



Monday	November 28th
5:00 p.m.	John and Irene Polacsek
Tuesday	November 29th
8:30 a.m.	Mildred McCowan
Wednesday	November 30th Andrew, apostle
5:00 p.m.	Don Schneider
Thursday	December 1st
9:00 a.m.	Rolando and Suzana de la Cruz
Friday	December 2nd
8:30 a.m.	Bill Connors
Saturday	December 3rd Francis Xavier, priest
9:00 a.m.	Marie Borgmann
4:30 p.m.	Catherine Gorman
Sunday	December 4th 2nd Sunday of Advent
8:00 a.m.	Lois Gensert
9:30 a.m.	Zoltan Ignatz and the Rago Family
11:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish



Readings for the Week of November 28th

Mon:	Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tue:	Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wed:	Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
Thur:	Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 & 8-8, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri:	Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Sat:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35b-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sun:	Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12



Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Patricia 'Janie' Dallos** and for the consolation of her 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: **Arlene, Bette, Betty, Carmen, Charlie, Chris, Dave, Doug, Kelly, Mary, Pat, Richard, Sharon, Terry, Tom** and all who have asked for our prayers.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Faith Direct (11/15/16)	\$4,606.00
Sunday Collection (11/20/16)	\$7,727.24
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$821.26
Envelopes	230

Thank you for your generosity.

[2nd Collection November 27th - Capital Improvement Fund]

[2nd Collection December 4th - Helping Hands Ministry]

My Friends,

On this First Sunday of Advent we begin a new liturgical year of grace. We move from contemplation of the 'last things' to a new beginning in the desert. We begin anew to hear the prophet's call in the person of John the Baptist rousing us to *prepare the way for the Lord and make straight his paths*. In a secularist society that is trying to eradicate God from our world, we are challenged to renew our faith in the mystery of the Incarnation, a mystery revealed not only in the coming of Christ 2,000 years ago but also in our world today. The Word becomes flesh not only in the Eucharist we celebrate but also in the lives of the people we serve. Jesus promised where two or three gather in his name, he is present in their midst. Our preparation for the Christmas mystery requires much more than looking back in time and remembering the birth of our Savior. More importantly, it is being awakened to the coming of the Messiah in our lives today.

The cries of the ancient prophets could be the cries of our world today. There is still so much suffering and poverty. The incarnate Christ continues to suffer in the lives of the poor. There is terrorism and violence throughout the Middle East, hunger, homelessness and lack of healthcare in our own nation and community. The temptation is that we can find it all so overwhelming that there is nothing I as an individual can do about it. We find it hard to believe that a small infant born in a manger in Bethlehem could make any difference in the world.

The *Christophers* used to challenge us to light one little candle. This is the key and only hope for a solution if we are to overcome the darkness. It is the small actions that we do each day that witness to our belief in the power of Christ to change the world. The Incarnation is about baby steps. Maybe it is wrapping a gift from the Giving Tree. Maybe it is helping with a hot meal or providing food for our food pantries. Maybe it is writing a letter to a congressperson to express a concern over a social injustice.

In the coming year, Elyria will be celebrating its bicentennial. The various churches are working together to focus on a specific group in carrying out acts of kindness. We accept Pope Francis' challenge to bring God's mercy into the world. In a secular world that wants to take Christ out of Christmas, let us do something to make his light shine a little brighter.

Fr. Charlie

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. Due to postal regulations, we are no longer able to mail these calendars so we ask that you please stop outside the Weigand Room and pick up your envelope of calendars. They make great Christmas stocking stuffers!



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT



This Week in our Parish

- Monday November 28th**
 5:30 p.m. Helping Hands Ministry - Conference Room
 5:45 p.m. Girl Scouts - Green Room
 5:45 p.m. Finance - Staff Room
 6:30 p.m. P.S.R. - St. Joseph & Marian Buildings
 7:00 p.m. Stewardship - Staff Room
- Tuesday November 29th**
 5:00 p.m. Hot Meals - Cafeteria
 6:00 p.m. Brownies - Green Room
- Wednesday November 30th**
 7:00 p.m. R.C.I.A - Conference Room
 7:00 p.m. Choir - Choir Loft
- Thursday December 1st**
 9am - 5pm Eucharistic Adoration - Lower Church
 7:00 p.m. Bible Study - Cahill Library
- Saturday December 3rd**
 5:00 p.m. 200 Club Dinner/Dance - Parish Hall
- Sunday December 4th**
 9am-1pm Breakfast with Santa - Parish Hall
 9:30 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Children
 11:00 a.m. Pre-School P.S.R. - St. Joseph Building

