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

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

10:00 a.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)

Monday, January 3 — The Most Holy Name of Jesus

(Readings: 212: 1 John 3:22—4:6/Psalm 2:7bc-8,10-12a/Matthew 4:12-17,23-25)

6:30 p.m. +Ron Eberhardt (family)

Tuesday, January 4 — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

(Readings: 213: 1 John 4:7-10/Psalm 72:1-4,7-8/Mark 6:34-44)

8:15 a.m. +Donald Englehardt (family)

Wednesday, January 5 — St. John Neumann, Bishop

(Readings: 214: 1 John 4:11-18/Psalm 72:1-2,10,12-13/Mark 6:45-52)

8:15 a.m. +Albert Drury (family)

Thursday, January 6 — Christmas Weekday

(Readings: 215: 1 John 4:19—5:4/Psalm 72:1-2,14,15bc/Luke 4:14-22)

8:15 a.m. +John Weider (Tom & Nancy Adley)

Friday, January 7 — Christmas Weekday

(Readings: 216: 1 John 5:5-13/Psalm 147:12-13,14-15,19-20/Luke 5:12-16)

8:15 a.m. +James Cravan (Jim Kracker)

Saturday, January 8 — The Vigil of The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

4:30 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sunday, January 9 — The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

(Readings: 21: Is 42:1-4,6-7/Ps 29:1-2,3-4,9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Luke 3:15-16,21-22)

8:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

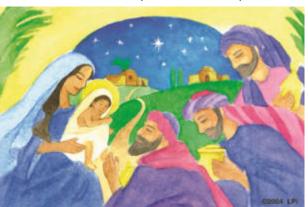
10:30 a.m. +Betty Burse (Dave & Linda Miller)

FOCUSING ON THE GOSPEL BY SISTER VERNA HOLYHEAD, SGS

Reprinted from "Living Liturgy" by Liturgical Press

Key words and phrases: "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Kind Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem."

This is the first instance of God expanding the Abrahamic covenant beyond the Israelites. For nearly two thousand years, the Hebrews have been God's



chosen people. Now, with the arrival of Jesus, the promise of God's kingdom expands to include all of humanity. This is modeled to us when the emissaries from a completely different country arrive to honor him and claim Jesus as their Lord, too.

SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS

Candles Burning in Loving Memory of:

I. Julia Bourquin (Loudiana Family)

II. Mary Lou 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 Epiphany of the Lord January 1st & 2nd, 2022

Readings begin on page 52 of the Missalette

Entrance Hymn:

Angels from the Realms of Glory—H 125

Song During the Preparation of the Gifts:

As with Gladness-M 210

Communion Processional Hymn:

The First Nowell—M 326

Sending Forth Song:

We Three Kings—M 227

H– Hymnal **M**-Missalette

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, January 3

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

Tuesday, January 4

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

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

Wednesday, January 5

9 am to 4 pm Eucharistic Adoration (PC)

Friday, January 7

8:15 a.m. School Mass Grades 5-8 (C)

Saturday, January 8

11:00 a.m. Confessions (C)

Sunday, January 9

9:15 a.m. PSR Classes (S)

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

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Statements of your 2021 contributions to St. Mary's are available for your records. If you would like one, please call the parish office.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO VOLUNTEER?

Bingo is held every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. The money earned from Bingo is used to offset costs in our school. In order to run Bingo, we need volunteers to work the various aspects of Bingo — selling cards and daubers, selling instant tickets & minis, calling Bingo, working in the kitchen, and setup. If you'd like to help, call Marie Tabellion at 330-209-3381 or the parish office at 330-833-8501. Any and all help that you can offer would be greatly appreciated. You could even volunteer only once or twice a month. Many hands make a light load!

ARE YOU REGISTERED?

Are you and your family registered parishioners of our Parish? Are you over the age of 18 but are still registered with your parents? Please don't assume you are registered, just because you attend Mass. If you have not called the Parish office or stopped in, we do not have record of you. Please call the parish office to register. Don't forget to notify the parish office if you have changed your address or phone number. This helps the office keep updated records. Thank you for your help!

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Church law requires a **minimum** period of six (6) months for marriage preparation. Please contact the Parish office prior to making **any** arrangements.

OFFERTORY INFORMATION

December 19, 2021.....\$13,082.00

The Collection for December 26th will be reported next week. St. Mary's Parish uses WeShare for collection of electronic contributions. This system also allows parishioners to manage their giving with an online account.

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!

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays. Parents must attend a baptismal preparation class prior to baptism.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK



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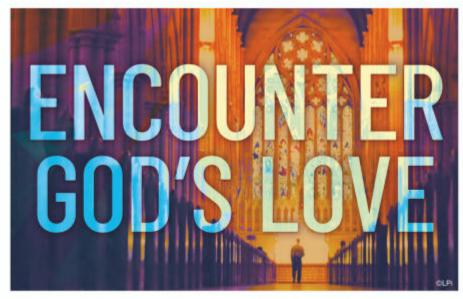
SAINT MARY'S PARISH MASSILLON, OHIO

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter. or renewed encounter with Cod's love, which blessoms into an chriching friendship, we are liperated from our harrowness. and self-absorption. We become: fully human when we become more than human, when we let Cod bring us beyond ourselves. in order to attain the fullest truth. of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can



get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and poportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. Althey have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of

mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our selfagenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. It only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brill antly that Bethlehern night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

"And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel."

- Mt 2:6

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (02001, 1996, 1970 CCD

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Local businesses and sponsors that advertise on bulletins need you now more than ever before. Please encourage and remind others to show their support during this time.

THE LIGHT OF THE MOON

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

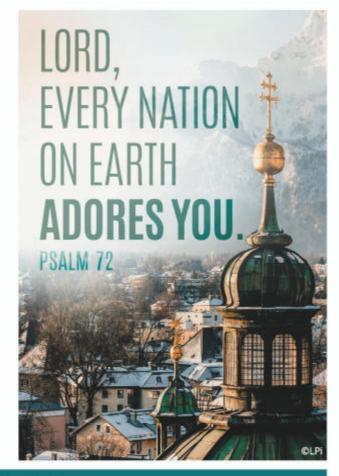
Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WHAT HAPPENS TO A CONSECRATED HOST IF IT ACCIDENTALLY FALLS TO THE GROUND?

This a very practical question because, as we all know, accidents happen, even during the most careful celebration of the liturgy. The short answer to this question is that nothing happens to the consecrated host. The Real Presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated host or any consecrated wine that might accidentally be spilled.

Another question we might ask is: How should the minsters respond if the Eucharist is dropped or spilled? If this happens, the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion should immediately pick up the dropped host and consume it. If it is a case of the Precious Blood being spilled, the minister would use the purificator (and additional purificators if needed) to clean the spill and then the area should be reverently washed as soon as the Mass is over and the water poured into the sacrarium (a special sink that is located in church sacristies for reverently disposing of holy water, the water used to clean sacred vessels, etc.).



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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