Saint Mary's Parish



"For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests."
—Isaiah 9:5

Christmas 2021

Reverend Fr. A. Edward Gretchko, Pastor

Weekday Mass Times: 6:30 p.m. Monday; 8:15 a.m. Tuesday-Friday Weekend Mass Times: 4:30 p.m. Saturday; 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday 206 Cherry Road, NE Massillon, Ohio 44646 ● www.stmarymassillon.com ● 330-833-8501 SAINT MARY'S PARISH MASSILLON, OHIO

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 26 — The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

(Readings: 17: Sirach 3:2-6,12-14/Ps 128:1-2,3,4-5/Col 3:12-21/Luke 2:41-52)

8:00 a.m. +Jennie "Ginger" Crone (family) 10:30 a.m. +Mary Alice Miller (Ann Harty)

Monday, December 27 — Feast of St. John the Evangelist

(Readings: 697: 1 John 1:1-4/Psalm 97:1-2,5-6,11-12/John 20:1a,2-8)

6:30 p.m. +John Bovard (Dan & Marilyn Bowes)

Tuesday, December 28 — Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

(Readings: 698: 1 John 1:5—2:2/Psalm 124:2-3,4-5,7cd-8/Matthew 2:13-18)

8:15 a.m. +Alberta & Floyd Oster (family)

Wednesday, December 29 — Wednesday of the Octave of Christmas

(Readings: 202: 1 John 2:3-11/Psalm 96:1-2a,2b-3,5b-6/Luke 2:22-35)

8:15 a.m. +Jack Darnell (family)

Thursday, December 30 — Thursday of the Octave of Christmas

(Readings: 203: 1 John 2:12-17/Psalm 96:7-8a,8b-9,10/Luke 2:36-40)

8:15 a.m. +Jason Dean (Susan Arndt)

Friday, December 31 — The Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

4:00 p.m. +Peter Eaglowski (family)

Saturday, January 1 — The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

(Readings: 18: Numbers 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3,5,6,8/Galatians 4:4-7/Luke 2:16-21)

10:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

Saturday, January 1 — The Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord

4:30 p.m. +Jo Kuivila, Dick Grant, and Bob & Audrey Thieret (family)

Sunday, January 2 — The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

(Readings: 20: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13/Eph 3:2-3a,5-6/Matt 2:1-12)

8:00 a.m. The People of the Parish 10:30 a.m. +Jim Friedrich (family)

FOCUSING ON THE GOSPEL BY SISTER VERNA HOLYHEAD, SGS

Reprinted from "Living Liturgy" by Liturgical Press

Key words and phrases: "Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."

This is one of the most relatable passages in all of the gospels. It doesn't take a lot of historical context to understand the fear and dread Mary and Joseph must have felt when they realized their precious baby boy was gone.

This gospel signifies the movement of Jesus from being Mary's miracle baby to a self-reflective adult. The entirety of his childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood is covered in a few short sentences. What we know of Jesus's upbringing is contained in the words that he "was obedient to [his parents]" and "advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man." Like last week, this is an opportunity to reflect on what the gospel writer must have heard about Jesus's life. Since the gospel contains accounts and parables of remarkable things, often turning the mundane remarkable, we are invited to wonder at the notion that Jesus's upbringing was probably fairly normal for a boy of his place and time.

SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS

Candles Burning in Loving Memory of:

I. Michael Loudiana (family)



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is offered every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Chapel at the Parish Center.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS



Low-gluten hosts are available to those who need it. If you would like to receive one, please see the priest before Mass.

MUSIC FOR THE WEEKEND

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph December 25th & 26th

Readings begin on page 46 of the Missalette

Entrance Hymn:

Angels We Have Heard on High—M 204

Song During the Preparation of the Gifts:

O Little Town of Bethlehem—M 325

Communion Processional Hymn:

What Child is This—M 331

Sending Forth Song:

Hark the Herald Angels Sing—M 340

H– Hymnal **M**-Missalette

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, December 27

6:30 p.m. Mass & Miraculous Medal Novena (C)

Tuesday, December 28

8:15 a.m. Mass & Miraculous Medal Novena (C)

6:30 p.m. Bingo (S) (Doors open at 4:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 29

9 am to 4 pm Eucharistic Adoration (PC)

Friday, December 31

4:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Mass (C)

Saturday, January 1

10:00 a.m. New Year's Day Mass (C)4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass for the Epiphany (C)

C-Church **PC**-Parish Center **LC**-Labbe Center **S**-School

THANK YOU!

