

*4th Sunday of Advent - December 18, 2022*

# Advent

*~ a time for preparation ~*



*St. Mary Parish ~ Berea, Ohio*

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

*It's easy to view this time of year as a conflict between sacred and secular. If we treat these days (and all days) as something to be seen through faith, perhaps the conflict will cease. [Living the Word 2023]*



For the past Advent Sundays we have heard Isaiah's prophecy and his vision of a new world. His prophecies offered his people in captivity, some hope. They had lost everything – their **freedom**, their **homes**, their **Temple** and his vision of a whole new world was based on that hope for a return from exile. He offered them a hope for **peace**. Still they ask how to find and know peace in the midst of their captivity.

In today's Gospel imagine Joseph, whose ancestors Isaiah was preaching to and his **hope** for a peaceful life with his betrothed had been shattered in finding out that Mary is with child and not with him! Joseph is a man faithful to all the demands of the Law and in its strictest interpretation, the Law called for death; but he's reluctant to follow the Law and **resolves** to divorce her *quietly*.

But there was no such thing as *quietly*, then or now. **So what of his hope for peace?** By divorcing Mary, he would **preserve** his honor and uphold the Law while at the same time it would **expose** Mary to public shame and death. In his **resolve**, one can sense a something that seems to be nagging in him and perhaps he asked himself, **what of her honor, what of her integrity?** An angel of the Lord visits him and now he knows that the only way to preserve her honor and her integrity would be for him to **complete** his marriage contract and take the child **as his own** and in doing so, hope and peace come together. Joseph mirrors the divine initiative and with Mary they trust and find life!

Joseph's story exemplifies what his Son will later teach us – that one must go beyond the Law in order to truly fulfill it! St. Paul calls this "the obedience of faith" and "the obedience of faith" is not about blindly following the commands, as it is about the **hearing and listening** that comes from the Word of God and adhering to its spirit! Joseph **heard, listened** to that Word and **chose** to follow.

So for us, listen attentively and be faithful in following the Word. And BY following the Word it CAN change us and in turn, we find its **peace**.

*For those who have yet to see this message:* Your consistent and faithful generosity this past year has been and continues to be amazing and I am pleased to be pastoring with so many generous and faithful friends and followers of the Lord! **Thank you** for your generosity in the Sunday collections, the Heart of the Shepherd Campaign, Catholic Charities, Habitat for Humanity, The Giving Tree, West Side Catholic Center, University Settlement, the Retirement Fund for Religious, the various Second Collections, for the Women's Crisis Center and Church Street Ministries and on and on and on.



With Christmas **NEXT SUNDAY**, your past generosity has been a real boost to our budget and the Christmas collection serves to complete all of the calendar year expenses as well as Master Insurance, Assessment, payroll benefits and the like. Because Christmas is on a Sunday, you might be quick to ignore the Sunday envelope and this is where it gets tricky. We rely on 52 Sundays for our budget and with Christmas and New Year on Sunday we will be down to 50 Sundays for our budget and be at a loss. SO, if you are ABLE to use the Sunday envelopes AS WELL as the Christmas and New Year's envelopes this would HELP TREMENDOUSLY. You have responded well to all the SPECIAL REQUESTS and this one, I pray will be met with graciousness and kindness. *Thank you most sincerely.*



*One more week until Christmas! Have a great week and THANK YOU for all you do for St. Mary! Happy Advent!*

