

 **Mass Intentions**

- Monday** Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> John of the Cross, priest/dr of the Church  
5:00 p.m. Donald Gaydosch
- Tuesday** December 15<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 a.m. Charles Knechtges
- Wednesday** December 16<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m. Clara Smith
- Thursday** December 17<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 a.m. Shirley Roling
- Friday** December 18<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Keys
- Saturday** December 19<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m. The Suetta Family  
4:30 p.m. The Martin & Meanor Families  
~ *Teen Jam Music Ministry*
- Sunday** December 20<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent   
8:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish  
9:30 a.m. Zoltan Ignatz and Rago Family  
11:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of the James Ross Family

Readings for the Week of December 14<sup>th</sup>

Mon	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17; Ps 25:4-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tue	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
Wed	Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18-23
Thur	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Fri	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Sat	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; 71:3-6, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Sun	Mi 5:1-4; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45



Please pray for the repose of the souls of *Timothy Boylan* and *Michael Poepelman* who died this past week and for the consolation of their loved ones.

*In your prayers...*



This week, please remember all in our parish community, the intentions in our intention book, our family and friends in need, especially: *Ann Lou, Ben, Bette, Bob, Carmen, Claire, Colin, Dan, Dennis, Eli, Jim, Jo Ann, Kelly, Linda, Lois G., Mary, Mary Ellen, Matt, Paul, P.J., Tom, Vicki, Zak* and all who have asked for our prayers.

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Sunday Collection (12/06/15)	\$13,459.30
Envelopes	290
Retirement for Religious	\$1,386.00

***Thank you for your generosity.***

[2<sup>nd</sup> Collection December 13<sup>th</sup> - Helping Hands Ministry]  
[2<sup>nd</sup> Collection December 20<sup>th</sup> - Tuition Assistance]

Please note: Any last minute contributions to be credited for 2015 need to be received in the Church office by Wed., December 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Thank you.



My Friends,

This weekend we light the rose candle on the Advent wreath to celebrate 'Gaudete' Sunday. We 'rejoice' that we are halfway through the season as we approach the celebration of the Christmas mystery. Maybe it is the weather but I have yet to enter into the spirit of Advent. It seems like the time is flying by and there is little opportunity to ponder the mystery that God desires to dwell among His people. It is hard to hope and love when there is so much anger and violence going on in our world. How is it possible to rejoice when one watches the evening news? It seems there is so little good news these days. But that is the point of this Sunday. In spite of our feelings of exile, our God is not only coming but he is Emmanuel. God is with us!

I worry that politicians are stoking the fires of fear to manipulate us for their own personal ends. I can't think of anything more contrary to the gospel and Christian belief. They unknowingly speak the truth when they say we are no longer a Christian nation. Pope Francis has shown us the way. He calls for faith over fear. Love casts out fear. People trust in their guns over trust in their God. Those who live by the sword will die by the sword. Maybe my inability to enter into the Christmas spirit is due to the fact that true peace in the world is becoming more and more elusive.

Building walls, closing our borders and more guns are not the way to peace. At least, that is not how I read the Gospels. God, in taking on flesh, makes himself vulnerable in love. In fact, he is crucified for his love. Pope Francis has proclaimed a Year of Mercy that started this past December 8<sup>th</sup>, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. As we prepare to celebrate the Christmas mystery, let us take this time to ponder the way to peace. I think it is going to lead us to a small babe lying in a manger in Bethlehem.

*Fr. Charlie*

*Just a reminder:*

**All gifts for the Giving Tree need to be collected this SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>** in order for them to be distributed in time for Christmas. If need be, gifts can be dropped off at the Parish Office on Mon., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for supporting this outreach project and helping those who are in need this Holiday Season.



'SNOWFALL OF CASH' CALENDARS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!  
Each calendar sells for \$10 and entitles you to 31 chances to win that day's cash prize. Due to postal regulations, we are no longer able to mail these calendars so we ask that you please stop at the Parish Office and pick up your envelope of calendars.



They make great Christmas stocking stuffers!

