

We've got some big news!

Since you're reading this, you already know what the Epistle is: a weekly source of good news and events from around the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. And while we're proud of the Epistle, we also strive to continuously improve our content and how we reach the people of our Archdiocese. To that end, our team has been working diligently to evaluate our digital offerings, and explore ways we can help readers grow in their faith.

We are excited to tell you about two new offerings from The Catholic Telegraph that will launch after the beginning of the new year:

The Daily Divina contains inspiration derived from the day's Scripture readings. The Ember is a weekly email that delivers all the news and events you need to feel connected and inspired by what's going on in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Look for these new offerings to begin in early January.

In the meantime, we will suspend our email service to you over the next two weeks as we focus our time on getting our new email offerings just right.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thanks for being a reader. We can't wait for you to see what we have in store for you in 2020!

Thank you and God bless,
The Catholic Telegraph team



EVENTS

LIFE SIZE NATIVITY WITH FARM ANIMALS AND HUNDREDS OF NATIVITY SETS, NOW – JANUARY 1

St. Francis Seraph Courtyard, Downtown Cincinnati, 1-7PM; International Christmas Display including a miniature London Village, St. Nicholas and Santa Clause scenes, a train, and more! , Franciscan Friars, Christian Moerlein Events Center, Downtown, Cincinnati: Weds-Thus 4-10M, Fri 4-11PM, Sat Noon -11pm, and Sun 1-6PM.

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL'S MESSIAH SECTIONS I AND III

JANUARY 8, 7:30-9:30PM

The oratorio will be performed by the St. William choir, soloists, and the Cincinnati Metropolitan Orchestra, under the direction of Music Director, Mr. Dave Allen. No charge for the performance; a free-will offering will be accepted at the door. St. William Church, Cincinnati

MASS AND HEALING SERVICE

JANUARY 8, 7-8:30PM.

Healing includes the physical, spiritual, emotional, psychological, and relational aspects of our lives; it is not limited to a physical cure. You can receive prayer for yourself or for those you care about. Lighthouse at St. Ignatius Parish, Renewal Center, Monfort Heights [Click here](#) for more information.

ARCHDIOCESE ADVENT CALENDAR 2019

[Check out](#) all the opportunities to make this a joyful advent!

THE ANGELICO PROJECT: TANGLED THE MOVIE WITH CATHOLIC ANALYSIS

JANUARY 10, 7-10PM

Presented by Joan Ratajczak. The movie is about the familiar fairy tale of Rapunzel. It is actually an allegorical story of the Christian life. Whether it was intentional by the scriptwriters or not, this enjoyable film is loaded with symbolism to be discovered and discussed. Come to hear an overview of Christian symbolism in fairy tales, see the movie, and share insights on the timeless truths of our faith featured in this fine film.

Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, Norwood

RETROUVAILLE – A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES JANUARY 10-12 WEEKEND

Retrouvaille is a Catholic sponsored, confidential program open to couples of all faiths. It offers a chance to rediscover yourself and your spouse. It is for couples that have experienced a breakdown in communication, become unloving, uncaring, thinking of separation or divorce or who are separated.

[Click here](#) for more information and location.

MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT – CINCINNATI ARCHDIOCESE JANUARY 10-12

Open to men of college age and older who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood. There is no cost. The retreat is filled with practical conferences and with ample opportunities for silent reflection.

Holy Spirit Center, Norwood

For more information, please contact [Reverend Dan Schmitmeyer](#)

CATHOLIC

WORLD

NEWS

WHAT A SUPER MAN!

Knight of Columbus brings more than clean water to Guatemalans

SECRETS ARE NO FUN

Pope Francis says no more secrecy obligation for those who report having been abused

FATHER IS GOING AS FAST AS HE CAN!

New study finds Catholic homilies shortest of all denominations.

[Click on any headline to read more](#)

"old age is a time of grace."

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On the eve of his 83rd birthday, Pope Francis met with a group of his peers — although many were a few years younger — and told them "Grandparents, who have received the blessing of seeing their children's children, are entrusted with a great task: transmitting the experience of life and the history of the family, the community, the people," the pope said Dec. 16 during an audience with members of the Italian National Association of Senior Workers. The association represents workers with at least 20 years of seniority in a company, defending the rights of older workers and promoting volunteer service by older people. Pope Francis, who was born Dec. 17, 1936, told association members that one's later years should be a "season of dialogue," because "the future of a people naturally presupposes a dialogue and encounter between the old and young to build a society that is more just, more beautiful, has more solidarity and is more Christian."



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**MATTHEW 1: 18-24**

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.

When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.

Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.

Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her.

She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
And they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us."*

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

GOSPELS & SAINTS

BL. ANTHONY GRASSI

1592-1671

DECEMBER 18

After making a miraculous recovery after being struck by lightning, Blessed Anthony Grassi felt that his life belonged entirely to God. As a priest, he was known for his intelligence and was sometimes called a 'walking dictionary'. He was known as an outstanding confessor, being simple and direct with his penitents. He was a quiet and gentle person, but kept his religious order constitutions literally and encouraged great discipline amongst the other members of his order. Blessed Grassi died of old age, after suffering from his failing health. In his last days, the Archbishop himself brought him Holy Communion every single day.

