

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2014



Dear parishioners,

There is a lot of excitement in the readings today! It IS Gaudate Sunday--Rejoice Sunday! The second reading from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians starts out: "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks...."

The people writing the readings for today knew what they were waiting for—their Messiah. The nation of Israel waited for hundreds of years. The prophets kept the promise before them. They had no idea that the Messiah would be God himself come in human form to live among us. Paul and John the Baptist, however, knew more specifically.

And we? We have the precious advantage of having the prophets and John and Paul and most of all Jesus! How can we not rejoice always and in all circumstances give thanks?

Advent is the time to reflect on the enormous significance of this promised Messiah. What would we know of God without Jesus to show us? God wants to be in relationship with us. God cares deeply about us. That is why Jesus came—to be sure we know that.

Let's not let the busyness of preparing for the trappings of Christmas cause us to miss the heart of Christmas! Stephen Covey says it's easy to do what's urgent and to neglect what's important.

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

Sat Dec 13	4:00 p.m.	Cassie Kiene
Sun Dec 14	10:00 a.m.	Janet Maenle
Sat Dec 20	4:00 p.m.	Teresa Rieman Len & Sally Rieman
Sun Dec 21	10:00 a.m.	Dolores Hermiller and James Trenkamp

Communion Services

Tue Dec 16	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Dec 19	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$4,038.00	Loose	\$346.00
Children	\$ 31.65	Total	\$4,415.65

83 envelopes returned = 40%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for December 20 & 21, 2014

Money Counters: Jason Granger, Angie Wenger
4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Basil Meyer

Cantor: Steve McCullough

Ushers: John Parinello and Chuck Niese

Lector: Jim Kinn

Eucharistic Ministers: Diana Bucher, Jennifer Tschuor

Servers: Alyson and Abigail Kettels

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Steve Yarnell

Greeter-West Door: Kelly Yarnell

Cantor: Choir

Ushers: Jerry and Jeanne Wehri

Lectors: Judy Lester and Joe Herrmann

Eucharistic Ministers: Amy Marcum, Kim and Josh Garmatter, Tricia Herrmann

Servers: Joel Siefker, Anthony Kiser

Readings for December 21, 2014

Fourth Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-16

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Thank you to everyone who attended the Waiting for St. Nick Breakfast. A special thanks to Louise Rieman for helping during the breakfast and to Janet Begg for driving during the shopping trip and helping to wrap gifts. The breakfast was a big success!

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Masses for Christmas

4:00 – Children's Choir will sing

6:00 – Cantor

10:00 – Adult Choir will sing beginning at 9:30



Thank you to Denise Fett, Angie Schroeder, and Karen Phillips for changing out the hymnbooks for the new liturgical year. **Thank you** to Greg and Chris Denecker for seeing to putting up the banners for each feast. **Thank you** to Jessica and Scott Wischmeyer and SNLY for the wonderful Waiting for St. Nick Breakfast. **Thank you** to Matt and Crystal Ellerbrock for the delightful magic show! **Thank you** to all who gave generously to the Giving Tree project to make Christmas for those with less than we. **Thank you** to Dave Hoffer for tending to the many fix-it projects we had at the church. **Thank you** to all who helped to make my (Sr. Carol's) birthday a great day!



We will decorate the church for Christmas on Monday, December 22, beginning at 9:00 in the morning. All help will be appreciated!

Support religious communities. "Your contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital support for the retirement needs of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure that younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

Join Fr. Dan Zak on an Italian Pilgrimage, May 14 - 23, 2015. Visit the Vatican, Florence, Assisi and Rome. Six nights in Rome, staying just 4 blocks from The Vatican and the Basilica of St. Peter's; visit the Sistine Chapel and Vatican Museum. Experience a Papal Audience and a Blessing from our Holy Father. Visit countless churches, view their art and treasures. On a Day-trip to Assisi, we'll explore the Medieval Mountain Town of St. Francis and St. Clare with Mass at the Basilica. Enjoy two nights in Florence, the Home to the Renaissance in the Heart of Tuscany. And everywhere, enjoy the leisurely atmosphere and the wonderful shops! LIMITED to 25 pilgrims. For info or enrollment, contact Chris at 419-345-2512

St. Mary's Parish History

DID YOU KNOW?

When Lima Central Catholic High School was established in 1968, Msgr. Edward Herr was put in charge of St. Mary's Parish. During this time Revs. Martin Donnelly, Neil Lucas, and John Stites served as chaplains. For the next 13 years St. Mary's had a resident pastor: Rev. Paul Kwiatkowski (1981-1984) and Rev. Gary Ferguson (1984-1994). Until the present a Pastoral Leader has been assigned to St. Mary's. During these years we have had as chaplains Revs. David Beck, Dennis Hartigan, Todd Dominique, and retired priests Revs. Tom Gorman, J. Norbert Howe, John Stites, and Bob DeSloover. In 2012 St. Mary's came full circle and was again placed under St. Michael Parish in Findlay—the place where we began!

Birth Parent Informational Meeting

Unexpected pregnancy can be scary. If you are concerned about parenting your unborn child, we invite you to learn about the option of adoption. Join us for a monthly birth parent informational meeting on the third Thursday of the month to learn about parenting support and adoption. For more information, call or text Catholic Charities at 419.705.9192.

We are hoping to give an opportunity to form small faith-sharing groups for the six weeks of Lent. So that we have plenty of time to accomplish this well we are looking for some of you who might be willing to be small group leaders. If you are interested in finding out about this or in volunteering to do this, please talk to Judy Lester or Shar Dunlap. You may also call the office.

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy is during the 10 o'clock Mass.

K-6: Class is Wednesday, December 17th from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Confirmation Class: Classes resume in January.

SNLY: SNLY is meeting Sunday December 14th. SNLY will NOT meet Sunday December 21st.