—12:00pm AA Meeting (Rectory Basement)
- 7:00pm—8:30pm LGBTQ Faithsharing (Rec. Liv. Rm.)
- 7:00pm—8:30pm FSPG (Rectory Library)

**Wednesday, December 11**
- 4:30pm—5:30pm Euch. Bread Bake Team 1 (Rec. Kit.)
- 5:00pm—6:45pm Bountiful Basement
- 7:00pm—8:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Church)
- 8:00pm—9:00pm AA Meeting (Joseph Center)

**Thursday, December 12**
- 9:30am—12:00pm Bountiful Basement
- 11:00am—12:00pm AA Meeting (Rectory Basement)
- 6:00pm—7:30pm Bell Choir (Church)
- 6:30pm—9:00pm Women’s Faith Sharing (Joseph Center)

**Friday, December 13**
- 1:00pm—3:00pm Stephen Min. Ldrs. Mtg. (Rec. Rm. 22)
- 7:30pm—9:00pm Christmas Concert (Church)
- 8:00pm—10:00pm AA Meeting (Rectory Basement)

**Saturday, December 14**
- 9:30am—11:00am Haiti Committee Mtg. (Joseph Center)

---

**We need individuals and/or families to light the Advent wreath. Please sign up at the back table.**

---

**Peace and Justice Committee will meet on Monday, December 16, at 7 pm in the Joseph Center.**

---

**Theology on the Rocks – West: Monday, December 9th, 7:00pm.** NEW LOCATION: VOSH 1414 RIVERSIDE DR., LAKEWOOD (The old Three Birds Georgetowm) Many of us have a ‘general idea of what Judaism, as a faith, is, but truth be told there is so much we don’t know or understand. Join us as Fr. Hilinski, Delegate for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs, is joined by a special guest, Rabbi Stephen Weiss, B’nai Jeshurun Temple, to discuss with us what it means to be Jewish. $12 per person - register at www.theologyontherocks.wixsite.com/west**

---

**Saint Joseph Academy is having its 4th annual Christmas Fair Trade Boutique on Thurs., Dec. 12, 5-8 p.m. in the Auditorium at Saint Joseph Academy, 3470 Rocky River Drive. Browse various fair trade items from more than 20 vendors, SJA students and teachers, One World Shop, Sweet Designs, jewelry, soaps and lotions and more. Admission and parking is free.**
WORSHIP

Saturday, December 7 (Is 30: 19-21, 23-26;
Mt 9: 35-10: 1, 5a, 6-8)
4:00pm Robert Spevock (George Spevock)

Sunday, December 8 (Is 11: 1-10; Rom 15: 4-9;
Mt 3: 1-12)
9:00am Blessed Trinity
11:00am Jeanette Miller (Bob Miller)

Monday, December 9
11:00am Deceased members of Legion of Mary
    @ Westpark Neuro & Rehab Center
    4401 W. 150th St.

Tuesday, December 10
8:30am Charles Reiling (A friend)

Wednesday, December 11
8:30am All Souls

Thursday, December 12
No Mass

Friday, December 13
8:30am All Souls

Saturday, December 14(Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13)
4:00pm John B. Deighton (Family)

Sunday, December 15 (Is 35: 1-6a, 10; Jas 5: 7-10;
Mt 11: 2-11)
9:00am Charlie Brown (Duffy family)
11:00am Blessed Trinity

COMMUNITY MEAL TODAY 12:30 - 1:30pm in
Fogarty Hall. All are welcome. Come enjoy a
free meal and wonderful hospitality!

Christmas Adopt-a-Family Outreach Disciples will be
needed to help distribute packages to households on
Saturday, Dec. 21st, from 10:30am – noon. We will
meet in Fogarty Hall and connect with most of our fami-
lies there. We may need to make a few home deliveries.
Let Katie know if you are able to drive for home deliver-
ies. Please sign up to help at the back table in church or
contact Katie Corbett.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION — NEW
MONTHLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS – DECEMBER
15th. 3:00pm - 4:00 pm at St. Joseph Cemetery, Avon; Holy
Cross Cemetery, Akron; Holy Cross Cemetery, Brook Park;
and new grief support locations Calvary Cemetery, Cleve-
land; All Saints Cemetery, Northfield; All Souls Cemetery,
Chardon. All groups meet in the main cemetery offices. The
topic for December is: Emmanuel/God With Us: You are
Not Alone. We have compassionate and skilled grief support
leaders in all of these locations. Many people courageously
walk this daily grief journey alone and this holiday season can
be particularly difficult. Our desire is that no one grieves alone.
We invite you to join us as we accompany you on your journey
ward understanding, clarity, and peace this Advent/Christmas
season. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Rhon-
da or call 216-930-4866. A reservation is not required, but is
appreciated.

5 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT