

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

Dear Parishioners:

Sports fans tend to be enthusiastic, passionate and a **hopeful** bunch. Season after season they follow their team on a regular basis, placing their faith and trust in their coach and players **hoping** they will bring home a championship. **Hope** is a powerful thing and perhaps that is why following sports is so compelling for many of us. Christians are a people of **hope** and **Advent** is the season of **hope** for the many good things our God has prepared for us. Today's readings remind us to renew our **hope** in our God just as sports enthusiasts place their **hope** in their team.



Our first reading from the prophet Isaiah speaks to the heart of the Jewish people by contrasting the world that they know with the one to come. The family tree of Jesse (beginning with David and the line of kings who followed) had come to an abrupt end. The kings who followed in David's line were a disaster as they failed miserably in serving God and His people. The end of the Davidic line caused great concern and disillusionment for the Jewish people. However, Isaiah sees this disastrous event as an opportunity and a reason for **hope**. Isaiah knows that God always keeps His promise no matter how bad things appear to be. Isaiah proclaims that God **will** send a future king through the line of David who will wear justice "around his waist" and faithfulness "upon his lips." This future ideal king will stand in stark contrast with the previous kings who worshipped false gods and ideals while letting corruption tear at the fabric of the nation. This ideal king and his new kingdom will be so great that even the gentiles "shall seek it out." This king and his kingdom will become a sign for the entire world to marvel at.

In today's Gospel passage St. Matthew presents John the Baptist as the one who introduces Jesus to the world. John the Baptist's presence marks the end of the time of waiting and the beginning of a new age of **hope** in the person of Jesus. John is a Jewish preacher proclaiming a message of **repentance** rooted in the tradition of the prophet Isaiah. **Repentance** means "to change one's mind and heart." The direct motivation of John's ministry is that the kingdom of heaven is at hand in the person of Jesus. John boldly professes that he is only the precursor for the long awaited Messiah (Jesus) and that he will always be inferior to Jesus. John also admits that his baptism is merely with water indicating that it is only symbolic and not intrinsically effective. His baptism was a ritual cleansing of sins preparing one for the coming kingdom. His baptism was simply an outward manifestation of one's inner desire to be forgiven but it had no power to forgive sins. By way of contrast John admits the one to come after him (Jesus)...

## Weekend Masses

Sat Dec 7	4:00 p.m.	Jerry Musser, For our Parish
Sun Dec 8	10:00 a.m.	Charlie and Louise Hankish
Sat Dec 14	4:00 p.m.	In Thanksgiving, Angela & Richard Knott
Sun Dec 15	10:00 a.m.	Mary Zaleskie

## Communion Service

Fri Dec 13 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,736.00	Loose \$841.25
Children	\$28.50	Total \$4,605.75

77 envelopes returned = 36%



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

## Assignments for December 14 & 15, 2019

**Money Counters:** Chad Wolford and Nick Recker

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

**Greeters:** Jeanne Parinello

**Cantor:** Jenny Roby

**Ushers:** John Parinello and Chuck Niese

**Lector:** Laura Jones

**E.M.:** Amy Marcum, Diana Bucher,

**Servers:** Eli Jones, Elizabeth Honse

### 10:00 a.m.

**Greeters:** Steve and Kelly Yarnell and family

**Cantor:** Choir

**Ushers:** Greg and Gabe Denecker

**Lectors:** Chris Denecker

**E.M.:** Jim Tabler, Kim Garmatter, Luke Denecker, Noralu Kahle, Rachel Welch

**Servers:** Izzy Stechschulte, Josh Meyer, Nathan Meyer

## **Readings for December 15, 2019**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 35:1 – 6, 10

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: James 5:7 – 10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2 – 11

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...would baptize all with the Spirit and with fire implying that Jesus' baptism would be effective for the forgiveness of sins.

As we continue our Advent journey we recall that God kept His promise and sent **hope** into the world in the person of Jesus. Jesus the Messiah has come but we know that He will return again bringing to fulfillment all He has promised. As we wait in **hope** let us all **repent** of our sins and turn our hearts and minds to Jesus. Happy Second Week of Advent!

Love & prayers,  
Fr. John



**Help needed!** If you are a liturgical minister, please sign up in the main entrance to help with the Christmas Masses. **Important Note: we will celebrate Mass at 4p.m. and 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and 10 a.m. on Christmas Day.**

**This year, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is December 9<sup>th</sup>** and so is not a Holy Day of Obligation. We will still celebrate **Mass at 9a.m. tomorrow** to honor our Mother Mary. All are welcome!



### Advent opportunities:

- Little Blue Books are available in the main entrance.
- Please 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 12, at 6:30 p.m.**



**Please Note:** We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Monday, December 23, beginning at 8:00 a.m. All are welcome! Many hands will make light work. When there are a lot of us, we can finish in an hour or so.

**To continue the Christmas tradition** of delivering poinsettias to our home bound parishioners, please contact the parish office with information on any home bound parishioners who may want a poinsettia that has not received one in the past.



**There will be a children's choir** singing at the 4:00 Mass on Christmas Eve. Any child wanting to sing with this choir is welcome. We will practice on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 6:30.



**We will be hosting a listening session after Mass** on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> in regards to our Lawn Ave rental property. We invite all to attend to hear what our options are and to take a look through the house.



**Remember** to turn in your Community Market receipts for the 1% rebate. The money we receive is going to help with the Summer Camp this year.

## P.R.E.P

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

**K-6:** Class is Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. **The** Christmas program is next Sunday after Mass. Rehearsal is 7-7:45p on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> and 6-7:50p on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Kelly with questions.

**Jr High:** Class is December 15<sup>th</sup> from 11 - 1



**God Squad--High School Youth Group**



**God Squad High School Youth** will have the Saint Nick's Breakfast today after Mass. There will be games and activities for kids! Donations from the breakfast will benefit Heartbeat, a crisis pregnancy center with locations in Lima and Ottawa. We are also collecting supplies for Heartbeat in the main entrance. Thanks for your donations!!