

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, Dec. 23

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
4:00 pm- Reconciliation @ GB Church
5:00pm Mass *For the People of Our Parishes*
@ GB Church

SUNDAY, Dec. 24

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
8:00 am- Reconciliation @ MV Church
9:00 am- Mass *Roman & Margaret Wasserman+, Rudy & Helen Reineck+ @ MV Church*
11:00 am- Mass *Robert P. Kepus+ @ GB Church **
4:00 pm- Mass *Brantley & Brody Reed+, Shannon Wellington, Dan Mitchell+ @ GB Church**
6:00 pm- Mass *Deceased Members of the Gerald and Mary Kay Mathias Family+ @ MV Church**

MV and GB Parish offices will be closed Dec. 25-29

MONDAY, Dec. 25

12:00am- Mass *Souls in Purgatory @ MV Church*
7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
10:00 am- Mass *Don Kirwen+, Deceased Members of the Dolwick and Reed families+ @ GB Church*

TUESDAY, Dec. 26

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
4:00 pm-Exposition @ GB Church
5:00pm- Mass *Loyola Zeller+ @ GB Church*

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 27

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
8:30 am- Mass *Paul Hammer+ @ MV Church*

THURSDAY, Dec. 28

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
8:30 am- Mass *Pam Herman++ @ GB Church*

FRIDAY, Dec. 29

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
8:30 am- Mass *Lucille Darr+ @ MV Church*

SATURDAY, Dec. 30

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
4:00 pm- Reconciliation @ GB Church
5:00pm Mass *For the People of Our Parishes*
@ GB Church

SUNDAY, Dec. 31

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
8:00 am- Reconciliation @ MV Church
9:00 am- Mass *Bill & Lola Reinhart @ MV Church**
11:00 am- Mass *Spieldenner Family @ GB Church*
5:00 pm- Mass *Vigil for Mary the Holy Mother of God Jim Steinmetz+ @ MV Church*

MONDAY, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
10:00 am- Mass *Leonard Reino+ @ GB Church*

MV=Saint Mary GB=Saint Michael

* = when on Facebook live

Facebook: Saint Mary and Saint Michael Catholic Parishes

Financial Stewardship

Saint Mary Dec. 17, 2023

Sunday	\$3886.00
Loose	\$269.00
Christmas	\$1075.00
Immaculate Concep.	\$30.00

ACA goal \$12,430 \$12,925.00

Saint Michael Dec. 16-17, 23

Sunday	\$1844.00
Loose	\$178.00
Christmas	\$1560.00
Cemetery	\$60.00
Food Pantry	\$25.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$5.00
Perpetuate the Gift	\$85.00
ACA goal \$12,910	\$12,910.00



FORMED Pick for the Week Mary of Nazareth

Mary of Nazareth is an epic motion picture on the life of Mary, Mother of Christ, from her childhood through the Resurrection of Jesus. Shot in high definition, it was filmed in Europe with outstanding cinematography, a strong cast, and a majestic music score. Actress

Alissa Jung gives a beautiful, compelling, and inspiring portrayal of Mary. 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. Haven't subscribed to FORMED yet? There is no cost to you! Visit formed.org/signup, put 43431 as your zip code, find St. Mary and St. Michael, and register with your name and an email address, then check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED today!



Baptismal Prep Baptismal Prep classes will be held monthly for parents and godparents as they prepare for the Sacrament of Baptism for their children. Classes will begin at 12:30 PM and should last about an hour. This class is required for those parents asking the Church to Baptize their child. *Please call either Parish office and register for this class. The next class will be: January 21 at Saint Mary's.*



project rachel

Peace starts here

Are you or someone you know hurting from a past abortion? Contact Project Rachel for confidential help in starting your healing journey. God's mercy is abundant and waiting for you. 419-260-5811 - kpakka@toledodiocese.org - www.hopeafterabortion.com

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

Pastor: Monsignor Tad Oxley (MV,GB) woxley@toledodiocese.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*
MILLERSVILLE



Saint *Michael*
GIBSONBURG

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

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

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

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 Friends

Blessed Fourth Sunday of Advent. In the month of January, we will have two formation sessions for those who serve in the ministry of extraordinary ministers of holy communion (EMHC) and for those that serve as Lectors. When we are serving in the ministries of the Church, we are always in need of updating, training and to from a more spiritual perspective.

