

ST. MARY CHURCH

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D.R.E.: Deacon Steve Bermick
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Youth Minister: Janet Huelsman
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Music Minister: Vicky Brooker
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Council President: Eileen Avellano
937-748-0043

Stephen Ministry: Barbara Abney

937-748-9479

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline

937-746-1355

Prayer Chain Ministry: Louise Kohl

937-746-4050

Office is open 8:30-4:30, Mon.-Fri.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 2, 2007

DAILY LITURGIES AND INTENTIONS:

Monday	December 3	Francis Xavier, priest Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tuesday	December 4	Weekday Deceased of the McLaughlin Family
Wednesday	December 5	Weekday Vince Ross
Thursday	December 6	Weekday Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Friday	December 7	Ambrose, bishop, doctor Skip Rouster Michael Burney
Saturday	December 8	Immaculate Conception St. Mary Community The McManus and Popovich Families
Sunday	December 9	First Sunday of Advent Living and Deceased of the Ladies Society Mary Tracy Gene Serena St. Mary Community



"you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

Matt. 24:37-44

* Co-operative nursery available in Parish Center



Advent prepares us to recognize the ways Jesus is present in our world - from the Incarnation at Bethlehem, in our daily lives, and in His return in glory at the end time.

In today's reading from Isaiah we are reminded "to walk in the light of the Lord" in anticipation of a better world to come. In Paul's letter to the Romans we are told to prepare for the new day.

The elderly Catholic sister, brother, or religious order priest rather than invest and prepare for retirement, invested in ministries such as schools, hospitals, clinics and child care centers: walking in the light of the Lord. They prepared themselves for service and they prepared others for life.

The average Catholic sister, brother, or religious order priest remains in active ministry until age 74. Today, 37,870 women and men religious are past age 70. Now they need our help with the current high cost of living and health care which is the reason for next Sunday's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please be generous to them to return the message they spent their lives bringing to us.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION is a holyday of obligation. Masses are at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 7 and 8:00 a.m. Saturday, December 8.

IN OUR PARISH

CALLED HOME TO THE LORD: Francis Marien, returned to our loving Father on November 22, 2007; and **Casey Calvert** returned to our loving Father on November 24, 2007.

WELCOME INTO THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY: Lane Joseph and Alex Michael Harshbarger sons of Chris and Lara Harshbarger joined the Catholic Christian Community through baptism on November 25, 2007.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK	Sunday	Rite of Acceptance at 9:00 a.m. Mass Buckeyes for sale after Masses
	Monday	Basket Class at 9:00 a.m.
	Wednesday	Youth at Food Pantry at 5:00 p.m. Rosary at 6:30 p.m. PARISH PENANCE SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.
	Friday	Church Cleaning at 8:30 a.m. Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass at 7:00 p.m.
	Saturday	Men's Prayer Group at 7:00 a.m. Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass at 8:00 a.m. BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICHOLAS at 10:00
	Sunday	Knights of Columbus at 12:30 p.m.

OUR GIFT IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GENEROSITY: November 24-25

\$9,330.00	253 envelopes	Campaign for Human Dev.	\$65.00	3 envelopes	Flowers	\$42.00	5 envelopes
\$17.00	14 children	St. Vincent de Paul	\$140.00	8 envelopes			

Thank you, your dedication to the continued fiscal health of the parish is greatly appreciated. Only those who use their contribution envelopes may request a yearend statement of contributions.

2007-2008 contribution envelopes are now available in the back of church

A FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDY AMONG US: Help fill the food baskets for those whom the St. Vincent de Paul Society assists during the holidays. Bring your non-perishable food items to the Parish Hall after Mass this weekend and next. This is a great way for families to put their faith into action and make a difference.



PARENTS OF 3rd GRADERS PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Remember to turn in the certificate which is located in the back of the student book when you have finished preparing your child for the sacrament. **The certificate must be returned to Deacon Steve by today, December 2, if your child is to make First Reconciliation on December 5.**

ST. NICHOLAS IS COMING TO ST. MARY'S ON SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 8, 2007. Children, come and see St. Nicholas and hear his story. Parents, enjoy fellowship with other members of our community and help to focus on how we can continue Jesus' message of living the Gospel in our lives. The program is from **10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** **Tickets will be on sale after the 4:00, 9:00, 10:30, and 6:30 Masses this weekend in the Parish Hall.** Prices for adults are \$5.00 and for children 2 -12 yrs. old \$3.00.

PARENTS OF 8TH GRADERS NOT ATTENDING ST. MARY PSR CLASSES: If you wish to have your child confirmed and there is no Confirmation program at his/her school, please contact Deacon Steve as soon as possible for information on registering your child for the parish's Confirmation preparation program. He can be reached at 937-746-1404 or by email at stevebermick@stmaryfranklin.org.



