

^BULLETIN COPY – ST. MARY CHURCH – GROVEPORT, OHIO - SUNDAY, December 25– USE CUT # 2-B

Saturday	5:00 p.m.	For the Parish Family
	9:00 p.m.	Jerry Jenkins by the Jerry Jenkins Family
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Donna Otto Elzey by Judi & Dick Matz
Monday	8:30 a.m.	Novena & Rosary
Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	No Mass
Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Mary Hosfeld & Hugh Dohn Nuptial Mass
Thursday	8:30 a.m.	Rosella, Frederick & Fred Herb Jr. by the Family
Friday	8:30 a.m.	Lora King by Lois & John Schilling
Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Carmen Rodriguez by the St. Vincent De Paul Society
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Don Peck by the Peck Family
	11:00 a.m.	For the Parish Family

THIS WEEKEND

NEXT WEEKEND

SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Brian Ropchock, Frank Trammer, Macie Sporleder, Easter Valentine	5:00 p.m.	Brian Ropchock, Frank Trammer, Jazlyn & Travis Winski
	9:00 p.m.	Sharon Merritt, Todd Lutz, Brian Ropchock, Frank Trammer	Sunday 8:30 a.m.	Jonathan Maier, Branson Cline, Sharon Merritt, Marita Surry
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Branson Cline, Sandro Nuakey, Eli Nuakey, Blair Williams	11:00 a.m.	Connie Brown, Todd Lutz, Easter Valentine, Matthew Hambrick

LECTOR SCHEDULE

Saturday	5:00 p.m.	<i>Please See Schedule in Sacristy</i>	5:00 p.m.	Sandy Williams, David Wilson
	9:00 p.m.		Sunday 8:30 a.m.	Dave Solack, Rosemarie Watters
Sunday	9:00 a.m.		11:00 a.m.	Mayellen Fowler, Kathleen Valentine

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER SCHEDULE

Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Christine Boucher, Tammy Dorion, Pat Jenkins, Phil Feldmeier, Pam Gerardi	5:00 p.m.	Pam Gerardi, Shawna Gentile, Judi Matz Marilyn O'Linn, Sandy Williams
	9:00 p.m.	Cindy Kinch, Rosemarie Watters, John Kinch, Jean Bobst, Sandy Trammer	Sunday 8:30 a.m.	Ken Koebel, Rosemarie Watters, Mary Slone, JoEllen Stebelton, Carolyn Veit
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sandy Williams, Ken Koebel, Dorothy Carter, _____, _____	11:00 a.m.	Maryellen Fowler, Jean Bobst, Dorothy Carter, Carl Scholl, John Kinch

CANTOR SCHEDULE

Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Debra Smith	5:00 p.m.	<i>Please See Schedule</i>
	9:00 p.m.	Debra Smith	Sunday 8:30 a.m.	
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Dave Solack	11:00 a.m.	

From Father John . . .

Merry Christmas!!

The Christian religion revolves around two glorious festivals of Faith where God's actions of Love affect everything: Christmas and Easter. These are more than holidays; they are life-changing events for the entire history of creation and for the life of each man, woman and child who lived, lives or will live. Today, we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus Christ ... God's personal entry into the world as one of us. At Easter we celebrate his Resurrection from sacrificial death and his bodily ascension to heaven. These two great feasts form the "Christ Event" ... the central reference for all human history and salvation.

For this reason we shouldn't settle too easily for the bland greeting, "Happy Holidays." We certainly respect the cultural and religious traditions of others and should honor them with appropriate good wishes. But as Catholics we realize that the meaning of Christmas does not affect only Christians. The Nativity of Jesus is a divine action of *universal* benefit to *all* humankind. Seen this way, the greeting "Christmas Blessings" or "Merry Christmas" offered with polite charity is a witness to the full and inclusive significance of the feast. For the same reason we should not impose the greeting as an act of defiance.

Whatever be our greeting, spoken or printed, the vital reality is the universal Christ Event ... central to God's plan of love and redemption. As one of us the Son of God came into the world's sinful dysfunction and division. Born in humility, Jesus took all of the effects of sin upon himself and died in disgrace. His birth and his death should be held in mind as we ponder the meaning of Christmas. Both his birth and his death led to his bodily Resurrection and Ascension. The body he received from Mary and was born in a humble stable was resurrected in glorious victory and ascended into the Blessed Trinity, Father and Son and Holy Spirit. Therefore, the whole heavenly company exclaims, "***Merry Christmas!!***"

The St. Mary Staff and I join this heavenly chorus to wish you a blessed Christmas. May this be a time of special joy for you, your family and those who gather with you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day – Is 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Monday, December 26 – Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday, December 27 – 1 Jn 1:1-4 / Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday, December 28 – 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 / Mt 2:13-18

Thursday, December 29 – 1 Jn 2:3-11 / Lk 2:22-35

Friday, December 30 – Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 / Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday, December 31 – 1 Jn 2:18-21 / Jn 1:1-18

Sunday, January 1 – Nm 6:22-27 / Gal 4:4-7 / Lk 2:16-21

OUR GIFTS TO GOD AND CHURCH

Will be posted next weekend!

