

# The Intercom

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## Divine Inspiration of Christian Icons

By Reverend Anthony Coci

Much has transpired since my last Intercom article, and I find solace in thanking God for our safe pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Yet, my heart is heavy with sorrow as I reflect on the many good people ensnared in the ravages of war. Let us persevere in prayer for them and for the return of peace to their land. I cannot help but contemplate Our Lord, Jesus Christ, spending his entire earthly life in that sacred land, perhaps to fortify the faith of future generations.

Israel has long stood as a haven for those fleeing persecution, a refuge dating back to biblical times and enduring to this day. In the early twentieth century, Greek and Armenian Christians sought refuge in Israel, bringing with them meager possessions, often family heirlooms, and the essentials for starting anew. During our time in the Holy Land, we visited Christian establishments supporting these foreign Christian refugees. A Bethlehem shop owner shared a poignant detail—refugees, barred from taking money out of their countries, had it confiscated if they tried. To assist, the Church in those places sold or gave away artwork and icons to refugees, allowing them to pass inspection and sustain themselves.

Our church is privileged to house one such icon, a poignant image of the Holy Family crafted by a Greek monk and carried by Christian refugees to the Holy Land. The symbolism is striking, echoing the journey of the Holy Family themselves as refugees, fleeing from Herod to Egypt to protect the Christ Child.

Icons hold a sacred place in our Christian tradition, particularly in the Eastern Orthodox Church, where they are defined as windows into Heaven. The process of creating icons involves fasting and prayer until the iconographer receives divine inspiration. It is more than painting; it is an expression from the heart, a portrayal of what God has written on their souls. Icons are used for spiritual worship, inviting contemplation before the Word of God. While most icons depict closed mouths, the Our Lady of Bethlehem icon is an exception, radiating joy that invites us to participate in her magnification of the Lord.



The gifted icon of the Holy Family bears Greek inscriptions, revealing profound meanings. The letters beside St. Joseph read, “The Holy Joseph,” and the halo around the Christ Child bears the inscription “O-Ω-N,” signifying “He who is”—Moses’ answer from the LORD (Exodus 3:14-15). Jesus, the fulfillment of God’s revelation, holds a scroll, symbolizing the final judgment or his role as the Incarnate Word, left for the viewer to contemplate. His hand gestures symbolize the Trinity and the dual natures of Jesus, blessing those before him. Joseph, the protector, stands at the forefront, leaning in with Mary, who embodies both motherhood and wifely devotion. The letters “MP” and “ΘΥ” to the left denote “Mother of God.”

This icon will grace our church’s Transept Chapel, serving as a window into Heaven and radiating Divine Light. May it inspire future families to reflect on their calling, knowing that with the help of God they too can navigate the chaos of life, just as the Holy Family did.

As we approach Christmas and the New Year, I extend warm wishes to all—Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and onward, Christian soldiers!



## Christmas Mass Schedule

& Opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance

### Advent Community-Wide Penance Service

Sunday, December 17, 3:00 PM at St. Joseph 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 3:30 – 4:15 PM

### Mass Schedules

#### The Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:30 PM Saturday, December 23, 2023

9:30 AM Sunday, December 24, 2023

**Please note: There will be no 7:30 AM or 11:30 AM Masses on Sunday.**

#### Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

*The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil Masses*

4:00 PM Children's Mass

6:00 PM Family Mass

11:30 PM Christmas Carols by St. Joseph Choir

12:00 - Midnight Midnight Mass by Candlelight

#### Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

*The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass*

9:30 AM Mass (of Christmas Day)

#### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

4:30 PM Saturday, December 30, 2023

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Sunday, December 31, 2023

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

*Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.*

4:30 PM Sunday, December 31, 2023

**Please note: There will be no Masses on Monday, January 1, 2024.**

#### Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

4:30 PM Saturday, January 6, 2024

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Sunday, January 7, 2024

*Blessed chalk will be available for families to take home and mark their doorposts.*

*More details will be in that weekend's bulletin.*



## Welcome New Parishioners!

- Bailee Daughenbaugh
- Paige Day & son
- Lewis Fabrizio
- Nick & Ashley Garvin and family
- Elaine Sbelgio
- Pam Vadnais

