

St. Mary's Catholic Church

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018



Dear parishioners,

While bringing Communion to our shut-ins on Tuesday, I told one of our elders to have a happy Advent. After thanking me for the reminder he said, "It's really good that the Church has all these seasons to keep us moving forward in our journey." What great wisdom!

Every year we have the opportunity to celebrate the mystery of our salvation—God's promise of a Savior; Jesus' birth, life, passion, death and resurrection; the birth of the church with Pentecost. I wonder how many of us, in our hectic lives, would stop to think about Jesus' Incarnation without the season of Advent.

God promised for thousands of years that a Savior would come. The prophets struggled to keep the people mindful and faithful. The people of Israel got caught up in their surrounding culture. They forgot. They lost sight and lost hope. They also needed reminders to keep them moving forward.

John the Baptist was sent as the imminent prophet, and John knew this Messiah was so great that John was not worthy to untie his sandals. And even then the people misunderstood the kind of Savior and Messiah who was coming. They expected a mighty and powerful king who would defeat their oppressors. Instead the Messiah was a baby born in a stable.

How like the Israelites we are! During this Advent season let's be mindful and faithful. Let's spend these days of Advent bringing God's kingdom to fulfillment—a kingdom of peace, hope, joy, and love.

Sister Carol

The parish extends its sympathy to Samantha and Sarah Vogel and all their family at the death of their father Chuck Vogel. May he rest in peace.

Weekend Masses

Sat Dec 1	4:00 p.m.	Bettie J. Altenburger
Sun Dec 2	10:00 a.m.	Jan Schulte
Sat Dec 8	4:00 p.m.	Jim Badertscher Art Schramm
Sun Dec 9	10:00 a.m.	Fr. Dave Beck

Communion Services

Fri Dec 7 No Communion Service today

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,896.00	Loose \$958.00
Children	\$107.85	Total \$3,961.85

71 envelopes returned = 34%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for December 8 & 9, 2018

Money Counters: Chad Wolford and Nick Recker

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Jan and Diana Emmert

Cantor: Jenny Roby

Ushers: Dave and Shirley Siefker

Lector: Jason Swartzlander

E.M.: Jerry Wehri, Jeanne Parinello,
Amanda Woolley

Servers: Derek Swartzlander, Eli Jones,
Shylee Kaufman

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Mel and Sherry Heitmeyer

Cantor: Choir

Ushers: Mike and Rhonda Maag

Lectors: Joe Herrmann and Matt Ellerbrock

E.M.: Mark Zwiebel, Tricia Herrmann,
Larry Hoffman, Crystal Ellerbrock,
Candace Meyer

Servers: Grace Yarnell, Ethan Hoffman,
Evan Grothause

Readings for December 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

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Giving Tree We are gifting the poor of Appalachia, Heartbeat, and two local families. Please be very attentive to the due date—December 8, Saturday.



Thank you to Lisa Welch, Greg and Chris Denecker, and Amanda Woolley for putting out the new missalettes. **Thank you** to Bob and Louise Rieman for putting up the outdoor Christmas lights. **Thank you** to Ryan and Jessica Rahrig family for setting up our outdoor crib. **Thank you** to Katie and Kyle Hohenbrink and Roger Brodman for transporting our food pantry donations to the food pantry. **Thank you** to all of you who gave so generously to the food drive. **Thank you** to the God Squad for hosting the Waiting for St. Nick Breakfast.

Advent opportunities

- “Little Blue Books” and the December “Word Among Us” are available in the main entrance.
- Please also check the shelf in the main entrance to see if you can help with carrying an Advent candle.
- As always the sacrament of Reconciliation can be celebrated before each weekend Mass.
- There will be a Parish Penance Service on Thursday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m.



Holy Day Mass The Mass for the feast of Mary, the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States, is at 6:00 o'clock, Friday, December 7. Then don't forget to come to the birthday party after the holy day Mass



If you want to help deliver poinsettias to our sick and homebound during the week of December 17, you can sign up on the sheet in the main entrance.



Lectors, please pick up your handbooks from the table in the main entrance.

We are collecting personal hygiene products for women who are poor. The collection box is in the social hall.

Support the Retirement Fund for Religious.

A donor writes, “Your flyer touched my heart—seeing the retired religious, such memories surfaced.” Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Please give to next week's collection.

On Sunday, Dec. 9th, Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services is offering a **Tree of Remembrance Memorial Service** at the Centre at Bluffton, 601 N. Main Street. All families in attendance will receive a free glass ornament personalized with the name and dates of their loved one that will be placed on the Christmas tree. Families may begin arriving at 1 p.m. followed by a brief memorial service at 2 p.m. At the conclusion of the service, the ornament is yours to take home. Additional ornaments are available for purchase. All families are welcome regardless of which funeral home provided the services. Light refreshments will be provided. There is no charge to attend; however, reservations are requested. To make a reservation or for more information call 419-358-2051.

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word is during the 10 o'clock Mass.

K-6: Class is Wednesday, December 5, 6:30 to 7:30. There is no mass tonight. Christmas program rehearsal is from 7:00-7:45 p.m.

Jr Hi Class is today, Sunday, December 2nd, 11:00 to 1:00.

God Squad--High School Youth Group

Today, Sunday, December 2, we will host the St. Nick Breakfast. Our next class is December 16th.