

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2014



Dear parishioners,

Advent is really a reflection on God's remarkable love. God is Trinity—three persons in one being. The relationship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is perfect love, equality, and mutuality. God's love is also always outreaching. So God made all of creation as an expression and sharing of love. That, however, is not all. God also wants to be in relationship with all God created. God wants us to know who God is. To accomplish this He sent Jesus to be one with us and to be with us.

God used the prophets for many years to let people know that the "Revelation of God" was coming. So we sing, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus." As Father Howe told us last week, Advent is a time of reliving that joyous waiting and expectation.

We need somehow to keep ourselves focused on our joy and our waiting. We need to set aside a specific time each day when we dedicate ourselves to remembering what we are about.

There's more!! God is already in us by Baptism. God is with us and among us at every moment. Advent is also about practicing that kind of mindfulness that allows us to see God's goodness and presence every day.

Happy looking for and waiting for!

Sister Carol



Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be at 5:00 o'clock Sunday evening, December 7.

Weekend Masses

Sat Dec 6	4:00 p.m.	Jim Alt
Sun Dec 7	10:00 a.m.	For the parish
Sat Dec 13	4:00 p.m.	Cassie Kiene
Sun Dec 14	10:00 a.m.	Janet Maenle

Communion Services

Tue Dec 9	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Dec 12	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,625.00	Loose	\$481.00
Children	\$ 37.15	Total	\$3,143.15

87 envelopes returned = 41%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for December 13 & 14, 2014

Money Counters: Tonya Meyer, Josh Barhorst

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Peg Murphy

Cantor: Jenny Roby

Ushers: Dave and Joel Siefker

Lector: Jason Swartzlander

Eucharistic Ministers: Jessica Wischmeyer,

Jeanne Parinello, Jack Marcum

Servers: Derek Swartzlander and Courtney McLaughlin

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Sherry Heitmeyer

Greeter-West Door: Mel Heitmeyer

Cantor: Kevin Vance

Ushers: Mike and Serena Maag

Lectors: Brian Miller and Matt Ellerbrock

Eucharistic Ministers: Julia and Audrey Miller,

Cathy Hermiller, Crystal Ellerbrock, Diana Bucher

Servers: Kaden Reneker and Jonathan Schriener

Readings for December 14, 2014

Third Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Adopt-a-Family The food pantry tells us there are still people to be adopted for Christmas—mostly individuals. If you still have space in your heart and resources to help someone, call Jami Crawfis, coordinator of the food pantry, at 419-236-2944.

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Giving Tree There are still some tags left on the tree. PLEASE BE AWARE OF THEIR DUE DATES. All items need to be dropped off on or before the date noted on the tag. For any items that need to be kept cold, please feel free to put them in the church refrigerator/freezer. Please attach the tag, so it is visible on all donations. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Krystal Giesige at (419) 308-3188.



The Parish Penance service will be celebrated Thursday, December 11, at 7:00 o'clock.

Give thanks for religious. A parishioner writes, "We thank God today and every day for every religious sister who taught us in school, not only our ABCs, but also to love God." Share your gratitude for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

On 26 November 2014 the Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas, Bishop of Toledo, accepted the following text as the **official policy of the Diocese of Toledo relating to Level 3 Snow Emergencies**. Whenever a county/city within the Diocese of Toledo is placed under a *Level 3 Snow Emergency*, during which all roadways are closed to non-emergency personnel, the Catholic Churches within that geographic region will cancel the scheduled Saturday Vigil, Sunday, or Holy Day Masses. Roman Catholics in that region, therefore, are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass. If Masses are cancelled, Catholics are encouraged to participate in Holy Mass via television, radio, or internet, making a spiritual Communion. When Mass is cancelled, all other diocesan, parish, or school events in that geographic region are also cancelled.

Waiting for St. Nick Breakfast

SNLY will host the annual Waiting for St. Nick Breakfast today, Sunday, December 7th following Mass. Everyone is invited to a pancake and sausage breakfast after 10 a.m. Mass. A freewill offering will be accepted and donations will be spent on Christmas gifts for SNLY's Adopt-a-Family project. After breakfast St. Mary's will host a magic show at 11:45 for everyone to enjoy. Please join us!

St. Mary's Parish History

DID YOU KNOW?

The diocesan history gives this list of priests who have served St. Mary's Parish:

Revs. Michael DeChant 1863-1867 (Fostoria/Findlay)
E. J. Vattman 1867-1869 (Fostoria/Findlay)
Nicholas Flammang 1869-1870 (Findlay)
John B. Jung 1871-1878 (Findlay)
G. Rudolph 1879-1881 (Findlay)
Henry Doerner 1881-1911 (Findlay)
John Hauptert 1911-1912 (Findlay)
John Theis 1912-1917 (Columbus Grove)
John Behr, CSSR 1916-1921 (St. Gerard, Lima)
James Clark, CSSR 1921-1927 (St. Gerard, Lima)
Patrick McGowan, CSSR 1927-1930 (St. Gerard, Lima)
John Healy, CSSR 1930-1932 (St. Gerard, Lima)
During all these years St. Mary's was a mission of another parish.

The children's choir will be singing at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. All children are invited to participate. Practices will be on December 10 and December 17 from 7:30 - 8:00, following PREP classes. All younger children are welcome to participate in singing, and bell ringing, to "Joy To The World" with the children's choir before the Mass begins. If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Hausknecht at 567-208-2296.

Bluffton University will present its 119th performance of Handel's "Messiah" at 4 p.m. today in Founders Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

P.R.E.P

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

K-6: Next class is Wed., Dec. 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Confirmation Class: Class is today, Sunday, December 7th from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m.

SNLY: We will be doing the St. Nick Breakfast today, Sunday, December 7th following Mass.

A big thank you goes to the PREP students who helped with the Mass last Sunday.