



ST. MARY
OF THE
ASSUMPTION
Catholic Church

The Nativity
OF THE LORD

The time came for her to have her child and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. —Lk 2:6b-7

Liturgical Schedule

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 + NATIVITY OF THE LORD

12:00 AM Felisa Sarminento, Sebastian

9:30 AM Bette Krugh

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 + ST. STEPHEN

No Services

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27 + ST. JOHN

8:00 AM—5:30 Adoration

5:30 PM Benediction and Evening Prayer

6:00 PM John and Heather Metzger

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28 + THE HOLY INNOCENTS,

8:45 AM Bro. Peter Marie

MARTYRS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29 + ST. THOMAS BECKET

8:45 AM John Krol

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30 + THE HOLY FAMILY

8:45 AM June Bailey

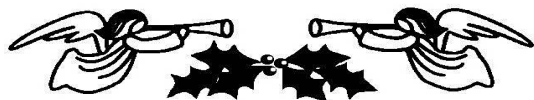
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

4:00 PM Deacon Norbert Reinhart

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 + MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

8:30 AM Ella Reinemeyer

10:30 AM St. Mary's Parish



Servers, Eucharistic Minister, Lector & Usher Schedules for December 31 & January 1

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 4:00 PM

Servers: Brandon & Annie Renner, **

E. M.: G Hirzel, C Mowry, A Renner, A Schaufelberger

Ushers: Terry Johnson, D Heckler, D Renner, D Hohman

Lector: Dave Mathew

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 8:30 AM

Servers: NEED SERVERS**

E. M.: B Furest, D Fuerst, M Geesey, J Kiepper,

F Minnig, M Minnig, J Sheeran

Ushers: Jim Brickner, R Knueve, S Thomas, D Krizay,

B Wolke, E Fox

Lector: Bruce Oliver

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 10:30 AM

Servers: Natalie Reithman **

E. M.: B Fallis, M Fallis, **

Ushers: Charles Brickner, M Keber, D Allmandinger,

D Keber, J Meyers, B Keber

Lector: Renette Riethman

**At the time of printing the bulletin, Cherie was making calls to complete these schedules.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Please come forward immediately when the prayers for extending Peace are offered. This will help substitutes know they are needed and allow sufficient time to be ready at the altar. Also, please watch for a total of 8 with Father, Deacons and yourselves.

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM

Blessed Christmas greetings!

Our journeys of Advent have come to their destination - - a crib in a stable in Bethlehem. We thank God for the last four weeks, and the many opportunities provided to us to recognize God in the world and people around us. Let us pause now, taking a deep breath and relaxing, for all is ready.

Let us gaze into the night sky and see the Christmas star shining brightly. Let us listen to the heavenly music of the angels announcing the Savior's birth and singing of peace on earth and good will to all. Let us come with the lowly shepherds that we, too, may worship the Babe in the manger.

What wonderful tasks to which we are called! Too much for one day, we have the next two weeks to ponder various facets of this mystery. On Friday, December 30, we reflect upon the Holy Family as a model and guide for our own. On Sunday, January 1, we consider the Motherhood of Mary. On Sunday, January 8, we come with the wise men, offering our own gifts. On Monday, January 9, we arrive at the River Jordan to celebrate the baptism of our Lord, remembering our own baptisms and the commitments we made to follow Him. And then what?

Perhaps our life journey continues with ideas inspired by Matthew Kelly's book "Resisting Happiness." Maybe we challenge ourselves to become better by a New Years Resolution. Or perhaps the memory of Christmas 2016 energizes us to be more ardent followers of Our Lord, making a difference in our world. Whatever the future holds, the mystery of the Incarnation assures us of God's loving presence with us until the end of time.

For now, on behalf of our parish and staff, we wish you and yours a grace-filled and joyous Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year!

Fr. Stan



SCHOOL NEWS

We believe our Catholic School is not only a school, but a community of Faith.



Donates Items to the Pregnancy Life Center

Mrs. Therese Tate's Kindergarten and Kindergarten Plus students recently made several donations to the Pregnancy Life Center of Van Wert. The Pregnancy

Life Center is a non-profit ministry whose mission is to protect the life of the unborn, offer alternatives to abortion, encourage sexual abstinence outside of marriage, bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and offer love by providing spiritual, educational, and physical support to those affected by unplanned pregnancy.

Mrs. Tate's class is learning about how we grow and change throughout the cycle of life. They are realizing the importance of respecting life at every age. Also, they are reminded that the Christmas season is because of Jesus' birthday, who also came to the world as a baby.

On December 2nd, St. Mary's School hosted the Bread and Bowl meal for needed people in the Van Wert community at First United Methodist Church. We would like to thank everyone who donated items and helped serve this meal. Below are some pictures of our students, parents and staff working at the Bread and Bowl.



Religious Education Connection

The Twelve Days of Christmas

December 25-January 5

We all sing the song, but do we know what the gifts given over the twelve days represent?

- 1) *A partridge in a pear tree*--The tree represents the following: the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden, the proverbial tree of the Jewish people into which Jesus was born and lived and died, and the growth of the Church under the leadership of the Apostles. Jesus once spoke to his disciples of the mustard seed, which grows to become large enough for the birds to nest within. The partridge is a bird willing to sacrifice its life to protect its young.
- 2) *Two turtle doves*--The Old Testament and the New Testament. The dove is also a symbol of peace.
- 3) *Three French hens*--The Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity.
- 4) *Four calling birds*--The four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- 5) *Five golden rings*--The first five books of the Old Testament, the books of the Law or Torah.
- 6) *Six geese-a-laying*--The six days of creation.
- 7) *Seven swans-a-swimming*--The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- 8) *Eight maids-a-milking*--The Beatitudes.
- 9) *Nine ladies dancing*--Of the twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit, nine are found in one verse, Galatians 5:22.
- 10) *Ten lords-a-leaping*--The Ten Commandments.
- 11) *Eleven pipers piping*--The eleven faithful apostles.
- 12) *Twelve drummers drumming*--The twelve points of belief in the Apostle's Creed.



