Sick Calls – Please call the rectory to arrange for Father Jasany to bring the Sacraments when a member of your family is hospitalized.

Weddings – Parishioners are asked to call the rectory office at least 6 months in advance of the wedding to schedule an appointment with Father Jasany.

Baptisms – The 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:00 pm. Parents are required to attend Pre-Baptism Class. Arrangements must be made a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the date of baptism. Before parents baptize their child, Diocesan and parish policy requires you to complete a Baptism Preparation Class. **The next class will be on Sunday, January 3, 2016 at Immaculate Heart Parish at 1:30 pm.** Reservations needed; please call 216-341-2734.

Godparent and Sponsor Certificate – Sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation must be registered and practicing members of the Church, attending weekly and Holy Day Masses for a minimum of 3 months prior to the celebration of the Sacraments for which they have requested the certificate. Please note individuals 18 years of age and older, no longer in school, need to register.

Pre-Cana Program for couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage at the Jesuit Retreat House on **January 31, 2016 at 12:45 pm.** Program satisfies the requirement for marriage preparation as stipulated by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. Register at 440-884-9300 or [www.jrhcleve@att.net](http://www.jrhcleve@att.net)
Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is around the corner! Everyone is welcome to join our Parish Pastoral Council in decorating the inside of our church for Christmas on Sunday, December 20th at 3 pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Please join us.

Our Mass Schedule for Christmas is as follows: Christmas Eve – 4 pm & 10 pm Christmas Day – 9 am and 11 am. May all of us experience the joy of Our Savior’s Birth.

I wish to thank everyone who participated in the Giving Tree Project – Pete & Anastasia Gentile, Our Social Concerns Commission, our St. Vincent de Paul Society for their donation and all our wonderful parishioners who bought Christmas presents for the children in our neighborhood. The Giving Tree exemplifies the Spirit of Generosity that lives on in our parish.

Also, we thank Sedgick Claims Management Services, Inc. for their donations of food for our rectory food pantry, as well as their cash donation. We are grateful to Regina Morganti, who suggested that her company donate their items to our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society. You may always drop off canned good, non-perishable food items and paper products in the bins by our church entrances.

People come to our rectory on a regular basis seeking assistance. Your donations help us to serve the hungry. During the Year of Mercy, we are called to practice the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy. One of the Corporal works of Mercy is to feed the hungry. You can always participate in this work of Mercy through your donations.

Let us look forward to celebrating again the Birth of Our Savior. May Christ be born again in all of us.

Prayers & Best Wishes!
Father Jasany

Readings for the Week of December 20th

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Lk 1:67-79
Friday Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17/Mt 10:17-22
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52
Sunday, December 20th
4th Sunday of Advent
Blessed Advent! Today we have two mothers meeting; they are related and one carries in her womb John the Baptist and the other woman, Mary, carries in her womb Jesus. The Gospel account says that John, who would cry out in the desert the message that everyone needs to “prepare the way of the Lord,” leapt with joy in the womb of his mother upon hearing Mary’s greeting.

John’s message in the desert is the message that we all need to heed as we get closer to the Christmas celebration. May our faith leap with joy at the chance to proclaim our Lord and to prepare the way!

Church Decorating for Christmas - 3 pm.
Everyone is invited to help decorate our church for the holiday season.
Refreshments will be served afterwards. Please, join us.

Sunday, December 27th
$1000 Raffle at 12 Noon – Please make sure your tickets have been turned in for today’s drawing

St Vincent de Paul Society Meeting at 10 am in the rectory

Where would we be without Jesus? He was born of a woman so we could be born of God...He humbled himself so we could be lifted up. He became a servant so we could be heirs. He suffered rejection so we could become his friends. He denied Himself so we could freely receive all things. He fully gave himself so He could bless us in every way!