*Fr. John*

## MASS INTENTION

### FOR THE WEEK

<b>Weekend of December 18</b>		<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
4:00pm	Bill & Bernice Skvarch	Dennis & Sandi Ziegler
7:30am	Stefan Urbancic	Family
9:30am	Elizabeth Prots	Family
11:30am	William Nicholson, Sr.	Jane Savinsky
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 19</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
	<i>Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a / Lk 1:5-25 (195)</i>	
9:00am	Larry Knoll	Tom & Joyce Kurilec
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 20</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
	<i>Is 7:10-14 / Lk 1:26-38 (196)</i>	
9:00am	Richard Woelfle	Natalie Woelfle
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 21</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
	<i>Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a / Lk 1:39-45 (197)</i>	
9:00am	Jeremy Holstein	Susan Cooney
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 22</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
	<i>1 Sm 1:24-28 / Lk 1:46-56 (198)</i>	
9:00am	Donald Boll	Rosemarie & Dick Boll
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 23</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
	<i>Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 / Lk 1:56-66 (199)</i>	
9:00am	Christopher Jackman	Family
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 24</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
	<i>2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Lk 1:67-79 (200)</i>	
4:00pm	Priest Intention	
6:00pm	Priest Intention	
10:00pm	Priest Intention	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 25</b>	<b>The Nativity of The Lord</b>
	<i>Vigil: Is 62:1-5 / Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 / Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 (13) Night: Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-14 (14) Dawn: Is 62:11-12 / Ti 3:4-7 / Lk 2:15-20 (15) Day: Is 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 (16)</i>	
7:30am	Priest Intention	
9:30am	Priest Intention	
11:30am	Priest Intention	

## In Your Charity



*In your charity, please remember the repose of the souls of Michael Kirchner, Mary Lou Phillips and Evelyn Hama.*

*May they rest in eternal peace.*

## Bulletin Prayer List

**Please remember in prayer all who are ill or homebound, especially the following:**

Mary Ann Abraham  
Mary Anne Bialosky  
Mary Terese Blaseg  
Candy Corbett  
Kathleen Dorsey  
John Owens Dumm  
Sharon Fisher  
Joan & Gerry Foust  
Tom Gibbons  
Nancy Grau  
Zora Koukis  
Marcel Liberge

Jan Lindenmeier  
Steve Martinez  
Rose Reilly  
Bret & Bart Smith  
Marilyn Serrao  
Guy Sperk  
Frances Ann Stock  
Donna Squires  
Chet Talarczyk

*To add a name to the Prayer List, please call the Rectory Office: (440) 243-3877 or email: [jabraham1@stmarybera.org](mailto:jabraham1@stmarybera.org)*

## Anniversary Wishes

If you will be having a wedding anniversary in the month of **DECEMBER** and would like your names listed in the bulletin, please call the parish office (440) 243-3877 or email [jabraham1@stmarybera.org](mailto:jabraham1@stmarybera.org)

*Jeff & Diana Tichy  
December 3rd - 34 years  
Chuck & Sue Scanlon  
December 27th - 53 years*



## Mother Teresa



Love has no other message but its own. Every day we try to live out Jesus' love in a very tangible way, in every one of our deeds. If we do any preaching, it is done with deeds, not with words. This is our witness to the Gospel.

Excerpted from: Do Something Beautiful for God: The Essential Teachings of Mother Teresa (Blue Sparrow 2020)

## SCHEDULE OPEN FOR MASS INTENTIONS - 2023

**THE MASS BOOK FOR 2023 IS NOW OPEN.**

**CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AT (440) 243-3877 OR SUBMIT YOUR REQUEST IN WRITING. PLEASE INCLUDE A PHONE NUMBER IN CASE WE NEED TO CONTACT YOU. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR REQUESTS.**

## ELECTRONIC GIVING

Electronic Giving allows our parishioners to give easily and is a safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy - Visit our website:

[www.stmarybera.org](http://www.stmarybera.org)

**Click on the VANCO Link to get started!**

**THE PARISH STAFF IS HERE TO HELP**

**Contact the Office if needed.**

# Ministry Schedules

## Christmas Eve - December 24, 2022

Mass	Lector	Extraordinary Ministers	Servers
4:00pm	J Haas	(H) K Zanotti, Deacon Tom, M Olsen, C Scanlon, S Scanlon	L Dorries, M Dorries
6:00pm	J Irvin	(H) G Irvin, D Hickey, P Hickey, R Straub	J Irvin, O Irvin
10:00pm	K Zanotti	(H) J Savinsky, Deacon Tom, Mary Beth Morgan	P Mutchler, T Morgan

