



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

— Those of us who are football fans probably enjoy seeing an underdog team do exceptionally well and exceed all expectations.

This is no truer than the University of Cincinnati. For many years its football program had been mid-level at best. This year, however, is a completely different story. The Bearcats will be playing in a major bowl game on New Year's Day. They will be counted among the elite programs of college football and gain all the national attention they deserve. Whether or not we are fans of U.C. football, I think we can all say "Go Bearcats!"

Turns out, the Old Testament is also fond of these "rags to riches" stories. A tiny, backwater town of Bethlehem is announced by the prophet Micah to be the source of a great leader, the Messiah. This dot-on-the-map, Bethlehem, is to rise not just to national prominence, but to universal importance in the whole history of salvation. Bethlehem was once the birthplace of King David, and now it becomes the birthplace of our new life with the King of kings and Lord of lords. How's that for rags to riches?

It was once said that to be Christian is to believe in the possibility of possibility. We can never abandon our hope in the possibilities that lie ahead – not only in this life, but in the life of the world to come. The entire history of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection bears witness to this. So does the history of the church, which also defied all odds. Christianity went from being a small, inconsequential religious movement to becoming the most adhered to religion in the world.

In these final days of Advent, let's open ourselves to God's possibilities for our lives. Let's not give in to doubt and despair, but look eastward toward Bethlehem, a sign of hope and new life for us and our world.

Fr. Mannebach

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 24, 4:00 p.m.

(prelude music beginning at 3:30 p.m. with the children's choir)

Thursday, December 24, 10:30 p.m.

(prelude music beginning at 10:00 p.m. with the adult and handbell choirs)

Friday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.

(prelude music beginning at 9:30 a.m. with the contemporary music ensemble)



DON'T MISS Holy Redeemer's first-ever 'Holy Redeemer's Got Talent' Christmas contest on Tuesday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. All are welcome. Check out the talents that will include

singing, magic, dancing, piano playing, poem reading, and gymnastics. Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place. The audience will determine the winner by placing money in the ballot boxes of the contestants. Money raised will be sent to the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem.



ASSISTANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED with decorating the church for Christmas – in assembling, testing lights, or just moving boxes and plants. Pre-decoration (taking down Advent

items, moving boxes from attic, assembling trees, testing lights) will take place on **Sunday, December 20 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass**. Decorating the church will take place on Monday, December 21 after the 7:00 p.m. Mass. If needed, final decorating will take place on Wednesday, December 23 at 7:00 p.m. Help is needed for any length of time. For more information, please call Jim Kaiser at 419-629-1337 or Shelli Parker at 419-629-4313.

VOCATION VIEWS – Mary trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled. Step out in faith and God will be there to guide you. (Luke 1:39-45)

OUR GIFT IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GIFT-

December 13 - \$4,562.56

Attendance – 871

Adults - \$3,986.00

High School - \$4.00

Grade School - \$19.50 Anonymous - \$553.06

Retirement Fund for Religious - \$2,328.05

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY:

CCD classes will not be held on Wednesdays, December 23 or 30.

CYO game on Sunday, December 20 will be boys' team vs. Sidney at Sidney, 1:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CARDS would be welcomed by former Holy Redeemer pastors and parishioners who live outside of New Bremen:

Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, P.O. Box 969,
Steubenville OH 43952-5969

Rev. James Trick, 2860 U.S. Route 127 Apt. 214,
Carthagen OH 45822-9591

Br. Gabriel Bridges, 2860 U.S. Route 127,
Carthagen OH 45822

Mrs. Lavera Scheblo, Mrs. Elmer Will, Mrs. Doris
Wissman and Mr. Martin Dabbelt are at
Heritage Manor, 24 North Hamilton Street,
Minster OH 45865

Mrs. Marie Killian, Mrs. Mary Ann Nieter, Mrs.
Louise Schwartz and Mrs. Elodie Sollman are at
Otterbein: 11300 Circle Drive, State Route
364, St. Marys, OH 45885

Mrs. Dorothy Bertke is at Briarwood Manor, 100
Desch Drive, Coldwater OH 45828-1567