In response to the Great Gift given to you in Jesus Christ and in Honor of Our Savior’s birth, would you kindly consider making a financial gift to the parish of St. John Nepomucene at Christmas? Just as we give a gift to someone on his or her birthday, I kindly request that you make a financial gift to our parish as a way to honor Christ on His Birthday.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Father Robert Jasany

Sanctuary Guild Volunteers for December 23rd thru January 5th

Kathy Bondzio & Patty Kowalec

God Bless You & Thank you for your generosity to our Parish.
May Our Lord continue to bless you!

Stewardship of Treasure

Sunday, December 13th $2729.50
Memorial Gifts 95.00
Immaculate Conception 927.10

Holiday Office Hours

Please note that the rectory office will be closed on Thursday, December 24th & Friday, December 25th.

The office will re-open on Monday, December 28th. Have a Blessed Christmas!
Please remember these individuals, who have been called to the priesthood in your daily prayers. Also, please remember the Order of Friars Minor (Sacred Heart Province) (OFM) in your prayers.

Sunday, Dec. 20th – All Pastors & Priests
Monday, Dec. 21st – Michael Petkosek
        St. Mary Seminary
Tuesday, Dec. 22nd – Adam Nestor
        St. Mary Seminary
Wednesday, Dec. 23rd – John Mulhollan
        St. Mary Seminary
Thursday, Dec. 24th – Peter Morris
        St. Mary Seminary
Friday, Dec. 25th – Jesus Ramirez-Moreno
        St. Mary Seminary
Saturday, Dec. 26th – Jose Cortes-Morales
        St. Mary Seminary
Sunday, Dec. 27th – Pray for All Families

NEW TO OUR PARISH!!! Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to our parish. AmazonSmile is a program where Amazon donates .5% of the purchase price of eligible products to a charitable organization selected by the customer. So, if you are doing any Christmas shopping online, please think of supporting St. John Nepomucene Church (EIN: 34-0826175). Please remember to always start your shopping at smile.amazon.com

Oplatki – Many families observe the Christmas Eve tradition with oplatki. There is a table at the Blessed Mother’s Altar with oplatki packs along with the prayer service for you to take home.

THANK YOU! We would like to thank our members & parishioners for supporting our Christmas Tree Gift Card Raffle. Your generosity by donating gift cards, purchasing tickets and making monetary donations has helped to make this a very successful fundraiser. We were able to raffle off four gift certificate prizes again this year.

First Prize $300 won by Dee Ruth
Second Prize $200 won by Leonard & Evelyn Dziegel
Third Prize $150 won by Leonard & Evelyn Dziegel
Fourth Prize $80 won by Pat Balli

Congratulations to the Winners!

When we ask, you always come thru for us. We thank you again for your support which enables us to meet the altar necessities of our Parish. God has truly blessed us with great people at our Church! We will be having it again next year, so see you then.

Have a Merry Christmas & A Blessed New Year!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!
St. John Sacred Heart Altar & Rosary Society Members

Congratulation to our parishioner, Gary Kotlarsic of the Polish Community who was honored by the American Nationalities Movement at their Annual Christmas Party on December 19th. Gary was one of three individuals who were honored. Congratulations Gary!
Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope and pray that all of us may together rejoice in the Gift of God’s Only Son, Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May all of us receive the Gift, share the Gift and give the Gift that is Christ this Christmas.

My Christmas Prayer for You....
Is the Christmas prayer still made by the shepherd in the rural villages of Eastern Europe.
As they call house to house on this Glorious Feast of the Birthday of Christ our Lord.
I wish you from God, Good Health, Happiness and Abundant Blessings.
May it be yours to enjoy comfort from your Children, Salvation for your soul, The Kingdom of Heaven after Death, And for the Family’s Welfare, May you have whatever you ask of God and May Almighty God bless you...
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God Bless you all for your continued good works and generosity.