## The Nativity of The Lord - December 25, 2022

Mass	Lector	Extraordinary Ministers	Servers
7:30am	C Lindsay	(H) P Flandera, D Grospitch, Deacon Tom	T Flandera
9:30am	E Jansen	(H) S Lewis, L Richter, P Hultquist	J Laubert, M Laubert
11:30am	R Davenport	(H) K Zanotti, B Hunter, C Garr	L Bergmeyer

## Music Ministry & Liturgy Notes

By Angela Kovic, Director of Music and Liturgy

### PEACE ON EARTH, COMING SOON

We are one week away from Christmas! This week, Joseph gets his own visit from an angel to let him know that Mary had not been unfaithful, but rather that her pregnancy had been foretold in the Old Testament! We hear it twice this week: “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel,” and it’s even included once more as the communion antiphon! God truly is with us, and he chose to live among us on earth so that he could best communicate with his children. The fourth candle of the Advent wreath is also known as the Angel’s Candle, to represent the times Mary and Joseph were visited and advised by one of God’s messengers. It is also the candle of peace, to celebrate the peace on earth that we sing about in our Christmas Carols! We’ve been waiting for three weeks, and the excitement can only keep growing until next Saturday and Sunday!

The music ministry has been working very hard in the past few weeks, and only one more week separates us from Christmas Eve! I have also gotten a lovely response for our Children’s Christmas Choir, and the first rehearsal went great! It’s not too late for children (grade 3-8) to join us for our last rehearsal on Tuesday at [5.pm](#) in the choir loft. Please just contact me before so that I can have music prepared and ready for all of my singers!

## Welcome - Newly Baptized

*Welcome the newly baptized -*

*Yuna Rose Olarte Braden*

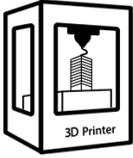


## Family Perspective

Joseph received a special message in a dream from an angel in today’s Gospel. Often referred to as the “Annunciation to St. Joseph”, God wanted speak to Joseph in a way that he would understand. Even though Joseph never speaks a recorded word in Sacred Scripture, it is more than reasonable to assume that Joseph was struggling over the situation he and Mary were in. We see from Joseph’s prompt reaction to the dream by taking Mary into his home that the message was understood. Joseph’s example is one of quiet fidelity. He doesn’t get the focus or attention, but the responsibility he shouldered was crucial to salvation history. He’s an “unsung hero.” There are countless numbers of people who quietly go about their business; remaining loyal and steadfast to their work, families, friends, and parish community. Let’s say thank you and offer a prayer of gratitude for those people today.



**St. Mary Catholic School News Corner**  
**Educating the Mind, Nurturing the Soul**



**Under the guidance** of Mrs. Dober, the SMS 3D Printing Club is up and running. There will be a variety of classes offered to students to design specific items. The lessons will focus on different skills and will include age appropriate items. This club is currently designed for students in grades 4-8. It is Mrs. Dober's hope that in the Spring there will be some open classes for students to imagine and design their own creations.

**The SMS Class DoJo** store is moving along. The Student Council will be helping to finish decorating the store and setting up items for purchase with the student DoJo points that they have earned for good behavior and random acts of kindness.

If you would like to donate items for the store, or provide a monetary donation to help keep the shelves stocked, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. DeCore ([ldecore@smsberca.org](mailto:ldecore@smsberca.org)) or Mrs. Hennessy ([mhennessy@smsberca.org](mailto:mhennessy@smsberca.org)). Your support is greatly appreciated.

