

*We are one diocesan faith family, children of God,  
Christ-centered, and Spirit-led  
working together to build the Kingdom of God in Central Florida.*



**The Catholic Foundation  
of Central Florida**  
Inspire Giving. Fund God's Work.



December  
2021

The Catholic Foundation  
of Central Florida  
Newsletter

Dear Friends in Christ,

Advent and Christmas are joyous seasons as the world's Saviour comes as a humble infant. The Nativity of our Lord is one of the signs of *'the wonders of His love'* which we sing in the popular Christmas carol, Joy to the World.

Wonder in the dictionary is defined as a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable. As a verb, it is defined as desire or to be curious to know something and is even referenced as feeling doubt.

We hear David in Psalm 17 acknowledging God's love and mercy as 'wonder-ful' and see him asking God to keep him as the apple of His eye, a phrase we use today for those who are adored.

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*Psalm 17:7-8*

*Show your wonderful mercy, you who deliver with your right arm those who seek refuge from their foes. Keep me as the apple of your*

*eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings*

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Psalm 136, often referred to as the ‘Great Hallel’, shares with us many of the wonders of God’s love and mercy and expresses repeatedly that his mercy endures forever. **The Psalm is a litany of God’s love through many acts** – skillfully made the heavens, spread the earth upon the waters, made the great lights and the sun to rule by day and the moon and stars by night, led Israel from their midst, split the Red Sea, led His people through the desert, struck down kings, remembered us in our low estate, freed us from our foes, and through the sacrifice of His Son gave bread to us all. The psalmist states multiple times our response to this enduring love and mercy is praise.

*As we prepare to experience our Lord’s birth may we not only remember what the psalmist shares of the wonders of God’s love but also reflect upon the many occasions in our own lives where we experienced His ‘wonder-ful’ and enduring love. May we also praise God for these wonders. A perfect way to praise Him is to receive the bread He gave us in the Eucharist.*

**I wish for you and your loved ones that awesome wonder of His love which brings joy throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons and the new year ahead.**

In Christ's everlasting peace,

Kimberlee Riley, CAP  
President & CEO



## **In This Month's Newsletter:**

- **December's Intentions from the Pope**
- **#CatholicGiving Tuesday Results**
- **Giving the Gift of Long-Term Financial Wellness**
- **Blessings of Financial Wellness: Make an Impact + Giving Tips**
- **A Special Message from the Chairman**
- **Merry Christmas from Our Family To Yours**
- **Liturgical Living: December**
- **Rejoice & Celebrate: The Christmas Season is Here**
- **Plans for the New Year: Legacy Planning**

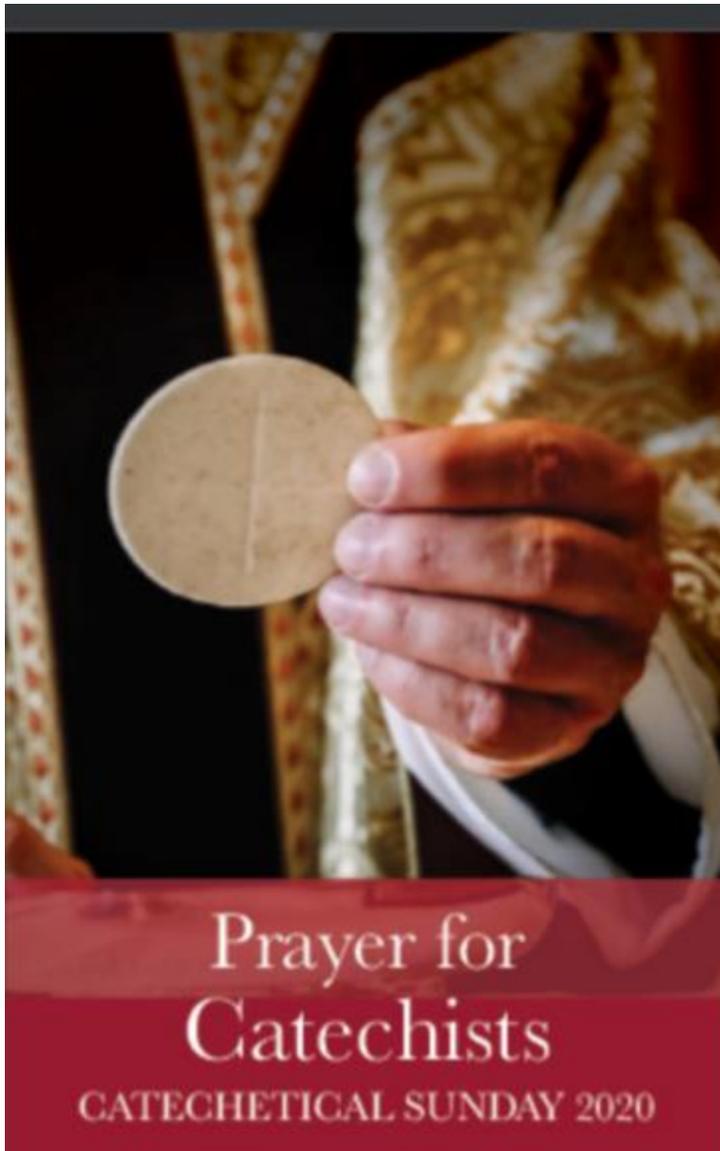
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## **THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF:**

