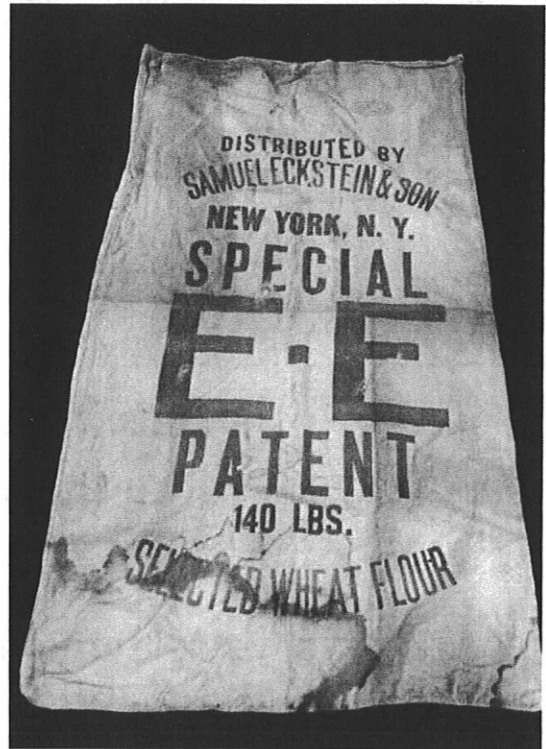


## A Thought on Christmas Charitable Giving

When the parish was founded, Ohio was considered one of the most advanced and prosperous states thanks to the two canals which provided easy access for Ohio's products to access east coast markets. Railroads were rapidly expanding the ability of Ohio to reach a world marketplace. However, Ohio largely remained a frontier territory with vast swaths of land unclaimed.

Many communities had great needs, including parishes, schools, orphanages, hospitals, and other eleemosynary organizations. To help raise needed cash these institutions often held a *flour auction*, a tradition dating back to the colonial era. Someone would donate a five- or ten-pound sack of freshly milled flour and all interested parties would gather for the auction. Bidding might go as high as five dollars (\$159.43 in 2024 dollars). As soon as the prize was handed over the buyer would hand it right back and there'd be a second round with the same general result if not the same five dollars. As each buyer returned the sack of flour the high bidder was spending a lot less since by this time the more prosperous families had done their part. When everyone had "bought" the flour the last successful bidder kept it because that person more than likely really needed it. There was no sense of "getting



something on the cheap" or entitlement which led a particular bidder to believe he or she ought to keep the flour. The idea was for the entire community to take part in the fundraising venture.

Today our culture is far more grasping and those who attend silent auctions or assist with other fundraising programs believe they ought to profit from their presence. The result is a relatively weak overall performance as far as raising funds goes. Perhaps what we need is a return to the "good old days" when people had far less but were far more willing to share what they did have without receiving anything in exchange.

As we consider the festive season of Christmas, we ought not forget that the Child whose birth is the centerpiece of the season would grow up to tell his disciples that the widow who offered two small coins gave far more than the wealthy who were offering their excess because she gave all she had. Numerous charities really do need our support and often at this time of year the need increases greatly, especially at food banks and soup kitchens which see an increase in numbers during cold and snowy weather. At the same time, the needs of the parish increase – heating and lighting both rise dramatically as sunset comes earlier – yet the average Sunday offering remains the same. Give thought to what you can do to alleviate the need.

# *You are invited!*



## **Blessed Carlo Acutis statue dedication**

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Tuesday, January 14, 2025  
at the 9:00 AM Mass  
Immaculate Conception Church, Toledo

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Please join us as we celebrate the addition of this beautiful piece of art that was designed by the 2024 8th Grade Class of Queen of Apostles. These students undertook to become familiar with the two patrons of the Universal Church's Eucharistic Renewal and immediately were drawn to Blessed Carlo Acutis, a young teen who by the age of fifteen when he died had researched and developed two magnificent poster collections, one focused on the Eucharistic Miracles and another on Mary's numerous apparitions. Wanting to share their interest and love of the Eucharist, the students then began raising funds to design and have fabricated a statue of Blessed Carlo as seen through their eyes. Everything in the photo above was planned by the students as part of the overall image of a young teen who loved Jesus and who enjoyed life.

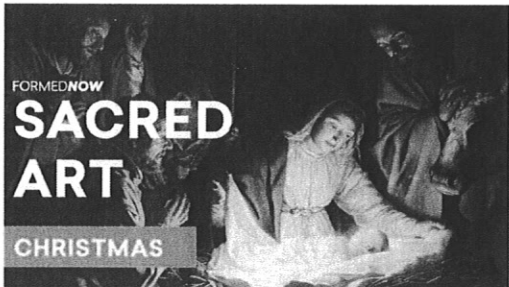
# THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

## Week of December 29, 2024



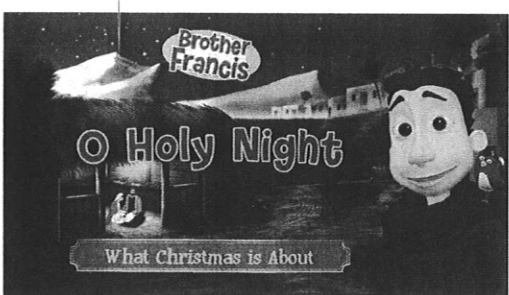
### **New Year's Resolutions | The Augustine Institute Show**

What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!



### **Christmas | Sacred Art**

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.



### **O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About**

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

The Historic Church of Saint Patrick

Preservation Society

Established 1980 by Rev. John "Archie" Thomas

"The Mission of the Preservation Society is nothing less than to secure the structural and aesthetic integrity of the Historic Church of Saint Patrick. This charge is not lightly given for it demands that the society consider not merely the present, but those future generations who will come behind us so that they might find in this majestic temple a suitable place for the worship, adoration and glorification of our loving God."

- Arch Thomas

As we begin the 125<sup>th</sup> year of this "majestic temple", we invite you to pause for a moment to allow the grandeur of this holy house of God to embrace you in a visual depiction of the Covenant between God and humanity: I will be your God, you will be my beloved!



This year, the March Calendar Lottery will 100% support the Preservation Society and the future projects it supports as well as those structural and building needs that crop up from time to time.

The goal is to sell all 1000 tickets, guaranteeing 31 daily winners and a payout of \$3400, leaving \$6600 for the Preservation Society. A nice-sized fundraiser indeed!