**The SMS PTO would like to** thank all of the students that participated in the Christmas ornament contest. The creativity of everyone just amazed the PTO members. Any student that submitted an ornament had their name placed in a bin for a random drawing. Congratulations to the following 2022 Christmas ornament

**Winners:** Pre3 – Alayna Harrington / Pre4 – Trevin Hinderman / PreK – Nolan Mazeffa / Kdg.-Elliott Gray / 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Reese Oravets / 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Jack Maresh / 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Arianna Koustis & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Audrey Wheller

Unfortunately, there were no entries for grades 4,6, 7 & 8.

**As the end of the calendar year is quickly approaching**, please consider a tax-deductible donation to the St. Mary Scholarship Fund. Your donation of any size will be greatly appreciated and your name will be posted in the 2023 SMS Graduation Program. Did you know that many companies provide matching gifts – why not check with your Benefits Office to see if your employer is one of them?!

**Don't forget, St. Mary School** is participating in the School Store program this year. This online program helps SMS earn cash without students selling door-to-door, collecting money or delivering products. Over 400 merchants are available on this website. It is a perfect opportunity to help reduce the stress of your Christmas shopping by allowing you to shop from the comfort and safety of your home. Merchants such as Kohl's, Old Navy and Wal-Mart have agreed to give back a generous percentage of all sales just for shopping through **SchoolStore.com**. This opportunity is available to all St. Mary School, parish & extended families. Just log-on to [www.schoolstore.com](http://www.schoolstore.com). On the Welcome to School Store site, under school name **enter** St. Mary, **city** – Berea and **state** – OH and then click on *Find My School*. The screen will read: *You have chosen to support St. Mary School in Berea, OH – click here to Continue*. Your fun begins as you start to shop online while supporting St. Mary School. We thank you for your support! Please remember, this program can be used once the Christmas shopping season is over. It is available all year long.

Important Dates to Remember:

- 12/19/22 – Pj day & Polar Express Afternoon @ SMS
- 12/20/22 - Dress to match your classroom door
- 12/21/22 10:00a.m. All School Mass 10:00a.m.
- “ “ “ Ugly sweater (over uniform) day
- “ “ “ All school sing-a-long (faculty & students only)

# SAVE THE DATE



## Night at the Races

**NEW DATE—Saturday, January 21, 6 pm Garry Center**

**To benefit St. Mary CYO Athletics**

# Christmas New Year Schedule

## *Christmas Eve – Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup>*

4:00pm Mass  
6:00pm Mass  
10:00pm Mass in the Night

## *Christmas Day – Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>*

7:30am Mass  
9:30am Mass  
11:30am Mass

## *Feast of the Holy Family – Friday December 30<sup>th</sup>*

9:00am Mass

## *New Year's Eve – Saturday December 31<sup>st</sup>*

4:00pm Mass

## *New Year's Day – Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup>*

7:30am Mass  
9:30am Mass  
11:30am Mass

## *Epiphany – Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup>*

4:00pm Saturday Vigil  
7:30am Mass  
9:30am Mass  
11:30am Mass

And **REMEMBER** your financial resources are needed more than ever at this time. **THANK YOU** for your generosity and support! **Come, Lord Jesus!**



## CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL GIFT

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ or Cash \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Donor and memorial names will be printed in the bulletin. Your donation of any amount will help defray the cost of maintaining a beautiful Christmas Season when we celebrate the Birth of Our Savior.

**Please return this slip to the Parish Office, along with your donation by December 19th,**

**Attn: Christmas Flowers.** Thank you!

## St. Mary Stewardship: Christmas Food Collection

Due by Wednesday, December 21



**Church Street Ministries wants to provide 200 families with Christmas dinner. Please help by donating side/dessert items:**

- **Stuffing**
- **Cranberry Sauce**
- **Gravy**
- **Canned Veggies**
- **Boxed Mashed Potatoes**
- **Boxed Rice**
- **Boxed Mac & Cheese**
- **Chicken Broth**
- **Cornbread Mix**
- **Biscuit Mix**
- **Cake Mix**
- **Brownie Mix**
- **Frosting**
- **Boxed Cakes**