

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016



Dear parishioners,

Thomas of Celano, the best known biographer of St. Francis of Assisi, wrote about Francis:

“Francis found it easier to do what is perfect than to talk about it; so he was constantly active in showing his zeal and dedication in deeds, not in words, because words do not do what is good, they only point to it.”

It reminded me of the commercial that's been on TV lately where the guard is “a safety monitor.” He only tells when there is a robbery. He doesn't do anything about it.

All this caused me to ask myself if this is true about how I celebrate Advent. Do people see in me zeal and dedication about preparing for the coming of Christ into my life every day? Do I show joy in this time of expectation? Do I live enough in charge of myself that I can recognize Jesus present?

The Little Blue Book told us God is with us all the time, in every place, every day. He doesn't come and go at our will. Do I live mindful of that reality?

Advent is really about practice and about growing. We are in a training ground of mindfulness—something to make us better all the time, not something we can get done with at Christmas.

Sister Carol

Please continue to pray for Father Paul Kwiatkowski who died Saturday, December 3, and was buried on Wednesday, December 7. Father Paul was St. Mary's first resident pastor and served here 1981-1984.

Weekend Masses

Sat Dec 10	4:00 p.m.	Jerry Musser
Sun Dec 11	10:00 a.m.	Janet Maenle Fr. Paul Kwiatkowski
Sat Dec 17	4:00 p.m.	Leonard and Sally Rieman Richard and Angela Knott
Sun Dec 18	10:00 a.m.	Jim Badertscher Eldon (Ike) Businger

Communion Services

Tue Dec 13	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Dec 16	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,667.00	Loose	\$757.00
Children	\$48.79	Total	\$4,472.79

91 envelopes returned = 44%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for December 17 & 18, 2016

Money Counters: Chad Wolford and Barb Galvan

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Jeanne Parinello
Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink
Ushers: John Parinello and Chuck Niese
Lector: Jim Kinn
E.M.: Diana Bucher and Jennifer Tschuor
Servers: Brayton and Addison Businger

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Kelly Yarnell
Greeter-West Door: Steve Yarnell
Cantor: Karen Phillips
Ushers: Greg and Gabe Denecker
Lectors: Chris Denecker and Joe Herrmann
E.M.: Amy Marcum, Mark Zwiebel,
Tricia Herrmann and Sr. Carol
Servers: Luke Denecker, Olivia Smallcombe,
Kendal Giesige

Readings for December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-24

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Thank you to the God Squad for the great job on the Waiting for St. Nick breakfast and **thank you** to all who attended. **Thank you** to Mitch, Krystal, Kendall, and Tayte Giesige for again coordinating the Giving Tree effort. **Thank you** to all who gave so generously in this project also.

Decorating We have set Monday, December 19, as the date to decorate the church for Christmas. We will begin at 9 o'clock. Please come even if just for a short time.



Another Opportunity for Reconciliation As always Father John is available for Reconciliation for a half hour before both the Saturday and the Sunday Mass each weekend. You have one more opportunity to celebrate the sacrament on Wednesday, December 14, 6:00 until all are finished.

Although it is early we wanted to make you aware that during Lent our parish will again participate in **"Living the Eucharist."** This program is a way to encounter Christ more deeply in the sacrament of the Eucharist. We are doing this in a small group format. Groups will meet in the leaders' home each week during Lent. At this time we are recruiting leaders for these small groups. Please contact Shar Dunlap or any member of Pastoral Council regarding any questions and to participate as a leader at 419-643-5305 or 419-236-7237. We will have sign up for the small group participants January 21, 22, 28 and 29, 2017. Please consider participating in the small groups as a means of growing closer to Jesus in the Eucharist during the Lenten season.

ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT SHRINE

The Carey Ecumenical Choir will present a concert of sacred Advent and Christmas music today, Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. The concert will be held at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation located at 315 Clay Street, Carey, Ohio. The Shrine Cafeteria will be open for dinner immediately following the concert. For more information, please contact the Shrine at 419-396-7107 or visit www.olcshrine.com.

Sign-ups We still need lots of individuals and/or families to fill the liturgical roles in the Christmas Eve Masses. The sign-up sheet is on the shelf in the main entrance.

An **"Entering Canaan"** Day of Prayer and Healing Retreat for women who are suffering as a result of an abortion will be held Saturday, January 28, 2017. The day is hosted by Project Rachel, a ministry of Catholic Charities Diocese of Toledo. For more information and confidential reservations, please call 1888-456-HOPE or 419-260-5811. Or email projectrachel@toledodiocese.org. Come and experience God's mercy!

P.R.E.P

For any children interested in singing at the 4:00 Mass on Christmas Eve, there will be a practice on Wednesday, December 14, from 7:30 to 8:00. Also, any children who would like to play a Christmas piece on the piano, you are welcome too.

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

K-6: Class is Wednesday, December 14 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Christmas Program rehearsal is 7:00 to 7:45 p.m.

Jr. High: Next class is Sunday, December 18th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

God Squad: Next class is Sunday, December 18th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The following is the breakdown for the **Community Market Receipts** for each class for the November collection:

\$3,359.79 – Kindergarten

\$1,454.46 – 1st

\$1,345.41 – 2nd

\$3,786.56 – 3rd

\$2,211.36 – 4th

\$2,104.07 – 5th

\$6,914.58 – 6th

\$21,176.23 Total = \$211.76 in reward dollars for the Religious Ed programs here at St. Mary. Good job!