

St. Mary's Catholic Church

1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019

Dear Parishioners,

One of the great American characters of the early 19th Century was the famous lawyer and statesman Daniel Webster. His speeches were known for their clarity and wit. When people often asked him why he worked so hard Daniel would tell them a story of an incident that happened to him while growing up on a farm in New Hampshire. One day Daniel's father had left him and his brother Ezekiel alone on the farm with instructions on the work they were to do while he was away. Upon his return their father noticed the work was not done and he questioned them about their laziness. "What have you been doing all this time, Ezekiel?" "Nothing dad," replied Ezekiel. "Well Daniel, what were you doing?" "I've been helping Ezekiel all day," replied Daniel with a large grin on his face.

Doing **nothing** may sound attractive and cute in childhood stories but doing **nothing** gets sharp treatment in Biblical writings. Our Scripture readings during the season of Advent remind us that we must always be doing something: being **alert, prepared, ready** and **vigilant** for Jesus' coming in history, mystery and majesty. The Advent season has a two-fold character: it is a time of preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas (remembering Jesus' First Coming) and a time of preparation for Jesus' Second Coming at the end of time. Our readings for today remind us of the importance of keeping **watch**, being **prepared** and **vigilant**.

Today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah is very encouraging as Isaiah has a vision that portrays God as a concerned parent searching for His wayward children. Isaiah tells his listeners that they should look forward to the future when all the peoples of the world will someday be gathered together in peace and justice in God's kingdom. For us, the fulfillment of Isaiah's dream began with Jesus' Incarnation-His First Coming into our world.

In our second reading St. Paul warns his listeners that the hour has come to **wake up**: "The night is advanced; the day is at hand." Paul reminds all that the Lord's arrival is closer than ever. Therefore it is time to discard thoughts, feelings and sinful deeds that keep us in the darkness and prevent us from living in the light of Christ.

Today's Gospel passage from Matthew sets the theme for the entire Advent season: **watchfulness**. What is so clear from today's passage is that Jesus **will** come back to our world again but no one (except God the Father) knows the exact day or hour. This does not mean that if the time unknown, we should not worry about it and become complacent. On the contrary, since we do not know the exact time, we should always live in a constant state of **vigilance**. Let us always remember that if we live our lives in faithful obedience to God's will and we love God and one another then we will be **well prepared** for Jesus' Second Coming. Have a Blessed and Happy Advent!

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

Weekend Masses

Sat Nov 30	4:00 p.m	In Thanksgiving, Special Intention, Melissa Calvelage
Sun Dec 1	10:00 a.m.	Leo, Libby, and Dennis Schmenk
Sat Dec 7	4:00 p.m	Jerry Musser
Sun Dec 8	10:00 a.m.	Charlie and Louise Hankish

Communion Service

Fri Dec 6 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,786.00	Loose \$554.00
Children	\$18.25	Total \$3,358.25

74 envelopes returned = 35%



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!*

Assignments for December 7 & 8, 2019

Money Counters: Courtney Gerten & Deb Goldenetz

4:00 p.m. – please sign the sheet in the main entrance

Greeters: Basil Meyer

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink

Ushers: Mary and Dave Hoffer

Lector: Amy Tabler

E.M.: Jennifer Tschuor, Brianna Atkins,

Servers: Grace and Greta Myers

10:00 a.m.

Greeters: Mel and Sherri Heitmeyer

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink

Ushers: Jerry and Jeanne Wehri

Lectors: Joe Herrmann and Matt Ellerbrock

E.M.: Candace Meyer, Kim Garmatter, Mark Zwiebel, Larry Hoffman, Tricia Herrmann

Servers: Addison Businger, Evan Grothause

Readings for December 8, 2019

2nd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1 – 10

2nd Reading: Romans 15:4 – 9

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1 – 12

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The Feast of the Immaculate

Conception is December 9th. This is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, but we will celebrate **Mass at 9a.m. on that Monday** to honor our Mother Mary. All are welcome!



You will find the Giving Tree set up in the main entrance. We are collecting donations this year for Appalachia, Heartbeat, and local families. **Please be very attentive to the due date – THIS Wednesday, December 4.** Thank you for your generosity!



St. Nick Breakfast The annual St. Nick Breakfast sponsored by the high school youth group is after Mass on Sunday, December 8. Join us for Santa pancakes (GF available), eggs, fruit, and more! All proceeds will be donated to Heartbeat of Lima. The youth group is also collecting donations for Heartbeat which can be placed in the boxes in the Narthex by December 8th. They are always in need of diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6), pacifiers, teething rings, and sippy cups.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY Are you a Young Adult between the ages of 19-35 (single or married) and would like to deepen your relationship with Jesus and strengthen your Catholic faith? Would you like to meet and pray with other Young Adults in our St. Mary's Community? Would you like to come to ask questions and discuss topics that are relevant in your personal faith journey and in our Catholic Church today? If so, then I invite you join our Young Adult Ministry Group that we will be starting up in our Parish in the near future. If you would like more information, please contact Fr. John or Rachel. If you are interested in joining our Young Adult Ministry Group please leave your name and phone number with Rachel in the Parish Office, or email her at rawelch47@yahoo.com. Thank you and God bless. **Peace, Fr. John**

Parents of CYSC Campers: Please sign up for the Remind group to be in the loop on fundraising!
<https://www.remind.com/join/eeda4bb>
Code: @eeda4bb

It's time for a change: Our representative for the Service Group at Mennonite Memorial Home can no longer help, so we have a spot to fill! The Service Group functions as a fundraising group for MMH of Ohio. The funds are used to buy furniture and medical equipment for the facilities. Call Jessica Strahm at MMH, 419-358-1015, for more information.



Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services

is offering a *Tree of Remembrance Memorial Service* on Sunday, December 8th at the Centre at Bluffton. All families in attendance will receive a free glass ornament personalized with the name and dates of their loved one. Families may begin arriving at 1:00 PM followed by a brief memorial service at 2:00 PM. At the conclusion of the service, the ornament is yours to take home. Additional ornaments will be available for purchase, please call prior to the service date to order so that we may have them ready for you. Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services presents the Tree of Remembrance Memorial Service as a gift to the community. **All families are welcome regardless of which funeral home provided the services.** Light refreshments will be provided following the service. There is **no charge** to attend; however reservations are requested. To make a reservation, or for more information, call 419-358-2051 or email the funeral home at chilesbl@wcoil.com

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word is during the 10a.m. Mass

K-6: Class is Wednesday, December 4th

Jr High: Class is today, from 11:00 – 1:00



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth will have the Saint Nick's Breakfast next Sunday after Mass