



**Mass Intentions**

*Christmas Blessings*

<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 25<sup>th</sup></b> The Nativity of the Lord
<b>Midnight</b>	Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish
9:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish
11:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 26<sup>th</sup></b> Stephen, 1 <sup>st</sup> martyr
8:30 a.m.	Chuck Duffield
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 27<sup>th</sup></b> John, apostle/evangelist
5:00 p.m.	John and Marie Doehne
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 28<sup>th</sup></b> Holy Innocents, martyrs
8:30 a.m.	Lil O'Dell
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 29<sup>th</sup></b> Thomas Becket, bishop/martyr
8:30 a.m.	Robert Lovicz
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 30<sup>th</sup></b>
9:00 a.m.	Stella Jezewski
4:30 p.m.	Ben Spillar
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 31<sup>st</sup></b> Holy Family
8:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary Parish
9:30 a.m.	Ed Webber
11:00 a.m.	The Fada and Hartman Families

Readings for the Week of December 25<sup>th</sup>

Mon: Midnight:	Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
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 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
Tue:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17; Mt 10:17-22
Wed:	1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1-8
Thur:	1 Jn 1:5- 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7-8; Mt 2:13-18
Fri:	1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5-6; Lk 2:22-35
Sat:	1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7- 10; Lk 2:36-40
Sun:	Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40



*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**

Faith Direct 12/04/17	\$9,904.50
Sunday Collection 12/17/17	\$10,580.44
Tuition Assistance	\$392.45

**Thank you for your continued generosity.**

- [2<sup>nd</sup> Collection December 24<sup>th</sup> - Capital Improvement Fund]
- [2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Christmas - Education Endowment Fund]
- [2<sup>nd</sup> Collection December 31<sup>st</sup> - Tuition Assistance]

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.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all the staff here at St. Mary's, I want to wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year! It is a time of special blessing for us as a parish family. At the heart of all that we do here is our belief in the Christmas mystery where the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. Where two or three gather in his name, Jesus promised to be present with them. We need each other for him to come alive in our midst. Every time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, it is a 'little Christmas' where the Word becomes flesh in us.

In our secular world, everyone is ready to decorate with lights and open gifts, but they miss the heart of the celebration. The fact that God would become one of us should help us understand how precious each human life is. Just the slightest appreciation of this mystery would make abortion and child abuse/trafficking abhorrent. Instead of building walls, we would welcome the refugee and the immigrant as if we were receiving Christ himself. If we embraced the true meaning of Christmas, no one would go to bed hungry or without a roof over his or her head. If we were faithful to Christ in this Christmas mystery there could be no war and peace would reign over all.

Maybe it is too much to dream or hope for. But isn't that the Christmas mystery itself? Is it possible that God could become man? For those who believe, this is a time of hope that promises more than we can think or imagine. For those who have no faith it is hard to find any depth of meaning in some colored lights and gift packages. The tree is on the curb once all the presents are opened. May we enter into the true spirit of the Christmas season by proclaiming the angels' message: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to all people of good will!"

*Fr. Charlie*

**Christmas Schedule**

**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



*Congratulations to  
Michael & Stephanie Hanlon  
on the celebration of their  
50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.*



St. Mary Church along with its family & friends is sponsoring a **FREE Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day from 12 Noon - 3pm** in the Parish Hall.

Anyone seeking a delicious meal or good fellowship is welcome to join us.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### This Week in our Parish

**Monday**     **December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Noon – 3pm   Christmas Dinner – Parish Hall



**Tuesday**     **December 26<sup>th</sup>**  
5:00 p.m.     Hot Meals - Cafeteria

**Wednesday**     **December 27<sup>th</sup>**  
6:30 p.m.     Cub Scouts - Green Room  
7:00 p.m.     R.C.I.A. - Conference Room

**Thursday**     **December 28<sup>th</sup>**  
9am - 5pm     Eucharistic Adoration - Lower Church

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200 Club Winner:   12/24/17     Brian Kneisel     #268

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**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*

*Thank you to all who have contributed so generously to the St. Mary Altar & Rosary Christmas Memorial Fund.*

*A memorial list will be published during the Christmas Season.*



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.



'SNOWFALL OF CASH' CALENDARS are still available. They sell for \$10 each and offer 31 chances at cash prizes throughout January. [Sell 10 calendars and your name will be entered into a drawing for \$500 at the end of January.]

Calendars are available at the Parish Office and all returns should be received by December 31<sup>st</sup> to be eligible for all 31 daily drawings in January.



*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.*

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### Shepherds and Angels



All those participating in the **4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass (Angels & Shepherds)** should meet with Sister Mary Dorothy in the Weigand Room at **3:40pm** on Sunday evening Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> in the Weigand Room for costume distribution and instruction.

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### Eucharistic Adoration

*Could you not watch one hour with Me? Mt 26:40*

While contemplating New Year's resolutions...Why not begin the New Year with a decision to spend some special time with Jesus? Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is every Thursday, 9am - 5pm in the lower Chapel. All are welcome - Please call Pat Franco, 365-3570 with questions.



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### Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Charles T. Diedrick, Pastor  
Rev. Thomas Hagedorn, Pastor Emeritus St. Patrick (Westpark)  
Deacon Edward R. Dillon, Permanent Deacon  
Deacon Frank A. Humphrey III, Permanent Deacon  
Sister Mary Dorothy Tecca, C.S.A., Parish Catechetical Leader  
Ms. Sharon Urig, School Principal  
Mrs. Mary Jane Taylor, Business Manager  
Mr. Michael J. Moore, Dir. of Music Ministries  
Mrs. Angie Pluta, Dir. of Development  
Mr. Randy Kula, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

### Contact Information:

Parish Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30am - 4:00pm  
Phone: 323-5539; E-mail: [stmaryelyria@windstream.net](mailto:stmaryelyria@windstream.net);  
Website: [www.stmaryelyria.org](http://www.stmaryelyria.org)

### Sunday Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm; Sunday: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

### Weekday Mass Schedule:

Mondays & Wednesdays: 5:00pm  
Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays: 8:30am  
Saturdays: 9:00am

We welcome New Parishioners ~ Please register at the Parish Office.

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