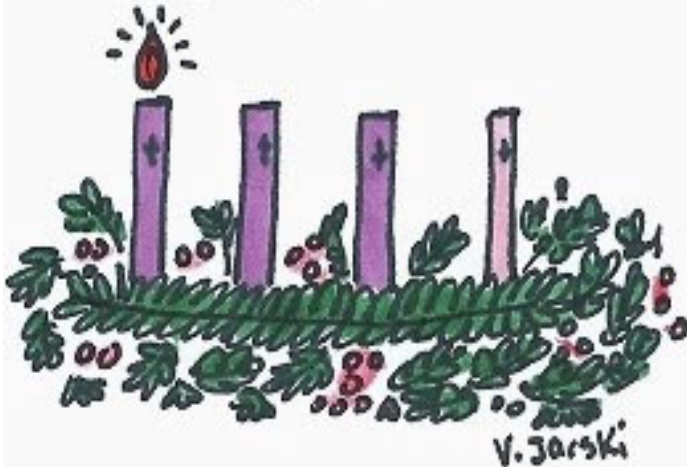


# First Sunday of

# ADVENT



## Parish Staff

Father Stephen L. Shields..... Pastor  
 Mrs. Heather Centifanti.....Office Manager  
 Mr. Michael Chutes.....Custodian

## Communications

Parish Office..... 440-949-7744  
 Office Fax..... 440-949-8611  
 Office Address.....521 Harris Road, Sheffield Lake  
 Email .....sthomas62@centurytel.net  
 Parish Website:.....saintthomaschurch.net  
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintthomaschurchohio  
 Twitter: .....Stthomas715  
 PSR/Kim & David Gray.....440-714-4007  
 Confirmation/John & Kathy Mack.....440-242-8683  
 RCIA/Chris Selent.....440-864-5792  
 CYO/Jim O'Connor.....440-949-2631  
 Grismer Hall/Gym.....440-949-8491  
 Funeral Luncheon/Dave.....440-670-0204

## Parish Cluster Contacts

St. Anthony...www.stanthonylorain.parishesonline.com  
 1305 East Erie Ave. Lorain 44052 (440) 288-0106  
 St. Teresa.....http://www.sttereasparish.com  
 1878 Abbe Rd. Sheffield Village 44054 (440) 934-4227

## Our Honored Former Pastors

+Fr. Raymond J. Grismer 1960-1962  
 +Fr. Urban A. Reichlin 1962-1968  
 +Fr. Claude J. Gaebelein 1968-1981  
 +Fr. John J. McCaffrey 1981-1998

St. Thomas the Apostle Church is fully accessible  
 No Steps, No Stairs, No Ramps

## St. Thomas the Apostle

715 Harris Road \* Sheffield Lake \* Ohio \* 44054-1409

**December 2, 2018**

## First Sunday of Advent

Masses: Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM  
 Sunday: 9:00 and 11:00 AM  
 Monday through Saturday: 9:00 AM

Confession: Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45 PM  
 or by appointment

Baptism: Sunday: 12:30 PM  
 Parent Pre-Baptismal Class required

Marriage: At least one member must be a parishioner  
 Contact the Office at least six months  
 before the tentative date is set

Home Communion: Notify the Parish Office

Funeral: Arrangements with the Parish Office must be  
 made before publication. Hall rental and Funeral Luncheons  
 available. Call Dave 440-670-0204 for food list and pricing.

Membership: Call the Office when you arrive. If you are  
 moving, or turn 18 years of age contact us

Sick Calls: Communion for shut-ins and hospital  
 visitation notify the Parish Office

Parish Office Hours: Monday-closed  
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday-9:00 AM-4:00 PM  
 Friday-9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Information/insert for the bulletin must be in the Parish Of-  
 fice by Wednesday at 4:00 PM to make the following week.

**St. Thomas Mission Statement:** We are a Catholic  
 Community guided by the Holy Spirit. Inspired by our liturgy  
 and communal prayer, we reflect Jesus as servants, teachers  
 and leaders building the kingdom of God.

