

# ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Catholic Church

January 1, 2017



## *Mary,* THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

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And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in  
her heart. - Lk 2:19

## Liturgical Schedule

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 + MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

12:00 AM Ella Reinemeyer

9:30 AM St. Mary's Parish

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 2 + STS. BASIL AND GREGORY**

No Services

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 3 + THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS**

8:00 AM—5:30 Adoration

5:30 PM Benediction and Evening Prayer

6:00 PM John and Heather Metzger

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4 + ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON**

8:45 AM Linus Unterbrink

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 5 + ST. JOHN NEUMANN**

8:45 AM John Marshall

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 6 + ST. ANDRE BESSETTE**

8:45 AM Helen Schemmell

10:00 AM Mass at Van Crest

8:00 PM—8:00 AM Adoration in Chapel

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 7**

8:00 AM First Saturday Mass

4:00 PM St. Mary's Parish

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 + EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

8:30 AM John and Heather Metzger

10:30 AM Thomas Gemmer



## Servers, Eucharistic Minister, Lector & Usher Schedules for January 7 & 8

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 4:00 PM**

Servers: Caroline and Kitty Kopack, Shay Wehner

E. M.: T Heckler, G Hirzel, C Mowry, T Reinhart,  
L Vonderwell, M Yackey, ONE NEEDED

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

Lector: David Mathew

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 8:30 AM**

Servers: Zach Dealey, Alexa Gearhart, Kassidy Klinger

E. M.: J Cross, M Cross, B Fuerst, D Fuerst, D Pollock,  
J Sheeran, B WassermanUshers: Jim Brickner, R Knueve, S Thomas, D Krizay,  
B Wolke, E Fox

Lector: Lois Steyer

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 10:30 AM**

Servers: Sam, Anna, and Maggie Cassidy

E. M.: M Anthony, D Arend, J Arend, J Bloomfield,  
D Berryman, A Schaufelberger, B WilliamsonUshers: Charles Brickner, M Keber, D Allmandinger,  
D Keber, J Meyers, B Keber

Lector: Trina Shultz

**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.

## **A HOLIDAY AND A HOLYDAY**

New Years Eve for many calls to mind parties with friends to ring out the old year and ring in the new.

If you are a bit older, you may recall coming to the special hour in the company of Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadiennes from the beautiful ballroom at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. The big band sounds hush for that great countdown, and then resumes . . . . welcoming in the New Year!

While many still pause at 11:59 PM to watch the waterford crystal ball drop, other entertainment includes music of all kinds and watching fireworks from around the world. The promise of a new year is filled with hope.

The activities of New Years Day are just as diverse. With sauerkraut and pork somewhere on the menu for good luck, the day may include watching parades and football games or perhaps getting a game up ourselves. Many use the free time to undecorated homes and trees. The evening sees the end of the holiday season with happy memories as business-as-usual for the next day.

In our Catholic tradition, New Years is another stop on our celebration of Christmas.

January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (the Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord). Our attention is drawn to Mary under her oldest title "theotokos" or "God-bearer." We are invited to seek God's blessings, as Mary did, and ponder the events of our own lives.

This gives us a good opportunity to consider challenging ourselves to greater growth in grace and holiness. Did I find something in Advent particularly helpful? Did the Jubilee Year of Mercy reveal something I would like to pursue? Perhaps it is better to try and do one thing rather than make a list of twenty that will never see completion. Our Blessed Mother is a powerful intercessor!

Our Christmas season will continue with the celebration of Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord next week.

On behalf of our parish and school, we wish you and yours a very Blessed, Safe, Healthy and Happy New Year!

*Fr. Stan*



## Religious Education Connection

### Mary, Mother of God? How Can that Be?

The title, “Mother of God”, is offensive to some non-Catholics because they believe that this title implies that Mary is at the level of God, Himself. How can Mary, a creature subject to death, be the “mother” of the Almighty and Eternal.

Catholics understand that the title does not imply that she existed from all eternity. She was and is a human being. She is the Mother of God because she gave birth to “God become Man”, Jesus, “the Word made flesh” (John 1). Mary’s divine maternity was proclaimed dogma by the Council of Ephesus in AD 431. This dogma makes two important points.



#### First, Mary is a mother.

Jesus had no human father so, through the Holy Spirit, of Jesus’ human nature came from Mary (CCC 485). St. John Paul II stated in his encyclical, *Redemptoris Mater*, “[Jesus] is the flesh and blood of Mary!”

#### Second, Mary conceived and bore the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

It was the Nestorian heresy, which denied that the unity of the two natures, divine and human, were inseparable in Jesus. Today, some still believe that Mary was the mother of Jesus’ human nature only. However, a mother does not give birth to a nature. A mother gives birth to a person. Since Jesus is a divine Person, it is logical to say that Mary is the “Mother of God.” This may be difficult for our understanding to fully grasp, but we were not created to know and understand everything. That is not necessary for our salvation. Scripture does, however, call Mary, the mother of Jesus, and when Mary visits her cousin, Elizabeth, Elizabeth greets Mary by calling her, “the mother of my Lord” (Luke 1:26-38, CCC 495).

