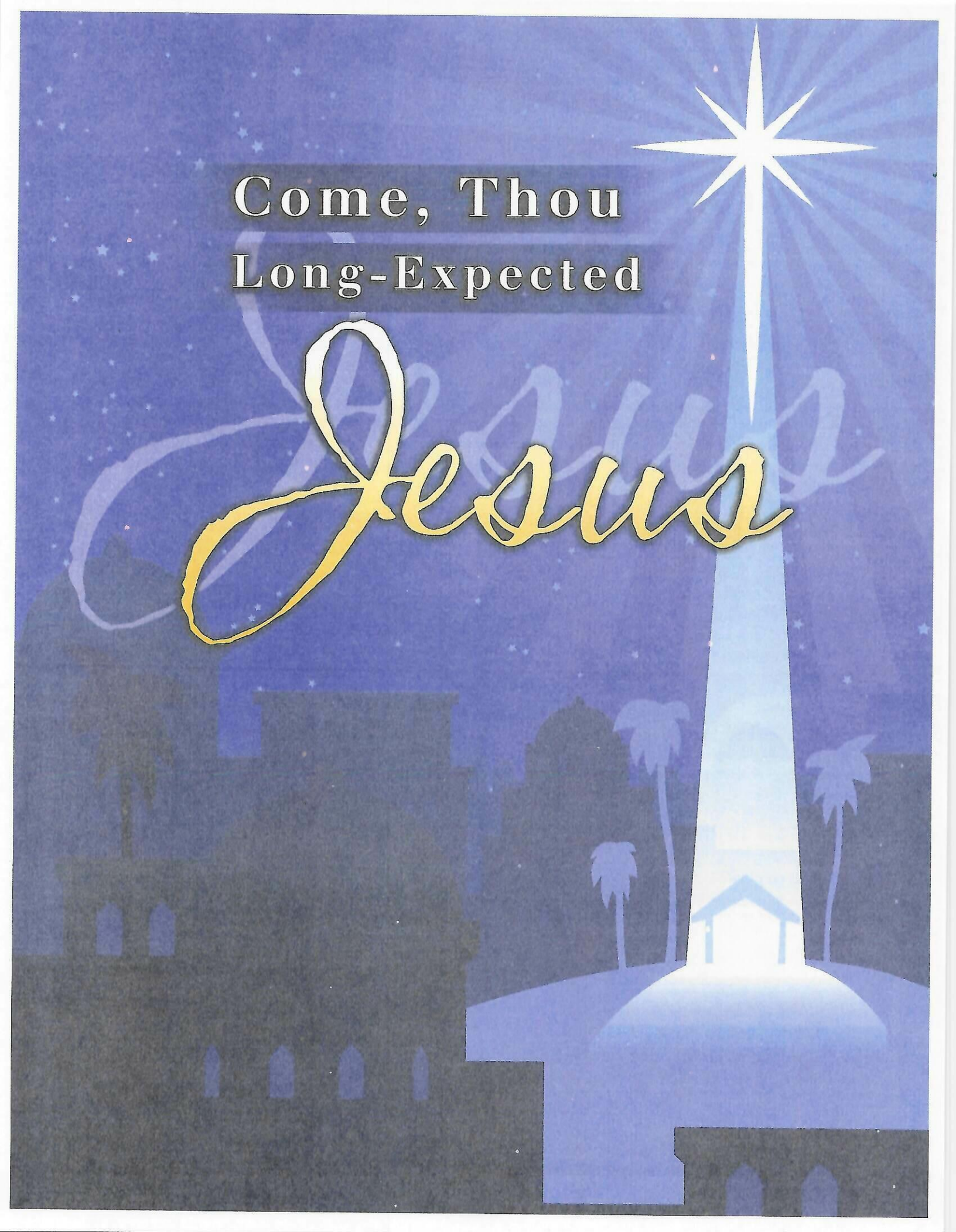


Come, Thou
Long-Expected

Jesus





SACRED HEART of JESUS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

✧ Bethlehem • Founded 1833 ✧

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas 2025



Tuesday

6:30 pm - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: For the Living & Deceased of the Jacob Gosser Family

Wednesday **Christmas Eve**

4:30 pm - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: Ron & Barb Finnegan; Jeff Belcik

7:00 pm - Mass at St. Joseph

Mass Intention: Living & Deceased of St. Joseph Parish

Thursday **Christmas Day**

8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: John Metzger; Norbert & Dorothy Blum

10:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph

Mass Intention: Gladys Burkhart; Charles Marek; Deacon Joe & Sandy Burkhart

Friday

NO Mass at St. Joseph

Saturday

3:30 pm - Confession at SHJ

4:30 pm - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: For the People of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Parishes

Sunday

Holy Family

7:00 am - Mass at St. Joseph

Mass Intention: Charles Marek

8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: Bob Niese; Richard Vogt; Dennis Markwell

10:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph

Mass Intention: Jerry & Josie Dunn; Gladys Burkhart

Greetings Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the final step in our journey toward Christmas. The first three candles have reminded us of hope, peace, and joy—but now we light the final candle, the Candle of Love. Its flame tells us that God's love is not an idea or a feeling, but a Person who draws close to us.

As we enter these last days before Christmas, we are invited to slow down—even just for a moment—and imitate Mary and Joseph. Where is God asking us to trust? Where is He inviting us to welcome His love? Sometimes His arrival is quiet, almost hidden, but His presence transforms everything.

May these final days of Advent draw us deeper into God's love and prepare our hearts to celebrate the wondrous gift of Emmanuel—God with us.

Remember our Christmas Mass times!

Wednesday December 24th Christmas Eve Masses:

4:30pm Sacred Heart

7pm St. Joseph

Thursday December 25th Christmas morning Mass times:

8:30am Sacred Heart

10:30am St. Joseph

Love draws near!

**In Christ,
Fr. Jeff**

*Merry
Christmas*

December 24 & 25 Ministers



MUSIC MINISTER

Children's Choir

SERVERS

Louie Rietschlin

Blaise Metzger

OFFERTORY

Molly Belcik Family

EXTRAORDINARY

MINISTERS

Deacon Steve, Lisa Myers

Megan Ratliff

USHERS

Cory Myers & Robert Bell

LECTOR

Molly Belcik

MUSIC MINISTER

Folk Group

SERVERS

Need 2

OFFERTORY

Steve & Kim Metzger

EXTRAORDINARY

MINISTERS

Deacon Steve Vogt

Rosanne Conley, Kim Metzger

USHERS

Roger Niese & Nate Metzger

LECTOR

Chuck Keller

COUNTERS

Linda Schroeder, Kristie Faith

Need 1

COLLECTION:

December 14, 2025

\$ 16,441.00

Offertory

\$12,725.00

Christmas

\$2,000.00

Christmas Flowers

& 155.00

Immaculate Conception

\$ 256.00

Gen Maintenance

\$ 825.00

Solemnity of Mary

\$ 35.00

Retired Religious

\$ 445.00



Online \$TBD

Heart of Bethlehem

\$ TBD

Sacred Heart School Hours:

Closed Monday, December 22nd. Reopening

Monday, January 5th.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday December 22 & 23 9:00-3:00

December 24, 25, 26, 31, January 1 & 2 Closed

*** Reminder the phone line is still a problem. You may need to call St. Joseph 419-683-2015 with a message.**



A Prayer for Christmas Day

Loving Father, Help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Amen

Healing through the Eucharist

Sorrowful Mother Shrine

January 3, 2026 9:00-2:45pm

Start 2026 with a retreat on the most important food you will ever eat in this life: the Eucharist. We will dive into the truth of the Most Blessed Sacrament that is the very Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus. \$25.00 registration fee includes lunch 419-483-3435 opt. 4 to RSVP.

Generous parishioners have provided for us The Forgotten Way by Matthew Kelly. Please pick up your free copy today in the back of church! Thank you! Merry Christmas!

F.I.S.H. food pantry will close December 22nd. and reopen at their new location: 115 W. Main St., Shelby on January 5, 2026.

Thank you for your generous continued support!

Liturgical Ministers

No 8:30 am Mass on December 24 or 31.

See schedule for Vigil times.

Saturday, December 27th.

MUSIC MINISTER

Kevin Willis

SERVERS

Weston Vogt

Zane Fagan

OFFERTORY

Mark & Melisa Vogt Family

EXTRAORDINARY

MINISTERS

Samantha Schroeder, Greg Keller

Joanne Claytor

USHERS

Mark Vogt & Shannon Finnegan

LECTOR

Sarah Metzger

(Please check Ministry Scheduler Pro for any changes)

Sunday, December 28th.