## Holy Days of Obligation

Immaculate Conception	December 8, 2018
Christmas	December 25, 2018
The Solemnity of Mary	January 1, 2019
The Assumption of Mary	August 15, 2019
All Saints	November 1, 2019

## Diocese of Cleveland

Website:.....www.dioceseofcleveland.org  
 Phone.....800-869-6525  
 Address.....1404 E. 9th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44114

## Mass Schedule

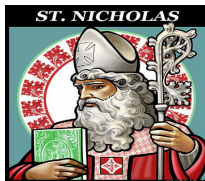
### Weekly Intention: Waiting for a Savior

**Sunday December 2, 2018**  
**1st Sunday of Advent**  
 9:00 AM Frank Szalay Jr.  
 11:00 AM Ken Hicks  
 2nd Collection: Loose Change



**Monday December 3, 2018**  
**St. Francis Xavier**  
 9:00 AM Sciarappa & Fragassi Family

**Tuesday December 4, 2018**  
**St. John Damascene**  
 9:00 AM Blas Garza



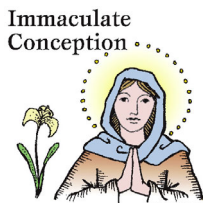
**Wednesday December 5, 2018**  
 9:00 AM Blas Garza

**Thursday December 6, 2018**  
**St. Nicholas**  
 9:00 AM Rivenbark & Fields Family

**Friday December 7, 2018**  
**St. Ambrose**  
**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**



9:00 AM Robert Bayus  
**Saturday December 8, 2018**  
**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**



9:00 AM Thomas C. Copeland  
 4:00 PM St. Thomas Parishioners

**Sunday December 9, 2018**  
**2nd Sunday of Advent**  
 9:00 AM L/D Holy Name  
 11:00 AM St. Thomas Parishioners  
 2nd Collection: Retired Religious  
 Lectionary Year: "C"

### Pre-Baptismal Classes-2018

No December Class  
 January 15 St. Joseph-6:30 PM (440) 933-3152  
 February 17 St. Thomas-12:30 PM (440) 949-7744

New and expecting parents are required to attend a class before scheduling a baptism at their church of Worship.

**St. Thomas Prayer Lines** Call, a friendly voice is on the other end.(440)-865-9387 or (440)-949-7548.



**Help Protect Life** Cleveland Right to Life needs volunteers. Call 216-661-3000.

**E-mail Bulletins** add your e-mail address to your Sunday envelope. Keep up on weekly news and upcoming events.

**St. Thomas the Apostle Church is Kid Friendly**

**Gospels of the Week:**  
 Thursday Mt 7:21, 24-27  
 Monday Mt 8:5-11 Friday Mt 9:27-31  
 Tuesday Lk 10:21-24 Saturday Lk 1:26-38  
 Wednesday Mt 15:29-37 Sunday Lk 3:1-6

### Weekly Collection Goal \$5,000.00

November 18, 2018	\$3,175.00
Thanksgiving	\$482.00
November 25, 2018	\$4,234.34

Thank you for your generous and continued support.  
 Please remember St. Thomas Parish in your Will.

### St. Thomas News/Events

December 2-Confirmation Class  
 December 3-PSR  
 December 3-Quilt Ministry  
 December 5-Music Club  
 December 8-Country Christmas  
 December 9-Communal Penance Service  
 December 9-Coffee & Donuts  
 December 9-Confirmation Class



**Country Christmas Concert & Dinner** is Saturday December 8th in Grismer Hall featuring Allie Colleen. Tickets are still available by calling Michelle (440)670-1931 or the Parish Office (440) 949-7744. Cost is \$30.00

**Retirement Religious Fund** is December 8-9th. This collection distributes immediate needs among the elder members of our religious community. Share in the care and give to those who have given a lifetime.

**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** is Saturday, December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation and Mass is at 9 AM.

**3 Parish Communal Penance Service** is Sunday, December 9th at St. Thomas Church at 2:00 PM. This is the only special scheduled confession service for Advent. Regular confessions are every Saturday from 3-3:45 PM or by appointment.

**Giving Tree** Take a card, purchase the gift, wrap the gift, attach the card and return to the tree. Deadline is December 16th for proper delivery.

### Liturgical Schedule

**Saturday, December 8-4:00 PM**

C-J Ritter L-P Dietz  
 EM-J Ritter, R Zaborski, P Dietz  
 C-A & J Balmert  
 S-C & E Balmert

**Sunday, December 9-9:00 AM**

C-R Kirsch L-J Mack  
 EM-Holy Name  
 C-Holy Name  
 S-H Centifanti, W Holley

**Sunday, December 9-11:00 AM**

C-M Fairweather L-J Houlihan  
 EM-J Kelly, E Moussa, N Olitsky  
 C-S Brunkow, S Helman  
 S-M Fairweather



## Thank You

...to those who have donated to the Homeless Shelter.

**St. Thomas Church** is in need of Lectors, Readers, Eucharist Ministers and Servers. Please consider helping out at the Mass you regularly attend. The feeling of participating deeper into the Mass is so rewarding in many ways.



