

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION Catholic Church

601 Jennings Road ~
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Pastor

Rev. Stanley Szybka

Deacon

Deacon Andrew McMahon

Principal

Dan Metzger

Coordinator Religious Ed.

Cheryl Freewalt

Office Manager

Angie Renner

Masses:

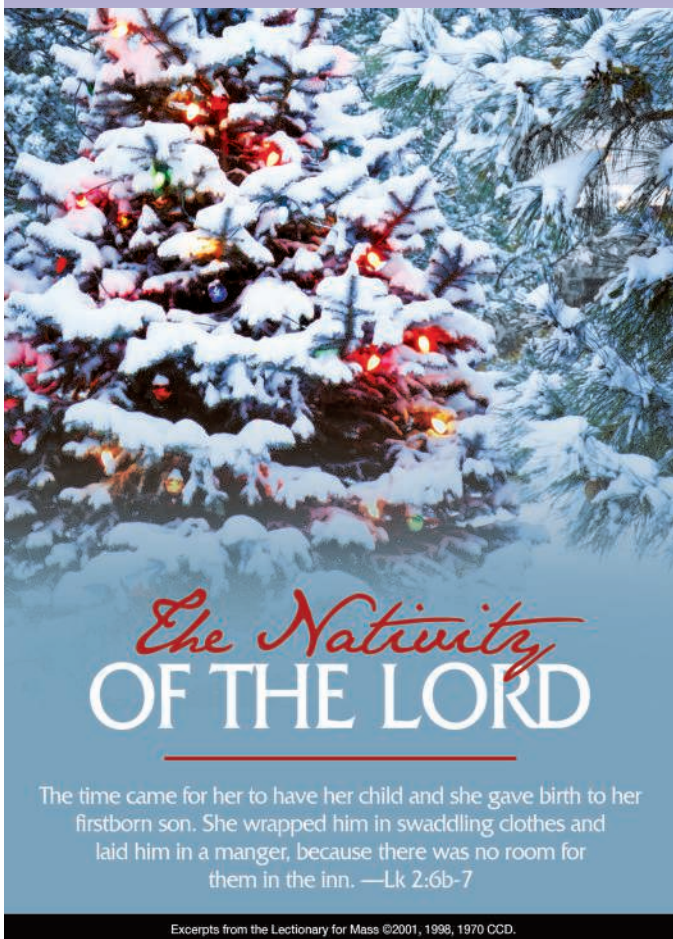
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Weekday: Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:45 a.m.

December 24, 2017



This Week in Our Parish

<u>Sun Dec 24:</u>	Christmas Eve Masses	4:00 pm & 6:00 pm
<u>Mon Dec 25:</u>	MERRY CHRISTMAS! Christmas Masses	Midnight & 9:30 am
<u>Tue Dec 26:</u>	Adoration	8:00 am—5:30 pm
<u>Wed Dec 27:</u>	No SOR	
<u>Thu Dec 28:</u>	Bingo (K of C)	6:15 pm



Liturgical Schedule

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 + FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 AM St. Mary's Parish
10:30 AM Jim Kesler

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 + VIGIL—NATIVITY OF THE LORD

4:00 PM Pina & Salinas Families
6:00 PM Robert Renner

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 + NATIVITY OF THE LORD

12:00 AM John and Heather Metzger
9:30 AM Bette Krugh

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26 + ST. STEPHEN

8:00 AM—5:30 PM Adoration
5:30 PM Benediction and Evening Prayer
6:00 PM Mowery Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27 + ST. JOHN

8:45 AM John Marshall

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28 + THE HOLY INNOCENTS

8:45 AM Jim Schneider

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29 + ST. THOMAS BECKET

8:45 AM Fr. Paul Faroh

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

4:00 PM Joe & Cathy Steffan—50th Anniversary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 + HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY,

8:30 AM Dennis & Betty Kinkle & JOSEPH
10:30 AM St. Mary's Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 + VIGIL—MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

7:00 PM Rosemary Schroeder

O Come All Ye Faithful

Servers, Eucharistic Minister, Lector & Usher Schedules for December 30 & 31, 2017

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 4:00 PM

Servers: Greg Hirzel, Kitty and Hank Kopack
E. M.: B Fallis, T Heckler, T Marshall, A Renner,
A Schaufelberger, J Sheeran,
Ushers: T Turnwald, D Michael
Lector: Dave Mathew

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 8:30 AM

Servers: TBA**
E. M.: TBA**
Ushers: Frank Minnig, S Pollock, R Say, D Kleinhenz,
P Shoppell, D Carter
Lector: TBA**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 10:30 AM

Servers: TBA**
E. M.: TBA**
Ushers: J Robideau, D Klosterman
Lector: TBA**

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.

**At the time of this printing, Cherie Freewalt is still contacting parishioners to help at the Weekend and Holyday Masses. Your help is very much appreciated!

ALL IS READY!

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” With this beautiful response of faith of our Blessed Mother Mary expressed in the closing line of this weekend’s Gospel, all is now ready to welcome the Christ Child to dwell among us.

As we light the fourth candle in our Advent wreath, we realize that the holy season of Advent is rapidly drawing to a close. We have only a few hours until Christmas Eve!

Then, for one brief moment, the world is still as heaven and earth are forever joined. In this moment, all undone tasks are forgotten. The crosses that we carry are laid down. Even the affairs of the world seem to pause. We join with others and all the world in witnessing this great love of the God who made everything and gave life. Our hearts sing with the angels of peace on earth and good will toward all. Hope is renewed with us; we are filled with happiness and joy.

Then, the moment passes. The night skies echo with the sounds of choirs singing forth praise and joy to the Babe in the manger. Soon the merry greetings of adults are heard, followed by the gleeful shrieks of children. Lives go on, as crosses are picked up; the world returns to business as usual.

