

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

January 1, 2017



Dear parishioners,

First of all, THANK YOU for your wishes and gifts for Christmas! Your consistent amazing generosity inspires me to be more generous.

Today we celebrate another generous person—Mary, the Mother of God. Some folks have a hard time calling her the Mother of God. The eastern churches call her *Theotokos*, God-bearer. Perhaps that is closer to being precise, but we know that Mary is the Mother of Jesus and Jesus is God. So we have used that title for centuries. We address Mary with that title every time we pray the Hail Mary: Holy Mary, Mother of God....

Mary is generous because she allowed God to take charge of her life and change its direction forever. I am sure that Mary did not in her wildest dreams ever expect to be the mother of the Savior. She did ask “How can this be?” With enormous trust she said yes and let her life, let Jesus’ life set the course for the rest of her life.

As Jesus hung on the cross, one of his last concerns was for his mother. He asked John to look after her. He also asked Mary to look after John—and in that request he asked her to take care of all of us. If Jesus is our brother through the Incarnation, then we are brothers and sisters of Jesus. So Mary is our Mother and the Mother of God. Let’s remember to be attentive to her as Mother.

May your new year of 2017 be healthy, happy, and full of grace.

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

Sat Dec 31	4:00 p.m.	Jerry Musser
Sun Jan 1	10:00 a.m.	Carl & Bertha Greulich
Sat. Jan 7	4:00 p.m.	Murphy/Immele families
Sun Jan 8	10:00 a.m.	Art Schramm

Communion Services

Tue Jan 3	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Wed Jan 4	10:30 a.m.	Hilty

First Friday

Fri Jan 6	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's
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SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,340.00	Loose	\$1,529.00
Children	\$12.71	Total	\$3,881.71

52 envelopes returned = 25%

Christmas to date: \$6,010.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for January 7 & 8, 2017

Money Counters: Deb Goldenetz and Barb Galvan

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Peg Murphy
Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink
Ushers: Dave and Mary Hoffer
Lector: Caitlyn Couch
E.M.: Jessica Wischmeyer, Brianna Atkins, Basil Meyer
Servers: Zane Myers and Grace Myers

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Caylee and Cody Rieman
Greeter-West Door: Josh Begg
Cantor: Kevin Vance
Ushers: Colin Phillips, Zane Myers, Nick Marcum
Lectors: Derek Swartzlander and Libby Schaad
E.M.: Julia Miller, Jenna Kimmel, Cathy Hermiller, Crystal Ellerbrock, Candace Vance
Servers: Andrew Lovett, Brayton Businger

Readings for January 8, 2017

The Epiphany of the Lord

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Wishing Everyone a Happy New Year!!!

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St. Mary's Family,

Thank you for all the Presidents' pictures and other gifts and Christmas Wishes!

Fr. John

Follow us on Facebook:

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Bluffton, OH

Join us for **An Evening to Celebrate Marriage**

which will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2017 at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein. The evening includes a candlelight dinner at 5:30 followed by Mass, Marriage Renewal, Guest Speaker and fun and games. Cost is \$50.00 per couple. To register or for more information, call Connie Buschur at 419-678-8644 or 419-305-3058.

Need the perfect gift for your spouse this

Christmas? Give your spouse the gift of your time and love by taking your spouse on a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. Upcoming dates: January 13-15, 2017 in Perrysburg, OH and March 31-April 2, 2017 in Lima, OH. Contact Brian & Chris Schroeder at 419-538-7210 or bschroeder@bright.net or go to www.wwme.org for more information.



Don't forget to pick up your new box of offering envelopes. If you want envelopes and were overlooked, please sign up and we will gladly issue you a box.

Inspirational Spot: *Our Father, when we long for life without trials and work without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure. With stout hearts may we see every mishap an opportunity and not give way to the pessimism that sees in every opportunity a calamity.*

Ohio Death Penalty Set to Resume January 12, 2017

In January of 2015, the State of Ohio announced a moratorium on the use of the death penalty due to the lack of availability of required drugs. This moratorium is set to be lifted on January 12, 2017, with the execution of Ronald Phillips.

Bishop Daniel E. Thomas urges all Catholics and people of good will to take five steps to abolish the death penalty in the State of Ohio:

1. **Pray** for the victims of crime, those facing execution, and those working in the criminal justice system;
2. **Reach out** to the families of those affected by violent crime by bringing Christ's love and compassion;
3. **Learn** about the Church's teaching on capital punishment and educate others in this vital area of concern by visiting: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/death-penalty-capital-punishment/index.cfm>;
4. **Advocate** for the end of the death penalty by sending a postcard and by calling Governor John Kasich at: 614-466-3555, urging clemency for all 139 individuals on death row in the State of Ohio.
5. **Join us** for a Candlelight Prayer Vigil for the abolition of the death penalty, on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 6 p.m. at St. Francis de Sales Chapel, 501 Cherry St., Toledo OH 43604.

For more information, contact Nick Lyster, Justice Ministry Coordinator at nlyster@toledodiocese.org

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word is during the 10 o'clock Mass. It will resume January 8, 2017.

K-6: Classes resume Wednesday, January 4 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Mass is at 7:00 p.m.

Jr. High: Next class is Sunday, January 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

God Squad: Next class is Sunday, January 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is also the parish annual Eucharistic Day.