



The Intercom

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Inside this issue...

| | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| “We Saw His Star at Its Rising” by Rev. Anthony Coci | 2 | Recent Sacraments | 4 |
| Christmas Mass & Penance Schedule | 3 | Kindergarten Saints | 5 |
| New Parishioners | 4 | Rectory Update Project | 6 |
| | | St. Joseph Parish Spotlights | 7 |
| | | Jewelry Sale Thank You | 8 |



We Saw His Star at Its Rising

By Reverend Anthony Coci

One of my favorite websites to visit is NASA.gov, and I enjoy browsing the awe-inspiring images of the outer reaches of the universe. In October, the James Webb Space Telescope captured new images of the Pillars of Creation, a location where stars are born. The Pillars of Creation were first discovered in 1995 and are about 6,500 light years from Earth. Now with advanced technology we are able to see in greater detail these columns of interstellar gas and dust that compress to give shape and form to stars. (Please see the picture attached to this article.) To me the columns are reminiscent of the Red Rocks in Arizona, or perhaps from a certain angle like the fingers of a hand, like the hand of God, with stars coming out the tips. St. Paul states, “We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now,” (Romans 8:22). St. Paul states that all creation is in labor pains and not simply all humans. Creation is still budding forth, like a flower, and coming to life every day until the last day. Humans and stars are being born every day. Statistics vary, but it is estimated that there are somewhere between 100-200 billion stars in the Milky Way Galaxy and some 120 billion people who have ever lived on Earth. It is as if there is a star for every person.

We modern people live under artificial light and sometimes forget the connection between ourselves and nature. This was not so for the ancients. They saw the connection between their lives and the creation all around them. Most modern people tend to dismiss this type of knowledge as myth, but there is something in the depths of our being that is curious and maybe even intrigued about the archaic knowledge our ancestors once possessed. The Sacred Scriptures even make mention of this ancient knowledge. For example, in the Book of Numbers there is a king who hires a Gentile seer, Balaam, to curse the people of Israel, but every time he goes to do it, he is motivated by God not to curse but to bless. The fourth time he goes to do it, he is compelled to prophesy this messianic oracle, “I see him, though not now; I observe him, though not near: a star shall advance from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel,” (Numbers 24:17). This oracle was and still is preserved in the sacred books of the Jewish people, known as the Torah.

Later, the Apostle Matthew tells the story of Gentile seers who came to do homage to the newborn King of the Jews. He calls them “magi” (cf. Matthew 2:1) in reference to their versatile education in all things, especially astrology. Some historians believe them to be Persian astrologers who studied the stars and knew the sacred texts of every world religion and culture. For them the highest god was the planet Jupiter. They designated different celestial bodies to different nations; Jupiter symbolized the Babylonians and Saturn symbolized the Jewish people, and the way these two planets were aligning on a certain date conveyed the message that there was going to be a birth in the Jewish nation of someone who would be a king of kings. They were likely versed in the Jewish Torah and knew the oracle of Balaam about the star, so they mounted their animals, headed West to Bethlehem, and the rest is history. Creation spoke to them, or better yet, God spoke to them through creation.

In one of his famous books, *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, Pope Benedict XVI states:

The narrative of the adoration of the Magi became important for Christian thought, because it shows the inner connection between the wisdom of the nations and the Word of promise in Scripture; because it shows how the language of the cosmos and the truth-seeking thought of man lead to Christ. The mysterious star could become the symbol for these connections and once again emphasize that the language of the cosmos and the language of the human heart trace their descent from the Word of the Father, who in Bethlehem came forth from the silence of God and assembled the fragments of our human knowledge into a complete whole. (pg. 110)

There is a longing in every person’s heart for truth. We want to be whole. This harmony only comes through Jesus. It is as if all creation is singing Christmas hymns right along with us: “Hark the herald, Angels Sing,” or “O, Tannenbaum,” or “Away in a Manger,” or, my favorite, “Creator of the Stars of Night.” In closing, please allow me to share with you some verses: “Creator of the stars of night, your people’s everlasting light; O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call [...] At your great name, majestic now, all knees must bend, all heart must bow.” My prayer for you this Christmas season is that like the stars that moved toward the Christ child, your heart too may be ever more oriented toward the promptings of Jesus in your life!