Mr. Joseph Kettler, 13101 Infirmary Road,
Wapakoneta OH 45895

RADIO MARIA ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

PROGRAMMING – As a special gift to listeners, Radio Maria 88.7 FM WHJM (Anna), 1600 AM WULM (Springfield) and streaming live at www.radiomaria.us will be airing the following musical programs from this area:

Sunday, December 20:

7:30 p.m. Festival of Choirs, featuring the five parishes in the Marion Cluster, joined by St. Louis Church, North Star and St. Nicholas Church, Osgood, for a combined choir of over 100 voices under the direction of Paul Mizer, broadcast live from St. John the Baptist Church, Maria Stein

Christmas Day:

11:30 a.m. Rebroadcast of The Festival of Choirs

3:00 p.m. Christmas Concert recorded live at St. Augustine Church, Minster, featuring several choirs under the direction of Amy Noykos.

Radio Maria wishes their listeners a blessed Advent and Christmas season. Radio Maria...a Christian voice in the home.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE, Feast of the Holy Innocents, will be held on Monday, December 28 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Henry Catholic Church, 272 East Main Street, St. Henry, OH. Anyone – parent, sibling, relative – who has experienced the loss of a baby through miscarriage, abortion or stillbirth is encouraged to come and pray and be strengthened by God's love and mercy. Anyone else who would like to attend is also welcome to come and join in this memorial Mass.

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE will be at the Minster K of C Hall, 40 North Main Street, Minster, OH on Monday, December 21 from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. To make an appointment, call 800-GIVE-LIFE (800-448-3543). For more information, call Karen Jantzi at 419-227-5121. Walk-ins are welcome.

ENGAGED AND MARRIED COUPLES are invited to a new series of classes on the symptothermal method of fertility awareness that will begin on Saturday, January 9 from 9:30 – 11:45 a.m. at St. Remy's Hall, Russia, OH. Fertility awareness within the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church on marriage and family life can be faith-building, health-enhancing and marriage-strengthening as well as being an effective way to plan or postpone a pregnancy. For further information please visit the web site www.learn-nfp.org. To register, please visit the website www.ccli.org. For questions, please contact Kent & Heather Borchers at 419-733-4046 or Eric & Nicole Voisard at 937-526-3305.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

December 24, 25, 26 & 27

Thurs. 4:00 p.m.

Deacon G. Bornhorst – D. Albers – W. Albers – J. & L. Feltz
D. Pape – E. & J. Russell – K. Smith – S. Thieman – S. Wissman

Thurs. 10:30 p.m.

G. Dicke – J. & S. Elking – F. Frey – P. Harrod
D. & M.A. Keller – B. & S. McDermit – M. Subler – C. Wissman

Fri. 10:00 a.m.

Deacon G. Bornhorst – A. Borger – D. & J. Gehle
S. Homan – H. & P. Overman – A. Schwartz – B. Suchland

Sat. 5:00 p.m.

J. Berning – A. Elking – J. Homan – D. Kruse – L. Dwenger
C. Opperman – A. Speelman – C. Turner – L. Utz

Sun. 8:00 a.m.

D. Knapke – R. & R. Kremer
B. & R. Nickamp – J. & S. Thieman

Sun. 10:00 a.m.

L. Ahrns – F. Borchers – A. Flaute – M. Flaute – M. & S. Francis

L. & R. Rutschilling – L. Topp – M. Topp – A. Wellman

D. Meyer – B. Poeppelman – B. Phlipot

LECTORS:

December 24, 25, 26 & 27

Thurs. 4:00 p.m.

D. Dicke – G. Heitkamp

Thurs. 10:30 p.m.

J. Homan – D. Freeman

Fri. 10:00 a.m.

K. Bornhorst – D. Knapke

Sat. 5:00 p.m.

S. Bertke – M. Sommer

Sun. 8:00 a.m.

G. Topp – S. McDaniel

Sun. 10:00 a.m.

R. Tangeman – J. Eshelman

USHERS:

December 24, 25, 26 & 27

Thurs. 4:00 p.m.

