



## *Letter from the Pastor*

Dear Parish Family,

The Fourth Sunday of Advent is upon us and we are on the threshold of the Christmas season. The Gospel of Matthew (1: 18-24) gives us the account of “how the birth of Jesus came about.” Joseph, “a righteous man,” is told by “the angel of the Lord...to take Mary” into his home. The child was conceived “through the Holy Spirit.” Mary “will bear a son” and Joseph is “to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Joseph, obedient to the will of God, “did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.”

Please note the Mass times for Christmas and New Year’s Day, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

### **SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS**

**Vigil of Christmas**

**Tuesday, December 24, 2019**

**4:00 PM Mass in the Church**

**4:00 PM Mass in the Banquet Room**

**5:45 PM Brass Band Concert in Church**

**6:30 PM Mass in the Church**

**9:15 PM Sacred Concert**

**10:00 PM Mass in the Church**

**Christmas Day – Nativity of the Lord**

**Wednesday, December 25, 2019**

**8:00 AM & 10:00 AM & 12:00 Noon**

### **SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

**Vigil Mass**

**Tuesday, December 31, 2019**

**4:30 PM**

**Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

**8:00 AM 10:00 AM**

May you and your loved ones enjoy a Blessed Christmas season!

God bless you.

*Fr. Dan Redmond*

### *New Parishioners for the Month of November*

Dennis & Ali Dreher

Jack & Patricia Steinbrick

Zeljko Tolo

James & Hannah Wineland

### **Art & Environment -- You are Invited!**

We are decorating the Church for Christmas. Would you like to help? Please consider joining the Art & Environment committee on Monday, December 23 from 9:00 a.m. until about 1:00 p.m.

Please contact Judi Parker for more details --

286-6531 or [jparker@stmarychardon.org](mailto:jparker@stmarychardon.org). Teen helpers are welcome and please RSVP in advance.



### **Pre-Christmas Eve Mass Choir and Brass Ensemble Concert**

Come to Mass early on Christmas Eve for some quality, end of Advent meditation time. Our Sunday Noon Mass Choir will be presenting their 5th Annual Sacred Choir and Brass Ensemble concert beginning at 5:45 PM, prior to the 6:30 PM Mass in the church. This is a great way to prepare your heart to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.



### **Legacy Giving**

Please contact St. Mary Parish,  
Fr. Dan Redmond at 440-285-7051 for  
further information.



### Hat, Scarf, Gloves & Mittens Tree

We will again have a special Christmas Giving Tree in the church gathering space where you can place donations of new or nearly-new hats, scarves, mittens and gloves. These items will be donated to those who will be grateful for your warm winter gifts. The Deadline for this collection is December 22nd. Thank you!



**Life Teen** is held on Sundays, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Life Teen is for those in 9th through 12th grade, so please plan on coming to Life Teen to see what it is all about. We meet every Sunday in the cafeteria, and dinner is provided starting at 6 p.m.

Lastly, if anyone has any questions about donating food gift cards, donating a meal or becoming a Core member, please contact Chris and Sherry Loxterman at [lifeteen@stmarychardon.org](mailto:lifeteen@stmarychardon.org).

### PSR Calendar Update

There is no PSR December 22/23 and December 29/30.

Classes resume as follows:

Grades 6-8: Sunday, January 5 (6:30-8)

Grades 1-5: Monday, January 6 (6:15-7:30)

Any concerns, please leave a voicemail or send an email to Heather Gady at 286-6531 x 108 or [hgady@stmarychardon.org](mailto:hgady@stmarychardon.org).

We wish all families a very enjoyable Christmas break!



**Prayer Line Ministry:** Are you a prayer warrior? St. Mary's is currently in need of faithful parishioners who will pray for the needs of others.

Please call Grace at 286-1230 to see how you might help.



**Christ Child Society:** Christmas is coming and you may need a gift for the person who has everything!!!! The Christ Child Society of Geauga County has the perfect gift! You can purchase a complete newborn layette for

a baby in need in the name of a loved one.

The Layette includes undershirts, diapers, sleepers, receiving blankets, bibs, a book, and some baby toiletries all wrapped up in a baby quilt. These much-welcomed gifts are given to a newborn that might otherwise have nothing.

For just a \$40 donation, you can give one to a little one in need, in your name or the name of a special person. A card will be sent to that person letting them know you have donated this item in their name. Please contact the Christ Child Society, Judy Benda at 440-286-4261 for more information.