## Recent Sacraments at St. Joseph Church

### Baptism

**Collins Jane Warnement.** Baptized on September 24, 2023. Daughter of Nicholas & Kaleigh (Hendrix) Warnement.

**Lexus Mikel Arcega.** Baptized September 30, 2023. Son of Danjee & Mary (Honrada) Arcega.

**Maryn Jo Holmer.** Baptized October 8, 2023. Daughter of Austin & Olivia (Frankart) Holmer.

**Nicholas Samuel Pardi.** Baptized October 15, 2023. Son of Vincent & Emily (Baumgardner) Pardi.

**Annaelyn Lyrika Saige Aguirre.** Baptized October 15, 2023. Daughter of Diego Aguirre and Chiara Powell.

**Elias King Day.** Baptized October 22, 2023. Son of Paige Day.

**Paige Marie Day.** Baptized October 22, 2023.



**Rowan Karlee Hepp.** Baptized October 22, 2023. Daughter of David & Haley (Kuhn) Hepp.

**Maela Rose Hepp.** Baptized October 22, 2023. Daughter of David & Haley (Kuhn) Hepp.

**Kohen Matthew Kurtz.** Baptized October 22, 2023. Son of Drew & Brooklyn (Brown) Kurtz.

**William Dexter Campbell.** Baptized October 29, 2023.



**Adelynn Joy Merrick.** Baptized October 29, 2023. Daughter of Justin & Judith (Capehart) Merrick.

**Benjamin Robert Merrick.** Baptized October 29, 2023. Son of Justin & Judith (Capehart) Merrick.

**Anthony James Merrick.** Baptized October 29, 2023. Son of Justin & Judith (Capehart) Merrick.

### First Communion

**Paige Marie Day.** October 22, 2023.

**Patrick Marshal Herron.** October 22, 2023.



**William Dexter Campbell.** October 29, 2023.

### Confirmation

**Paige Marie Day.** October 22, 2023.

**Patrick Marshal Herron.** October 22, 2023.

**William Dexter Campbell.** October 29, 2023.



## Weddings

**September 22, 2023.** Connor Brice Straits & Amber Lynn Perry

**October 7, 2023.** Joseph Raymond Hartzell & Sandra Marie Sherman



**October 28, 2023.** David Matthew Tooman & Corinne Marie Harris

**November 4, 2023.** Eric Roman Allgyre & Paige Ann Sturgill

## Funerals

**James F. Pentony, 86.** Died October 4, 2015.

**Frances N. Pentony, 88.** Died July 28, 2023.

**Richard L. Cramer, 79.** Died September 20, 2023.

**Kaye L. Irving, 75.** Died October 2, 2023.

**Mary Kay DenUyl, 95.** Died February 2, 2023.

**Jeanette V. Hoepf, 94.** Died October 11, 2023.

**Raymond M. Kimmert, 91.** Died October 14, 2023.

**Michael E. Kisabeth, 68.** Died October 17, 2023.

**Our Parish Office will be closed starting Friday, December 22, 2023 at noon through Tuesday, January 2, 2024. The office will reopen on Wednesday, January 3.**

All 2023 contributions need to be in by Thursday, December 21, 2023. Thank you for all you do to support our parish!

## Lessons & Carols 2023

All are invited to attend our first annual Lessons and Carols at St. Joseph Church on Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

Lessons and Carols has a long and rich tradition in our Christian heritage. In preparation for the great feast of Our Lord's Nativity, we have come together to hear the poetry of the ancient prophets and listen to the story of Christ's coming retold through Sacred Scripture and song. The form of this service is not fixed, but usually consists of seven scripture lessons interspersed with carols, hymns, and anthems. Its origin can be traced back to Christmas Matins from the Liturgy of the Hours of the Catholic Church and also the nine lessons read during the Advent Ember Saturday Mass.

We hope that this meditation is spiritually enlightening and efficacious in your Advent preparation for Christmas.