200 Club Winner: 11/27/16 Sandra Johnston #19



Senior Activities

The next Senior Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 6th at 12:00 noon in the Weigand Room. The cost of the luncheon is \$5.00. Please call your reservation to Sister Mary Dorothy at 323-0140 by Friday, December 2nd. The Children from St. Mary School will perform part of their Christmas Choral Concert. Time will be available for those who wish to stay and play bingo. We look forward to a great meal, sharing new ideas and hope that you will bring a friend with you.

Thank You... to all who supported our **Altar & Rosary Society Bake Sale** last weekend!



Thank you for your generous donations of non-perishable foods that were collected for the Elyria Hospitality Center & Thank you to all who helped to make our Thanksgiving Dinner a great success!

The St. Mary Hall Committee is sponsoring a **Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 4th** beginning after 8am Mass until 1pm in the Parish Hall.

All are welcome!

[No charge ~ free will donations will be accepted at the door. Proceeds will benefit our Helping Hands Ministry.]

Children can visit with Santa Claus and buy special gifts at **The Lil' Christmas Shoppe** [Sponsored by the St. Mary P.T.U.]

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT

The Spiritual Development Commission is sponsoring an Advent Family Night, in the Weigand Room on Tues., Dec. 6th from 6-8:30pm. Our Advent Family Night this year centers on the Feast of St. Nicholas. Celebrating this feast in Advent brings a bit of festivity to the season. St. Nicholas helps us remember that Christmas is a feast of love, hope, kindness and generosity. The evening is meant to be fun as well as educational. The evening is meant to be fun as well as educational. Children of all ages are most welcome. Invite grandparents and other family friends to share this experience with you. A light supper & beverages will be provided. The cost for the evening is \$7.00 per family. Registration forms are available at the entrances of the Church. Registration deadline is Wednesday, November 30th.



Beginning November 27th, we will have our "GIVING TREE" set up outside the Weigand Room. As you have in the past, we encourage you to participate in the "GIVING TREE" again this year. We have requests for items from Catholic Charities Family Center, The Elyria Health Department, Blessing House, Genesis House and Birthright. These requests will be placed on Christmas tree ornaments and hung on a tree located outside the Weigand Room. Parishioners are encouraged to take one (or more) of the tree ornaments, purchase the gift, wrap it and place it under the tree. Please be sure to attach the tags securely to the packages so that they will get to the correct organization. This outreach program brings Christmas to those most in need in our community and is a great way of showing concern for one another. **All gifts will need to be collected by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th** in order for them to be distributed in time for Christmas. ~ Thank You!

Sponsor A Veteran for Christmas.

The Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky - a facility with 600 male & female residents. Almost 60% of are from Lorain or Cuyahoga County and have nothing when they arrive. My goal is to make sure each resident receives a gift during the holidays. [This is my 4th year doing this ambitious project.] I coordinate with the Veterans Home and put together combinations of men & women's toiletries. It costs \$20 to sponsor a Veteran. Each gift is wrapped and hand delivered. I need people who would like to sponsor one or more veterans. If you have the ability to help, please contact Cindy Urig 440-567-4319. Thank you for your past & continued support!

FIRST FRIDAY FORUM, DECEMBER 2ND: Rev. George Smiga STD, MDiv, professor Sacred Scripture/Homiletics St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School Theology will present *Families of the Bible and Our Own: Finding God in the Irregularities of Life*. Join the First Friday Forum for spiritual refreshment, fellowship & good food at LCCC Spitzer Conference Center 11:30am. Tickets: \$18. RSVP by calling 440-244-0643 or ffflorain@gmail.com by Mon., Nov. 28th.

Christmas Card Signing for Ohio's Death Row Inmates.

The Catholic Action Commission of Lorain County invites you to join in our Christmas Card Signing Event for the 138 people living on Ohio's Death Row. **Thursday, December 8th** beginning at **7pm** at **The Conlon Ministry Ctr. - St. Vincent dePaul Parish**, 41295 North Ridge Rd, Elyria. Questions? Please contact Daniel Alonso at dalonso@ccdacle.org. All materials and refreshments will be provided.