

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

Nativity Of The Lord

December 25, 2016



Dear parishioners,

Blessed Christmas to all of you! I pray the day is filled with peace and joy.

When we celebrate the birth of Jesus we are celebrating the "tip of the iceberg" as they say. There is an enormous mystery beneath Jesus' birth. It is the mystery of a God who loves us so much that God planned from all eternity to create us and then to send Jesus so that we might come to know God. This is salvation. Jesus saved us from a life of not knowing God and not having the fullness of life.

Jesus told us, "I have come that you might have life and have it in abundance." What we celebrate today is a part of that mystery and is the part that actually made Jesus our brother because "he was like us in all things but sin."

Many people did not recognize Jesus as brother and savior on the first Christmas or during his lifetime. They were expecting their own version of a Messiah and couldn't let it go. Christmas is also about Jesus coming into our lives every day. He is always with us. He is always active in our lives.

Maybe today, as our gift to him, we can pay attention to his presence—in the love others show us, in the way we feel ourselves called to be generous and kind, in the surprises of beauty all around us....

Happy discovering!

Sister Carol



*Wishing You A  
Merry Christmas!!*

## Masses

### Christmas Eve

Sat Dec 24 4:00 p.m. Imajeon Mathewson and  
Gene Badertscher  
6:00 p.m. Jim Alt  
10:00 p.m. Ellen VonLehmdan

### Christmas Day

Dec 25 – NO Masses

Sat. Dec 31 4:00 p.m. Jerry Musser  
Sun Jan 1 10:00 a.m. Carl & Bertha Greulich

## Communion Services

Tue Dec 27 10:30 a.m. Richland  
Fri Dec 30 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults \$2,613.00 Loose \$687.00  
Children \$44.71 Total \$3,344.71  
74 envelopes returned = 36%

*Thank you for your generosity!*

*Thank you also to those who give electronically!!*

## Assignments for December 31 & January 1, 2017

**Money Counters:** Jason Granger and Angie Wenger  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Greeter:** Peg Murphy

**Cantor:** Dave Roby

**Ushers:** Bob Minto and John Parinello

**Lector:** Shannon Wannemacher

**E.M.:** Jessica Wischmeyer, Bob Minto and  
Rosemary Meyer

**Servers:** Derek Swartzlander and Abygail Kettels

### 10:00 a.m.

**Greeter-East door:** Logan Welch

**Greeter-West Door:** Lisa Welch

**Cantor:** Katie Hohenbrink

**Ushers:** Trent/Todd and Colin Phillips

**Lectors:** Mel Heitmeyer and Shannon Wannemacher

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

**Servers:** Drew and Ken Lovett, Jonathan Hoorman

## **Readings for January 1, 2017**

### **Solemnity of Mary**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:16-21

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**Thank you** to Kelly Honse, Sheila Hausknecht, and the PREP students for the Christmas play. **Thank you** to Mel and Sherri Heitmeyer, Basil and Rosemary Meyer, Deb Buck, Tom and Jan Schulte, Deb Hohenbrink, Lisa and Rachel Welch, and Doug, Cody, and Abbey Johnston for decorating the church for Christmas. **Thank you** to Dave and Eli Hoffer and Bob Rieman for fixing one of our very-hard-to-reach spotlights. **Thank you** to all who gave to the Giving Tree project. Sister Marge and Sister Angie send a huge bunch of gratitude. **Thank you** to Mitch, Krystal, Kendal, and Tayte Giesige for coordinating the Giving Tree project and for making all the deliveries. **Thank you** to all of you who are serving Christ and the parish as liturgical ministers for these holy day liturgies. **Thank you** to Ruth Badertscher for gifting us with the new tabernacle altar in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in memory of Jim and **thank you** to Mel Heitmeyer for creating this beautiful piece for us. **Thank you** to all who helped to make our church beautiful with your memorial gifts for flowers.

**Confirmandi**—Remember your Confirmation interviews on Wednesday and Thursday!

## GOOD NEWS! Maybe...

You may have heard that a Federal Magistrate has stayed the next three Ohio executions; however that is only pending a decision in a peripheral case about access to information regarding execution protocols and drugs. OTSE believes it is prudent to expect the execution on January 12 to go forward as scheduled until a more firm reprieve is in place.

The up-side to this is that Governor Kasich is unlikely to announce his decision regarding clemency for Ronald Phillips until it is clear that his is the final word. This means your calls, emails, letters and postcards to Governor Kasich are more vital than ever! There are still postcards on the table in the main entrance.

There's still work to be done for the unborn. The governor signed a bill outlawing abortion after 20-weeks but vetoed bill banning abortion when there is a fetal heartbeat.

**Giving Tree** Mitch and Krystal Giesige say thank you for making our Giving Tree project a success. We helped three local families, Heartbeat, and the folks in Appalachia.

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](mailto:projectrachel@toledodiocese.org). Come and experience God's mercy!

Follow us on Facebook:

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Bluffton, OH

## Need the perfect gift for your spouse this Christmas?

Give your spouse the gift of your time and love by taking your spouse on a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. Upcoming dates: January 13-15, 2017 in Perrysburg, OH and March 31-April 2, 2017 in Lima, OH. Contact Brian & Chris Schroeder at 419-538-7210 or [bcschroeder@bright.net](mailto:bcschroeder@bright.net) or go to [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) for more information.

**Looking ahead:** Mark your calendars now for two special events in January.

January 15 - Annual Eucharistic Day

Mass at 10, lunch immediately following Mass,  
Eucharistic holy hour immediately after lunch

January 22 - Volunteer Appreciation Supper 6:00 p.m.

# P.R.E.P

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** is during the 10 o'clock Mass. It will resume January 8, 2017.

**K-6:** Classes resume Wednesday, January 4 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Mass is at 7:00 p.m.

**Jr. High:** Next class is Sunday, January 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**God Squad:** Next class is Sunday, January 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is also the parish annual Eucharistic Day.