CATHOLIC CHURCH

Blessed Trinity

All Are Welcome

W.140 PURITAS

November 29, 2026 | **First Sunday of Advent**

14040 PURITAS AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44135

Phone: 216-671-5890
Fax: 216-938-9843
Email: office@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

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

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil: 4 pm
Sunday: 9 am and 11 am
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 am

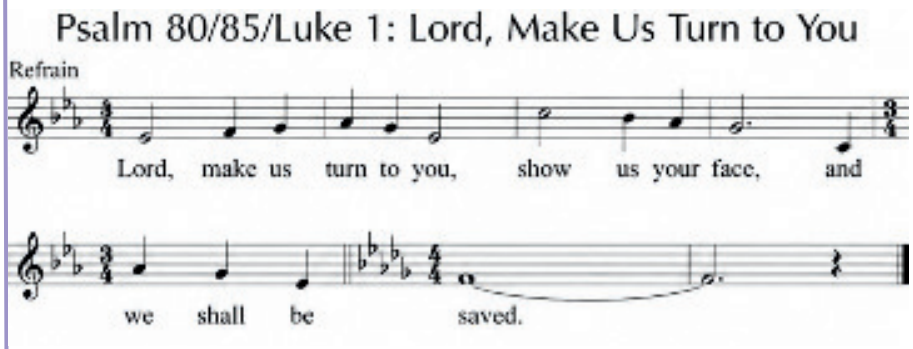
RECONCILIATION

Any time 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 of the everyday life of their church, especially Spiritual Growth, Community Life, the Building of a Just Society, and Service to All God's People.





Text: Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-20; Psalm 85:9-14; Luke 1:46-55; Marty Haugen. Music: Marty Haugen © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-702576.

GROWING IN FAITH Together

Question of the Week

Who/what am I watching? Can I be more attentive?

A full resource guide is available on the website or at the back table in Church.

MUSINGS FROM FR. DAN

Certain issues elicit an immediate, emotional response, and one of these is capital punishment. According to a recent Gallup poll, 49% of U.S. adults are in favor of the death penalty for convicted murderers, and 45% are opposed. This is the first time support has been below the majority level since 1971. Considering that in 1994 the death penalty had 80% support, the latest figure is good news indeed.

There are many reasons why Americans favor the death penalty: as a deterrent to crime, a just punishment, retribution, to protect society. Understandable though these may be, we must ask whether they are justifiable. Jesus has a way of turning things on their heads, and as Christians we cannot simply ignore what he tells us in word and deed. In chapter five of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus commands us to love our enemies and to turn the other cheek.

In Luke 6: 36 Jesus says, “Be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful." Elsewhere he forbids not only murder but all anger, hatred, and vengeance. Given these words and Jesus’ example of asking his Father to forgive those who crucified him, could Jesus possibly concur with the capital punishment?

Human life is sacred, because God created it. Yet we see that our society allows human life to be taken, as in the cases of capital punishment and abortion, and increasingly, physician-assisted suicide. The Roman Catholic Church challenges such actions, in fidelity to Jesus.

Historically, the Church permitted capital punishment. However, in 2018 this changed, as reflected in the catechism of the Catholic Church, #2267. It says, "There is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes. In addition, a new understanding has emerged of the significance of penal sanctions imposed by the state. Lastly, more effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption."

The evidence is great that the system of justice in the U.S. is broken. Since 1973 at least 203 wrongly convicted death row prisoners in the United States have been exonerated, according to the Death Penalty Information Center, including 11 in Ohio. People are executed who may not have been responsible for their actions, such as the intellectually disabled or mentally ill. Those unable to afford a good lawyer are much more likely to be convicted. And a black person on trial for murder stands a much greater chance of ending up on death row than a white person.

Governor Mike DeWine is considering the commutation of death-row inmates in these final weeks before he leaves office on January 11, 2027. There have been no executions since he took office in 2019. In June DeWine, a Catholic, formally announced his opposition to capital punishment, saying there's no moral justification for it because it's not a deterrent.

After each Mass last weekend, members of our parish's social justice committee offered us an opportunity to urge the governor to commute as many of these death sentences as possible, and it is doing the same this weekend. I hope that you will sign the letter to that effect, email the governor, and perhaps even phone him. His phone number is 614-644-4357.