***DECEMBER 2021***

**Catechists**

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



## A Prayer for Catechists

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church. Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word.

Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you.

Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son.

We pray this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

**DISCOVER THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS FOR 2022**

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## THANK YOU!

The **Catholic Foundation of Central Florida** was blessed to partner with you and our Catholic community in Central Florida on **#CatholicGivingTuesday** to support **80 parishes, schools, and ministries in one day of giving to raise more than \$119,000!**

### **#CatholicGivingTuesday Totals:**

**406** Donations

**397** Donors

**80** Entities Supported

**\$119,000** Donated

Your gifts were a faith-filled show of support for those whose mission is to serve the spiritual, educational, and social needs of God's people in Central Florida.

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## **GIVING THE GIFT OF LONG-TERM FINANCIAL WELLNESS**

Endowment Funds are the hallmark of financial sustainability for every parish, school and ministry. The Catholic Foundation provides donors like you with the opportunity to create a legacy and give the gift of long-term financial wellness ensuring your favorite Catholic ministry can continue to spread the Gospel message and evangelize to future generations! By establishing an Endowment

Fund, or building an existing fund, you will provide a perpetual source of annual income for that Catholic organization or ministry. A distinct benefit of establishing a Fund with The Catholic Foundation is that your fund grows in socially responsible investments which are 99.3% compliant with Catholic values.

Endowment Funds are established with a minimum contribution of \$20,000, in one gift or over time, which can be made with a donation of cash, IRA rollover, appreciated stocks/assets, DAF grants, etc. This donated amount forms the principal (corpus) which is permanently endowed to ensure the long-term financial health and support of your favorite Catholic parish, school or ministry. *Once established, anyone can make additional contributions to your Fund which will also grow and increase earnings and distributions in perpetuity.*

After only one year of investment, an Endowment Fund of \$20,000 can provide an **annual distribution of about \$800** (based on a 4% average distribution) to the benefitting organization/ministry and that amount continues to increase as the fund grows. In each of the last three years, **distributions from Funds held with The Catholic Foundation totaled \$2 million** to parishes, schools and ministries throughout our diocese! **It is donors like you who make this possible!**

If you are interested in learning more about how you can create an **Endowment Fund** or add to an existing Fund, start by reaching out to us to discuss your philanthropic or legacy planning goals. We can work directly with you and your financial advisor(s) to customize a plan that will help you make a significant impact on the ministry close to your heart (and provide significant tax advantages.) Contact **Madelyn Weed, CFRE, CAP**, Vice President of Donor Services or call (407) 246-7188 for more information on giving the gift of long-term financial wellness to your favorite parish, school or ministry.

*Establish Your Catholic Endowment Fund*

# Your Values. Your Legacy.

All endowments grow with 99.3% or more compliance with our Catholic values.

