

**GB Office Hours:** Tues., Wed., Fri., 9:30am-2:00pm 419-637-2255

Saint *Mary*  
MILLERSVILLE



Saint *Michael*  
GIBSONBURG

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Facebook: Saint Mary and Saint Michael Catholic Parishes

January 1, 2023

## Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

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.

### Reflections for the feast of Mary Mother of God

Feast of Mary, the Mother of God is a very appropriate way to begin a new year.

**Introduction:** Since we celebrate the *Feast of Mary, the Mother of God*, on New Year's Day, may we take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year? I pray that the Lord Jesus and His Mother Mary may enrich your lives during the New Year with an abundance of God's blessings. Today's *Feast of Mary, the Mother of God* is a very appropriate way to begin a new year. This celebration reminds us that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is also our Heavenly Mother. Hence, our ideal motto for the New Year 2018(2023) should be "Through Mary to Jesus!" This is an occasion to renew our devotion to Mary, who is also Mother of the Church because she is our spiritual mother — and we are the Church. In 1970, Pope Paul VI instituted the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. In his encyclical on devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, *Marialis Cultus*, he wrote, "This celebration, assigned to Jan. 1 in conformity with the ancient liturgy of the city of Rome, is meant to commemorate the part played by Mary in this mystery of salvation. It is meant also to exalt the singular dignity which this mystery brings to the holy Mother ... through whom we were found worthy ... to receive the Author of life." The solemnity shows the relationship of Jesus to Mary. It's a perfect example of how we should venerate Mary under all of her titles and is a good foundation for our understanding of Mary's place in Christology. The Church puts the feast of this solemnity on the first day of the New Year to emphasize the importance of Mary's role in the life of Christ and of the Church. We commemorate the various saints on different days of the year, but Mary is the most prominent of them all. She has a special role and mission given to her by God. As Mother of our Redeemer and of the redeemed, she reigns as Queen at the side of Christ the King. She is a powerful intercessor for all of our needs here on earth. In celebrating her special feast day, we acknowledge this great gift for the Church and world; we call on her to be actively involved in our daily life; we imitate her virtuous life as a great inspiration; and we cooperate with all the graces we get through her. The Church observes this day also as the **World Day of Peace** and invites us to pray specially for peace in the world. Inspired by Pope St. John XXIII's 1963 encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*, Pope Paul VI instituted this feast in 1967.

-Fr. Antony Kadavil

### On the eighth day of Christmas ...

#### Beatitudes:

"On the eighth day of Christmas my True Love gave to me,  
eight Maids A-Milking..."

What is the symbolism behind this eighth day?

What are the gifts of riches, nourishment, and love that God (our "True Love") gives to us?

The "eight Maids A-Milking" represent the eight Beatitudes mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 5:3-10.

The Beatitudes are to the New Testament what the Ten Commandments were to the Old Testament.

The Beatitudes are the ethics of a Christian. The Beatitudes tell us how to love God and love one another, which is the fulfillment of everything the Old Testament teaches (Matthew 22:40).

In the same way a wedding ring symbolizes unending love, so the Beatitudes demonstrate we are the Bride of Christ. The Beatitudes start with the word "blessed." This word goes beyond simply being happy and wealthy to meaning peace, contentment, purpose, wholeness, and security.

The eight Beatitudes are...

1) Blessed are the "poor in spirit."

(v. 3 – Blessed are those who have an attitude of brokenness.)

2) Blessed are "those who mourn".

(v. 4 – Blessed are those who have an attitude of sorrow over sin.)

3) Blessed are the "meek."

(v. 5 – Blessed are those who have an attitude of gentleness, patience, and strength).

4) Blessed are "those who hunger and thirst for righteousness."

(v. 6 – Blessed are those who have a deep desire and longing for God, & an attitude to always do what is right.)

5) Blessed the "merciful."

(v. 7 – Blessed are those who have an attitude of compassion.)

6) Blessed are the "pure in heart."

(v. 8 – Blessed are those who have an attitude of holiness, which is not sinless perfection but the desire to sin less and less.)

7) Blessed are the "peacemakers."

(v. 9 – Blessed are those who have an attitude of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

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**Mass Assistants** if you would like to serve in any of these ministries, please contact Kathy Otermat at [kotermat@stmaryandstmichael.org](mailto:kotermat@stmaryandstmichael.org)

**Saint Michael— Saturday, January 7, 5:00 pm**  
Ambassadors Jerry Wasserman

Server	Volunteer
Lector	Dee Jones
EMOHC	Sue Keamming

**Saint Mary— Saturday, January 8, 9:00 am**

Rosary	Pat and Gus Miller
Servers	Cassidy Foos
	Levi Reno

Lector	Sue Kosakowski
Communion	Larry Kosakowski
	Sue Kosakowski

Ambassadors	Roger Wasserman
	Barb Wasserman

Count	Harold and Eileen Foos
Clean	Volunteers

**Saint Michael— Sunday, January 8, 11:00 am**

Ambassadors	Volunteers
Servers	Andrew Spieldenner

Lector	Cindy Hammer
EMOHC	Natalie Liskai

## SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

**Baptism** - Please contact Dcn. Mike for information and to schedule, which for first-time parents includes an orientation to the Sacrament.

**Confirmation** - The normative time for Confirmation in the Diocese of Toledo is eighth grade. Please contact Patti Wasserman for more information.