The Annual Collection for Diocesan Catholic Charities will be taken up today. This second collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations, including J.O.I.N., St. Stephen's Community House, Catholic Social Services, St. Francis Center, St. Lawrence Haven, St. Vincent Family Center, and the St. Vincent De Paul Society. You can help share in this important work by generously supporting the Catholic Charities Collection this year. Please use the envelope provided in your packet or mark you check or envelope Catholic Charities.

Late Sunday Mass on January 1: If you or someone you know is seeking a late Sunday Mass on January 1, the Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day) because of work or other obligations, St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 East Broad Street, Columbus, will be offering a late Sunday Mass at 5:15 p.m. as part of their regular Sunday Mass schedule. For more information call the Cathedral at 614-224-1295 or visit www.saintjosephcathedral.org.

Support the legacy of St. Mary Parish by making a year-end gift to the St. Mary Parish endowment fund. Your tax deductible gift will benefit our parish for years to come. For more information, contact James A. Anzelmo, VP Development, The Catholic Foundation at 614-443-8893 or janzelmo@catholic-foundation.org.

If you are interested in serving your parish as a Lector, Extraordinary Minister, Server, Cantor, Greeter, or Usher, please call the Parish Office at 614-497-1324, or send an email to stmarygroveport@hotmail.com.

Thank you to the O.R. Woodyard Funeral Home for providing us with our 2017 calendars! They are available in the vestibule for each family to take home.

Special thanks and blessings to all who worked so hard to decorate and prepare the church, to the P.S.R. students, choir, servers and all who helped to make our celebration of Christmas a blessing.

There will be no P.S.R. Classes on Sunday, December 25 and January 1!

St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul has a food basket in the vestibule for the Groveport Food Pantry. December's food items are **Pasta and Pasta Sauce**.

Thank you to our parishioners who donated new Women's and Men's Socks to JOIN, and also prepared a ham, turkey or baked goods for the Bethlehem on Broad Street Christmas Dinner Program!

Our parish will be preparing a **Meal for the Homeless on Thursday, December 29**. Donations of fruit, cookies, and snacks are always greatly appreciated. Anyone who wishes to help prepare the meal, meet in the Parish Hall at 11:00 a.m.. If you would like to help serve the meal, meet at the church at 5:15 p.m.

The SVDP will be preparing 500 sandwiches for the homeless on Monday, January 2, at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Many hands make light work!

The next SVDP meeting will be Sunday, January 8, at 12:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Thank you to all who contributed to the SVDP Collection last weekend!

Your support is appreciated!

Donations help those less fortunate in our area!

The Forever Young Club will meet on Tuesday, January 3 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

St. Mary Prayer Line is always open for new participants and for your special prayer intentions. All that is asked of you is to pray! Please feel free to e-mail prayerline99@hotmail.com or call Nancy Scholl at 614-836-2537. Your email is kept private, but you do not have to be online with email to participate in the prayer line. There is a mailing to those without email every week.

Are you and your family registered parishioners? Please do not assume you are registered just because you attend Mass. If you have not called the Parish Office or stopped in and/or are not receiving envelopes, we probably do not have you registered properly. Please call the Parish Office at 614-497-1324, email: stmarygroveport@hotmail.com, or pick up a registration form in the vestibule. **Any parishioner who has had any changes please fill out a new form for updates and return it in the Sunday collection.**

Hugs and Prayers – Please remember in Prayer those of our Parish family and friends who at this time are hospitalized, ill, or recovering: Rosa Alonzo, Mary Ann Armstrong, Ann Arnett, Virginia Bauman, Margaret Bonner, Mary Jo Borghese, The Brothers Family, Tom Bryan, Chris Burkhardt, Catherine Courey, Kathy Daw, Al Elizondo, Dominic Elizondo, Giuseppe Fazio, Mayellen Fowler, Shirley Jo Fraley, Ben Garrison, Mary Getreu, Cody Hetterscheidt, Tara Hetterscheidt, Bill & Agnes Hillis, Austin Hosfeld, Susan & Steve Howell, Jake Jajczyk, Mary Jones, Mary Kampf, Henry Kampf, Barb Kellenbarger, Evelyn Kelley, Tim Leddy, Lisa Leonard, Julie Litsinberger, Rita Martini, Dick Matz, Maria Mayes, Trisha Mentzer, Msgr. Bob Metzger, Wanda Mennetti, Mary Jo McKinney, Maxine & Tom McLoughlin, Connie Neuherz, Renee Parlin, Joseph C. Ramsey, Fr. Reichert, Gene Schrader, Lucy Snyder, Mike Sommer, Joe Stewart, Virginia Theado, Howard Watters, Ken Watters, David Wilson, Caroline Weiland, Jeanne West, Virginia Whittemore, and Jim, Cathy Williams & Family.