G. Grevenkamp – T. Howell – K. McGlinch

T. Stachler – M. Varno

D. Champagne – L. Dicke – C. Griesdorn

G. Nosek – W. Steineman

Thurs. 10:30 p.m.

D. Anderson – S. Dwenger – J. Kremer

R. Niekamp – T. Wentz

R. Brandt – B. Kramer – J. Lehman

T. Wenning – R. Ziegenbusch

Fri. 10:00 a.m.

D. Alig – P. Heitkamp – L. Lane

M. McClurg – D. Steineman

R. Homan – M. Mueller – J. Niekamp

B. Parker – G. Wendeln

Sat. 5:00 p.m.

R. Homan – M. Mueller – J. Niekamp

B. Parker – G. Wendeln

Sun. 8:00 a.m.

R. Brandt – B. Kramer – J. Lehman

T. Wenning – R. Ziegenbusch

Sun. 10:00 a.m.

D. Alig – P. Heitkamp – L. Lane

M. McClurg – D. Steineman

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

December 27

Ginny Winner

COLLECTION COUNTERS – December 27

ACTIVITIES:

- Sun. - Communion to the Sick/Shut-ins by Ministers of Eucharist
- CCD for 3's, preschool and kindergarten during 10:00 a.m. Mass
- Ensemble sings during 10:00 a.m. Mass
- Children's Liturgy of the Word during 10:00 a.m. Mass
- Mon. - Anointing of the Sick during 7:00 p.m. Mass
- Adult choir rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.
- Tues. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Wed. - Children's choir rehearsal, 10:00 a.m. in church
- Thurs. - Children's choir sings for 4:00 p.m. Mass (prelude 3:30 p.m.)
- Adult and handbell choirs at 10:30 p.m. Mass (prelude 10:00 p.m.)
- Fri. - Ensemble sings during 10:00 a.m. Mass (prelude 9:30 a.m.)
- Sat. - Ensemble sings during 5:00 p.m. Mass (prelude 4:45 p.m.)
- Sun. - Communion to the Sick/Shut-ins by Ministers of Eucharist

MASSES:

December 19 to 27

- Sat. 5:00 p.m.** Mildred Wentz
Sun. 8:00 a.m. Ruth Wilker
10:00 a.m. Holy Redeemer Parish
Mon. 7:00 p.m. Mike Heitkamp
Tues. 8:30 a.m. Wilma Shelby
Wed. 12:05 p.m. Louis Elking
Thurs. 4:00 p.m. Holy Redeemer Parish
Thurs. 10:30 p.m. Marcia Timmerman
Fri. 10:00 a.m. Christine Showalter
Sat. 5:00 p.m. Ed Phlipot
Sun. 8:00 a.m. Holy Redeemer Parish
10:00 a.m. Clarence & Gertie Topp

SERVERS:

December 21 to 27

- Mon. 7:00 p.m.**
L. Heitkamp – H. Lane
Thurs. 4:00 p.m.
C. Albers – A. Feltz
Thurs. 10:30 p.m.
K. Homan – O. Meyer – C. Paul
Fri. 10:00 a.m.
C. Heitkamp – R. Selby – M. Thieman
Sat. 5:00 p.m.
T. Homan – C. Topp – V. Wentz
Sun. 8:00 a.m.
N. Homan – D. Webster
Sun. 10:00 a.m.
E. Francis – E. Niekamp – J. Wellman

PARISH REPRESENTATIVES:

December 24, 25, 26 & 27

- Thurs. 4:00 p.m.** Scott & Tiziana Frey family
Thurs. 10:30 p.m. Steve & Fran Frey
Fri. 10:00 a.m. David & Ginny Friemering
Sat. 5:00 p.m. Paul & Eileen Froehlich
Sun. 8:00 a.m. Clark & Juli Froning
Sun. 10:00 a.m. Mark & Renae Gaerke

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, SUNDAY,

DECEMBER 27

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Luke 2:41-52

- CCD for 3's, preschool and kindergarten during 10:00 a.m. Mass
- Adult choir sings during 10:00 a.m. Mass (prelude 9:45 a.m.)
- Children's Liturgy of the Word during 10:00 a.m. Mass



Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Luke 1:41, 42, 45