### **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

### SATURDAY, December 31

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 4:00-4:45pm Reconciliation @ GB Church 5:00 pm- Mass *Al Williams* @ GB Church

### SUNDAY, January 1

7:00 am– Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike

9:00 am- Mass Marvis Wells+

@ MV Church

11:00 am– Mass *Dave and Patricia Magrum*+ @ GB Church

### MONDAY, January 2

7:00 am– Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike

### TUESDAY, January 3

7:00 am– Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike

4:00 pm- Exposition @ GB Church

5:00 pm- Mass Judy Nuhfer Bowman+

@ GB Church

6:00 pm- Reconciliation @ GB Church

### WEDNESDAY, January 4

7:00 am– Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike

8:30 am- Mass Zeno and Emma Wasserman+

@ MV Church

6:30-7:45pm Faith Formation classes @ GB

### THURSDAY, January 5

7:00 am– Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike

8:30 am– Mass Fr. Robert Holden+@ GB Church

### FRIDAY, January 6

7:00 am– Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike

8:30 am– Mass Living and Deceased of the Kistner and Hoepf Families+ @ MV church

9:10 am Reconciliation @ MV Church

### SATURDAY, January 7

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike

4:00-4:45pm Reconciliation @ GB Church

5:00 pm- Mass Leonard Reino+ @ GB Church

### SUNDAY, January 8

7:00 am– Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike **!** 

9:00 am- Mass For the People of Our Parishes

@ MV Church

9:30-10:45am Confirmation Prep class @ GB

11:00 am- Mass Dave and Jill Spieldenner Family

@ GB Church F

MV=Saint Mary GB=Saint Michael

Facebook: Saint Mary and Saint Michael Catholic Parishes

Flocknote: text MVGB to 84576

### **Financial Stewardship**

Saint Mary Dec 24, 2022 Saint Michael Dec, 24-25, 2022 Sunday \$1940.00 Sunday \$1370.00 Loose \$255.00 Loose \$172.00 \$5200.00 \$4941.67 Christmas Christmas Retired Religious \$20.00 Special Improv. \$80.00

ACA goal \$11,326 \$12,210.00

ACA goal \$12,959 \$11,975.48



### **FORMED Pick for the Week**

Mary of Nazareth is an epic motion picture on the life of Mary, Mother of Christ, from her childhood through the Resurrection of Jesus. The film vividly captures the essence of Mary's profound faith and trust in God amidst the great mysteries that she lived with as

the Mother of the Messiah, as well as her compassionate humanity and concern for others, and the deep love that she and Jesus shared for one another. The movie underscores her special role in God's plan for our redemption, her unique relationship with Christ, and the tremendous suffering that she endured in union with his Passion and Death, as well as her serene joy at his Resurrection.

This movie is not rated, but was created with an adult audience in mind. It may contain violence indicative of the life and times of the saint or character portrayed. We would recommend Parental Guidance and that parents preview it before watching with children.

Haven't subscribed to FORMED yet? There is no cost to you! Visit **formed.org/signup,** put 43431 as your zip code, register with your name and an email address, then check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED today!

### Jesus by Candlelight

Sunday, January 8 the Solemnity of Epiphany 6:30 pm at Saint Wendelin Catholic Church 323 N. Wood St., Fostoria Adoration, Reconciliation, Worship, Music and Prayer



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

Pastor: Father Thomas Varghese (MV,GB) tvarghese@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

Prayer Chain: Eileen Foos 419-638-4244

**Senior Status Deacons**: Deacon George Miller, Deacon Rene Gonzalez **MV Office Hours:** Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:30am-2:30pm 419-638-3042 **GB Office Hours:** Tues., Wed., Fri., 9:30am-2:00pm 419-637-2255



Saint Mary Catholic Church 865 State Route 635, Helena, Ohio 43435 419-638-3042 treinhart@stmaryandstmichael.org

Saint Michael Catholic Church 312 East Yeasting Street, Gibsonburg, Ohio 43431 419-637-2255 mporteous@stmaryandstmichael.org

stMaryandstMichael.org Facebook: Saint Mary and Saint Michael Catholic Parishes

## 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

# 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.

### 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

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.) -Continued pg2

<u>Mass Assistants</u> if you would like to serve in any of these ministries, please contact Kathy Otermat at 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 Kosakowkski

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. 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

-Continued from front page

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...





### **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**

knew me...

For all 8th Grade Students preparing to If you 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!

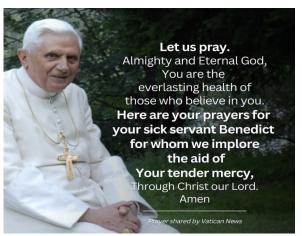






January-For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses. fraternity teaching 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.