Credits: Joseph DePasquale (STScI), Anton M. Koekemoer (STScI), Alyssa Pagan (STScI). (2022). [Photograph]. NASA. <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2022/nasa-s-webb-takes-star-filled-portrait-of-pillars-of-creation>

In Christ,

Fr. Anthony



Christmas Mass Schedule

& Opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance

Advent Community-Wide Penance Service

Sunday, December 18, 3:00 PM at St. Mary Catholic Church

The Sacrament of Penance will be given individually to all who come and participate in the service. We will have several confessors to help us experience the joy and hope of God's mercy and forgiveness.

Advent Individual Confession Times

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Tuesdays | 4:30 – 5:25 PM |
| Saturdays (except Dec. 24) | 3:00 – 3:45 PM |

Mass Schedules

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil Masses

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|------------------|---|
| 4:00 PM | Childrens Mass (<i>with Christmas Program at start</i>) |
| 6:00 PM | Family Mass |
| 11:30 PM | Christmas Carols by St. Joseph Choir |
| 12:00 - Midnight | Midnight Mass by Candlelight |

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass

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|---------|----------------------------------|
| 9:30 AM | Mass (<i>of Christmas Day</i>) |
|---------|----------------------------------|

Please note: There will be no 4:00 PM or 5:30 PM Masses.

The Octave Day of Christmas & Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM | Saturday, December 31, 2022 |
| 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM | Sunday, January 1, 2023 |

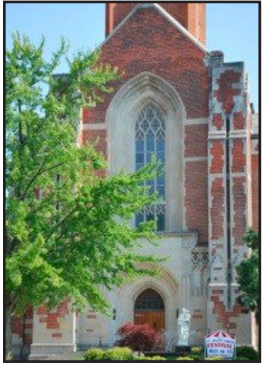
Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM | Saturday, January 7, 2023 |
| 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM | Sunday, January 8, 2023 |

*Blessed chalk will be available for families to take home and mark their doorposts.
More details will be in that weekend's bulletin.*

Through the Open Door...

Welcome New Parishioners!



Lachlan.

Lisa Cramer is transferring from St. Wendelin Parish in Fostoria. She is a senior talent acquisition recruiter for NXTThing RPO. She has three children, **Isla, Camdon,**

Austin and Olivia Holmer were recently married and have registered their membership. Olivia grew up in the parish and is a hair stylist. Austin grew up at St. Aloysius Parish in Republic. He is a land-surveyor.

Ted and Mary Hook recently moved to Tiffin and registering their membership. They live on Coe Street and are both retired.

John and Eileen Hosang are transferring from St. Gaspar's Parish in Bellevue. They are both retired.

Michael and Erica Lasky were married in 2021 and are registering their membership. Michael grew up in the parish, and he is an engineer for Rousch Industries. Erica is a nursing home administrator in Norwalk. They have one daughter, **Maddison**.

John and Jeanette Lynch are transferring from St. Mary Parish. Tom worked at the U.S. Post Office and is now retired. Jeanette worked at Jeff Hoyda DDS and is now retired. They have three adult children.

Jarrid Miller and Misha Phillips are registering their memberships. Jarrid is transferring from Clyde St. Mary Parish and Misha is transferring from St. Sebastian Parish. Jarrid graduated from Clyde High School in 2008, and he is an operator for Helms and Sons. Misha graduated from Seneca East in 2009, and she is an HR administrator for Church & Dwight. They have one daughter, **Maryanne**.

Joshua and Heather Nye are transferring from All Saints Parish in New Riegel. Joshua works in procurement for Goodyear Tire and Rubber. Heather is a stay-at-home mom. They have two children, **Merrick and Cecilia**.