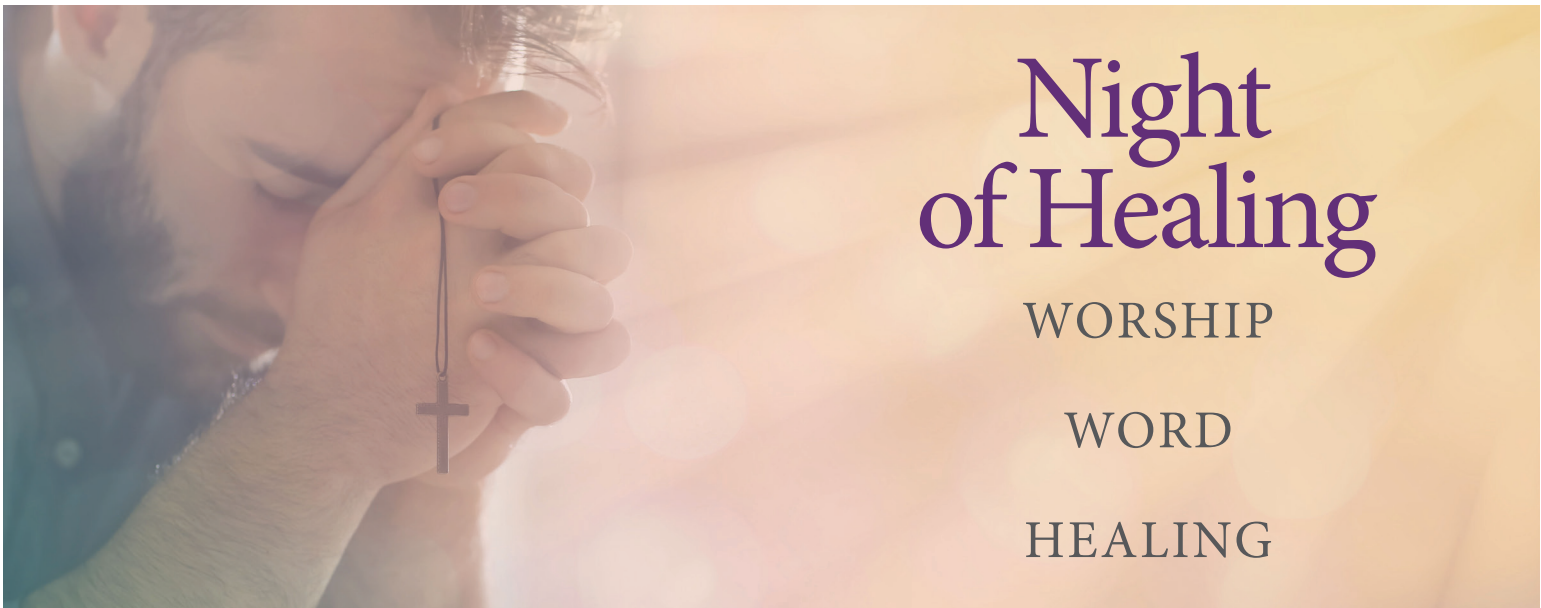
## Advent by Candlelight 2023

Please join us in the Upper Room of the Activity Center on Sunday, December 3, 2023 immediately following Lessons and Carols (approximately 6:00 PM) for a quiet candlelight dinner and reflections on the Glory and Grace of God that will fill us all with a spirit of Gratitude that will last far beyond the Holiday Festivities!!

Special Guest presenter Chuck Ritzler will speak about his recent travels to the Holy Land.

Dinner will feature Spaghetti and meatballs, Chicken alfredo, garlic bread and salad. Drinks will be provided with dinner. A nominal donation of \$3.00 is suggested. Guests are encouraged to bring a dessert to share.

We will have a jewelry raffle for 3 items Donated by Amy Recker of Inspirations to raise funds for Christmas Angels. You may RSVP to Lori Smith at lorismith1992@gmail.com, you can reserve single seats or tables of 8! Evening is limited to first 100 responses.



# Night of Healing

WORSHIP

WORD

HEALING

TUESDAY

JAN. 9

7:00 - 8:30 pm

### St. Joseph, Tiffin

36 Melmore St, Tiffin, OH 44883

Fr. Anthony Coci

Fr. James Brown

Fr. Kevin Moebius

ADORATION WITNESS RECONCILIATION

For more info call the Ministry to Catholic Charismatic Renewal 734-888-8197 or visit website: [www.mccrholyspirit.org](http://www.mccrholyspirit.org)



## Our “Saintly” Kindergarten Students

In early November, we celebrated All Saints Day at our school-wide Mass, continuing our tradition of Kindergarten saints! The Kindergarteners got dressed up as their favorite saints and shared fun facts about them with everyone—students, parents, and visitors included. We're thankful for the awesome celebration with Calvert Catholic Schools!



### 2024 Mass Intention Policy

By Jean Haren

Anyone interested in scheduling Mass intentions for 2024 may stop in or contact the parish office. The suggested donation for a Mass intention continues to be \$10

each or whatever amount the donor wishes to donate to the parish.

As a reminder, our new Mass Intention policy states that only 2 Mass Intentions (total) may be scheduled per year and only one of them may be scheduled during a Sunday or Saturday Vigil Mass. This is so that everyone has a chance to schedule a Mass on the weekend if they so choose. One other item to note is that Mass intentions for multiple different people are not permitted unless it is for a husband and wife, a family, or a group (i.e. All Souls in Purgatory).

The Mass Intention Schedule is subject to change for pastoral necessity, in which case we will attempt to contact the family to reschedule.

If you wish to read the full, detailed policy, copies are available in the parish office.

