

St. Mary's Catholic Church

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

Dear parishioners,

A wonderful Advent/Christmas book is Kneeling in Bethlehem, a book of poetry by Ann Weems. It was given to me by a good friend Murrie who found great beauty and comfort in these poems. I want to share one of these poems for this last week of Advent.



In Search of Kneeling Places

In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
an inn where we must ultimately answer
whether there is room or not.

When we are Bethlehem-bound
we experience our own Advent in his.

When we are Bethlehem-bound
we can no longer look the other way
conveniently not seeing the stars
not hearing angel voices.

We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem and see this
thing that the Lord has made known to us.

In the midst of our shopping sprees let's ponder in
our hearts the Gift of Gifts.

Through the tinsel
let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.
In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.

This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
and find our kneeling places.

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

Sat Dec 16 4:00 p.m. Richard & Angela Knott
Sun Dec 17 10:00 a.m. Jan Schulte
Sat Dec 23 4:00 p.m. Jim Alt
Leonard & Sally Rieman
Sun Dec 24 10:00 a.m. For the parish

Communion Services

Fri Dec 22 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults \$3,990.00 Loose \$881.00
Children \$50.50 Total \$4,921.50
81 envelopes returned = 39%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for Dec. 23 & 24, 2017

Money Counters: Tonya Meyer and Deb Buck

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Basil Meyer
Cantor: Steve McCullough
Ushers: Hank and Carol Schroeder
Lector: Jenny Roby
E.M.: Bob Minto and Edna Conkling
Servers: Alyson and Abygail Kettels

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Basil Meyer and Deb Buck
Greeter-West Door:
Cantor: Steve McCullough
Ushers: Jeanne and Jerry Wehri
Lectors: Lisa Welch and Shannon Wannemacher
E.M.: Michelle Risner, Betty Gerten,
Tom Schulte, Linda Kinn
Servers: Julia Mehaffie, Makayla Schweingruber,
Jordan Schweingruber

Readings for December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

If you would like to send Angie Schroeder a card,
her new address is P.O. Box 243, Bluffton, Ohio
45817.

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Dec. 23-24 Weekend and Christmas Masses

Our regular weekend Masses on Dec. 23 and 24 will be Saturday, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

The Masses for Christmas will be at 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24.

The sign-up sheets for liturgical roles for the Christmas Eve Masses are on the shelf in the entrance. Liturgical ministers, please help!

Decorating the church We will be decorating the church on Thursday, December 21. We will begin at 8 o'clock in the morning and work until all is finished. We would appreciate all the help we can get. Depending on the number of people we have helping, it takes about 1-2 hours.



Monday night holy hour There will be no Monday night holy hour on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. We will gather December 18 and January 8.

A Wish for the New Year: The New Year is often a time of reflection, re-examining, setting goals, and looking ahead. It is the perfect time to reflect on your marriage relationship as well. If one of your goals is to deepen your love and enhance your marriage, a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend may be just what you're looking for. Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends are for married couples with good, great, and even so-so marriages who want to enrich their marriages, and are designed to expand and deepen the joys of married life. Weekends are a time to concentrate exclusively on one another, giving you the opportunity to enhance your communication, develop a deeper appreciation of each other and strengthen your bond. The next weekend being offered within the Diocese is scheduled for January 12-14, 2018 in Perrysburg, OH. For more information or to register for an upcoming weekend, please contact Brian & Chris Schroeder at 419-538-7210 or bcschroeder@bright.net.

Sun. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Masses:

4:00 p.m. Gene Badertscher and Imajean Mathewson and Sue Schlumbohm

6:00 p.m. Guido and Anna Schroeder Cyril and Dorothy Sterrett

10:00 p.m. Ellen Von Lehmden

Mon. Dec. 25 Christmas Day – NO Masses

Any children interested in singing at the Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00, please be at church by 3:30 that day. We will sing before Mass begins. If you have any questions, or would like a list of carols that will be sung, please contact Sheila Hausknecht at 567-208-2296.

Religious give thanks. A religious sister writes, "When we see the generous response of so many thousands of persons in order to help us, religious men and women, we are left speechless." Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word is during the 10 o'clock Mass. There will be no class on Sunday, December 24th or Sunday, December 31.

K-6: There will not be any classes on December 20th or December 27th. Next class will be on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 from 6:30 to 7:30

Jr. High: Class is today, Sunday, December 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

God Squad: Class is today, Sunday, December 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.