

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Feast of the Holy Family

December 31, 2017



Dear parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. Pope Francis asks that families be attentive to three things: the family prays, the family keeps faith, and the family experiences joy. He says this need not be in profound ways. We can pray meal prayers together or the Our Father or the rosary. More importantly we can pray for our family members—parents for children, children for parents, siblings for each other, grandparents for grandchildren. We don't keep faith for ourselves. We let our faith be a witness to others so that we are a missionary family. And our joy need not be a showy joy. It needs to be a deep joy that comes of being in good relationship. So for this feast there is the advice from our Holy Father who sees family as the basic unit of society. When families are strong; society is strong.

We are also on the brink of a new year. It's time to review 2017 and be grateful for all the joys, challenges, and grace of the past year. Hopefully we have allowed this year to be a time of growth, clearer insight, and deeper faith. It's also time to ask God's blessing on the new year that we might use the time to make our world a better place because of our presence in it.

I want also to thank you for your gracious and generous remembrance of me at Christmas. I am so grateful for your kindness and your presence in my life. You are true blessings.

Happy New Year!

Sister Carol

Because it falls on a Monday this year, January 1, the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, is not a holyday of obligation. There will be no Mass on the evening of December 31 or the morning of January 1.

Weekend Masses

Sat Dec 30	4:00 p.m.	Don, Chris, and Nathan Sterrett
Sun Dec 31	10:00 a.m.	Gerry Hartley and Carl and Bertha Greulich
Sat Jan 6	4:00 p.m.	Dr. James Avila
Sun Jan 7	10:00 a.m.	For the parish

Communion Services

Wed Jan 3 10:30 a.m. Hilty

First Friday

Fri Jan 5 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,990.00	Loose	\$2,582.00
Children	\$40.25	Total	\$5,612.25

70 envelopes returned =34%

Christmas collection \$13,811.50

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for Jan. 6 & 7, 2018

Money Counters: Courtney Gerten & Barb Galvan

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Peg Murphy

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink

Ushers: Dave and Mary Hoffer

Lector: Deb Garlock

E.M.: Jessica Wischmeyer, Brianna Atkins and Basil Meyer

Servers: Grace Myers and Jacob Granger

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: John and Sarah Schulte family

Greeter-West Door:

Cantor: Choir

Ushers: Todd Phillips and John Schlumbohm

Lectors: Mel Heitmeyer and Caitlyn Couch

E.M.: Wes Lovett, Lisa Welch, Logan Welch, Larry Hoffman, Becca Schlumbohm

Servers: Drew and Ken Lovett and Johnathan Hoorman

Readings for January 7, 2018

The Epiphany of the Lord

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

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Dear Parishioners of St. Mary's,

Thank You Very Much! For your generous Christmas Gifts. May you and your Family be blessed with a Healthy New Year!

Fr. John

Thank you to Bob Rieman for shoveling all the walks before our Saturday evening Mass! **Thank you** to John Schlumbohm for shoveling the sidewalks on Christmas Eve. **Thank you** to all who were liturgical ministers for our Christmas Masses. **Thank you** to Tonya Meyer and Deb Buck for counting two collections last Sunday!

PLEASE HELP! Community Supper Thursday, January 4, is St. Mary's turn to prepare the Community Supper held at the Bluffton Senior Center. The sign-up sheet to donate food or to help is on the shelf in the main entrance.



"The Sultan and the Saint" is a movie about the meeting of a starry-eyed would-be knight from provincial Assisi and a forgotten Muslim prince who was raised in the Sultan's palace and groomed for the throne by his mother steeped in Islamic learning. It's the story of St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan Malek Al-Kamil. Those who saw it have been very moved by it. The Crusades were ended by kindness, not by victory! It will air again on public television (WBGU TV) at the following times: December 30, 4:00 a.m.

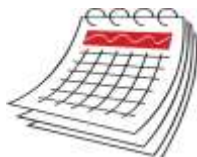
December 31, 7:00 p.m.

The film is 58 minutes long.

Mark your calendars! We have two special events in January. Mark your calendars!

Sunday, January 21, lunch after Mass and holy hour for our annual Eucharistic Day at noon.

Sunday, January 28, 6:00 p.m., in the social hall, our annual Volunteer Appreciation Supper.



The Pastoral Council will meet Tuesday evening, January 2, at 7:00 o'clock.

Mass We will celebrate Mass Wednesday evening at 7:00 o'clock.

"Entering Canaan" Day of Prayer & Healing Retreat for Women (Jan. 27) and Men (Feb. 10)

Suffering from a past abortion? You're not alone. Connect with local support and resources and explore other women's and men's experiences. Begin your healing journey and experience God's mercy.

"Entering Canaan" Day of Prayer and Healing Retreats for Women will be held Saturday, January 27, 2018 and April 21, 2018. An "Entering Canaan" Day of Prayer and Healing Retreat for Men will be held Saturday, February 10, 2018.

The day is hosted by Project Rachel, a ministry of Catholic Charities Diocese of Toledo. For more information and confidential reservations, please call 1-888-456-HOPE or 419-260-5811. Or email projectrachel@toledodiocese.org. Visit hopeafterabortion.com for more information on Project Rachel. God Bless!

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word is during the 10 o'clock Mass. There will be no class on Sunday, December 31. Classes resume on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

K-6: Next class will be on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 from 6:30 to 7:30. Mass is at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Jr. High & God Squad: Next class will be Sunday, January 7th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.