Story of a Star Child ~ Dr. Henry Fenichel, Holocaust Survivor
Feb 8th – St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

Henry Fenichel was born in The Hague, Netherlands in 1938. Shortly after the Nazi rise to power, sensing the danger to come, Henry's parents, Pessel and Moritz, sent a request for their relocation to Palestine where his father's family resided. After Henry's father was deported to Mauthausen in 1942 and murdered by the Nazis several months later in Auschwitz, Henry and his mother still had no response to their request to immigrate. They then went into hiding. When Henry was four years old, he and his mother's hiding place was discovered in the spring of 1943, and they were imprisoned in the Westerbork transit camp, one of two transit camps in the Netherlands. Shortly after arriving, they learned of a prisoner exchange that would allow a select number of Jews to escape to Palestine. Through a miraculous series of events, Henry's mother was able to get them on the list for "transport 222". In February 1944, they were sent to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and by June, Henry, his mother, and 220 other Dutch individuals left Bergen-Belsen, on their way to freedom in British Mandate Palestine. Upon arriving in Palestine, Henry was placed in a children's home. His mother visited often and when she remarried, Henry lived with his mother and stepfather, Abraham. with the help of his step-father's family, they came to America in 1953. Henry taught Physics at the University of Cincinnati for nearly four decades.

Today, Henry tells his story and shows documents related to his journey to educate and to combat Holocaust deniers. He says his survival is "a miracle" as he acknowledges the 6 million Jewish people who died in the Holocaust. He also draws similarities between today's refugees and his family's journey from their war-torn home.