Father Jasany

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Don’t forget to Recycle all of your holiday paper. Just add it to your regular collection and bring it to the bin. Wrapping Paper! Packaging and Boxes! Holiday Catalogs! Holiday Cards! Our recycling will be picked up by River Valley Paper Company.

OnLine Giving – Beginning in January, 2016 you will notice a change when you receive your church envelopes. Our Sunday Visitor will be the new provider of our church envelopes. Next week, you will begin to see information in the bulletin in regards to online giving. We are in the process of setting up the Online Giving website. If you have any questions concerning OnLine Giving, please call Mrs. Kowalski at the rectory office.

May our prayers bring healing, comfort and strength to the sick and their caregivers, remembering especially
Mary Adams,
Agnes Bartoszek, John Balciar,
Greg Basco, Gloria Benitez, Gwen Beres,
Bill Bican, Joyce Bican, Diyamol Binu,
Mary Ann Betliskey, Bill Connors,
Corrine Dawe, Dolores Dobransky,
Jose Dybzinski, Stan Frankel, Kristin Hill,
Gertrude Kocab, Lucy Konkoly,
Madeline Koston, Judy Landolph,
Pat Lubrano, Art Madsen, Cindi Magyar,
Mary O’Meara, Jeannette Morrow,
Dan Palmentera, Suzanne Patton,
Rita Petkoff, John Pocius, Betty Rhine,
Brianna Rhine, Laurel Salupo,
Noreen Spehar, Elaine Stack,
Janice Tommer, Dana Trzaska, Ron Walk & Barb Witovicz.

May Our Loved Ones who have died rest in eternal peace in heaven remembering especially Rev. James McManamon whose funeral was last week.

For the Men and Women serving in the military, especially those from our parish and their families.
TAX LETTER – Parishioners who would like a letter to verify their church contributions for the 2015 tax year are asked to call the rectory at 216-641-8444 or drop a note in the collection basket to the attention of Mrs. Kowalski. A letter will be prepared and mailed to you after January 9th. If you call the rectory after office hours and need to leave a message, please go into voicemail box #10.

REMINDER CONCERNING 2015 CONTRIBUTIONS – In order for your contributions to be considered for the 2015 Tax Year, they must be received by December 31, 2015 and your check must be dated 2015. Contributions received on or after January 1, 2015 will be reported as 2016 contributions. This complies with IRS Requirements.

A Stewardship Moment – As we draw close to the Feast of the Nativity, we hear the great stewardship proclamation twice in today’s second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews: “Behold, I come to do your will, O God!” Who is this Jesus? Who are we that we should follow him? Many want him as a friend, a guide, a king, an advocate. Jesus reveals the nature of God, the servant sent to give us new life in God’s house. Take time to ponder these questions: Do we have the courage to follow Jesus? Do we reflect God’s nature in our daily life? Are we able to say with confidence “Behold, I come to do your will?”

Calendars for 2016 are located near the entrance doors of the church. We are grateful to Fortuna Funeral Home for their generosity in providing these calendars to our parish annually. God bless them for their generosity.

A Tree Points to Heaven
When
I look at my Christmas Tree,
I see a heavenly glow.
A glad reminder of God’s Gift From heaven long ago. The branches always keep their color on my Christmas tree.
A sign that Jesus came to offer Life eternally. My tree is shaped just like an arrow point up above.
I’m going to live in heaven there, because of Jesus’ love, and all the presents by my tree, wrapped up in pretty bows, reminds me of the gift God gave, wrapped up in swaddling clothes

Church Memorials & Gifts

In Loving Memory of Robert Halamek From his mother, Helen

A Gift in Memory of Genevieve & Frank Leciejewski

In Loving Memory of Robert Schaefer from his wife, Marge

In Loving Memory of Baby Rosinski from his sister, Elaine Parsons

In Loving Memory of Mildred Pytel Her husband, Joe; Daughter, Karen & Son, Joe

In Loving Memory of the Kurtz & Zurowski Families from Mr. & Mrs. John Kurtz