**Reconciliation** - Fr. Thomas is available after Tuesday Mass until 6:30pm, @ GB and after Friday Mass until 9:45am (or later, if penitents remain past those times) @ MV. Saturdays at 4-4:45pm in GB, and Sundays at 8:15-8:45am in MV.

**Anointing of the Sick** - Please contact Fr. Thomas if you or a family member are critically ill, preparing for surgery, or are of advanced age and in need of this Sacrament. In case of an emergency outside of office hours, please press '8' when prompted by the automated phone system. This Sacrament can be received many times throughout one's life, and is not reserved for end of life only.

**Matrimony** - Please contact either parish office at least six months before you hope to marry, and know that a wedding date cannot be set until a couple's freedom to marry has been determined in consultation with Fr. Thomas or Dcn. Mike. Annulments, when necessary, may require 18-24 months to resolve.

**Holy Orders** - Please contact Fr. Thomas or Dcn. Mike if you feel the Lord may be inviting you to a vocation to the priesthood, the diaconate, or religious life.

**Holy Communion for the Homebound** - Please contact either parish office if you are unable to come to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion in your home or care facility.



**Please remember in prayer:** Nikki Parks, Mike Reineck, June Berger, Dave Gutschalk, Lola Reinhart, Stephanie Foos, Bernard Lehmann, Jean Obenauer, Deanna Wagner, Ron Davis, Mary Reineck, Rosie Neeb, Michelle Schaser, Sister Maria Miguel, Christi Holman, 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 [msmparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:msmparishoffice@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.

## 2023 Pennies from Heaven Raffle Tickets

**are a great idea for gifts!**

Tickets are only \$20 each or 3 for \$50  
\$200 prize Drawings are on the 15th Day  
of the Month  
(January-December)

There are 3 bonus Drawings  
with a \$500 prize

on March 17th, September 29th and December 6th  
Seller of the winning tickets get 10% on the prize  
(\$20 monthly, \$50 bonus)

Tickets are available in the back of either church, and at the parish offices. Make checks payable to St. Michael Church



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8) Blessed are "those who are persecuted because of righteousness."

(v. 10 - Blessed are those who have an attitude of honor and duty, willing to sacrifice everything for the cause of Christ.)

The Beatitudes are gifts given to us by our True Love, because on our own we do not have the strength and ability to display these attitudes.

On the eighth day of Christmas our True Love gives us the desire, ability, and commitment  
(like an engagement ring) to live out what we believe.

What wonderful gift the Beatitudes are!

<https://www.saintsfeastfamily.com/copy-of-solemnity-of-mary-the-holy->

## Diocese of Toledo Snow Emergency Policy

With the winter season upon us and the predicted inclement weather, please keep in mind the policy for Level 3 Snow Emergencies, established in 2014:

"Whenever a county/city within the Diocese of Toledo is placed under a Level 3 Snow Emergency, during which all roadways are closed to non-emergency personnel, the Catholic Churches within that geographic region will cancel the scheduled Saturday Vigil, Sunday, or Holy Day Masses. Roman Catholics in that region, therefore, are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass. If Masses are cancelled, Catholics are encouraged to participate in Holy Mass via television, radio, or internet, making a spiritual Communion. When Mass is cancelled, all other diocesan, parish, or school events in that geographic region are also cancelled." People should always use prudential judgment when traveling. Stay safe and warm.

From the desk of Patti Wasserman...

Family Catechesis



Faith Formation Classes for Pre K-6th Grade

Saint Michael: Class  
Wednesday-January 4th

Saint Mary: Class  
Sunday-January 15th

Confirmation Prep: Class  
January 8th @ Saint Michael  
Class 9:30-10:45am  
Followed by Mass @ 11:00am

Confirmation Retreat

**If you REALLY knew me...** For all 8th Grade Students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Spring. We will gather at 8:00pm on Sunday January 15th and end our time together Monday January 16th at 9:00am. Speakers, adoration, music, downtime, fun and games are on the agenda! Bring a snack and your favorite drink to share. Water, late night pizza and a light breakfast will be provided. A permission slip will be handed out at our next class on January 8th.

As the Church continues to celebrate The Octave of Christmas, here are a few photos of the celebrations we have had thus far in our Faith Formation classes, Movie Night watching "The Star", a Birthday party at both parishes, making cards with the Story of the Candy Cane to share with those who don't know Jesus, instead of making gingerbread houses we designed stables made out of graham crackers, gum drops, marshmallows, and pretzels. A photo of our lectors, Evie and Levi, at the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. Oh, and putting up a Christmas Tree for Father Thomas and Sam!



VOCATION MINISTRY



2023

January-For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.



Let us also pray for the health of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Pope Francis went to visit the 95-year-old pope emeritus where he lives, in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican, after his general audience on Wednesday morning. The Vatican confirmed that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has experienced a decline in his health but is stable and under medical care. May peace and comfort surround him, at this time.

FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



As I was looking for a photo to honor Mary on her Feast Day, I was taken aback by this photo and instantly tears were flowing. I have been angry at God for the 'giving and taking away' of things in my life. Then I saw this photo of Mary, the ultimate example of God giving and taking away. Her life had to be so painful. Yet...she trusted God that the pain she felt was for her own good...and my own good...and your own good. We often desire faith like the disciples had because they left everything to follow Jesus and they seem so strong, but, today, my prayer is to have faith like Mary. She gave the greatest sacrifice when she watched her son lay down his life for a world that has never truly appreciated it. May we try to have a faith like Mary's everyday, in this new year.