

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017



Dear parishioners,

Here is another poem from Kneeling in Bethlehem, a book of poetry by Ann Weems.

What Do I Want for Christmas?

What do I want for Christmas?  
I want to kneel in Bethlehem,  
the air thick with alleluias,  
the angels singing  
that God is born among us.

In the light of the Star,  
I want to see them come,  
the wise and the humble.

I want to see them come  
bearing whatever they treasure  
to lay at the feet  
of him who gives his life.

What do I want for Christmas?  
To see in that stable  
the whole world kneeling in thanks  
for a promise kept:  
new life.

For in his nativity  
we find ours.

I pray for each of you a holy and wondrous day  
filled with faith, hope and love. Merry Christmas!

Sister Carol

## Christmas Masses

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

## Weekend Masses

|            |            |   |
|------------|------------|---|
| Sat Dec 23 | 4:00 p.m.  | Jim Alt<br>Leonard & Sally Rieman           |
| Sun Dec 24 | 10:00 a.m. | For the parish                              |
| Sat Dec 30 | 4:00 p.m.  | Chris, Don and<br>Nathan Sterrett           |
| Sun Dec 31 | 10:00 a.m. | Gerry Hartley and<br>Carl & Bertha Greulich |

## Communion Services

Fri Dec 29 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

|          |            |       |            |
|----------|------------|-------|------------|
| Adults   | \$2,639.25 | Loose | \$714.01   |
| Children | \$26.14    | Total | \$3,379.40 |

75 envelopes returned = 36%

*Thank you for your generosity!*

*Thank you also to those who give electronically!!*

## Assignments for Dec. 30 & 31, 2017

**Money Counters:** Deb Goldenetz, Angie Wenger

### 4:00 p.m.

**Greeter:** Lisa and Logan Welch

**Cantor:** Koch Family

**Ushers:** Bob Minto and John Parinello

**Lector:** Laura Jones

**E.M.:** Kevin Vance, Kaden Reneker, Rosemary Meyer

**Servers:** Derek Swartzlander and Alaina Kiser

### 10:00 a.m.

**Greeter-East door:** Logan Welch

**Greeter-West Door:** Lisa Welch

**Cantor:** Kevin Vance

**Ushers:** Mike and Rhonda Maag

**Lectors:** Joe Herrmann and Chris Denecker

**E.M.:** Jerry Wehri, Kim Garmatter,

Dave Gerschutz, Travis Kahle, Mike Klima

**Servers:** Grace Yarnell, Ayla Grandey, and

Calvin Freideger

## **Readings for December 31, 2017**

**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

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## Decorating the church

**Thank you** to Tom Schulte, Mel and Sherry Heitmeyer who could not come on Thursday and therefore worked a couple of days ahead of time to make their contribution!! **Thank you** also to Kelly, Kirsten, and Kinsley, to Lisa and Logan Welch, Jeff Goldenetz, Shar Dunlap, Deb Hohenbrink, Cathy Couch, Jonathan Hoorman, Basil Meyer, Linda Garrett, and Beth Yarger. We were done by 8:30! What a crew!



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

**Community Supper** Thursday, January 4, is St. Mary's turn to prepare the Community Supper held at the Bluffton Senior Center. The sign-up sheet to donate food or to help is on the shelf in the main entrance.



**"The Sultan and the Saint"** is a movie about the meeting of a starry-eyed would-be knight from provincial Assisi and a forgotten Muslim prince who was raised in the Sultan's palace and groomed for the throne by his mother steeped in Islamic learning. It's the story of St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan Malek Al-Kamil. It's premiere showing have reached nearly 40,000 viewers. It will air on public television (WBGU TV) at the following times:

December 26, 8:00 p.m.

December 27, 12:30 p.m.

December 28, 11:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.

December 30, 4:00 a.m.

December 31, 7:00 p.m.

The film is 58 minutes long.

## Sun. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Masses:

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

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

10:00 p.m. Ellen Von Lehmden

## Christmas Eve Liturgical Ministers, December 24

### 4:00 p.m. Mass

**Greeters:** Mel and Sherry Heitmeyer

**Ushers:** Joel and Dave Siefker

**Servers:** Makayla and Jordan Schweingruber and Jonathan Hoorman

**Lector:** Bella Ellerbrock

**Prayer of the Faithful:** Deacon Marcum

**E. M.:** Crystal Ellerbrock, Mike Klima,  
Becca Schlumbohm and Megan Dulle

**Bring in the Baby Jesus:** Bethany & Austin Barnhart

### 6:00 p.m. Mass

**Greeters:** Henry and Carol Schroeder

**Ushers:** Mike and Rhonda Maag

**Servers:** Caitlyn Couch, Kaden Reneker

**Lectors:** Jenny Roby, Shannon Wannemacher

**E. M.:** Jennifer Tschuor, Kim Garmatter,  
Amy Marcum

### 10:00 p.m. Mass

**Greeters:** Deb Buck and Logan Welch

**Ushers:** Colin and Trent Phillips

**Servers:** Alyson and Abygail Kettels

**Lectors:** Rachel and Lisa Welch

**E.M.:** Candace Vance and Tom Schulte

**"Thank you to everyone who donated** to this year's Giving Tree. We were able to help three local families, Heartbeat of Lima, and families in the Appalachia area. The amazing generosity of this parish is truly special and very much appreciated!" *Krystal Giesige*

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, December 31.

**K-6:** There will not be any classes on December 27<sup>th</sup>. Next class will be on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 from 6:30 to 7:30

**Jr. High & God Squad:** Next class will be Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.