I feel it is important to express gratitude to you, the parishioners of St. Mary's Parish, who have helped make the holiday season as wonderful and rich as it is.

~ First of all, let me thank all of you who have supported our parish at the holiday season and also all year long. As I've mentioned, you have faithfully continued to support our parish, for which I am so grateful.

~ The St. Vincent de Paul volunteers who do a tremendous job. Holiday time is rush time, and our volunteers have been busy. Thank you to those who selflessly donate their time and hard work to serve our neighbors.

~ The people of St. Mary's Parish who donated so generously to the St. Vincent de Paul Giving Tree. We were able to give out 332 gifts to those in need!

~ Our cantors and music ministers who put in extra time this year. They prepare weeks in advance to lead you in worship, song, and prayer at Mass. My sincere thanks to all those individuals who worked so hard to help make your Christmas Masses as nice as they are.

~ Mass could not be properly celebrated without additional lectors, servers, greeters, ushers and Eucharistic ministers. Thanks are extended to so many who helped this year.

~ Thanks to everyone who assisted with decorating our Church. It looks so beautiful!

~ Thanks finally to those who thought of me this Christmas with a card, gift or treat. It is very much appreciated.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you!



OFFERTORY INFORMATION

December 12, 2021.....\$16,167.00

St. Mary's Parish uses WeShare for collection of electronic contributions. This system also allows parishioners to manage their giving with an online account. If you have any questions about this service, please call the Parish Office.

2022 CALENDARS



The 2022 religious calendars are here. Pick up one at any of the entrances. Special thanks to Heitger Funeral Service for sponsoring the calendars again this year!

ATTENTION LECTORS

The 2022 Lector Workbooks are here! Please stop by the sacristy and pick up your copy.

YEAR-LONG AND WEEK-LONG CANDLES



Are you looking for a nice way to honor your loved ones, living or deceased? You might consider honoring them with a candle here at St. Mary's Parish.

Our year-long candles are burning in the Sanctuary on the side altars in front of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. The

cost for these candles is \$100 per year. That price includes a candle and a nameplate with your intention printed and placed at your candle.

We also have week-long candles available for purchase. These candles are \$10.00 per week and burn in the sanctuary near the Tabernacle. These candles may burn for any special intention, which is then printed in the bulletin each week. If you are interested in purchasing any of these memorial lights, please call Nicole in the parish office.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



Friday, December 31st 2021 New Year's Eve Mass

4:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 1st 2022 New Year's Day Mass

10:00 a.m.

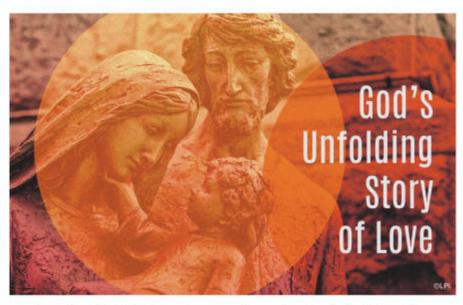
SAINT MARY'S PARISH MASSILLON, OHIO

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness. how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of



any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a D'vine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing out wounds, and light where there is darkness.

De we be ieve that God is always working, guiding, restering, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able

to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the -cly Fami v encourages us to offer human. warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that. we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds. and sins of our past, and still a loading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass @2001, 1996, 1970 CCI

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DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN

December 10, 2021

Dear Clergy, Religious and Faithful of the Diocese of Youngstown,

First time experiences are always special. These historic moments have a way of lasting forever. Every year at Christmas we as a Church, after much preparation and long-awaited anticipation, celebrate with joy and hope. We rejoice not only over the lasting memory of that first Christmas, but also over the glorious reality of our present experience rooted in the Good News of the Word made flesh that dwells among us.