**The Promise of Justice** We are in fairly good company when we ask God for justice. Often enough we hear and agree with the lament of the people of Israel asking God why the wicked prosper. However, when we call out for justice, we usually want someone to get his or her comeuppance. God's justice is something other than this, of course. God's justice comprises a wonderful rightness between God and humankind. Today, Jeremiah looks ahead to a time when a just one will sprout from the shorn-off stump of Jesse of the house and family of David. Life was not fair in Jeremiah's time. Israel's kings held the promise of God's fidelity, but it was difficult to see how God's promise could be realized through them. Nevertheless, Jeremiah lifts his voice and announces that the Promised One will come. Luke's Gospel echoes that announcement, and Paul is filled with sturdy encouragement. And so Advent begins with a promise.



**1st Sunday of Advent *Watching for the Lord***  
 "You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near." How might I be attentive to God's presence with me this Advent?

## Catholic Radio Stations

1220 AM-WHKW Radio The Word  
 1260 AM-The Rock  
 1060 AM-Living Bread



<http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/catholicradio>

'Table Talk' radio show featuring Bishop Perez on AM 1260 The Rock, Cleveland's Catholic radio station. Visit: [1260AMtherock.com](http://1260AMtherock.com) for times and dates.

**EWTN**-Is a Catholic news, television and radio network which offers news from around the world as it happens. [www.ewtnnews.com](http://www.ewtnnews.com) Check EWTN for Mass schedule. Televised Sunday Mass-Channel 8 at 6:00 AM. For those who can get to church, the TV or online liturgy does not fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation.

## Weekly Parish Events

December 2-Confirmation Class	Grismer Hall	9-11:15 AM
December 3-PSR	Grismer Hall	6:15-7:30 PM
December 3-Quilt Ministry	Room #2	7-8 PM
December 5-Music Club	Church	7-8:00 PM
December 3-5 CYO	Grismer Hall	3:30-9:00 PM
December 6-8-Country Christmas		9 AM-11 PM
December 9-Coffee & Donuts	Church Library	10:00 AM
December 9-Confirmation Class	Grismer Hall	9-11:15 AM
December 9-Communal Penance	Church	2-4:00 PM

## Family Perspectives

This time of year we become more conscious of our family as we make preparations for cards, gifts and visits. Today's gospel warns us not to get "weighted down" by activity. "Take heed to yourselves" during Advent and devote yourself to appreciate the gifts of those who are already an important part of your life. The greatest gift this season might be the true appreciation of Christ in others.

## Events Around Town



**A Christmas Concert** with the Daughters of St. Paul Choir is Wednesday, December 12, 2018, at 7:00 PM at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 1007 Superior Avenue, Cleveland. The concert is free and open to all. No tickets or reservations required. Free parking. Call: 216-696-6525 x5510 or email: [gheisman@dioceseofcleveland.org](mailto:gheisman@dioceseofcleveland.org).

**First Friday Forum** December 7, 2018, 11:30 - 1:00 PM at LCCC Spitzer Conference Center, Elyria, Ohio. Speaker is Deacon David Mayer "Kairos: A Prison Ministry that Succeeds" \$18/person; RSVP to 244-0643 by 12/3/18.

**Chaplain Services for Prisons and Jails** located in the Diocese of Cleveland. Call the Parish Life Office at 800-869-6525 or 216-696-6525 x 3500. The Diocesan Ministry to the Incarcerated has a presence in the three state prisons, the county jails and the juvenile facilities located within our diocese we would be glad to visit with them.

**Boxes from Home** St. Vincent de Paul sends boxes to our military people. Call Dorothy at 984-2192 with your soldier's information and they will send a box!



**Bulletin Ad Campaign** Our Bulletin Advertising Representative is working on a 2018 Ad Campaign. Call 440-382-2805 to include an ad or recommend a business.



**Pregnant and in need?** call 1-800-712-HELP. Visit [OptionLine.org](http://OptionLine.org)  
**Homeless and pregnant?** Call Good Counsel Homes, 1-800-723-8331 or visit [www.goodcounselhomes.org](http://www.goodcounselhomes.org).  
**Hurting from an abortion?** Visit us online at [www.AbortionForgiveness.com](http://www.AbortionForgiveness.com).

**Give the Gift of Time: Volunteer** Cornerstone of Hope has opportunities to use your talents and skills as well as offer group team building projects. Help ranges from weekly commitments to once a year help for programs and events. Contact [rachel@cornerstoneofhope.org](mailto:rachel@cornerstoneofhope.org)

## Parish Cluster Events

**St. Teresa:** Eucharist Adoration is every Wednesday from 9 AM-1 PM in the Church.  
**St. Anthony:** Rosary's for Unborn is said the first Saturday of each month from 10 AM-3:30 PM.