MUSIC MINISTER

Kate DiLullo

SERVERS

Ruthie Faith

Anderson Gwartz

OFFERTORY

Greg & Vera Gwartz Family

EXTRAORDINARY

MINISTERS

Deacon Steve Vogt

Deb & Jerry Schumacher

USHERS

Mark Gwartz & Lance Biglin

LECTOR

Lauren Vogt

COUNTERS

Cindy Keller, Steve Metzger

Bob Weber

Bible Readings for the Week of December 21st.

Monday	1Sm 1:24-28, (Ps) 1Sm 2:1, 4—8d, Lk 1:46-56
Tuesday	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24, Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14, Lk 1:57-66
Wednesday	Is 62:1-5, Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29, Acts 13:16-17, 22-25, Mt 1:1-25
Thursday	Is 9:1-6, Ps 96:1-3, 11-13, Ti 2:11-14, Lk 2:1-14
Friday	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59, Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17, Mt 10:17-22
Saturday	1Jn 1:1-4, Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12, Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Sunday	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14, Ps 128:1-5, Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17, Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

CHRISTMAS BULLETIN SPONSORS :

CAIN GRAPHICS & SCREENPRINTING

**T-SHIRTS * SWEATSHIRTS * HATS *
JACKETS ***

VINYL LETTERING

YARD SIGNS*DOOR MAGNETS *

BANNERS & MORE!

FUNDRAISERS ** CLUBS ** TEAMS

4852 West Smiley Road, Shelby, OH

Phone: 419 342-5335

Gwartz Foods

Fresh Meat Case & Custom Processing

5001 St. Rt. 39 West

Shelby, OH 44875

419-342-6228

Monday - Saturday 9:00am to 6:00pm

Closed Sundays



PARISHIONER MOLLY BELCIK

BETHLEHEM — Lifelong parishioner Molly Belcik knows the value of Sacred Heart School.

"I love Sacred Heart," Molly said, "my kids are all going to graduate from there."

Molly and her late husband, Jeff, proudly share Finnegan, Bridget and Rudy.

To serve future generations, Molly enthusiastically serves on the Heart of Bethlehem as a committee member.

"We need to move forward. We need to have modern conveniences," she emphasized. "It's a good school – we need to keep pushing."

The school is running out of space. "We need to get kids out of the basement," Molly noted. "You can't send a 3-year-old up to the bathroom by himself."

Recent high school graduates, Michael Vogt and Molly's son, Finnegan, are testaments to their education. Molly's daughter, Bridget, is carrying the torch.

"Michael Vogt was Valedictorian at Shelby High School. That's huge – Shelby's a big school," Molly noted. "Finnegan was in the top 3 at Crestline; Bridget right now is number one at Crestline."

Molly shared a passion for service with her husband, Jeff.

"Finnegan was probably a freshman when they asked Jeff to be the treasurer of the Crestline Athletic Boosters, Molly explained. She served as president for two years. "I just needed to take a step back with kids and sports."

2023 brought an unexpected loss to the Belciks; Molly's beloved husband, Jeff, passed away and left behind her and their three young children. The parish stepped up.

"Everybody rallied around us," Molly said. "It's a really special place, it's hard to explain. You tell people there's a church and a school. Not even a Dollar General," Molly laughed while wiping away tears. "We felt so much love and we still do."

"Some people say if you're not from here," she added, "it's hard to crack – Jeff jumped in, feet first. He loved it here. He did everything he could to make sure that everything was done," including PSR (Parish School of Religion) or driving on field trips.

Major League Baseball has a prominent place in the heart of Jeff and Molly's oldest son, Finnegan. When he was 5-years-old, Jeff and Finnegan watched the Cleveland Indians vs. Detroit Tigers at Cleveland's ballpark. Jeff grew up in Rossford, Ohio near Toledo, and he was an avid Tigers fan.

Driving home, Finnegan told his father he'd like to attend a game in each Major League ballpark – 30 in all. "That was all Jeff needed to hear," Molly said smiling. "Cleveland was first, Detroit was second. Cincinnati was third. And then we started planning."

When the kids were little, the family planned their spring breaks and summer trips around visiting stadiums. "Jeff and Finnegan got to do 22 together," Molly shared. "We just planned the trip out west to see seven – Denver, five in California and then Arizona – when he passed."

Seattle was the final stadium for Finnegan to see all 30. Many relatives and friends were at the ballpark. "When we got to Seattle, Jeff's brother and his family met us," Molly reminisced.

Jeff had a friend, Mike, that worked for the Cleveland Guardians and met up with the group. He helped organize the day, including time on the field.

"It was Fathers Day," Molly noted, "the 15th – the day Jeff passed away – it had been exactly 18 months."

