

## Calendar

Monday

December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17 or

Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

Lk 1:26-38

or Lk 1:39-47

Tuesday

December 13

St. Lucy,

Virgin and Martyr

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13

Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday

December 14

St. John of the Cross,

Priest and

Doctor of the Church

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25

Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday

December 15

Advent Weekday

Is 54:1-10

Lk 7:24-30

Friday

December 16

Advent Weekday

Is 56:1-3a, 6-8

Jn 5:33-36

Saturday

December 17

Advent Weekday

Gn 49:2, 8-10

Mt 1:1-17

Sunday

December 18

Fourth Sunday

of Advent

Is 7:10-14

Rom 1:1-7

Mt 1:18-24

# Dear Padre,

**When I was younger, my faith was very important; but lately I don't feel that closeness to God. Is this a crisis of faith?**

**H**ow has your life changed since childhood? Do you feel, react, and appreciate things today as you did then? Spirituality is an ordinary part of human experience, and I hope you discover that the God of your youth, although remembered fondly, is not the God of your adult experience.

Many adults discover that their understanding, decisions, and behaviors have expanded and matured. In the interplay of the demands of society and culture, we are forced to grow and develop. What worked for us as a child of five is not usually what we would choose today.



HARRY EUGENE / SHUTTERSTOCK

In the spiritual journey, we are not so much forced but invited to grow and mature. Some people miss the invitation and get stuck in a rut.

They may cling to childlike images of God and still expect such images to serve them well. The consequences of this are not easily recognized until moments of crisis or dramatic change, when the result is often reflected by the question, "Where is God?"

So it's not so much a crisis of faith but a realization of the desire to pursue (again) the spiritual journey. Begin to relate to God as an adult. Use your skills and knowledge to build a new relationship with God, the Church, and the community of believers.

You will discover a living faith, an experience of God, that is important and meaningful for you now.

From *Dear Padre: Questions People Ask*, Liguori, 2003  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



## A Word From Pope Francis

"God loves us and that is why he is with us....Thanks to his help, we can always begin again....We are able to open our eyes again, to overcome sadness and mourning to strike up a new song."

—Angelus, December 15, 2013



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 11, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10

Jas 5:7-10

Mt 11:2-11

## Be Strong and Fear Not

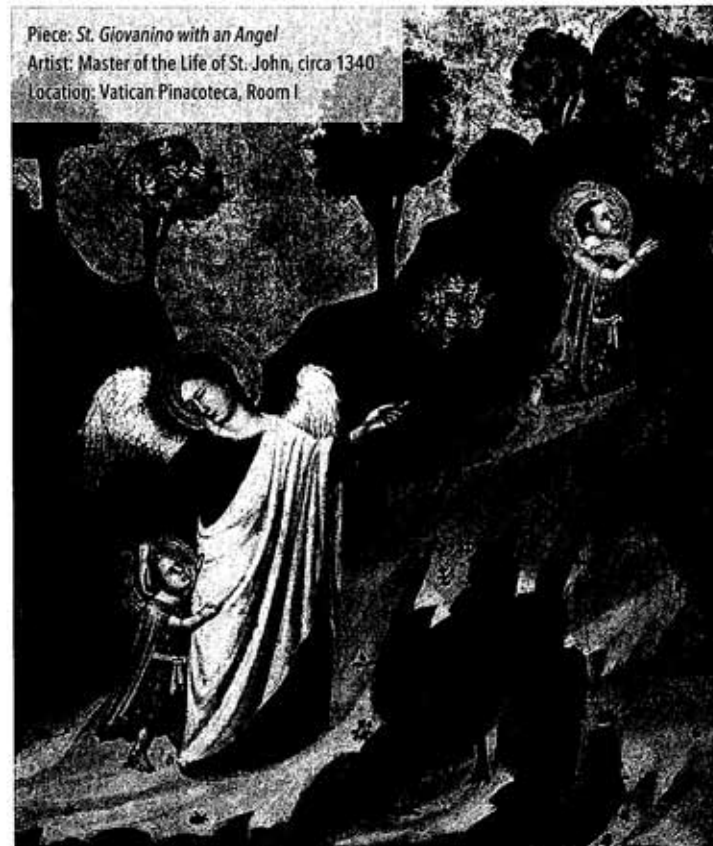
**J**ohn came to announce a savior, but in his difficult imprisonment, he and his disciples began to wonder if the one he announced was truly the one. It is easy to doubt when difficulty comes our way and life doesn't treat us as we think we deserve.

In this painting, a young John the Baptist is accompanied by an angel who points up the hill. John is shown kneeling in prayer, referencing the months he spent in the desert preparing himself as well as preaching conversion. Even with this long and fruitful preparation, John's heart is tempted to doubt. Yes, even saints struggle.

John sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the Messiah. It does us much good to bring our concerns and doubts to Jesus directly! Jesus responds as he often does. Rather than just answer, "I am he"—which could easily be considered an empty claim—he invites them to look at the evidence. He fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 35:5: "The eyes of the blind shall see, and the ears of the deaf be opened," the poor shall find a new reason to hope.