### Advent & Christmas Word Search

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

N	H	A	I	S	S	E	M	E	L	T	H	A	R
G	R	S	S	I	N	E	M	E	D	R	A	A	M
O	C	S	D	F	N	A	G	A	R	E	C	E	B
L	A	T	R	R	M	N	T	Y	N	E	P	S	E
D	N	A	E	A	A	W	M	I	L	G	T	L	T
E	D	R	H	N	K	S	I	N	V	E	E	S	H
C	L	T	P	K	N	H	A	S	H	I	V	R	L
I	E	N	E	I	I	O	B	P	E	L	T	E	E
O	S	E	H	N	P	L	O	S	P	M	L	Y	H
J	D	V	S	C	I	R	M	U	P	I	E	D	E
E	E	D	A	E	P	A	R	S	A	I	L	N	M
R	R	A	H	N	E	P	M	N	J	E	S	U	S
I	D	S	A	S	L	N	H	T	A	E	R	W	T
I	A	H	E	E	M	M	A	N	U	E	L	H	T



## Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

By Kris Wise

**Are you retired or close to retirement?** Several parishioners have asked about making Qualified Charitable Distributions to the Church. Please read below for an explanation of QCDs, if you are interested in this. This is a great way to donate to the church!

### What is a QCD?

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year, as long as certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.

Also, QCDs don't require that you itemize, which due to the recent tax law changes, means you may decide to take advantage of the higher standard deduction, but still use a QCD for charitable giving.

### Can I make a QCD?

While many IRAs are eligible for QCDs- Traditional, Rollover, Inherited, SEP (inactive plans only), and SIMPLE (inactive plans only) -there are requirements:

- You can't make a QCD directly from your 401(K), but you can roll over your funds to an IRA and then make a donation.
- You must be at least 70 1/2 or older to be eligible to make a QCD.
- QCDs are limited to the amount that would otherwise be taxed as ordinary income. This excludes non-deductible contributions.
- The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a QCD is \$100,000. This applies to the sum of QCDs made to one or more charities in a calendar year. (If, however, you file taxes jointly,

your spouse can also make a QCD from his or her own IRA within the same tax year for up to \$100,000.)

- For a QCD to count towards your current year's RMD, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.
- Contributing to an IRA may result in a reduction of the QCD amount you can deduct. (The aggregate amount of deductible IRA contributions you make to your IRA after you turn 70 1/2 will reduce the amount of the QCD that is not includible in your gross income.)

Any amount donated above your RMD does not count toward satisfying a future year's RMD.

Funds distributed directly to you, the IRA owner, and which you then give to charity do not qualify as a QCD.

Under certain circumstances, a QCD may be made from a Roth IRA. Roth IRAs are not subject to RMDs during your lifetime, and distributions are generally tax-free. Consult a tax advisor to determine if making a QCD from a Roth is appropriate for your situation.

Due to changes to federal law that took effect on January 1, 2023, the age at which you must begin taking RMDs differs depending on when you were born. If you reached age 72 on or before December 31, 2022, you were already required to take your RMD and must continue satisfying that requirement. However, if you had not yet reached age 72 by December 31, 2022, you must take your first RMD from your traditional IRA by April 1 of the year after you reached age 73.

### What kind of charities qualify?

The charity must be a 501 (c)(3) organization, eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.

Some charities do not qualify for QCDs:

- Private foundations
- Supporting organizations: i.e., charities carrying out exempt purposes by supporting other exempt organizations, usually other public charities
- Donor-advised funds, which public charities manage on behalf of organizations, families, or individuals.

### Tax Reporting

A QCD is reported as a normal distribution on IRS Form 1099-R for any non-Inherited IRAs. For Inherited IRAs or Inherited Roth IRAs, the QCD will be reported as a death distribution. Itemization is not required to make a QCD. While the QCD amount is not taxed, you may not then claim the distribution as a charitable tax deduction.

A QCD is not subject to withholding. State tax rules may vary, so for guidance, consult a tax advisor.

When making a QCD, you must receive the same type of acknowledgement of the donation that you would need to claim a deduction for a charitable contribution.

A tax advisor can help you determine if both your IRA and charity qualify for QCDs.

Always consult with your personal tax or investment advisor for recent changes to the requirements for QCDs.





## **St. Joseph Church**

**36 Melmore Street**

**Tiffin, OH 44883**

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## **Volleyball State Runner-Ups**

Congratulations to the Calvert Seneca Volleyball Team on a stellar season! The Calvert Senecas secured the title of OHSAA Division IV Volleyball State Runner-Ups, demonstrating their teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship. Way to go, Senecas!