*Teen Jam Music Ministry will be playing at the 4:30pm Mass on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.*

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## This Week in our Parish

<b>Monday</b> 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<b>December 14<sup>th</sup></b> Helping Hands Ministry - Conference Room P.S.R. - St. Joseph & Marian Buildings
<b>Tuesday</b> 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>December 15<sup>th</sup></b> SMS Pre-School Christmas Program - Weigand Rm Hot Meals - Cafeteria Brownies - Green Room Revisiting Our Faith - Conference Room 'Egypt & Exodus Part I' SMS Band Concert - Parish Hall
<b>Wednesday</b> 5:45 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>December 16<sup>th</sup></b> Liturgy Commission - Conference Room Cub Scouts - Green Room Choir - Choir Loft
<b>Thursday</b> 9am - 5pm 11:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<b>December 17<sup>th</sup></b> Eucharistic Adoration - Lower Church Altar & Rosary - Rosary & Benediction & Christmas Tureen Luncheon - Weigand Room Girl Scouts & Brownies - Art Room Parish Council & Commissions - Weigand Room
<b>Sunday</b> After 8 & 9:30 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>December 20<sup>th</sup></b> Masses Blood Pressure Checks - Weigand Room Liturgy of the Word with Children Pre-School P.S.R. - St. Joseph Building Secular Franciscans - Lower Church <b>Cluster Communal Penance Service at St. Jude Church</b>

200 CLUB WINNER: 12/13/15 Cliff Essenmacher #68

Congratulations to the five \$200 winners from December 5<sup>th</sup>:

Bill Fitch #129, Melvin Hartwig #9, Jennifer Barden #28,  
Wendy Lawson-Knechtges #44 & Lester Freeman #162

**St. Mary's Altar & Rosary Society** will meet in the Lower Chapel at 11:00am for the Rosary and Benediction on **Thursday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>**. A TUREEN Luncheon will follow in the Weigand Room. The meat dish will be furnished so please make your reservation by **Monday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>** by calling the Parish Office 323-5539 then just bring your favorite dish to share.

The envelope for the *Christmas Memorial Fund* can be found in your December/January packet, or just use a plain envelope marked attention: A&R and enclose a note saying in whose memory you are making the offering. A memorial list will be published during the Christmas Season. Thank you for your continued support.



The second collection on Christmas will be for the St. Mary Education Endowment Trust Fund.



Blood Pressure checks will be available in the Weigand Room next Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> after 8 & 9:30am Masses.

St. Mary School Programs:



**Pre-School Christmas Program:** Tuesday ~ December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the Lower Church

**Band Concert:** Tuesday ~ December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Parish Hall

All are welcome to attend.

### Shepherds and Angels



At the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass, children [age 4-9] are encouraged to come and to dress as shepherds, angels, Mary & Joseph and the three kings. If you are interested in your child being a special part of this Christmas Eve Mass, please pick up a form from the church entrance, fill it out and return it to the Church office. We ask all who sign up to arrive by 3:40pm on Thursday evening December 24<sup>th</sup> in the Weigand Room for costume distribution and instruction.



Our Parish will be serving dinner this Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 5-6pm in the School Cafeteria. Volunteers are always appreciated to serve or help with preparation at 3pm.

...and Jesus said...FEED THE HUNGRY

We will deliver dinner to St. Joseph's Catholic Overnight Shelter on both **Saturday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to participate you may do so by furnishing a pasta with meat dish, salad, rolls/bread or dessert. Please call Maryann at 440-458-6159 by **Wed., Dec 16<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you! ~ *Social Action Commission*

St. Mary Church along with its family & friends are sponsoring a **Free Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day** from **12 Noon - 3pm** for anyone seeking a delicious meal or fellowship. If you are interested in helping on Christmas Day or with set-up on Thurs., December 24<sup>th</sup> at 9am, please email Angie Pluta at [stmaryelyria@aol.com](mailto:stmaryelyria@aol.com).



### Advent and Christmas Schedule

**Reconciliation:** All Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:15pm  
Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>: 3:00 – 4:15pm  
Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>: 12:30 – 1:30pm & 7:00 - 8:00 pm  
Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>: 4:00 – 5:00pm & 7:00 – 8:00pm

\* *Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> ~ 7:00pm*  
*Cluster Communal Penance Service at St. Jude Church*

**Mass Schedule:** Christmas Eve Masses:

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: 4:00 and 6:00pm  
Midnight Mass: 12 Midnight [*Carols at 11:15pm*]

Christmas Day Masses:

Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 and 11:00am

New Year's Day Mass (Holyday of Obligation):

*Vigil* ~ December 31<sup>st</sup>: 5:00pm  
Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016: 9:00 and 11:00am