**PRO LIFE:** The good news of Christmas is for everyone, and especially for the unborn, the most helpless of all. In the name of the newborn Christ, the oppression and destruction of our unborn children will cease. Lord, may the joy of Your birth give us the strength to be more active than ever in the pro-life cause for You are Lord forever and ever.



**PSR OPPORTUNITY - Support Our School.** Please consider volunteering as a teacher for this vital parish program. There is a current need for the Monday evening elementary

session. You do not need to be a religious expert. All teaching materials are provided. Class meets Monday evenings 6:15-7:30. Small gifts of time and talent can truly impact our students' religious education. Can't make a weekly commitment? PSR is also in need of substitute teachers for both Sunday and Monday evenings. Please contact Heather Gady at 286-6531 x 108 or [hgady@stmarychardon.org](mailto:hgady@stmarychardon.org) for further information. Thank you for your consideration.



### The Empty Nester Annual Breakfast Meeting

will be held Sunday, January, 12, 2020 after the 8:00 Mass. It will be held in the Cafeteria.

Plans for the 2020 year will be made. Dues, \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 per couple can be paid at this time.

We will need egg casseroles, sausage, juices, breads, muffins, etc.

Please call Beth at 286-9080 to let her know you are coming and what you are bringing.

### WOW – Thank you and SAVE THE DATE

Thank you to all attendees, volunteers, and donors of the St. Mary WOW Women's Advent Day of Prayer! Please continue to pray for one another and the Holy Souls while we are waiting in Advent.

**SAVE THE DATE** – Sat. Jan. 11 is the next WOW mtg. at 9:15 a.m. in the Hospitality Room. Afterwards, around 10:15, we will begin a book discussion on days 1-15 of "30 Days with Teresa of Avila" by Daniel Burke and Anthony Lilles. We will discuss days 16-30 on Thurs., Jan. 30, from 7:15 - 8:15 PM.

The book may be purchased from Amazon.com, sophia institute.com, Ebay, or check other booksellers. We hope that you will join us.



## Community News



### Holiday Helps for the Divorced and Separated

Are you ready for a new year? Let us help you turn the corner! Join us for this special program intended to offer practical advice on understanding your needs and rebuilding your life, and

making long and short term goals. We will meet Tuesday evening from 7:00-9:00 pm, on January 7th at St. Noel Church, 35200 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills. To register or for more info: call Karen @ 440-352-8282 or email: [kjubeck@st-gabriel.org](mailto:kjubeck@st-gabriel.org)

Looking ahead, we will be offering Divorce Recovery for Catholics, an 8 Week Support Group, designed to meet the needs of those who are divorced or separated. It will begin Thursday, January 16th through March 5, 2020, at St. John Vianney Parish, 7575 Bellflower Rd., Mentor from 7- 9 pm. Sessions are designed to offer direction, support, and the tools for coping with this life-changing experience. For more information or to register, please call Catholic Charities at 352-6191 or 1-800-242-9755, or email [kjubeck@st-gabriel.org](mailto:kjubeck@st-gabriel.org) There is no charge for this program, all materials are provided, and it is open to people of all faiths.



**Food Pantry:** Monday 4:00-6:00 p.m.– Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:30-11:30 a.m.– Friday 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Pilgrim Christian Church, 202 S. Hamden St. Food for low-income Geauga County residents. ID required for all family members. Details at 440-285-8791.

**SUPPORTING EACH OTHER** – A new support group for caregivers of those with dementia and alzheimer's We meet in the gathering space on Saturday morning's, immediately after 8:00 Mass at St. Helen's Newbury. This group will meet once a month and is a "faith-based group." Following dates are Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> and March 14<sup>th</sup> 2020. Please pass the word to anyone you know caring for a loved one.



The next Cleveland Retrouvaille Weekend is scheduled for January 24-26, 2020. This is a Lifeline for Troubled Marriages. Has your marriage become unloving or uncaring – your relationship cold, distant – thinking about a separation or divorce? Are you already separated/divorced but both of you want to try again? Then the Retrouvaille program may help. RETROUVAILLE, which means rediscovery, is supported by the Catholic diocese of Cleveland, but it is open to couples of all faiths. This program consists of a weekend experience for couples and six follow up sessions. A registration fee of \$150 is required to confirm your reservation. For more information concerning the program, or to register, please call Marce or Liz Gliha at 440.357.6580 or 1.800.470.2230, or go online to [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).