

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

Feast of the Epiphany

January 6, 2019



Dear parishioners,

In some cultures this day is the day when gift exchange happens. This allows families to give their full focus to Jesus on his birthday—the mystery of the Incarnation. Some parents give their children only three gifts for Christmas because that's how many Jesus got. I like both those traditions. They bring faith into lived experience.

We have attached a lot of meanings to this feast. It is the day we celebrate that Jesus was revealed, not only to the Jews, but to all nations. It's the feast when we reflect on the meaning of the three gifts brought by the Magi. They reveal who Jesus is: gold (He is king.), frankincense (He is God.), and myrrh (He will suffer greatly.)

We meditate on the faith and the trust of the Magi. How would you follow a star? Why would you follow a star for such great distance? You would need to be motivated by something very important. These Wise Men knew this star they had studied was marking something very significant—the place where God came to earth!

I even heard one person say these men were wise because they knew how to change their plans! They were not so dyed-in-the-wool sure of what they wanted to do that they could not follow the direction of the angel who told them to go home by another way.

Whatever this feast has to teach us, I hope we learn it well. Happy Little Christmas!

Sister Carol

## Weekend Masses

Sat Jan 5 4:00 p.m. Jim & Ruth Badertscher  
Sun Jan 6 10:00 a.m. Jan Schulte  
Sat Jan 12 4:00 p.m. Mel Schroeder  
Sun Jan 13 10:00 a.m. Charley & Mim Shepler

## Communion Services

Fri Jan 11 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults \$2,700.00 Loose \$1,349.00  
Children \$37.77 Total \$4,086.77

75 envelopes returned = 36

Christmas collection to date: \$7,968.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*

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

## Assignments for January 12 & 13, 2019

**Money Counters:** Janet Begg and Chad Wolford

### 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:** Sherry Heitmeyer

**Greeter-West door:** Mel Heitmeyer

**Cantor:** Kevin Vance

**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, and  
Evan Grothause

## **Readings for January 13, 2019**

### **Baptism of the Lord**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

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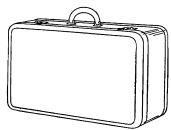
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**Rite of Welcome** Next Sunday, January 13, at the 10 o'clock Mass we will be introducing and welcoming another RCIA candidate who is preparing for full membership in the Catholic faith.

## Italy trip

Sister Carol is hoping to lead one more trip to Italy September 4-13/18, 2019. There will be a presentation by Mel Saylor, the tour leader, to explain the details of the trip at coffee and donuts next Sunday, January 13. If this interests you, please come. If you just want to see the pictures, come. If you just want to enjoy the coffee and donuts, come. If you just want to say hello to Mel and Jesse, come.



## Coming events

Sunday, January 13, 10:00 – Rite of Welcome

Sunday, January 20 – Annual Eucharistic Day

10:00 – Mass

11:00 – Lunch

After lunch – Holy Hour

Sunday, January 27, 6:00 –

Volunteer Appreciation Supper “A Putnam County Wedding Supper”

**Council meetings** The Pastoral Council will meet on Tuesday, January 8 and the Finance Council will meet on Tuesday, January 15.

**Thank you** to all who helped transport the poinsettias out of church. That was quick work!! **Thank you** to Mel Heitmeyer for making a shelf for the piano light on the keyboard. **Thank you** to Edna and Greg Conkling and all of you who donated food and/or helped serve the Community Supper.

**We have Mass** on Wednesday evening, January 9, at 7:00 o'clock.

**The Bluffton Area Community Assistance** program which oversees the Food Pantry wishes to extend a huge thank you to Bluffton residents. The Food Pantry has been blessed with generous donations and the giving has been kind and thoughtful. The schools, churches, businesses, and residents have

gone above and beyond to assist those in need in our area. Right now the pantry is overflowing with supplies. Of course, that will change as the months go by, but the giving season has been very helpful to keep the pantry supplied. For the next couple of months the Pantry will continue to need paper products, canned meats, canned fruits, canned soups, shelf milk, cereals, and lotions. Most of the other shelf items are full.

**Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage.** Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. For more information about our January 25-27<sup>th</sup> Retrouvaille Weekend program for couples, contact registration team: **Robin & Jeff @ 419-481-1116** or visit our website: **HelpOurMarriage.com**.

## P.R.E.P

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** resumes today, Sunday, January 6 at the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

**K-6:** Class resumes this Wednesday, January 9, 2019, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Virtus training will be at 6:30 p.m. Mass is at 7:00 p.m.

**Jr High:** Class resumes today, Sunday, January 6th, 11:00 to 1:00 p.m.

## God Squad--High School Youth Group

Class will resume today, Sunday, January 6, from 11:00-1:00. See you then!