THE RITE OF ACCEPTANCE IS TODAY! It is our privilege to welcome those who have been inquiring about the Catholic faith through this first of the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The rite takes place at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please pray for the inquirers as they make a formal declaration of their intent to seek membership in the Catholic Church.

DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT A SACRAMENT IS? “An outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace” was the definition many of us learned long ago. Discover what you didn’t learn about sacraments and how much more there is to know by attending the next RCIA session this **Thursday, December 6, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center**. The RCIA is for everyone – inquirer and Catholic alike!

DID YOU KNOW? The word “sacrament” comes from the Latin *sacramentum* which in pre-Christian times meant a pledge of money or property deposited in a temple by parties to a lawsuit or contract. It later came to mean an oath of allegiance made by soldiers to their commander and the gods of Rome. In either case, it involved a religious ceremony in a sacred place. Christian writers in the second century A.D. borrowed the term and used it to talk about the ceremony of Christian initiation (from *Doors to the Sacred* by Richard Martos.)

IT'S TIME TO CLEAN THE CHURCH! Bring a **JOKE** to share (if you have one) and your **dusting rag**, 'cause it's time to clean the church! We will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, December 7 in the kitchen of the Parish Hall for refreshments (to fortify ourselves). You can count on smiling faces (the joke-telling does that!) and delicious treats (Marge will see to that!). The actual church cleaning doesn't take very long and it is very gratifying work. If you have a few minutes to spare on Friday morning, please join us. St. Mary Church is our home and we need to continue to make her shine!



ROSARY DEVOTIONS: Each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. a group gathers in the church to pray the rosary in a group. All are welcome. Next Saturday in honor of the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** a group will pray the rosary at 3:40 p.m. before the weekend Mass at 4:00 p.m. Please join them.



THE DEADLINE IS HERE!: If you are planning to attend the Winter Retreat the deadline to register is Sunday, December 2. Don't miss your opportunity to get away for a weekend and build on your faith. We are all Under Construction in our faith journey; come follow our Construction Crew as they lead you through the liturgical year in this fun-filled weekend. Remember, the retreat is next weekend, December 8 – 9 and registration is due today! Pick up a registration form at the back of church or call Janet Huelsman at 937-746-8709.

IT'S FOOD PANTRY WEDNESDAY: During this season of planning and preparation, it's important to remember those who are less fortunate. We encourage you to take time out from shopping to help our Youth Ministry group at the Franklin Food Pantry on Wednesday, December 5. All youth in grades 7-12 and their parents are encouraged to participate. We meet in the parking lot in back of the Food Pantry at 5:00 p.m. We will finish in time to return to St. Mary's for the parish Reconciliation Service at 7:00 p.m. Adult volunteers are needed for the Food Pantry. Please call Janet Huelsman at 937-746-8709 to register.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH NIGHT: We will have a special holiday combined Youth Night on Sunday, December 16. All Junior High students are invited to join the High School teens for a night where you will be a Star! Our society makes a big deal out of rock stars. We are all called to be spiritual superstars, to let our light shine from within, not merely to reflect the glare of the spotlight. Come find out what Youth Ministry is all about and learn how to let the light of the Lord shine through you.

WRAPPING UP THE YEAR IN YOUTH MINISTRY:

- * December 2 - High School Youth Night, 7:15
- * December 5 – Volunteer at Food Pantry 5 – 7
- * December 8-9 – High School Winter Retreat
- * December 16 – High School and Junior High combined Youth Night 7:15
- * December 23 – No Youth Night – Christmas Break
- * December 30 – No Youth Night – Christmas Break



OUR DOORS ARE OPEN: No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family and marital situation, no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, etc., no matter what your own self-image; you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here at St. Mary Parish.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS: A note from the SVdP Bundle Sunday coordinator: “thank you for the hard work and generosity concerning your recent Bundle Sunday Weekend. It was very evident that caring and providing to the needy was a main objective and we appreciate you giving spirit. We look forward to seeing you next year and wish you a happy holiday season.”



The goods and tags have begun to arrive at church. We thank you for your help and remind you to return the tags by next weekend. We have added two families from IHN. These families are beginning a new life with nothing. This is one of the reasons we have gift certificates on the tree. These families can get things for their homes as well as a few extras for Christmas. The Kroger cards will help all of our families to get through the holiday season. Many of the children receive free breakfasts and lunches at school and those will not be available during Christmas vacation.

Once again thank you for helping the SVdP families from Springboro, Franklin and Carlisle.

BUCKEYES!! Buckeyes are for sale after all Masses this weekend for \$10 per pound (approximately 20-26 pieces). Get this special Ohio sweet before they are gone! The profit will benefit SVdP to help the needy have a Merry Christmas.