Jesus' mission is to change lives and to save us from the blindness of egoism, the deafness of a hardened heart, and the closed mind that cannot accept the other. He is the savior of those who let themselves be saved.

Piece: St. Giovanino with an Angel  
Artist: Master of the Life of St. John, circa 1340  
Location: Vatican Pinacoteca, Room I



Saint James' exhortation could have been meant for John the Baptist or anyone who finds it hard to persevere in trusting and following Jesus: "You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand" (5:8).

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

## For Reflection

What doubts about God arise in my heart?  
How do I deal with these moments of uncertainty?

*"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"  
(Matthew 11:3).*



# St. James Church

**Monsignor Robert Kawa, Pastor**

**Fr. Tim Kozak, Parochial Vicar**

Rectory/Office 740-962-2856 St. Bernard's phone 740-984-2555

257 E Bell Avenue McConnellsville, OH 43756

Parish Website: [StJamesMcConnellsville.org](http://StJamesMcConnellsville.org)

E-Mail: [contact@StJamesMcConnellsville.org](mailto:contact@StJamesMcConnellsville.org)

## Love God. Love Neighbor. Make Disciples.

*Sacrament of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick: Call Fr. Bob or Fr. Tim*

*Sacrament of Matrimony: Call the rectory six months in advance*

*Sacrament of Baptism: Call the rectory three months in advance*

### Mass Schedule

Saturday – 6 PM    Sunday – 9 AM    Wednesday – 9 AM    Holy Days – To be announced

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE

#### **Lectors:**

This week: Sat: S. Roberts; Sun: K. Huck

Next week: Sat: H. Huck; Sun: K. Huck

#### **Extraordinary Ministers of Communion**

This week: Sat: J. Hatem; Sun: L. Schaad

Next week: Sat: S. Olszewski ; Sun: H. Schaad

#### **Servers:**

This week: Sat: C. Hatem; Sun: J. Schaad

Next week: Sat: K. Fisher; Sun: M. Huck

#### **Greeters:**

This week: Sat: Joe and Carol Hatem

Sun: Bill and Mary Goode

Next week: Sat: Paul Wickham

Sun: Paula Lacy

#### **Ushers:**

Dec: Sat: George Kenney and volunteer

Sun: Mike Huck and volunteer

### **Financial Information:**

Regular Collection                      \$1,287

**Parish Secretary**    *Annette Schaad 740-559-3944*

**Bulletin**                      *Julia Quaintance 740-962-2532*  
*[jquaint@wildblue.net](mailto:jquaint@wildblue.net)*

**Parish Council**                      *Mike Huck 740-962-4623*

**Prayer Network**    *Nancy Chandler 740-962-3179*  
*Irene Eckert 740-559-3743*  
*or [dieckert@centurylink.net](mailto:dieckert@centurylink.net)*  
*Harriet Huck 740-962-3941*

**Social Concerns**    *Harriet Huck 740-962-3941*  
*Sheila Olszewski 740-962-6444*

**CWC President**                      *Pat Hambel 740-962-2214*

**KrogerCommunityRewards.com**    *Joe Hatem*  
*740-559-3770*

## Third Sunday of Advent

Dec. 10-11, 2016

### Announcements

1. This weekend's second collection is for retired Religious. Your contribution helps senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have offered their lives in service to others.
2. All women of the parish are invited to the CWC Christmas party Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. The festivities start with a luncheon at 12:30. In lieu of buying Christmas gifts, participants are invited to bring a wrapped "white elephant" (used, but still useful) item for a fun gift exchange. Those attending are also asked to bring Christmas wrap and a monetary donation to be given to Morgan County United Ministries (MCUM).
3. Available at the back of the church:
  - *The Word Among Us*
  - *Daybreaks for Advent*
  - Church envelopes
  - Calendars for 2017
  - Notes from the recent Parish Council meeting
4. Last call for Christmas Memorial Flowers (Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>) and candy orders benefitting *Mary's House* (Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>).
5. The Habitat for Humanity's Christmas Auction will be held on Sunday beginning at 4 pm. The entry from St. James looks great! See pictures on the parish website.
6. Calling all volunteers! The church will be decorated for the Christmas season after Mass (10am) on Dec.18<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who wants to help is welcome. As in any task, "Many hands make light work."
7. Handel's Messiah will be presented Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at Central Trinity UM Church, 62 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Zanesville. Time: 6pm.

### Mass Intentions



**Sat., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**

**José Delgado**

*Requested by Fr. Tim*

**Sun., Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Robert Lacy**

*Requested by Joe and Carol Hatem*

**Wed., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Liz Garn**

*Requested by Lu Eagon*

### Penance Services

**Mon., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Lowell**

**Tues., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Beverly**

**Wed., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Marietta**

**Thurs., Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Belpre**

**Fri., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>**

**McConnellsville**

All Penance Services begin at 7:00pm.

### **KrogerCommunityRewards.com**

Previous total                                      \$21,635.36

Aug., Sept., Oct., 2016                                      \$260.26

Total to date    \$21,895.62

*Dig out that little Kroger card during this holiday season and shop to help St. James. Thank you!*