Local media was on-hand. "They throw a camera in my face," Molly said, "and I know I'm going to cry – I did, but you know what? It's real."

Unbeknownst to Molly at the time of Jeff's passing, he had joined a Facebook group.

"The Ballpark Chasers is kind of a big deal," said Molly. "It's all these people chasing the 30 ballparks. I got Finnegan a jersey for Christmas last year with the number 30; it was a Tigers jersey and it says, 'been to all;'" he wore it that day when we were in Seattle and so many people were like, 'oh my gosh, you're so young and you've been to all of them!'"

Molly perseveres with the support of the parish and community.

"Take one day at a time," she said.





CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2025

Donated by:

- *Gary Borgelt
- *Ron & Penny Biglin
- *Patrick Gosser
- *Kathy Cole Family
- *Gary & Donna Biglin
- *Dale & Linda Schroeder
- *David & Becky Kromer
- *Steve & Sheila Vogt
- *Jerry & Carol Niese
- *Marilyn Vogt
- *John & Karen Bonen
- *Mary Studer
- *Steve & Margaret Keller
- *Linda Moore Family
- *Molly Belcik Family
- *Janet Broach
- *Philip & Patricia Zitko
- *Roger & Terri Niese

In Memory of:

- LaVerne & Vincent Borgelt
- Lawrence & Mary Alice Biglin, Mark Wolford & Yogi Moore
- Jeanne Gosser
- Rodney Cole, Lucille & Dennis Studer
- Deceased of the Leon Miller Family, Francis, Marie & Joe Biglin
- Lee & Ruth Schroeder, Dennis, Mary & Steve Hoepf, Tammy Michalkiewicz
- Margaret Kromer & Baby Mendenhall
- The Precious Unborn Babies
- Charley, Evelyn & Lynn Till; Waldo, Cecelia & Tyler Niese
- Horning & Vogt Families
- Deceased of the Blum & Bonen Families
- Charles Studer
- Keller & Williams Families
- Harold "Yogi" Moore, Lawrence & Mary Alice Biglin, Mark Wolford, Keith Krynock & Pat Biglin
- Jeff Belcik and Grandma & Grandpa Barb & Ronnie
- Roger Broach
- Deceased of the Zitko & Meyers Families
- Robert Niese

*Luke & Cheryl Rietschlin	Bob & Eleanor Rietschlin, Dan Rietschlin, Jatonda Baxter, Rose & William Heydinger
*Andrew & Paula Rietschlin	Mark & Lucy Rietschlin, Carol Parsons & Janet Ball
*Barry & JoAnne Claytor	Bernice & Carl Burkhalter, Paul Burkhalter, Tom Claytor Jr. Bettie & Tom Claytor
*Charles & Teresa Jessee, Logan Knapp	Bob & Shirley Vogt, Kenny Vogt
*James & Eileen Gwirtz	Gary Gwirtz, Howard & Martha Gwirtz, Albert & Mary Rieman
*Russ & Martha Keller	Lester, Eileen and Michael Cochran, Carl & Rosemary Keller, Honor of Traver & Fraizer Girls
*Rita Floro	Floro, Miller & Weaver Families, In Honor of the Religious from these Families
*Lillian Niese	Bob, Charlie, Cecelia & Waldo Niese
*Paul Niese	Jim & Keith Niese
*Charles & Darla Studer	Martha & Grover Reynolds, Jim & Shirley Cole Charlie Studer, Rosemary Sutter
*David & Dianne Sutter	Edgar, Mary Ann and Alice Sutter
*Shirley Niese	James & Keith Niese
*Ric & Kathi Biglin	Bernard and Mary Helen Weaver, June Biglin
*Madison & Megan Ratliff	Ron & Barb Finnegan, Jeff Belcik
*Tim & Jo Young	Dad, Mom, John, Judy & Jeanne
*Joe & Maxine Niese	Waldo & Cecelia Niese, Richard & Alma Cramer
*Michael & Shelly Krystofik	Kathleen Metzger
*Austin & Jalissa Markwell	Denny Markwell, Doug Hamilton, Carl Weaver, Dorothy Blum
*Duane Borgelt	Rhonda & Jim Borgelt, Deceased Members of the Borgelt, Warneck, Steele & Cole Families
*Ben & Riki Rietschlin	Bob & Eleanor Rietschlin
*Thad & Sarah Metzger	Deceased Members of the Miller, Metzger, Paynter & Eidt Families
*Patty Bunker	Les & Eileen Cochran, Earl & Michael Cochran