**How does an endowment work?**

<b>ESTABLISH</b>	<b>GROW</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>
A minimum of \$20,000 is required to establish your Endowment. We have several funding options available to allow you to establish now or over time.	Once your Endowment is established, the funds are invested in accordance with our Catholic values and begin to grow in value and impact.	Your Endowment is a permanent legacy that will continue to provide funds for your favorite Catholic parish, school or ministry in perpetuity.
		

[www.cfocf.org/Endowment-Funds](http://www.cfocf.org/Endowment-Funds)

[GIVE THE GIFT OF FINANCIAL WELLNESS](#)

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**THE BLESSINGS OF FINANCIAL WELLNESS:  
*REACHING YOUR FINANCIAL and  
PHILANTHROPIC GOALS***



**YEAR-END Giving**

*Did you know that 30% of U.S. annual giving happens in December? And December 31st is the most generous day of the year!*

Consider a year-end gift to your favorite diocesan parish, school and ministries. The Catholic Foundation makes it simple! You can find links to donate on our website

[www.cfocf.org/makeanimpact](http://www.cfocf.org/makeanimpact)

*Learn more about opportunities to maximize the impact of your year-end giving at [www.cfocf.org/givingtips](http://www.cfocf.org/givingtips)*

[MAKE AN IMPACT](#)

[GIVING TIPS](#)

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**DISCOVER A NEW WAY TO GIVE WITH A**

# CHARITABLE CHECKING ACCOUNT

50% OFF DAF INITIAL DEPOSIT THROUGH 2021

Join other Central Floridians in discovering why Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) are philanthropy's fastest growing vehicle for donations. We invite you to discover how The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida DAF Program provides a unique opportunity to maximize the impact of your charitable giving. Establish your Catholic DAF by December 31st and take advantage of our special offer of 50% off the initial deposit into your Fund! The application and additional details can be found at [www.CatholicDAF.org](http://www.CatholicDAF.org).

If you would like to speak with someone about how you can achieve your philanthropic goals, please reach out to [Madelyn Weed, CFRE, CAP](#), Vice President of Donor Services or call (407) 246-7188.

## **Bundling:**

Donors who give annually to one or more charities and are looking to maximize tax deductions could consider bundling gifts with a DAF. Making a larger donation in a single year versus spreading smaller donations across several years can be worthwhile from a tax perspective.

## **Flexibility:**

DAF Fundholders can recommend grants 24/7 using the online fundholder portal! Many donors set up recurring monthly or annual grants for parish offertory, Our Catholic Appeal as well as gifts to campaigns and annual collections. All donations are organized and viewable in your online account.

## **Privacy:**

DAF fundholders choose a name for their charitable checking account. This can be your name - "The John and Kathy Smith DAF" or more private as in "The Caring For Our Community DAF". Fundholders can also choose to designate gifts as anonymous to one or all grantees.

**CATHOLIC DONOR ADVISED FUNDS**

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## A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



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**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS  
THE FOUNDATION TEAM**



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**LITURGICAL LIVING: *GROW YOUR FAITH***  
**DECEMBER IS THE MONTH OF...**



**UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

Universal Human Rights Month is an annual designation observed in December. This month and every month to follow, people all across the globe are encouraged to come



together and stand up for equality, justice, and the dignity of all humans. December is a time to honor the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an international document stating the basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled. These rights include freedom from discrimination, the right to equality, and the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

### HOW TO OBSERVE

Use #UniversalHumanRights, #HumanRights, and #StandUp4HumanRights to post on social media. The [Dignity & Respect Campaign](#) says the best way we can celebrate Universal Human Rights Month is by working to find common ground with those around us who may not have the same background as we do. Their advice is to remember that we were all born into the same world, we are all humans, and our different races, religions, beliefs, and cultures shouldn't divide us. This December, take a little time out of your schedule to educate yourself. If another culture makes you anxious or apprehensive, learn more about their history and why they do things the way they do. Chances are, it'll humanize them and help you understand that they aren't people to be "afraid" of, or to dislike. This month, you can also:

- Read a book about the Declaration of Human rights, or about human rights in general
- Spread the word on social media
- Go out of your way to treat everyone with respect, kindness, and equality
- Teach others about why human rights for everyone are so important

