

Weekly Calendar

Weekday Masses and one Sunday Mass, are live-streamed on the parishes face book pages

Saturday, Dec. 11	7:00 am 5:00 pm	Morning Prayer with Mike Mass– <i>Emma Lynne Reed+</i> , <i>Tom and Rita Haley+</i>	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg Saint Michael Church
Sunday, Dec. 12	7:00 am 9:00 am 11:00 am	Morning Prayer with Mike Mass– <i>For the People of Our Parishes</i> Mass– <i>Robert and Carlos Mancha+</i>	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg Saint Mary Church  Saint Mary-Millersville Saint Michael Church
Monday, Dec. 13	7:00 am	Morning Prayer with Mike	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg
Tuesday, Dec. 14	7:00 am 5:00 pm 5:45-6:00pm 7:00 pm	Morning Prayer with Mike Mass– <i>Angie Alvarado+</i> , <i>Lucille Schumaker+</i> Reconciliation Rosary for the Nation	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg Saint Michael Church Saint Michael Church Saint Mary Church
Wednesday, Dec. 15	7:00 am 8:30 am	Morning Prayer with Mike Mass– <i>Living & Deceased of the Kistner and Hoepf Families</i>	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg Saint Mary Church
Thursday, Dec. 16	7:00 am 8:30 am	Morning Prayer with Mike Mass– <i>Fr. Gregory Hite+</i>	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg Saint Michael Church
Friday, Dec. 17	7:00 am 8:30 am 9:15–9:45 am	Morning Prayer with Mike Mass– <i>Living and Deceased of the Joseph and Mary Naderer Family</i> Reconciliation	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg Saint Mary Church Saint Mary Church
Saturday, Dec. 18	7:00 am 9:00–11:00am 5:00 pm	Morning Prayer with Mike Reconciliation Mass– <i>Harley Pertner+</i> , <i>Rita Liskai+</i>	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg Saint Mary Church Saint Michael Church
Sunday, Dec. 19	7:00 am 9:00 am 11:00 am	Morning Prayer with Mike Mass– <i>Pete Schalk+</i> Mass– <i>For the People of Our Parishes</i>	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg Saint Mary Church Saint Michael Church  Saint Michael-Gibsonburg

Financial Stewardship

Saint Mary Dec. 5, 2021

Sunday Offertory	\$2885.00
Loose Offering	\$303.00
Retired Religious	\$50.00
Christmas	\$50.00

Saint Michael Dec. 4-5, 2021

Sunday Offertory	\$4836.00
Loose	\$133.00
Special Improvements	\$950.00
Cemetery	\$245.00
Immaculate Conception	\$100.00
Retired Religious	\$75.00
Christmas	\$795.00
Religious Education	\$500.00

Outreach Group The Outreach Group for our parishes is asking for canned goods and non-perishable foods to stock the Blessing Box and for personal size snack bags or individually wrapped candies and treats for use for the Outreach ministry. Please bring these items to the vestibules of either parish for collection. Thank you so much for your generosity during this holiday season. *Deacon Mike*

Contact information for Saint Mary (MV) and Saint Michael (GB)

Pastor: Father Scott Woods (MV,GB) swoods@stmaryandstmichael.org
Pastoral Associate: Deacon Mike Dazley (MV,GB) mdazley@stmaryandstmichael.org
Director of Faith Formation: Patti Wasserman (MV,GB)
pwasserman@stmaryandstmichael.org
Liturgical Coordinator: Kathy Otermat (MV, GB) kotermat@stmaryandstmichael.org
Administrative Assistant: Terri Reinhart (MV) treinhart@stmaryandstmichael.org
Parish Secretary: Maria Porteous (GB) mporteous@stmaryandstmichael.org
Bookkeeper: Nancy Patterson (GB) npatterson@stmaryandstmichael.org
Senior Status Deacons: Deacon George Miller, Deacon Rene Gonzalez
MV Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:30am-2:30pm
GB Office Hours: Tues., Wed., Fri., 9:30am-2:00pm

*May God make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope,
and untiring in love all the days of our life.
Amen*

December 12, 2021 + Third Sunday of Advent

Saint *Mary*
MILLERSVILLE



Saint *Michael*
GIBSONBURG

865 State Route 635, Helena, Ohio 43435
419-638-3042 treinhart@stmaryandstmichael.org
Facebook: Saint Mary - Millersville
stMaryandstMichael.org