On another note, I'm thrilled to report that the November 18 fundraiser in support of our Bountiful Basement was a huge success, raising over $2,500! Along with the cash donations, we also collected more than 500 lbs. of food. We thank the folks at P.J. Macintyre's restaurant for their generous donation of their space and food. The members of the Cleveland chapter of The Federation, an international volunteer Star Trek service organization, merit our deep appreciation for all their hard work. Our thanks go as well to Councilman Charlie Sliff for his support. Finally, we are grateful to all of you who contributed to this worthy project.

Finally, the Church has begun the season of Advent. You might have noticed this, in that the color of Deacon Dick Beercheck's vestments and mine has switched from the green of Ordinary Time to purple. Advent is a time of vigilance for and expectation about the coming of Jesus, whose birth we remember and will celebrate again at Christmas. During this season we also look forward to his glorious return at the end of the ages. "Adventus" is Latin for "coming."

At church you see the Advent wreath. The key symbolism of the wreath is that there is light in the darkness. With the successive lighting of one, two, three, and finally four candles (one for each week of Advent), the idea of ever-increasing light is communicated, as our celebration of the birth of Christ, the light of the world, draws closer. One way of marking Advent at home is by lighting your own Advent wreath.

THANK YOU
for your generous support!

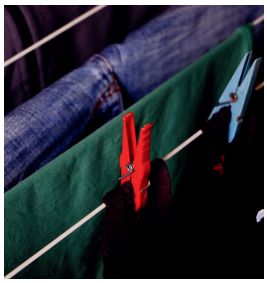
Sunday, November 15	$4,203.30
All Souls Day	$ 5.00
Haiti Missions	$ 135.00
Bountiful Basement	$ 515.00
Help the Needy	$ 20.00
Capital Improvements	$ 25.00
Memorials/Specials	$2,110.00
Human Development	$ 12.00
Other Desig. Collections	$ 270.00
Adopt-A-Family	$ 100.00

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK
Killeen Plumbing

BULLETIN DEADLINES
Printing schedules change during the holidays. Note these deadlines if you plan to place articles in the bulletin through year-end. Be aware that articles are subject to editing for space reasons. Send your Items to bulletin@blessedtrinitycleveland.org.

Bulletin of :	Deadline :
December 5/6	November 30
December 12/13	December 4
December 19/20	December 11
December 26/27	December 17
January 2/3	December 23





WINTER ITEMS NEEDED
The Peace and Justice Committee is distributing winter apparel items on the clothesline on West 140th Street at the bus stop across the street from the library. Donations of hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens can be placed in the baskets at the Church doors or dropped off at the rectory. Thank you so much!



HOME ADVENT ACTIVITIES
In addition to this week's bulletin insert, there are resources to help you on your Advent journey on our website. Check it out for your own personal growth or activities with your family.

MISSION TRIP TO EL SALVADOR
Next week is the final collection of the items that support Tim Chapin's trip to El Salvador. The list is on the back table, on our website, and available by scanning this QR code. Deposit items in the narthex by December 5.



POINTSETTIA
In addition to our Bountiful Basement Advent Collection boxes, we would like to add live plants to our Christmas Season decorations. Plants are $25. If you would like to donate the cost in memory of someone or would simply like to contribute, drop an envelope notated with Pointsettia and the name of the memorial individual into the weekly collection by December 13.



ADVENT WREATH HELPERS
We are still in need of disciples to light the Advent Wreath at the beginning of Mass each weekend until December 20. Requirement: be tall enough to reach the candles! Seriously, families or single folks are invited to participate. Sign up at the table near the main doors.



DECORATE A BOX
In Advent, our community has a weekly collection for particular charities. Disciples will be invited to come forward and place their donations in a separate collection at weekend Masses.