Brooke Olinger grew up at the parish is registering her own membership. She graduated from Columbian in 2002, and she works for Ohio Veterans Home. She has two daughters, **Kamara and Einslee**.

Madonna Parks is transferring from St. Nicholas Parish in Frenchtown, and she has attended Mass at St. Joseph's Parish for the past 15 years. Madonna is retired and has four adult children.

Lee and Hannah Vogel were recently married and are registering their membership. Lee graduated from Mohawk in 2013 and is self-employed. Hannah graduated in 2015 from Buckeye High School in Valley City, Ohio.



Robert and Marilynn Widman are transferring from St. Mary Parish. Robert is a farmer/business owner of JEB Modern Machines. Marilynn also works for JEB Modern Machines as the office manager. They have two adult children.

Sara Wingart is transferring from All Saints Parish in New Riegel. She lives in Bascom and is a real estate broker.

Recent Sacraments at St. Joseph Church

Baptism

Joshua James Osborne. Born Nov. 2, 2021. Son of Joshua and Colleen (Sullivan) Osborne.



Atticus Andrew Krugh. Born Oct. 13, 2021. Son of Benjamin and Jacklyn (McKitrick) Krugh.

Norah Ember Mei Ginnever. Born Dec. 3, 2011. Daughter of Benjamin and Arminda (Davis) Ginnever.

Posie Prue Ginnever. Born June 15, 2021. Daughter of Benjamin and Arminda (Davis) Ginnever.

Weddings

October 8, 2022. Drew Ralph Kurtz & Brooklyn Taylor Brown.

October 14, 2022. Lee Foster Vogel & Hannah Joan Howells.

October 15, 2022. Austin Alan Holmer & Olivia Claire Frankart

November 12, 2022. Alexander Nathaniel Daniel & Allison Lynn Osborn.

Deaths

Larry E. Deitrick, 82. Died September 30, 2022.

Marjorie A. (Orians) Frisch, 99. Died October 19, 2022.

Lorraine Teresa (Skokane) Meisner. Died October 20, 2022.

Michael John Gardner D.C., 78. Died October 31, 2022.

Our "Saintly" Kindergarten Students

In early November, we celebrated All Saints Day during our all-school Mass. The Kindergarteners dressed up like their favorite saint and shared information about their saint with all the students, parents and visitors in attendance. We are grateful to have celebrated with our Calvert Catholic Schools students!



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Advent & Christmas Word Search

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| ADVENT | MYRRH |
| ANGEL | NATIVITY |
| BETHLEHEM | PINK |
| CANDLES | PROPHETS |
| EMMANUEL | PURPLE |
| FRANKINCENSE | REJOICE |
| GOLD | SHEPHERDS |
| JESUS | STAR |
| MANGER | WREATH |
| MESSIAH | WISEMEN |

Rectory Update Project

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

As we move along with our rectory update project, we wanted to take this opportunity to provide some more background and information on the project. Many of you have asked about the project and how to help, and your interest is greatly appreciated.

Right off the bat, we want to assure you that the project fit very comfortably into our budget and did not prohibit us from taking on any other projects that were needed. Father Joe and other former pastors have been excellent stewards of the Parish's resources. As the rectory had not seen a major renovation in many years, the funds were available to take on this project.

Beyond the money side, there are really three primary drivers for the project:

1. The Electrical System: Much of the wiring in the rectory was very old and ungrounded in many places, and like any home, this created a fire concern that needed to be addressed. As is often the case when you start digging into projects like this, there becomes a bit of a cascading effect as you are tearing open walls and removing insulation. We wanted to make sure to do things right, and that led us to the plan that we have today.

2. Modernization and Functionality: There were areas of the rectory where things were not quite as functional as they should be. For example, things like bathtubs, toilets, and plumbing in compact areas where showers would work better and spaces that could be reconfigured to be more functional. This project presented an opportunity to address some of these areas.

3. Updates to Hosting Areas: Some areas, especially where the rectory hosts parishioners and other guests, could benefit from an update. Just as with anyone's home from time to time, these areas needed updating, especially where the rectory hosts wedding counseling, funeral planning, meetings, visits from guests, and other such functions.