312 East Yeasting Street, Gibsonburg, Ohio 43431
419-637-2255 mporteous@stmaryandstmichael.org
Facebook: Saint Michael - Gibsonburg
stMaryandstMichael.org

Connected as the Body of Christ, we reverence the presence of God in each person and nurture disciples at every age, to live the Gospel with Christian charity and zeal.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

If it hasn't arrived yet, a Christmas letter from me is on its way to you and every other parishioner who is registered at Saint Mary's or Saint Michael's. A major reason for the mailing is to communicate the Christmas Mass schedule, which I'd like to say more about here.

This year, we will offer four Christmas Masses, two at each parish, specifically:

4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve at Saint Michael
6:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve at Saint Mary
10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve at Saint Mary
10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day at Saint Michael

I want to speak specifically to the elimination of one evening Mass at Saint Michael's and the rescheduling of the Mass during the Night from Midnight to 10:00 p.m. at Saint Mary's. First, let me say that the Pastoral Leadership Team voted unanimously in early 2020 to make these changes, although because of social distancing needs last Christmas we maintained the 2019 schedule.

Firstly, as to the removal of the second evening Mass at Saint Michael's (which had been celebrated at 8:00 p.m. the last two years), the Pastoral Leadership Team felt that the number of Mass-goers in attendance could be easily accommodated at the other Christmas Masses. While the 4:00 p.m. Mass is the most well-attended at Saint Michael's, someone who preferred the 8:00 p.m. Mass might be comfortable attending the 6:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. Masses. I certainly hope that will be the case.

Secondly, we have rescheduled the Mass during the Night for 10:00 p.m. precisely because the *Roman Missal* refers to that late Mass as "Mass during the Night," and long has, even though the old English *Sacramentary*, which we have not used for a decade now, incorrectly translated "Mass during the Night" as "Mass at Midnight." We hope that this change, faithful to the discipline of holy Church, will also better accommodate those who would like to go to Mass during the Night but are unable or unwilling to do so at Midnight.

Let me offer a third point, which I am hesitant to do because I do not wish to draw attention to myself, though it was an important consideration for the Pastoral Leadership Team when making these decisions which affect all of us. We must address the reality that there is only one priest to preside at these liturgies, and there is not an abundance of senior status (retired) priests to assist actively assigned priests. Additionally, it is my responsibility as your pastor to provide for the sacramental needs of the parish, and turning to senior status priests is not a sustainable way forward for the Church. Five Masses, at 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., Midnight, and 10:00 a.m. back and forth between two campuses is exhausting and unhealthy for me when it is not necessary because all five Masses are not full. Having one less Christmas Mass – while still being able to accommodate everyone who wishes to participate – and permitting me to get to sleep before 2:30 a.m. – so I am better able to preside at 10:00 a.m. – promotes my health and well-being as well as the health and well-being of our choirs and other ministers who are stretched because of a lack of volunteers.

Mass Assistants if you would like to serve in any of these ministries, please contact Kathy Otermat at kotermat@stmaryandstmichael.org

Saint Michael – Dec. 18, 5:00pm

Ambassadors Gerry Williams
Paul Makulinski
Server Volunteer
Lector Dab Dazley
EMOHC Sue Kaemming

Saint Mary– Sunday Dec. 19, 9:00 am

Rosary Dave & Mary Gutschalk
Server Cassidy Foos
Aiden Foos
Cantor Maria Reinhart
Lector Roger Wasserman
Communion Bill Ochs
Ambassadors Jeff Foos
Erin Foos
Count Neil and Wanda Hoffman
Clean Jeff and Erin Foos

Saint Michael Sunday Dec. 19, 11:00 am

Ambassadors Dave Estep
Erin Estep
Server Gretchen Kaiser
Evie Estep
Lector Pam Mendoza
EMOHC Marla Marsh



Please remember in prayer:

Paul Naderer, Michelle Schaser, Susie Bricker, Helen Reineck, Loren LaVoy, Sister Maria Miguel, Jim Steinmetz, Virginia, Larry and Mary Ann

Elchert, Christi Holman, Linda Hoffman, Emma Wasserman, Steve Woods and all our loved ones in nursing homes, or staying at home and not able to safely leave.

