



**Mass Intentions**

<b>Monday</b> 5:00 p.m.	<b>Dec. 21<sup>st</sup></b> Peter Canisius, priest/dr of the Church Walter Clare
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 a.m.	<b>December 22<sup>nd</sup></b> Living & Deceased of the Larizza Family
<b>Wednesday</b> 5:00 p.m.	<b>December 23<sup>rd</sup></b> John of Kanty, priest Frederick J. Tabler
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 12 Midnight	<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b> Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish
<b>Friday</b> 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>December 25<sup>th</sup></b> Christmas Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish
<b>Saturday</b> 9:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	<b>December 26<sup>th</sup></b> Stephen, The First Martyr John Radachi Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>December 27<sup>th</sup></b> Holy Family Ben and Mary Mahl The Fada and Hartman Families Carl and Marian Ternes

Readings for the Week of December 21<sup>st</sup>

Mon	Sg 2:8-14 ; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Tue	1 Sm 1:24-28; Ps 1Sm 2:1, 4-8; Lk 1:46-56
Wed	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Thur	<b>Morning:</b> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14,16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Fri	<b>Vigil:</b> Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 <b>Night:</b> Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 <b>Dawn:</b> Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11- 12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 <b>Day:</b> Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
Sat	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17; Mt 10:17-22
Sun	1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

*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, Mary, Mary Ellen, Matt, Paul, P.J., Tom, Vicki, Zak** and all who have asked for our prayers.



**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Sunday Collection (12/13/15)	\$10,656.96
Envelopes	290
Helping Hands Ministry	\$ 1,697.87

*Thank you for your generosity.*

[2<sup>nd</sup> Collection December 20<sup>th</sup> - Tuition Assistance]  
[2<sup>nd</sup> Collection December 27<sup>th</sup> - Home for a Season]

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,

As our society becomes increasingly secular, I am often amused how civic and retail entities go out of their way to avoid any reference to Christ in their celebration of the 'Holidays.' It is like unwrapping the gift of a diamond, throwing the diamond away and keeping the wrapping paper. Faith is certainly a gift from God to which we must surrender ourselves. Jesus forces himself on no one and would certainly reject the heavy hand some 'Christians' use to spread his cause. Yet it is hard to understand why the celebration of his name is so threatening to the non-believer. Christianity is the number one religion persecuted throughout the world today. But maybe that is not a bad thing. It was in the time of the Roman persecutions that Christianity flourished. Once it became part of the 'institution' it suffered the same corruption as so many other human institutions.

Pope Francis is trying to direct us back to those early days when people were willing to surrender their life to remain faithful. Jesus is the heart of Christmas. If we are not ready to encounter him in our midst, our faith is a sham. Pope Francis calls it a 'theology of encounter.' We encounter Christ in the poor and suffering. We encounter him in one another. We have a profound experience of his presence when we share him together in the Eucharist. The Christmas spirit for many ends the day after Christmas when the tree ends up on the curb. For the believer, the day after Christmas is only the beginning of God becoming incarnate in our world. The joy and love only deepens.

Let's engage ourselves in the true spirit of Christmas. We need the word to become flesh in us. We can renew this encounter this evening at our Cluster Penance Service at St. Jude's at 7pm. Jesus came among us to unleash God's mercy. In this Year of Mercy let us free ourselves from the burden of our sins and bring God's love into the world. If you are unable to make it this Sunday night, please check the bulletin for confession times this week. Let us at least as Christians get Christ back into our lives.

*Fr. Charlie*

Thank you for your generosity to the Religious Retirement Fund. You truly are "Sharing in the Care" of many religious throughout this country who are in need. We deeply appreciate this assistance. God's loving care touches our retired religious through the hearts of all those who give so generously to this collection year after year.

~ Sister Mary Dorothy CSA



Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Lois Gensert** who died this past week and for the consolation of her loved ones.

**HIGH SCHOOL TEENS... SAVE THE DATES!!!**

**Teen JaM's** second annual **Renewal Weekend** is scheduled for **Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>** at **Holy Spirit Parish** in **Avon Lake**. It is open to all high school students. We promise, you will have an awesome time & will create memories that will last a lifetime. Bring a friend or 2. Space is limited so reserve your spot. Registration forms will be available next week. Cost: \$20 [for the weekend.] Questions??? contact Randy Kula at [RLKULA@COX.NET](mailto:RLKULA@COX.NET) or (216) 409-2639.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### This Week in our Parish

**Monday** December 21<sup>st</sup>  
5:30 p.m. Helping Hands Ministry - Conference Room

**Tuesday** December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
5:00 p.m. Hot Meals - Cafeteria  
7:00 p.m. Evangelization - Conference Room

**Wednesday** December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Green Room  
7:00 p.m. Choir - Choir Loft

**Thursday** December 24<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m. Set-up for Christmas Dinner - Parish Hall

**Friday** December 25<sup>th</sup>



# Christmas Blessings

Noon - 3pm Christmas Dinner - Parish Hall

200 CLUB WINNER: 12/20/15 Jack Plas #6



The envelope for the St. Mary Altar & Rosary 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.

**CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS:** On Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016, Bishop Roger Gries will be celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation in our parish. Adults having received Baptism and First Holy Communion who wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, please contact Sister Mary Dorothy at the Parish Office 323-5539.

'SNOWFALL OF CASH' CALENDARS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!



Each calendar sells for \$10 and entitles you to 13 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!



The Giving Tree

**THANK YOU** to all who took part in our **Christmas Giving Tree**. We appreciate your generous support in caring for those who are in need. Your generosity was appreciated by Genesis House, Elyria Health Dept., Blessing House, Catholic Charities and Birth Right.

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



Blood Pressure checks are available in the Weigand Room this Sun., Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> after the 8 & 9:30am Masses.



The St. Mary School Community would like to wish all of our parishioners a Blessed and Happy Christmas Season. May Christ's peace and joy fill your lives. Thank you for your support and prayers for our school. We wish you God's blessings in the New Year.

Anyone participating in the **4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass (Angels & Shepherds)** should meet with Sister Mary Dorothy in the Weigand Room at **3:40pm** on Thursday before Mass.



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

We will deliver dinner to St. Joseph's Catholic Overnight Shelter on **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. 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**. Anyone seeking a delicious meal or good fellowship is welcome to join us.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUR COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER** If you are available to help with the set up and decorating on Christmas Eve [9am-Noon] or on Christmas Day [1-4pm], please contact Angie Pluta at [stmaryelyria@aol.com](mailto:stmaryelyria@aol.com) or leave a message at the Parish Center Office, 323-5539.

### Advent and Christmas Schedule

#### **Reconciliation:**

\* Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> ~ 7:00pm

Cluster Communal Penance Service at St. Jude Church

Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>: 12:30 - 1:30pm & 4:00 - 5:00pm

Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>: 4:00 - 5:00pm & 7:00 - 8:00pm

#### **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

#### **Part-Time Help Needed:**

If you are interested in setting-up, working events and breaking down at the St. Parish Hall, please contact Mary Jane at the Parish Office 323-5539 for more information.