The sacred creeke of Jesus, Mary and Joseph adoms our homes and churches and brings that first Christmas into our present day. We cannot help but sing that age-old hymn: "O come let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him. Christ the Lord," as we welcome once again the Christ child into our midst.

The celebration of Christmas is so rich that there are four different Masses that include the Vigil, Night, Dawn and Day. In each of these times, the prayers and readings are unique. What is more, the sacredness and depth of this Christmas mystery cannot be confined to one day, and so we traditionally celebrate the Christmas Octave (or eight-day week), which in fact signals one long day that transitions into a season. Indeed, first time experiences are rich and forever!

In the first reading from the Midnight Mass, we hear the words of the prophet Isaiah. He says: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwell in the land of gloom, a light has shone" (Isaiah 9:1). Christmas commemorates the coming of Jesus, the light of the world, into our lives.

In a world riddled with the darkness of sin and suffering, we need this light. With Christians throughout the world, we behold this light that illumines our darkness. But it is never enough to just look at this light.

The Gospel for the Mass of the Day recounts the role of John the Baptist. We hear these words: "He was not the light, but came to testify to the light" (John 1:8). Like John the Baptist, we too are called through our Christian baptism to testify to the light. This means that we make every effort in our thoughts, words, and deeds to be missionary disciples of Jesus who always exude light and hope especially in moments of darkness. Imagine how much brighter this world could be, not to mention how even richer our celebration of Christmas could be, if only we would welcome and testify to that light.

As I celebrate my first Christmas with you as Bishop of Youngstown, please know how grateful I am for the light and gift that you all are to this local Church and to me. I wish you many blessings and lots of light. Together as we continue our journey let us resolve to testify to the light and never stop praying: *That All May Be One*. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Bonnar Bishop of Youngstown

+ Gord J. Jam

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SAINT MARY'S PARISH MASSILLON, OHIO

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

St. Mary School wishes you the Merriest Christmas! God gives us the most precious gifts each year: our students. We sincerely appreciate the time and generosity the families and parish shows us each day!



THE GIVING MANGER

When we returned from Thanksgiving break, grades K-2 heard the story <u>The Giving Manger</u> by Allison Hottinger in the library. It is a faith-based, fun, interactive family Christmas tradition that encourages acts of kindness, focuses on the joy of giving, and honors the real reason for Christmas: Jesus' birth.

After reading the story and explaining to the students how the Giving Manager works, we placed an empty manger in a prominent spot in the library. In the days/weeks leading up to Christmas, when a student received a kindness buck for performing a

kind deed or act of service, they placed a piece of hay in the manger. The goal

is to complete as many kind acts as possible to fill the manger with enough hay, so Baby Jesus has a soft, warm place to lay his head on Christmas day.

When we return from Christmas break, the classes will see Baby Jesus lying in the giving manger they helped to make! This is a great family Christmas tradition. We are making it a St. Mary School Christmas tradition, but if you would like to make it a tradition in your family, please visit telegivingmanger.com.

We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed new year!



COUNTING DOWN

Starting on December 1st, second grade began the countdown to Christmas. Each day students come into the classroom and unwrap a gift to find out the theme of the day. There is an ELA and Math activity centered around the theme of the day. There is also an art activity to coordinate with the theme. So far second grade has made blankets with a snow theme, nativity ornaments, and gingerbread houses to name a few. We are having a blast counting down to Christmas!



CORONAVIRUS REMINDER

If someone in your house has Covid or suspects they have it, please call Mrs. Fink, the school nurse, and speak with her before sending your student to school. The quarantine guidance is different, if exposure occurs outside school.

Upcoming Dates

December 20 - January 3
CHRISTMAS BREAK

December 25— MERRY CHRISTMAS!

January 1— Happy New Year!

January 3— Back to School

January 7— End of Q2/ School Mass Grades 5-8

January 10— Family Night @ Texas Roadhouse





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~ Parishioner ~



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