If you have a prayer request for members of either of our parishes please email the name to be listed (make sure you have the consent of the person first) to mshparishoffice@gmail.com. Each name will be listed for one month. If you would like your name or the name of your loved one listed longer, kindly message the Saint Mary Parish Office each month.



Forms to donate toward the Christmas flowers and décor are in the back of each of our parishes. Please fill out forms and return the form and donation back to the parish offices **by Wednesday, Dec. 15.**

2022 Contribution envelopes are available at both parishes. If you do not have a box in your name, contact either parish office to get a box. If you prefer to donate online, go through our website stmaryandstmichael.org Our parishes are very grateful for your support.



Living Christ

Diocese of Toledo

LIVING CHRIST CAMPAIGN PRAYER

O God, our generous Father,
the saving Death and glorious Resurrection of your Son
renews your Church in every way for the work of the Gospel.

Ignite in the hearts of your people
the fire of love that burns in the Heart of your Son.

Inspire in us a lively generosity

for the selfless service of our brothers and sisters.

Invigorate our commitment to follow more closely Jesus,
our Shepherd and Savior.

May the Holy Spirit, who brings Christ to life in each of us,
prompt all our efforts for the success of our Living Christ Campaign.

May Mary, our Mother, and all the Saints, intercede for us
to be joyful witnesses to the Redeemer at work within us and
among us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Continued from cover-

Thank you for letting me explain these changes in greater detail, knowing that changing Mass schedules is not popular even when it is necessary. As always, our Pastoral Leadership Team will evaluate how well we served you once we get through Christmas, and will adjust, as needed, for the future. Finally, please know that you are welcome at any of the four Masses, as is always the case, regardless of your parish affiliation. I look forward to beautiful celebrations of Christmas with you and yours.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Fr. Scott'.

Very Reverend Scott S. Woods, V.F.
Pastor

Advent times for Reconciliation

Sunday, Dec. 12, 3pm Fremont Area Penance Service
Communal service with individual confessions.

Several priests, including Fr. Scott, at Saint Joseph Church
Tuesday, Dec. 14, 5:45-6:00pm at Saint Michael Church

Friday, Dec. 17, 9:15-9:45am at Saint Mary Church

Saturday, Dec. 18, 9:00-11:00 am at Saint Mary Church

Tuesday, Dec. 21, 5:45-6:00pm at Saint Michael Church



From the desk of Patti Wasserman...

It's hard to be the bearer of bad news, but sometimes God asks us to do challenging things as a part of his plan. In the story of Jeremiah the Prophet this week we learn that Jeremiah obeyed God and shared a message of future judgment. Life can be tough, but God promises that we can trust in him and his ways. Will we obey the Lord even when it's difficult? We are all kind of skillful at the art of making excuses, aren't we? We can find all sorts of excuses not to obey God's voice: we tell him, "That's not my gift." "Oh God, I've already served, let someone else do it." "I'm too busy...or too tired...or too old...or too young...or too _____." (fill in the blank). Jeremiah had every excuse ready when God called him to be a prophet. His excuses are often our excuses for not following God's voice when he calls us. I'm going to try to match up a promise from God for a few excuses I, like Jeremiah, have used over the years.

1. The Excuse: The Task is Demanding. Jeremiah was called to be "a prophet to the nations" (Jer. 1:5). A prophet was a chosen and authorized spokesman for God who proclaimed God's Word to the people. Being a prophet was very demanding. The prophet never knew from one day to the next what the Lord would call him to say or to do. Prophets spoke to whole nations, and usually the people they spoke with didn't want to hear the message. Jesus, too, was called to be a prophet. He traveled from place to place challenging the people to change so that their future in heaven would be guaranteed. Jesus spoke to the hearts of people. Most in his did not accept his message of repentance, as they didn't want to change. Sounds a little like what's happening right here in 2021.

The Promise: God may assign us a demanding task, but his call keeps us going when we are ready to quit. "I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born" (Jer. 1:5). God knew Jeremiah, chose Jeremiah, and appointed Jeremiah. We are known by name, hand-picked by God, and commissioned to serve. This gives us a great sense of purpose. God's promises allows us to let go of our own plans and accept God's plan without fear. Like Jeremiah and Jesus, we need to accept that our future is not our own. We are God's. He has a distinct plan and purpose for our lives.