Dec 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! NO BINGO
 Dec 29 Shirley Straley, ED FOX, Theresa Tate,
 Mary Kay Stegaman, Linda Heitkamp
 Dec 31 Volunteers Needed—Call Ed
 Jan 1 Volunteers Needed—Call Ed
 Jan 5 Ed Fox, JIM BRICKNER, Joyce Oechsle,
 Nancy Wollenhaupt

KITCHEN WORKERS Report By 4:30 PM

Dec 25 Merry Christmas—NO BINGO
 Dec 29 Judy Comer and Barbara Hammond
 Dec 31 Volunteers Needed—Call Ed
 Jan 1 Volunteers Needed—Call Ed
 Jan 5 Staff Night

**St. Mary's Bingo—K of C Hall
 425 Woodland Ave.**

**Doors open at 4:00 PM for games-
 Warm-Up Bingo at 6:15 PM**

ATTENTION BINGO VOLUNTEERS!

We are in need of volunteers to work bingo on Saturday, December 31st (New Year's Eve) and January 1st. If you can help us out, please call the Parish Office at 419-238-3979.

ST. MARY'S BINGO

- We are planning a **SUPER BIG** Bingo party on New Year's Eve this year. Warm-up games will start at 6:00 PM. Doors will open at 3:30 PM.
- We will have one prize for every game. Single game winners will receive one prize each. Prizes remaining will be distributed after the coverall game. One of the prizes will be a 40" TV! Other prizes will vary in value.
- Also \$100 will be added to the scheduled coverall; we will use the regular Sunday Hotball balance; there will be NO free tickets for first time players for this night.
- We will be closed December 25 so that you may enjoy Christmas with your families.

RESPONSE TO THE LORD FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016

CHECK BACK NEXT WEEK

PENSION PROTECTION ACT Extended for 2015 and future years.

For those aged 70 1/2 or older, it is once again possible to make tax-favored charitable gifts from traditional and Roth IRA accounts. This act allows individuals to donate up to \$100,000 to charitable organizations directly from their IRA.

Qualified Charitable Distributions allow that a portion can be contributed to charity (Churches) without any tax and without effecting your Medicare B & D premiums.

Check with your financial advisor with any questions you may have.

ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS! If you are leaving Ohio for a few months and headed for warmer winter weather, please call the Parish Office with your address if you would like us to send you a weekly bulletin. Have a great – and warm – winter!

2nd ANNUAL TASTE OF ST. MARY'S February 25, 2017 St. Mary's Gym

Tickets go on sale in January for \$25 each.

Table of 8 - 9 may be reserved.

Proceeds benefit the St. Mary's Youth Group.

If you have any questions, please call Maribeth Dickman.



Kelly Andersen, Rev. Tony Bus, Rita Clapp, Dolores Darwood, Joy Demidovich, Steve, Dietrich, Robert Ford, Stacie Golliver, Cyndi Hesseling, Carmen Jacobs, Michael Kahle, Patricia Kinkle, Megan Klosterman, Kourtney Kohnen, Robert Lammers. Rita Lewis, Beth Lianez, Mary Alice Louagie, John Marshall, Tom Metzger, Kirk Michaud, Joan Miller, Lane Mosier, Dean Osburn, Janice Osburn, George Palombi, Theresa Parkanzky, Tyler Priest, Doris Reinhart, Julie Sadler, Bob Say, Mary Say, Jim Schneider, Tom Stachler, Melba Voltz, Russ Waltmire, Jan Waters, Brad Wannemacher, Anne Wells, Bob Wolters, Larry Youtsey

Please call the Parish Office at the beginning of each month to continue the above name(s) on the prayer list. The sick person or a close relative are the only ones who should call to add or remove name(s) to this list.

GOD BLESS OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Please pray for all those serving in our military: Lance Corp. Josh Bolenbaugh, Capt. Virginia Brickner, Sgt. William (Ed) Carter, Commander Christopher Cavanaugh, Lance Corp. Tyler Goodlin, Airman Andrew Hammond, Airman Leisal Hanf-Fleming, Corp. Austin Kleman, MSG Andrew McMahon, Corp. Joseph Moreland, SRA Andrew Motycka, Lt. Colonel Matt Sinning, SSgt. Nate Sinning, MSgt. Robert Stant, SRA Ashley Stant, Spec. Jeremy Stevenson, Pvt. R. J. Szymanski and Sgt. Brian Wilson. Please submit to the Parish Office names of parishioners who are currently serving in the armed forces.



OFFERTORY ENVELOPES READY!

Please pick up YOUR offertory envelopes in the hall between the gym and chapel. If you didn't receive envelopes and would like to, please contact Angie in the Parish Office at 419-238-3979

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday, December 31st—4:00 pm

&

Sunday, January 1st—8:30 &
10:30 am



A Caroling We Shall Go!

Everyone is invited to go caroling on Wednesday, December 28th. Contact Mary Fallis for more info at 419-203-1484.

CHRISTMAS



This Week in Our Parish

Sun Dec 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS!
NO BINGO

Mon Dec 26: Parish Office Closed

Wed Dec 28 : NO SOR

Thur Dec 29: Bingo (K of C Hall) 6:15 pm

Fri Dec 30: Parish Office Closing at Noon

Sat Dec 31: Vigil (Mary Mother of God) 4:00 pm

Readings for the Week of December 25, 2016

Sunday: (Vigil) Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31/Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124/Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96/Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96/Jn 1:1-18

Next Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21



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