

St. Mary's Catholic Church

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2016



Dear parishioners,

I don't know about all of you, but for me, getting company is a great motivation for cleaning. It's partly that I don't want to be embarrassed. It's also partly because I want it to be caring, welcoming, and pleasant for my guests. Those motivations would serve me well for Advent.

We are preparing for Jesus' coming in history and in our every day. We're getting ready for a birthday party in our hearts. I want to be prepared for the celebration, and I don't want to be embarrassed because I let the whole season slip by having done nothing to prepare. We are getting ready for Jesus' coming for the final judgment at the end of time when he will claim his reign. I for sure don't want to be embarrassed then! There are so many gospel passages that tell us to be ready because we don't know when the end is coming. Advent is the time the Church sets before to be ready.

We are also preparing for Jesus' coming into our hearts and our lives every day of our lives—in the Eucharist, in inspirations, in insights, in his ever present love that keeps us alive and growing. We need to be focused and attentive to recognize these visits.

Maybe the great blessing of this season is that it keeps us from being mindless as we live our lives. The preparation for the outward celebration will be always before us. We need to make some effort to keep the inward preparation before us also.

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

Sat Nov 26	4:00 p.m.	Jim Alt Eldon (Ike) Businger
Sun Nov 27	10:00 a.m.	Jerry Musser
Sat Dec 3	4:00 p.m.	For the parish
Sun Dec 4	10:00 a.m.	For the parish

Communion Services

Tue Nov 29	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Dec 2	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

First Friday

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,655.37	Loose	\$780.00
Children	\$32.00	Total	\$3,467.37

76 envelopes returned = 37%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for December 3 & 4, 2016

Money Counters: Angie Wenger and Deb Goldenetz
4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Peg Murphy

Cantor: Steve McCullough

Ushers: Dave and Mary Hoffer

Lector: Caitlyn Couch

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

Servers: Zane and Grace Myers

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Logan Welch

Greeter-West Door: Lisa Welch

Cantor: Steve McCullough

Ushers: Trent/Todd and Colin Phillips

Lectors: Mel Heitmeyer and Shannon Wannemacher

E.M.: Wes Lovett, Lisa Welch, Logan Welch,
Megan Dulle and Mackenzie Butler

Servers: Drew and Ken Lovett and
Jonathan Hoorman

Readings for December 4, 2016

Second Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

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Thank you to all who participated in the Thanksgiving liturgy. **Thank you** to those who helped us prepare for the new Church Year by switching out the missalettes.

Advent begins this weekend, Saturday evening, November 27. It is a joyful time of expectation when we reflect on Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, his presence in our hearts, and his coming at the end of time. The "Little Blue Books" and copies of "The Word among Us" are available in the entrances. Take some time to decide how you are going to make time to keep focused this holy season.

Advent by Candlelight

On Monday evening, November 28, we will have a special prayer "Advent by Candlelight" in the church at 7:00 o'clock. Our focus will be on the "O Antiphons" as reflected in the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Afterwards we will have some light refreshments to celebrate our being together in faith.

Advent candles Again this year we need individuals and/or families to carry the Advent candles in the entrance procession for each weekend Mass. There is a sign-up sheet on the shelf in the main entrance. Please help.



Plan ahead -- Holy day of obligation

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a holy day of obligation. Our Mass for the feast will be on the vigil, December 7, at 7:00 o'clock. Mary, under this title, is the patroness of the United States. For this reason the national basilica in Washington, D.C., is named the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.



Sunday, December 4 (6:30-8:00pm) **Live Nativity on the St. Francis Campus, 200 St. Francis Ave., Tiffin, OH.** Journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and rediscover the wonder of Christmas! Please park behind St. Francis Home to meet your guide for the journey. Please wear comfortable shoes and warm clothes. Donations of NEW scarves, hats, gloves & socks will be collected for those in need. Sponsored by St. Francis Community. For more information, contact Sr. Edna Michel at 419-447-0435. Also there is a flyer on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Saturday, December 10 (9am – 12pm or 1pm) **An Oasis Day Mini-Retreat: Christmas...Incredible News!** This retreat will be held at St. Francis Spirituality Center, 200 St. Francis Ave., Tiffin. Sign-In and Gathering at 8:30 am. What God wanted us to discover through Jesus' Coming among us (It's better than you can imagine!) Includes: prayer, presentation, reflection, and optional sharing. Retreat Leader: Sr. Edna Michel. Pre-register by December 4 by calling 419.443.1485.

Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services is offering a **Tree of Remembrance Memorial Service** on Sunday, December 4, 2016 in Bluffton at the Centre at 601 N. Main Street. All families in attendance will receive a free, glass ornament personalized with the name and dates of their loved one that will be placed on the Christmas tree. Families may begin arriving at 1 p.m. followed by a brief memorial service at 2:00 p.m. At the conclusion of the service, the ornament is yours to take home. Additional ornaments will be available for purchase. If you would like an additional ornament please call prior to the service date to order so we may have them ready for you. Light refreshments will be provided following the service. There is no charge to attend; however reservations are requested. To make a reservation or for more information call 419-358-2051.

P.R.E.P

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

K-6: Class is Wednesday, November 30th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Also there is rehearsal for the Christmas play.

Jr. High: Next class is Sunday, December 4th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

God Squad: Waiting for St. Nick Breakfast following Mass on December 4, 2016.

November is Community Market receipt month.

Turn in your Community market receipts to your favorite PREP class students. Place your receipts in the envelopes (each grade K through 6 has their own envelope) in the narthex. Everyone is invited to bring our receipts and place in one of the envelopes – parents, neighbors, grandparents, and friends.