First I will speak about the EMHC formation session. This session will take place at Saint Mary's Church in Helena, on Saturday January 13, 2024 from 10:00 to 11:00 am. I am kindly asking that every person in both parishes who distributes, holy communion, or who takes holy communion to a homebound person either attend this session, or inform Deacon Mike or I that you are unable to attend so that we may offer you the formation at a different time. Also, anyone who desires to bring holy communion to a loved one, and who has not done so in the past, is encouraged to attend so as to be able to do the extraordinary ministry.

A lector formation session will take place on Saturday January 27, 2024 from 10:00-11:00 am at Saint Michael's Gibsonburg. Anyone who currently serves as a Lector in either parish is kindly asked to attend this session, or if one is not able to, please inform Deacon Mike or myself so that an alternative time may be made available to you.

Thank you for your service to the Church in these very important ways of living out our baptismal commitment as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Have a blessed Christmas
Msgr Walter R Oxley (Fr Tad)



Every Day Can Be Christmas

It's Christmas!
The Word became a human being
and set love alight on earth.



It's Christmas!
And we would never wish the sun to set on this day.
Teach us, O Lord, how to preserve your presence
among us.

It's Christmas!
Let your love, set alight on earth, burn our hearts and
Let us love one another as you desire!
Then you will be there among us.
And every day, if we love one another,
Can be Christmas.

-Chiara Lubich, *Christmas Joy*

Grieving with Great HOPE
Good Mourning Ministry

Grief Video Series Program at Saint Mary's

"Grieving with Great Hope", a 5 part video series exploring the grief journey from a Catholic perspective, will be

held at St. Mary's on consecutive Sundays at 5 pm from January 21 - February 18. Each session will begin with supper (provided), a video, then some time to discuss the video. Transportation to/from each session will be provided, if desired. To sign up or for further information, please contact Betty Hammer, 419-463-2292, Kathy Otermat, 419-307-1872, or Jeanine Van Der Laar, 567-280-1583. Thank you.

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday, December 26, Saint Michael's 4:00pm
Friday, January 5, Saint Mary's 9:00 am
Tuesday, January 8, Saint Michael's 4:00pm
Saturday, January 13, Saint Michael's 4:00pm
Friday, January 19, Saint Mary's 9:00 am
Tuesday, January 23, Saint Michael's 4:00pm



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

Saint Michael— Saturday, December 30, 5:00 pm

Ambassadors Jerry Wasserman
Server Mary Ann Myerholtz
Lector Deb Dazley
EMOHC Sue Kaemming, Norma Vela
Gerry Williams

Saint Mary— Sunday, December 31, 9:00 am

Rosary Jim and Betty Hoffman
Servers Garrett and Lucas Moffett
Lector Sue Kosakowski
Commun. Bill Ochs, Jeanine Van Der Laar
Rae Lyn Hoepf, Lucas Hammer
Ambassadors Nick and Tracy Foos
Count Roger and Barb Wasserman
Clean Jeff and Erin Foos

Saint Michael— Sunday, December 31, 11:00 am

Ambassadors Dave Estep Family
Server Evie Estep, Scarlett Hunker
Lector Erin Estep
EMOHC Natalie Liskai, Maria Porteous
Marla Marsh

Saint Mary— Sunday, December 31, 6:00 pm

Rosary Terri Parks, Dave Wonderly
Servers Grant Scherger, Wilson Scherger
Lector Harold Foos
Communion Eileen Foos, Terri Reinhart
Bill Ochs, Patrick Hoepf
Ambassador Roger and Barb Wasserman

Saint Michael— Monday, January 1, 10:00 am

Ambassador Gerry Williams, Paul Makulinski
Server Cindy Hammer
Lector Mary Kern
EMOHC Verna Konesky, Petra Hernandez
Maria Porteous

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 - A priest is available after Tuesday Mass @ GB and after Friday Mass @ MV. Saturdays at 4:00pm in GB, and Sundays at 8:00am in MV.

Anointing of the Sick - Please contact Fr. Tad 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.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION continued

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. Tad or Dcn. Mike. Annulments, when necessary, may require 18-24 months to resolve.

Holy Orders - Please contact Fr. Tad, 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.