2. The Excuse: My Talent is Lacking. "But I protested, 'Oh no, Lord, GOD! Look, I don't know how to speak since I am only a youth'" (Jer. 1:6). Jeremiah felt inadequate as a public speaker. Moses had felt the same way. When I was approached about helping to start a high school youth group, I felt honored but extremely inadequate. I had been a teenager, why in the world would I want to work with the youth of today! My lack of talent was obvious, I had no formal training in working with youth other than being a mom of four children.

The Promise: Our talent may appear inadequate, but God always equips those he calls. "Then the LORD reached out His hand, touched my mouth, and told me: I have now filled your mouth with My words" (Jer. 1:9). God has a way to overcome weakness and our failures, doesn't he? I have learned over the years, that the person most aware of their own inadequacy is usually the person most dependent on God to meet all their needs. My inadequacy caused me to rely on God. His strength is made perfect in my weakness. His glory is revealed through my flaws. Never underestimate the power of the touch; especially when God does the touching!

3. The Excuse: The Time is Not Right. Jeremiah said to God, "I am only a youth" (Jer. 1:6). Jeremiah is not so much revealing his age as much as a deep sense of immaturity. He felt inferior, inexperienced, and intimidated by the size of the task to which God was calling him.

The Promise: God's call may come at an inconvenient time, but he never sends his servant out alone. "Then the LORD said to me: Do not say, 'I am only a youth,' for you will go to everyone I send you to and speak whatever I tell you. Do not be afraid of anyone, for I will be with you to deliver you. (Jer. 1:7). A mentor once told me, that when God calls us to a task, he does not give us a road map to follow and then leave us to on our own, God walks with us. Jesus felt that same Presence. He and the Father were one. He could go on because God walked with him. What a difference it makes as we go forward knowing that when we are being sent, God is going with us, that we have a traveling companion.

Has God already called you or is he calling you now to join a ministry at either Saint Mary or Saint Michael parish? Remember his promises, he will equip you, he will enable you, he will protect you, he will accompany you. All we need to do is say YES!

Santa Claus will be back at the Fire Station!



Set your calendars for Thursday December 16th! Doors open at 6:00, and Santa arrives at 7:00! He is excited to see all the Gibsonburg area kiddos, give them a bag of candy, and listen to their Christmas wish lists! ALSO, before Santa's arrival at the fire station, he will be delivering cookie trays to local area elderly residents. (Gibsonburg and/or Helena residents only) We are trying to update our cookie tray list, so if any of

you happen to know of an elderly individual who would enjoy a cookie plate and a visit from Santa, contact Christmas Party Chairman Jacob Hostottle at 567-342-2465 or Brad Krotzer at 419-307-4955 with their name and address.

The Gibsonburg Holiday Tradition continues!!



This year's event will be held on Saturday, December 18th at 9:00am. The 5K (3.1 Mile) run and walk will start and finish at Gibsonburg Town Hall on N. Webster Street in Gibsonburg. As in years past, entry fee for this great event will be a new and unwrapped toy or non-perishable food items. Toys are distributed to young people from the community by the Gibsonburg Ministerial Association and Gibsonburg School District and food items are placed on the shelves of the Gibsonburg Food Pantry. Special awards will be presented to the Adult Male and Female and Youth Boy and Girl with the "Ugliest" Christmas Sweaters! In addition, "World Famous" Ideal Bakery Donuts will be served at Town Hall after the event. For more information or to obtain an entry form please call (419) 637-2634 or email m.glotzbecker@gibsonburgohio.org.

Saint Michael Parish Pennies from Heaven 2022

Tickets for next year are on sale now!
\$20 each or 3 for \$50.



These tickets make a great gift for that hard to buy for person on your list. They are great for birthday gift or a Christmas stocking stuffer too! Purchase tickets for yourself or take some with you to sell to family, friends or neighbors! If you are the seller of the winning ticket you receive a 10% kick-back of the prize amount! Each ticket gets you 15 chances throughout 2022 to win cash! Contact Danna Myerholtz at 419-307-3438 or call Maria at Saint Michael parish office, with questions or to purchase tickets.

Drawings are on the 15th Day of the Month for \$200
(January-December 2021)

Bonus Drawings for \$500
March 17th-Feast of Saint Patrick
September 29th-Feast of the Archangels
December 6th-Feast of Saint Nicholas