THE GIVING TREE: When you return your gifts to the Giving Tree please secure your tag to the gift and mark all gifts. They are coded to be delivered to specific organizations and specific people so the coding is essential. These gifts should to be brought back this weekend, so they can be distributed before Christmas. Thank you for your awesome generosity. God Bless, Barb Abney



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Council 14400 will be hosting a Second and Third Degree Exemplification on Sunday, December 9, at the Parish Center. Candidate check-in is 12:30 p.m. with the Second Degree promptly starting at 1:00 p.m. The Third Degree will start at 2:30 p.m. Once the degree begins, no one will be permitted to enter, so please arrive early and allow plenty of time to check-in. There will be a meal served afterwards and we will wrap-up around 5:30 p.m. This is for those knights who missed out at Tipp City to get their second and third degrees at one time, and at our Parish Center! Those third degree knights are encouraged to attend and support our knights. We will need some help in the kitchen later in the afternoon. Anyone interested in joining the council here at St. Mary, please contact Jeff Rohde at 937-748-0836, or George Spears at 937-477-9834. Don't forget our Officer's Meeting on December 5 and next business meeting on December 12.



NEXT WEEK’S MINISTRY SCHEDULES:

December 8-9	4:00 p.m. Sat.	7:30 a.m. Sun.	9:00 a.m. Sun.	10:30 Sun.	6:30 p.m.
Servers	Vince Haenni Leo Haenni	Claire Brownfield David Brownfield	Tyler Kapolka Taylor Lauricia	Joshua Plandowski Colette Telatko	Isaac Brewster Erica Reese
Eucharistic Ministers	Karen Streit Sandy Traud Pat Monnin Norm Pfeifer	Kristine Brown Linda Brownfield Tim Cable	Walt Mauck Debra Kapolka Tom Adams Karen Adams	Bob Matson Bette Mueller Tina Rychlewski Connie O’Neill	Jeff Rohde Carlos Yepez Judy Martin
Lectors	Mark Haenni	Mike Hutchinson	Pat Simpson	Joe Couture	Jeff Gross
Gift Bearers	Sommer	Williams	Ball		Gast

PARISH LIFE INFORMATION

Office Phone No. 937-746-5404

Office Hours 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Monday—Friday

Anointing of the Sick: Call immediately in case of a serious illness. Hospitals can no longer call for you.

Communion to the Homebound: Call the office to arrange a visit.

Reconciliation: available at announced Reconciliation Services and Saturdays at 3:00 p.m.

Matrimony: Call the rectory for an appointment before setting a date. Six months of preparation are required.

Baptism: Preparation is required before Baptism, preferably during pregnancy. Call the rectory to make arrangements.

Religious Vocations: Check www.cincinnati vocations.org or call Rev. Kyle Schnippel, 513-421-3131

Bulletin Deadline: noon the Tuesday before the weekend. E-mail notices to Annelpasmf@sbcglobal.net.

Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Rocky Adams	937-743-0226	Dan Fedders	937-746-4123	Ron Onderko	937-748-4281
Eileen Avellano	937-748-0043	Mark Fields	937-743-9077	Don Quigley	937-748-5362
Dan Darragh	937-746-1914	Roger Lorelle	937-885-1230	Roger Stebelton	937-855-6897

BEYOND THE PARISH

THE DAYTON SEPARATED, WIDOWED AND DIVORCED SUPPORT GROUP meets the first and third Sunday's of each month (December 2 and 16) at Incarnation's Parish Center located behind the church. All are welcome. Doors open at 7:00 pm. The program begins at 7:30. For more information call Roger Bardsley at 937-291-2040 or Marty at 937-293-4006. They will have a Christmas celebration during the December 16 meeting.

ARE YOU CARING FOR AN ELDERLY OR DISABLED LOVED ONE? Join other caregivers to discover new ways to deal with stress during the holidays and to maintain your balance as a caregiver. Over 30 family caregiver support groups are held in this area each month co-sponsored by the Caregiver Assistance Network of Catholic Social Services. Call 513-929-4483 for information.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES will have their Advent Communal Penance Service on Wednesday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m.

IS YOUR MARRIAGE HURTING? Has your marriage grown cold, distant, unloving or uncaring? Then consider Retrouvaille (ret'ro-vi) - a program designed to help heal and renew marriages. It is for marriages that have lost some of their spark, having difficulties in communication and even on the edge of separation or divorce. The next program begins January 11-13, 2008. For more information call 513-398-3137. Other times and locations are available.

CRS FAIR TRADE MARKET of handcrafted goods is Saturday December 8, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Bergamo Center. Handcrafted goods from over 20 developing nations will be on sale.

UD LIFE LONG LEARNING INSTITUTE offers seniors from the Greater Miami Valley the opportunity to join a variety of informal discussion seminars. If you are interested in receiving a Winter program brochure, in moderating a seminar or volunteering some time please call Special Programs and Continuing Education at 937-229-2347.

Thought for today

Stay awake! The Lord is coming. Be ready!
(Matthew 24:37-44)