Life is not exactly the same, for the flame of faith, hope and love burn a little more brightly against the darkness of the world.

As we gather to celebrate this sacred moment, we pause to say a warm word of WELCOME to all who join us - - family members from near and far, college students, military personnel, neighbors, guests and visitors.

On behalf of our parish and staff, I extend to you our prayerful best wishes for a most blessed and enjoyable Christmas! May God who comes to earth dwell in our hearts and homes today and everyday!

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.”

Fr. Stan

Religious Education Connection

This Advent, Practice the Attitude of Kindness

We all shudder at the thought of the word, *malignant*. We know what it means, especially when it comes to a terrible disease. The word even has the sound of something that actively destroys. We would much rather hear the word, *benign*. That word sounds, at least, neutral. Unfortunately, many people think of kindness in the same way. It has become a very nice word to describe someone, who is not a tyrant, but is rather passive, or at least, neutral. In reality, *benign* has as much force as *malignant*. While malignancy means active destruction, benignity means active goodness toward others.

Christians are called to show kindness--not just neutrality. They show kindness even when their gesture is unmerited and not returned by the recipient. It is shown by a generosity to goodness that reminds us of God, who, though we were certainly unworthy of such kindness, sent us his Son. As the image and likeness of our Creator, we are compelled to be kind to others--actively spreading kindness--benignity--and not malignancy.

1. Who is someone who has recently shown an act of kindness to you? Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for that person and ask for the grace to "pay it forward."
2. How has God shown you his kindness today? Read the Scriptures to discover all the ways Jesus was kind to those he met?
3. Go out of your way today to perform an act of kindness toward someone, even and especially if it is not merited and the kindness may not be returned to you.



SCHOOL NEWS



St. Mary's Christmas Program

This year's annual Christmas program was "The First Christmas".

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



BINGO

- Dec 24 NO Bingo—Merry Christmas!
 Dec 28 Shirley Straley, CHARLES BRICKNER,
 Paul Shoppell, Emily Hoskins
 Dec 31 Neil Smith, ED FOX, Charles Brickner,
 Jim Brickner, Volunteers Needed

KITCHEN WORKERS Report By 4:30 PM

- Dec 24 NO Bingo—Merry Christmas!
 Dec 28 Stephanie DeLong and Josh Geib
 Dec 31 Ed Fox Family—Volunteers Needed

**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 Sunday, December 31st
(New Year's Eve).

If you can help us out, please call the
Joyce Oechsle at 419-203-1545

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!

COOKIE SALE BIG SUCCESS

The goal of the SOR Christmas Cookie Sale for Catholic Charities USA was \$335. Through your generosity, the SOR raised \$366! This amount will go toward one aspect of Catholic Charities work in our country—disaster relief. *Thank you!*

CHRISTMAS



**3rd ANNUAL TASTE OF ST. MARY'S
February 3, 2018
St. Mary's Gym**

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

Table of 8 - 9 may be reserved.

**If you have any questions, please call
Maribeth Dickman.**



***Has your phone number changed?
Did you switch to a cell phone?***

If you no longer have a "land" line,
please contact the Parish Office at 238-3979
to update our records. Thank you!

HAVE YOU SET UP BILL PAY?

Angie has seen an increase in donations she receives through parishioners BILL PAY accounts. It is so easy to set it up and for her to record. She receives a check in the mail from your bank and records it with her other deposits.

If you have questions regarding bill pay, talk to your financial institution. It is a great way to remember your Church even when you are away from home!

PENSION PROTECTION ACT Extended for 2017 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 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.



John Basinger, Steve Dietrich, Pat Fellers, Stacie Golliver, Connie Hofmann, Jon Jarrett, Megan Klosterman, Kourtney Kohnen, Mariam Lamb, Mary Alice Louagie, Tom Metzger, Joan Miller, Tyler Priest, J R Reinhart, Bob Say, Mary Say, Tom Stachler, Luke Sung, Russ Waltmire, Anne Wells, Bobbie Whittenbarger, Dan Williamson, Bob Wolters

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, 1st Lt. Brian Easley, Lance Corp. Tyler Goodlin, Airman Andrew Hammond, Airman Leisal Hanf-Fleming, MSG Andrew McMahon, CTN2 Quintin Mengerink, Corp. Joseph Moreland, SSgt. Nate Sinning, MSgt. Robert Stant, SRA Ashley Stant, Pvt. Andrew Szymanski, Spec. Jeremy Stevenson, Lt. Commnader Sean Stuart, Spec. R. J. Szymanski, Sgt 1st Class Johnny Vigil, and Sgt. Brian Wilson. Please submit to the Parish Office names of parishioners who are currently serving in the armed forces.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

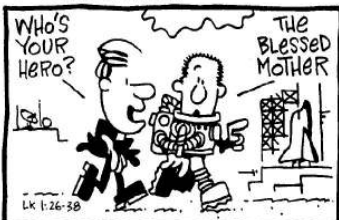
Sunday, December 31st—7:00 pm
&
Monday, January 1st—9:30 am



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

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

***The next study will begin on Thursday, January 4th at 9:30 am (following Mass). The study will focus on Symbolon on the Formed website. This will also be available on Thursday evenings with Deacon Andy.

PRAYER BOX AVAILABLE FOR FRANSICIAN BROTHERS

Do you have a need for which you would like prayers? A prayer box is located in the vestibule library for your prayers. Br. Peter, Br Francis, Br. Pascal and Br. Pio will take any written requests from the prayer box and pray for these intentions on a daily basis. NO NEED IS TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL. Their vocation is to a life of prayer.



Readings for the Week of December 24, 2017

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Monday: Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



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