So we need a collection receptacle each week. Could you decorate a box where contributions could be dropped through a slot? It would be a great family activity! The drop-in slot is the only requirement - it could be simple or festive, feature children's art, focus on the week's charity (see enclosed flyer), etc. Sign up at the table near the main doors.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

DeAnna Behring, Mary Ann Bowers, Charlene Boyer, Adele Burke, Gladys Castro, Jonathon Castro, Pat Chapin, Teri Crowe, Scherrie Damm, John Darmstadt, Al Delattre, Diane Dorenkott, Dukles Family, Joseph Dunn, Barb Dylag, Jenny Flynn, Joan Francis, Will Gibson, June Grace, Michael Graham, Louise J. Hall, Thomas Heim, Susanne Heisey, Agnes Hocevar, Dee Ialacci, Gail Iseli, Nicola Jandric, Annette Janetzke, Vicki & Rudy Juris, Eileen Kelly, Helen Kollus, Joanne Kauchuk, Dan Kemer, Ralph & Judy Kobus, Karen Kraus, Marilyn Lombardo, Karen Long, Eileen McAndrew, Margaret McMahon, Liz Mahon, Eileen Mangan, Jerry Masek, Andrea Medina, Betty Ann Menzing, Mary Jo Menzing, Michael Mitchell, Jim & Steve Moravcik, Steven Povlis, Jose Rivera, Matthew Rossman, Donna Safreed, Mary Salamon, Marilyn Samonte, Rob Salvatore, Betty Schmidt, Dottie Schultz, Catherine Sesztak, Ron Sonby, Evana Stanonik, Christopher Stein, Richard Stein, Sharon Tressel, David Ward, Jesse Wilson, Monica Woodman, Maggie Wooley, Jacqueline Zambarano.

PRAY FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL

- 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
- Michael Duniec (Air Force), grandson of Dottie Schultz and nephew of Margie Pavone
- James Andrews (Navy), nephew of Bob & Kathy Grega

If you have a prayer request, please contact Teresa Riedel at tntriedel@sbcglobal.net. To place a name in the bulletin, call the parish office.

WORSHIP

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

4 pm Clark-Barnett Family Kathy Mickler

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 63:16b-17,19b, 64:2-7 1 Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37

9 am Blessed Trinity

11 am Nassim Lynch Corinne Lynch

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30 *No Mass*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

8:30 am All Souls

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 *No Mass*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:30 am All Souls

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:30 am Lillian Twigger Kathy Mickler

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

4 pm Blessed Trinity

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 40:1-5, 9-11 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk1:1-8

9 am Kevin Boyer Mary Ann Boyer

11 am Joe & Josephine Dilisio Rosemary DeStefano

THIS WEEK AT BLESSED TRINITY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9-10:45 am ~~Cat. of the Good Shepherd (Atrium)~~ CANCELLED FOR HOLIDAY BREAK

10-10:45 am Breaking Open the Word (RLb)

11:15-11:30 am Children's Lit. of the Word (Ch))

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

9-10:30 am Legion of Mary (Ch)

6-7 pm First Reconciliation Prep (Ch)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

8-8:30 am Novena (Ch)

9-11 am IDCC (JC1)

9:30 am-Noon Bountiful Basement (JCB)

10:30 am-Noon A.A. Meeting (RB)

6-8 pm Bell Choir Practice (Ch)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

4-6 pm IDCC (JC1)

5-6:45 pm Bountiful Basement (JCB)

5:30-6:30 pm Mobile Pantry (Back Lot)

7-9 pm Choir Practice (Ch)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

10-11 am Tai Chi (JC1)

11 am-12:30 pm A.A. Meeting (RB)

6-8 pm Bell Choir Practice(Ch)

7:15-8:45 pm Stephen Ministers Peer Grp (Zoom)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

1-3 pm Stephen Leaders (RLb)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:30-11 am Ragamuffin Faith Sharing (RLr)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

9-10:45 am Cat. of the Good Shepherd (Atrium)

10-10:45 Breaking Open the Word (RLb)

11:15-11:30 am Children's Lit. of the Word (Ch)

12-1:30 pm First Reconciliation Prep (Atrium)

1-3 pm Stephen Ministry (JC1)

CONTACT INFO 216.671.5890

Administrator: Rev. Daniel R. Fickes ..... Ext 3
dfickes@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Dick Beercheck .....
dbeercheck@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Coord. of Pastoral Services: Brian Hamblen ..... Ext 4
bhamblen@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Business & Office Manager: Devra Konjura ..... Ext 2
accountant@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Formation & Evangelization: Terri Pastura ..... Ext 5
tpastura@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Music Minister: Julio Santana .....
Julioxsntnsda@gmail.com

Society of St. Vincent de Paul: .....Ext 6

Stephen Ministry: ..... Ext 7