



Mass Intentions

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| Monday | December 19th |
| 5:00 p.m. | Ernest E. Sr. and Sophia Bedocs |
| Tuesday | December 20th |
| 8:30 a.m. | Don Gaydosh |
| Wednesday | Dec. 21st Peter Canisius, priest/dr of the Church |
| 5:00 p.m. | Eleanor Vargo |
| Thursday | December 22nd |
| 8:30 a.m. | Margaret Lafon |
| Friday | December 23rd John of Kanty, priest |
| 8:30 a.m. | Frederick J. Tabler |
| Saturday | December 24th |
| 9:00 a.m. | Rocky and Eileen Ross |
| 4:00 p.m. | Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish |
| 6:00 p.m. | Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish |
| 12 Midnight | Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish |
| Sunday | December 25th Christmas |
| 8:00 a.m. | Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish |
| 9:30 a.m. | Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish |
| 11:00 a.m. | Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish |

Readings for the Week of December 19th

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| Mon: | Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25 |
| Tue: | Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38 |
| Wed: | Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45 |
| Thur: | 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56 |
| Fri: | Ml 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14; Lk 1:57-66 |
| Sat: | Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Lk 1:67-79 Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 |
| Sun: | 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; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 |

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: **Arlene, Bette, Betty, Carmen, Charlie, Chris, Dave, Doug, Grace, John, Kelly, Mary, Pat, Richard, Sharon, Terry, Tom** and all who have asked for our prayers.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

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| Immaculate Conception (12/08/16) | \$1,046.00 |
| Sunday Collection (12/11/16) | \$14,234.56 |
| Retirement for Religious | \$1,601.60 |
| Envelopes | 230 |

Thank you for your generosity.

[2nd Collection December 18th - Tuition Assistance]
[2nd Coll. December 25th - Education Endowment Fund]
Matching Funds Grant total to date: \$19,190.00

Please note: Any contributions to be credited for 2016 need to be received in the Church office by Fri., December 30th. Thank you.



My Friends,

Christmas is here ready or not! While there are still a few days left for shopping, the question is whether we had the time to do our spiritual preparation. All too often in our consumer society we live on the surface getting along from day to day. We do not set down roots probing the deeper reason and purpose of our existence. We lose the true meaning of the Christmas mystery and its invitation to enter into a relationship with the divine. We think we can fill the void by adding more lights or shopping for more gifts. They may bring excitement for the moment but the joy will be short-lived.

I encourage you in these last remaining days of Advent that you dedicate some time for your spirit. This Sunday evening, we have our cluster Communal Penance Service at St. Jude's beginning at 7pm. Join us for some prayer and reflection and the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. For those who are unable to make it, I would suggest that you take the opportunity to get to Confession. There are various times the two days before Christmas listed in today's bulletin for individual confession. Do yourself a favor and take advantage of this graced moment.

Find some time to pray whether it is alone or as a family. The booklets at the church entrances offer the readings of each day with reflections. This is a wonderful way to hear what God wants to speak to us each day. Don't let this Christmas season go by without giving a gift to your spirit.

On a more mundane level, I am making one last appeal in our effort to take full advantage of the matching grant before the year ends. We are presently at \$19,190. With the additional donation of \$5,810, we would get the full benefit of the \$50,000 for our parish budget. My thanks to all who have made contributions so far.

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 **Theodore 'Teddy' Giovannazzo** and for the consolation of his loved ones.

OPLATKI is now available in the Parish Office
- Envelope of 4 wafers [3 white & 1 pink] for \$2.



Blood Pressure checks will be available this Sunday Dec. 18th after 8 & 9:30am Masses - Weigand Room

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT



This Week in our Parish

Monday **December 19th**
5:30 p.m. Helping Hands Ministry - Conference Room
6:30 p.m. P.S.R. - St. Joseph & Marian Buildings
7:00 p.m. Hall Committee - Weigand Room

Tuesday **December 20th**
5:00 p.m. Hot Meals - Cafeteria
6:00 p.m. Brownies - Green Room

Wednesday **December 21st**
5:45 p.m. Liturgy Committee - Conference Room
7:00 p.m. Choir - Choir Loft
7:00 p.m. CANA Club - Cahill Library

Thursday **December 22nd**
9am - 5pm Eucharistic Adoration - Lower Church

Saturday **December 24th**
11:00 a.m. Set-up for Christmas Dinner - Parish Hall

Sunday **December 25th**



Christmas Blessings

Noon - 3pm Christmas Dinner - Parish Hall

200 Club Winner: 12/18/16 Maryanne Steigerwald #241

CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS: On Thursday, March 16th 2017, 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.



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.



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 Catholic Charities, Genesis House, Blessing House, the Elyria Health Department, and Birth Right.

THANK YOU to all who attended the Hall Committee's Pancake Breakfast on Dec. 4th. 200 Breakfasts were served! Because of your generosity, \$562 was donated to the St. Mary Helping Hands Ministry.



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 & return it to the Church office. We ask all who sign up to arrive by 3:40pm on Sat. evening Dec. 24th in the Weigand Room for costume distribution and instruction.



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 [11am-Noon] or on Christmas Day [1-4pm], please contact Angie Pluta at stmaryelyria@aol.com or leave a message at the Parish Center Office, 323-5539.

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



'SNOWFALL OF CASH' CALENDARS ARE HERE!

Each calendar sells for \$10 and entitles you to 31 chances to win that day's cash prize. Please stop outside the Weigand Room and pick up your envelope of calendars. They make great Christmas stocking stuffers!



Advent and Christmas Schedule

All are encouraged to attend the Cluster Communal Penance Service at **St. Jude Church** on **Sunday, December 18th ~ 7:00pm**

Reconciliation: All Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:15pm

Thursday, December 22nd: 12:30 – 1:30pm & 7:00 - 8:00pm

Friday, December 23rd: 4:00 – 5:00pm & 7:00 - 8:00pm

Mass Schedule: **Christmas Eve Masses:**

Saturday, December 24th: 4:00 and 6:00pm
Midnight Mass: 12 Midnight [*Carols at 11:15pm*]

Christmas Day Masses:

* Sunday, December 25th: 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00am
[*Regular Sunday Mass schedule]

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

Vigil ~ December 31st: 4:30pm

* Sunday, January 1st, 2017: 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00am
[*Regular Sunday Mass schedule]

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

"*Hopeful Hearts*" is for grieving seniors 60+. It meets in the Holy Spirit Parish Family Center, 410 Lear Rd. Avon Lake. The next meeting is ***December 20th** from 1-2:30pm. [*NOTE change of meeting date just for December. The following meeting will be as usual on the 4th Tues., Jan. 24th, 2017.] Meetings are open to the community at no charge, are ongoing, no reservations required. Sponsored by Hospice of the Western Reserve & the Holy Spirit Bereavement Ministry. For further information contact: Chemarra Bryant, Bereavement Coordinator, HWR, 440-892-6680 or Mary Lou 440-933-4423.