### THE DIVINE INFANCY / IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. "From all eternity God chose with infinite wisdom the woman who would be the Mother of His divine Son. To prepare for the Word Incarnate a spotless and holy tabernacle, God created Mary in grace and endowed her from the moment of her conception with all the perfections suited to her exalted dignity. St. Thomas teaches that through her intimacy with Christ, the principle of grace, she possessed beyond all creatures a fullness of divine life." — *Liturgical Meditations*, The Sisters of St. Dominic

This feast invites us to meditate on the virtue of purity. "Mary alone — 'our tainted nature's solitary boast' — never saw her soul's purity darkened with the dust of any stain, nor did she see in any part of her triumphal course toward heaven any sin or trace of worldliness. By a unique and singular privilege from God she was preserved from original sin from the first moment of her Immaculate Conception; by another privilege derived from the first, the Lord did not permit her ever to be stained even with those unavoidable failings of human weakness." — Luis M. Martinez

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## REJOICE & CELEBRATE: THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS HERE

The first thing you would see if you searched "Christmas" on the United States

Conference of Catholic Bishops' website, is a beautiful Nativity painting and written underneath it:

*“Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself.”*

**The Christmas season begins** with the vigil masses on Christmas Eve and ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This season is a significant part of the liturgical year as it commemorates the moment God became Incarnate. Throughout Advent, we are meant to prepare our hearts for Christmas by taking time to reflect and prayerfully anticipate the coming of Christ. In many ways, Advent is considered a “little Lent” due to the focus on contemplation and preparing ourselves for God. We are preparing the banquet.

Then, once Christmas begins, so does the celebration. **We are called to rejoice over God's incarnation: to stop fasting, to enjoy the banquet, to gather together with family and friends, and praise God.**

**In the eight days following Christmas**, otherwise known as the Octave of Christmas, the readings at mass focus on the birth of Christ to impress more deeply the sacredness of this season. The Octave is meant to be a time of exultant celebration and feasting where we recognize and rejoice in Christ's presence in our lives. We reflect on how God is not just an incorporeal companion in our lives, but that He came to us, through Jesus, to physically exist with us.

*As Catholics, we extend the time celebrating Christmas because we are not celebrating the presents under the tree or the beautiful decorations in our house, but rather that Jesus came into our world so we may better understand God and connect more deeply with our Lord.*

We must see the way Christ is present in our lives, but must also bring Christ's presence to others. Christmas is more than just one day, for there is so much to celebrate.

**This year and every year, during Christmas let our hearts overflow with love and thanksgiving for God and all the good things He has given us.**

*Merry Christmas to all!*

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**PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR: JOIN US FOR THE UPCOMING LEGACY PLANNING SERIES**



**The Catholic Foundation**  
of Central Florida

RSVP to receive a  
folder filled with  
**FREE** planning  
resources!

## Legacy Planning Seminar Series

Hosted by



**ST. PATRICK**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Thursday, Jan. 20 10:00a.m.** **Will & Estate Planning: Do you know the 3 documents every Catholic American needs to have?**
- Thursday, Jan. 27 10:00a.m.** **Taxes & Estates: Protecting Your Family and Planning Today for a Better Tomorrow**
- Thursday, Feb. 3 10:00a.m.** **Catholic Funeral Rites & Leaving a Legacy of Faith**

**6803 Old Hwy 441, Mt Dora, FL**

**RSVP (For One Or More Sessions)  
by contacting the Parish Office at:  
(352) 383-8556 or [mbaugh@stpatrickmtdora.org](mailto:mbaugh@stpatrickmtdora.org)**

### About The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida

#### **Our Mission:**

To inspire and increase giving, to prudently invest the resources entrusted to us, and to capably steward those charitable gifts to support the spiritual and corporal needs of the community of the Diocese of Orlando.



***Stay Connected With Us Everyday!***



The Catholic Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation committed to fostering and stewarding philanthropy to address community issues and meet the spiritual and corporal needs of our community year-round. As a proven trustworthy philanthropic organization to give to and give through, we have received the Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency. Fully endorsed by the Diocese of Orlando and its Bishop, we work extensively with Catholic parishes, schools and nonprofit organizations aligned with Catholic social values to help inspire giving and secure resources needed to further their long-term goals.



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