



<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 18<sup>th</sup></b>
5:00 p.m.	Clemence, Carolyn, Robert Alan and Richard Faecking
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 19<sup>th</sup></b>
8:30 a.m.	Special Intention
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 20<sup>th</sup></b>
5:00 p.m.	Clemence, Carolyn, Robert Alan and Richard Faecking
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> Peter Canisius, priest/dr of the church</b>
8:30 a.m.	Carl, Helen, Jim, Gene, Ed Webber & Donna Smith
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 22<sup>nd</sup></b>
8:30 a.m.	Teddy Giovannazzo
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 23<sup>rd</sup> John of Kanty, priest</b>
9:00 a.m.	Walt Ketchesin
4:30 p.m.	Frederick J. Tabler
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 24<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>
8:00 a.m.	Ben and Mary Mahl
9:30 a.m.	Jim and Joan Reitz
11:00 a.m.	Dawn Pope
	<b>Christmas Eve</b>
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish
<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish
<b>Midnight</b>	Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish



*Christmas Blessings*

**Readings for the Week of December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Mon:	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Tue:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; Ps 71:3-6, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Wed:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Thur:	Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Fri:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8; Lk 1:46-56
Sat:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Sun:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38



*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, Bob, Chris, Craig, Elaine, Eli, Jessica, Jim, Kathy, Lillian, Linda, Mark, Mary, P.J., Pat, Patrick, Robert, Susan, Tom, Victoria** and all who have asked for our prayers.

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Immaculate Conception 12/08/17	\$1,089.15
Sunday Collection 12/10/17	\$9,807.96
Retirement for Religious	\$1,372.54
Envelopes	248

**Thank you for your continued generosity.**

[2<sup>nd</sup> Collection December 17<sup>th</sup> - Tuition Assistance]  
[2<sup>nd</sup> Collection December 24<sup>th</sup> - Capital Improvement Fund]

Please note: Any contributions to be credited for 2017 need to be received in the Church office by Fri., December 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

My Friends,

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the rose candle on the wreath to express the joy that we are halfway on our journey to celebrating the Christmas mystery. Amid all the busyness of making holiday preparations, I hope you are finding some time to nurture your spirit. The pace of our daily schedule leaves little opportunity to ponder the deeper purpose and mystery of our lives. We find ourselves living on the surface without satisfying the deeper hungers of our soul. We may be thrilled in the moment by the decorations and lights but the joy does not last.

We need to get in touch with the mystery that our life must mean something if God is willing to become one of us! There is an emptiness in the human heart that can only be filled by the infinite love of God. If we have the faith to embrace this mystery of the Word becoming flesh, then every human life becomes infinitely precious. God becomes present in every moment of our life. We love and reverence Christ in every person we meet.

As we look at the world around us, I am not sure that we are at the halfway mark on the journey. Greed and the lust for power permeate our society. It becomes ever more difficult for God to manifest himself in our world. This Sunday evening we will have our Elyria cluster Communal Penance Service at St. Jude's Church beginning at 7pm. It is a great opportunity to make the necessary adjustments for the second half of our personal journey. As we spend some time together in prayer and reflection, we can examine where our relationship with the Lord is going. It is an ideal time to reconcile that relationship through the celebration of the sacrament. It will bring so much more joy to our Christmas celebration.

*Fr. Charlie*



Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Magdalene 'Maggie' Elek** and **Donald E. Wolf** and for the consolation of their loved ones.



**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 in our community. Your generosity was appreciated by Catholic Charities, Genesis House, Blessing House, Birthright and the local families.

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*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### This Week in our Parish

<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b><u>December 18<sup>th</sup></u></b>
5:30 p.m.	Helping Hands Ministry - Conference Room
6:30 p.m.	P.S.R. - St. Joseph & Marian Buildings
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b><u>December 19<sup>th</sup></u></b>
5:00 p.m.	Hot Meals - Cafeteria
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b><u>December 20<sup>th</sup></u></b>
5:45 p.m.	Liturgy Commission - Conference Room
6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts - Green Room
7:00 p.m.	Cana Club - Cahill Library
7:00 p.m.	Choir - Choir Loft
7:00 p.m.	R.C.I.A. - Conference Room
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	<b><u>December 21<sup>st</sup></u></b>
9am - 5pm	Eucharistic Adoration - Lower Church
11:00 a.m.	Altar & Rosary - Rosary & Benediction & Christmas Tureen Luncheon - Weigand Room
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	<b><u>December 23<sup>rd</sup></u></b>
11:00 a.m.	Set-up for Christmas Dinner - Parish Hall

200 Club Winner: 12/17/17 William Forthofer #139

**CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS:** On Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, Abbot Gary Hoover 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.

**St. Mary's Altar & Rosary Society** will meet in the Lower Chapel at 11am for the Rosary and Benediction on **Thursday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>**. A TUREEN Luncheon will follow in the Weigand Room - just bring your favorite dish to share. [Please RSVP 323-5539, so we can plan accordingly for our main dish.]



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.



No Book Club in December. January's Book is titled: **Indestructible** by John R. Bruning. We will meet on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Cahill Library. All are welcome.

**THANK YOU** to all who attended the Pancake Breakfast on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. 170 Breakfasts were served! Because of your generosity, \$530.00 was donated to the St. Mary Helping Hands Ministry.



Blood Pressure checks will be available this Sun., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am in the Weigand Room.



### 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 Sun. evening Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> in the Weigand Room for costume distribution and instruction.

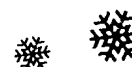
St. Mary Church along with its family & friends are sponsoring a **Free Christmas Dinner** on **Christmas Day** from **Noon - 3pm** for anyone seeking a delicious meal or fellowship. If you are interested in helping on Christmas Day or with set-up on Sat., Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11am - 12:30pm, please email Angie Pluta at [stmaryelyria@aol.com](mailto:stmaryelyria@aol.com).



### CASH EVERYDAY IN JANUARY CALENDARS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

Each calendar sells for \$10 and entitles you to 31 chances to win that day's cash prize. Please stop outside the Weigand Room & pick up an 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 17<sup>th</sup> ~ 7:00pm**

**Reconciliation:** All Saturdays: 3:30 - 4:15pm

Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>: 12:30 - 1:30pm & 7:00 - 8:00pm

Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>: 4:00 - 5:00pm & 7:00 - 8:00pm

**Mass Schedule:** Christmas Eve Masses:

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: 4:00 and 6:00pm

Midnight Mass: 12 Midnight [Carols at 11:15pm]

Christmas Day Masses:

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

New Year's Day Mass (Solemnity of Mary):

Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018: 9:00am

### PTU Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser:

St. Mary PTU is selling Texas Roadhouse gift cards in increments of \$5.00. Please call the school office 322-2808 to order your gift cards. The PTU receives a portion of each card sold. Additional order forms are in the school office or on the school website [[stmarycatholicshoolelyria.com](http://stmarycatholicshoolelyria.com)] under the Wednesday folder tab.



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

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