

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016



Dear parishioners,

Sometimes we overlook the wealth we have available to us in the writings of those who came before us. St. Bonaventure was born in the 13th century just shortly before St. Francis of Assisi died. Bonaventure was a great theologian, a bishop, a cardinal and the 7th minister (leader) of the Franciscan order. So, yes, he was a Franciscan and therefore my bias.

Here is what Bonaventure wrote about the time before Jesus' coming:

It was most fitting...that prophets with many testimonies, both explicit in words and implicit in figures, should precede the coming of Christ. By these numerous and powerful witnesses, what had been hidden became clear and unquestionable for belief. Repeated promises and intense desires also were to precede the coming of Christ so that the promised benefit would be expected, that what was expected was long-awaited, that what was long-awaited would be more intensely desired, and that what was more intensely desired would be loved more fervently, received more gratefully, and heeded with greater care.

The Church is wise in giving us the season of Advent—for all the reasons that Bonaventure gives. Because we take four weeks to prepare for Christmas, it will be more expected, desired, loved, heeded. We know that about our experience of shopping for gifts, baking, decorating. Do we take Advent seriously as a time for preparing our minds and hearts so that Jesus' birth will also be more expected, desired, loved, heeded?

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

| | | |
|------------|------------|----------------|
| Sat Dec 3 | 4:00 p.m. | For the parish |
| Sun Dec 4 | 10:00 a.m. | For the parish |
| Sat Dec 10 | 4:00 p.m. | Jerry Musser |
| Sun Dec 11 | 10:00 a.m. | Janet Maenle |

Communion Services

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Tue Dec 6 | 10:30 a.m. | Richland |
| Wed Dec 7 | 10:30 a.m. | Hilty |
| Fri Dec 9 | 8:00 a.m. | St. Mary's |

SUNDAY COLLECTION

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------|------------|
| Adults | \$2,340.00 | Loose | \$530.55 |
| Children | \$27.13 | Total | \$2,897.68 |
| 72 envelopes returned = 35% | | | |

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for December 10 & 11, 2016

Money Counters: Jason Granger and Janet Begg
4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Jan and Diana Emmert

Cantor: Jenny Roby

Ushers: Dave and Shirley Siefker

Lector: Jason Swartzlander

E.M.: Jerry Wehri, Jeanne Parinello, Amanda Woolley

Servers: Derek Swartzlander and Courtney McLaughlin

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Sherry Heitmeyer

Greeter-West Door: Mel Heitmeyer

Cantor: Choir

Ushers: Mike Maag and Nick Marcum

Lectors: Brian Miller and Matt Ellerbrock

E.M.: Julia Miller, Jenna Kimmel, Cathy Hermiller,
Crystal Ellerbrock, Candace Vance

Servers: Kaden Reneker, Josh and Nathan Meyer

Readings for December 11, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

Bluffton University will present its 121st performance of Handel's "Messiah" at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, in Founders Hall. The event is free and open to the public; a free-will offering will be taken.

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Thank you to Jenny and Lauren Swartzlander, Ed and Chloe Rieman, Katie, Kyle, Klaira, Kaidree, and even Kyle Hohenbrink, Cindy Basinger, and Greg Conkling who switched out the missalettes. **Thank you** to Ed Rieman and Cindy Basinger for changing the banners. **Thank you** to Ryan, Gracie, and Maria Rahrig for setting up the outdoor crib. **Thank you** to Bob, Louise, and Lexi Rieman for putting up the outside lights! **Thank you** to Sheila Hausknecht and Katie Hohenbrink, Jenny Roby, and Hank and Carol Schroeder for taking the leadership roles in our Advent prayer.



Sign-ups 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. The sign-up sheet is also there for liturgical roles in the Christmas Eve Masses.

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.



Opportunities 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 two other opportunities: Wednesday, December 7, 6:00 until Mass, and Wednesday, December 14, 6:00 until all are finished.

The Sisters of Notre Dame in Toledo, Ohio are sponsoring a **New Year's Come & See Weekend** Friday January 6, 2017 6:00 p.m. -Sunday January 8 at noon. Begin your New Year with a 42 hour experience of the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame and see if it fits you! This is your chance to ask all your Sister questions, to pray and have fun with the Sisters and other women seeking to know God's desire for their life. The weekend is open to both college aged and young adult women who are catholic, have a heart for serving others and who are open to learning about the life of a Sister. To register or for more information contact Sr. Mary Teresita Richards, SND trichards@toledosnd.org.

ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT SHRINE

The Carey Ecumenical Choir will present a concert of sacred Advent and Christmas music on 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.

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.

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.

P.R.E.P

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

K-6: Class is Wednesday, December 7th from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Mass for the Holy Day is at 7:00 p.m. Children who are in the play should come at 6:00 p.m. to practice their lines.

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

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