This work is truly needed at this time, and while the cascading effect has brought on more than we originally anticipated, it simply makes sense to take care of these items while we are already in the process. I think all of us have confronted similar challenges when renovating an area of our own homes, so we appreciate everyone's understanding and patience.

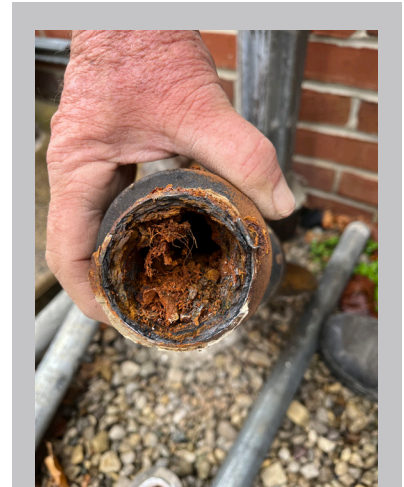
In closing, we would like to say that most of the work is being completed by current parishioners in support of their businesses and much of the work is being done at reduced rates in a spirit of charity. This sense of generosity is always appreciated, and it will allow us to stay under our current budget without concern. Our Parish has always been a beacon to the other parishes in the Diocese when it comes to our parishioners dedication and generosity. We want to thank all of you for that support, especially those businesses that are helping with this effort.

As always, if there are any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you!

Matt Kennedy
President of Finance Council

Jim Perry
Maintenance Committee



Pictured above are deteriorated pipes from an upstairs bathroom.

Rectory Update Project (cont.)



St. Joseph Parish Spotlights

Meet some of the St. Joseph Parish staff, volunteers, and parishioners! The spotlight will continue to shine within each edition of the Intercom as we feature additional individuals and families.



Amy Fretz

I am Amy Fretz, your new music director at St. Joseph church! I, however, am not an entirely new face around here as I am a lifelong Tiffin resident and current member of St. Mary church. I attended St. Joseph grade school and graduated from Calvert in 1993. I've been enjoying running into many people from those school days... my 4th grade teacher, my 6th grade teacher, one of my 8th grade teachers, a gym teacher and even my girl scout leader! This list seems to keep growing every day. One more connection to those days is my predecessor, Fran Genet. I played piano for a youth choir that she formed here at St. Joseph! I'm sure that I join you in thanking Fran for her many years of service.

My musical background? Well, I can honestly say that I've been playing the piano for over 40 years! I grew up taking lessons from Sr. Veronica, then Sr. Marietta at St. Francis School of Music. I went on to Heidelberg College, where I graduated in 1997 with a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance and pedagogy. Since then, I've been teaching private piano for over 25 years. I also enjoy playing background piano music for dinners, weddings, etc. at The Chandelier.

One funny piece of trivia...one of my piano students has been none other than Fr. Anthony! He began when he was in town at St. Mary and continued to commute back here as often as was possible while at St. Jerome. The friendship and understanding that we formed along the way was no doubt a factor in his decision to offer me this job. There is a saying that goes "everything happens for a reason". Certain strange events have led to me coming here to St. Joseph church. I knew that I could never say "no" when Father asked for my help and I will never doubt that God finds ways of making things happen!

Pauline Hess

Hello, fellow parishioners! My name is Pauline (Frankart) Hess. I graduated from St. Wendelin in 1967. Aubrey, my husband, and I have been married for 52 years, and God has blessed us with five children, soon-to-be 18 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Except for 24 years, we have lived in Tiffin. I worked in the Extended Day program at Calvert for 3 years. I am thankful to be back at St. Joe's, cleaning the rectory. God is good all the time.





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Return Service Requested

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all who supported our recent Jewelry For Missions jewelry sale! That includes all those who donated jewelry, paper and plastic bags, their time in cleaning jewelry, setting up and working the sale, promoting the sale and all those who visited the sale! Proceeds from this successful event support Calvert Catholic Schools and the Missions.