Sick & Shut-in Please remember in prayer: Deacon George

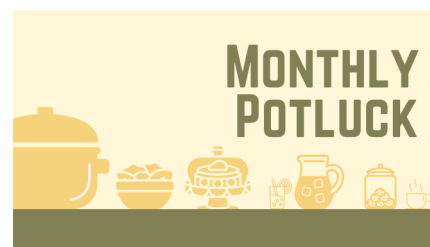


Miller, Jody Younker, Marcella Kirwen, Bella Sakel, Carol Morelock, Caesar Mendoza, Jay Cook, Mike Hoy, Jerry Fork, Diane Goebel, Jerry and Shirley Miller, Mary Lou Gonzales, Ed Herman, John Castnet, John Bricker,

Claranne (Gabel) Bohn, Mariella Shearn, Eileen Foos, Cody Noftz, Jean Obenauer, Deanna Wagner, Rosie Neeb, Sister Maria Miguel, Christi Holman, and all our loved ones in care facilities, 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.



2024 Pennies from Heaven tickets are available in each parish office. Cost is \$20 each or 3 for \$50. Drawings are held the 15th of each month for \$200. There are 3 Bonus Drawings of \$500 throughout the year. Each ticket gets you 15 chances to win! Winning tickets are put back in the barrel to be drawn again! Tickets make a great gift all year long! Think a Birthday present, or a "just because" gift for someone.



We will have a "re-gift" exchange at our monthly Parish potluck on January 7th, 2024, Noon, at Saint Michael's Parish Center. This is your chance to gift away one of those things you got from friends,

neighbors or co workers that just isn't right for you. Bring a wrapped, new gift tagged only as Man, Lady or Any... no sized clothing please. For each package you bring you will be allowed to select one from the table or give your turn to someone else.

*May God dispel our fear and discouragement
and renew us in love, through the saving power
of Jesus, the long expected Messiah.
Amen*



Faith Formation Schedule

Classes for Preschool –6th Grade

MV-Sunday Jan. 7th @ 10:00-11:15am

GB-Wednesday Jan. 3rd @6:30-7:45pm

Classes for Confirmation Prep

MV –Sunday Jan. 7th @ 10-11:15am

We will meet in the Youth Room

GB-Wednesday Jan. 3rd @ 6:30-7:45pm

Meet in Patti's office



High School Youth

January 7, 2024 5-7pm at Saint Mary's

Merry Christmas from a few of our Faith Formation students, Father Tad and Patti

Christmas is about welcoming Jesus Christ back into our hearts as the Savior of the world. This means taking up his Cross, following him, teaching and humbly serving him.



What a pleasant surprise to find this message in my inbox this week from Samaritan's Purse. "Thank you for partnering with Operation Christmas Child. The gift-filled shoeboxes you packed will share God's love in a tangible way and can impact not only the child who receives it, but also their family friends, and community. Most importantly, please remember to pray for the child

who will receive your gift. **Your most recent shoebox gifts shipped to Zambia and Honduras!** We will send more information once your shoeboxes reach their destination. May God bless you and may you all have a Merry Christmas."

Fourth Sunday of Advent - LOVE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Henke



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Every married couple forms a community of life around them, but not every couple will experience this through the gift of their own child. This can be a source of great pain and discouragement. Infertility is on the rise in the United States and many couples who dreamed of large families are faced with the unexpected inability to bear children. However, God still wants the couple to partake in His creative love. He desires that every marriage be fruitful. The fruitfulness of Christian marriages "expands and in countless ways makes God's **LOVE** present in society" (Amoris Laetitia, no. 184).

Something to ponder in your heart as Mother Mary did so many years ago...

*If you are a parent, how have you changed for the better since becoming a parent?

*If you do not have children, what other life-bearing fruit has God born through you?

Almighty and eternal God,
You blessed the union of husband and wife
so that we might reflect
the union of Christ with His Church:

look with kindness on us.

Renew our marriage covenant.

Increase your love in us,

and strengthen our bond of peace

so that, with or without children,

we may always rejoice in the gift of your blessing.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The 3rd Annual Toni Henline

Memorial Blood Drive

December 30, 2023

9:00-2:00pm

Saint Michael Parish Center

**There are 51 spots to fill, we now have 36 people signed up!
Please donate if you are able!**

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-276)



**The December 15th Pennies From Heaven
\$200 winner was Mrs. Alice Davis!
Congratulations!!**