Perhaps the word, Theotokos, can help us to understand a little better. The word means, “God bearer.” It does not mean, “God generator.” To say that God was generated would be to say that God is not eternal and had a beginning. Rather, “to bear” means to hold in one’s womb. For Mary to “bear” God means to hold God in her womb. The Catholic and Orthodox churches believe that Mary actually bore God (in the person of Jesus) in her womb. Jesus did not “become God” when he left the womb. To deny that Mary bore God is to deny the divinity of Jesus.

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, came out of the Council of Ephesus. By the 7th century, the solemnity was known as the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was celebrated on January 1, which is the Octave of Christmas. Only Christmas and Easter have these special times of Octaves. The Octave is a way to extend these major celebrations over several days. The solemnity was moved a couple times through the centuries until Pope Paul VI restored the solemnity to its original date of January 1 with the new name, “Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.”

Since we are reborn as children of God in baptism, we now share in the divine life through grace, and we may rightly look to Mary as our mother. By drawing near to her as our mother, we draw near to Jesus Himself. It is interesting to note that two of the early Protestant leaders, Martin Luther and John Calvin, taught Mary’s divine maternity. They even condemned those, who denied this essential truth. As for the complaint that Catholics make too big a fuss of honoring Mary, how many people would take offense to hear that said of our relationship with our earthly mothers.

St. Maximilian Kolbe once said, “Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin Mary too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did and if anyone does not wish to have Mary Immaculate for his mother, he will not have Christ for his brother.”



Jan 1 Volunteers Needed—Call Ed  
 Jan 5 Ed Fox, JIM BRICKNER, Joyce Oechsle,  
 Nancy Wollenhaupt  
 Jan 8 ED FOX, Paul Oechsle, Sindi Hazeltine,  
 Pam Cassidy, Rosemary Dunno  
 Jan 12 Neil Smith, ED FOX, Jamie Dickinson,  
 Jennifer Hammons, Mindy Kremer

### KITCHEN WORKERS Report By 4:30 PM

Jan 1 Volunteers Needed—Call Ed  
 Jan 5 Staff Night  
 Jan 8 Geri Haigh, Carolyn Kesler, Lori Allen  
 Jan 12 Jim and Julie Bloomfield

**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**

#### RESPONSE TO THE LORD FOR DECEMBER 18, 2016

ADULT OFFERING FROM 123 ENVELOPES	\$6,642.97
TOTAL ANONYMOUS	294.97
CHILDREN OFFERING FROM 8 ENVELOPES	17.50
TOTAL	\$6,955.44
TOTAL WEEKLY SUNDAY BUDGET	<u>\$8,386.00</u>

### 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.



### To Love And Be Loved

"One woman made a selfless choice. So that I can love and be loved."

#### THE POWER OF ONE

This quote from Ryan Bomberger beautifully sums up the 2017 March for Life theme, "the power of one." **One decision and one person can impact the world.** Ryan's mother chose life and she chose adoption. Ryan will be a speaker at the March For Life Rally in Washington D. C.

All are invited to support March For Life 2017, JANUARY 27, 2017 by walking and or participating in the **Van Wert Community Mini- March For Life 2017**. This local march is sponsored by Van Wert Pregnancy Life Center and local faith communities. The schedule is as follows:

11:00 am -- Meet in Fountain Park  
 11:15 am -- Walk to K of C Hall (Woodland Ave.)  
 11:30 am -- Lunch (Donations to Pregnancy Life Center)  
 12:00 pm --Prayer Service

The Mini-March coincides with the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. Commemorating the 44th Anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion.

Our vision is a world where every human life is valued and protected. Tragically 57 million babies have been lost to abortion since 1973.

Donations of cookies are appreciated. Drop off at K of C Hall, Friday morning 10 or later. Your support is greatly appreciated.

### 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 St. Vincent de Paul and the St. Mary's Youth Group.

If you have any questions, please call Maribeth Dickman.



Kelly Andersen, Rev. Tony Bus, Ann Carter, 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.

### *Baptized at St. Mary's*

Briar Rae Oesterle  
&

Brooks Steven Oesterle  
Children of Matthew & Lauren Oesterle



### **This Week in Our Parish**

Sun Jan 1: Mary Mother of God  
Masses 8:30 am & 10:30 am  
Bingo (K of C Hall) 6:15 pm

Mon Jan 2: Parish Office Closed

Tue Jan 3: School Council (Library) 7:00 pm

Wed Jan 4: SOR 6:45—8:00 pm  
Youth Group (HFR) 6:45—8:00 pm

Thur Jan 5: Bingo (K of C Hall) 6:15 pm

Fri Jan 6: First Friday  
Mass at Van Crest 10:00 am  
Adoration (Chapel) 8:00 pm-8:00 am

Sat Jan 7: First Saturday Mass 8:00 am



**YOUTH GROUP** will be meeting this Wednesday, January 4, from 6:45-8:00 in the Holy Family Room. All high school students are welcome!

### **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



*Happy 2017  
from the staff  
of St. Mary's!*

A big THANK YOU to our good friends at Brickners, Cowan & Sons & Alspach-Gearhart for providing our parish with the beautiful calendars for 2017. May God bless all of us in this New Year!

#### NEW YEAR'S



### **Readings for the Week of January 1, 2017**

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98/Jn 1:19-28  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Ps 98/Jn 1:29-34  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98/Jn 1:35-42  
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100/Jn 1:43-51  
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38  
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149/Jn 2:1-11  
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12





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