FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 21, 2014

MONDAY – December 22
1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
6:00-7:00 p.m. Confessions

TUESDAY – December 23
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
5:00-6:00 p.m. Holy Hour with Eucharistic Exposition/ Benediction & Confessions
6:30 p.m. Evening Mass: Living & Deceased of Edward Benson Family

WEDNESDAY – December 24
Vigil of Christmas/Christmas Eve
Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25
4:00 p.m. Mass (Children's Choir will sing)
7:00 p.m. Mass
9:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish

THURSDAY – December 25
The Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day
Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass (Adult Choir will sing)
11:00 a.m. Mass

FRIDAY – December 26
St. Stephen, The First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
8:30 a.m. Mass Intention: †Miguel Zabaleta
(24-Hour Adoration will continue until 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning.)

SATURDAY – December 27
St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
7:00 a.m. That Man is You! (Moira Hall)
9:00 a.m. Mass Intention: †Oscar L. Basa
4:00-4:30 p.m. Confessions
5:00 p.m. Mass Intention: †Jonathan Rowe

SUNDAY – December 28
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40
8:00 a.m. Mass Intention: St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 a.m. Mass Intention: †Alvin Thomas
1:00 p.m. Spanish Mass

IN MEMORIAM
Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord
Clarence L. Anderson, Roy J. Barbier and Dominik Wesolowski

COMMUNION HOSTS for this week are in loving memory of Mary & Dominick Sorrentino by the Berg Family.
SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn in loving memory of Mary & Dominick Sorrentino by the Berg Family.
SACRAMENTAL WINE provided by Knights of Columbus.

PRAYER REQUEST LINE: For a prayer request or to join the Prayer Line, please call Elaine Kelly at 389-1018 or call the Parish Office at 382-2118.

FROM THE PASTOR:
Dear Parishioners,

As Christmas draws near, I am looking back over the past two weeks and I see that a lot has been going on in the parish. This is a good thing. At 5:00 a.m. on Friday, December 12, over 75 people were in the church to celebrate the traditional mananitas in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A mariachi band imported from Columbus played for nearly an hour in the church, leading traditional songs. They also played in Moira Hall where everyone gathered afterward for coffee, Mexican hot chocolate, and other goodies. The Mass on that Friday evening was very well attended – about 200 came and enjoyed a wonderful meal afterwards. Later that morning, the students and teachers from St. Mary’s School walked to the Palace Theatre for a special showing of the classic movie It’s a Wonderful Life. The children enjoyed themselves immensely.

At the 11 o’clock Mass on Sunday, December 14, we celebrated the Rite of Acceptance for adult catechumens who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. On Wednesday, December 17, at the school Mass, we celebrated the same rite for three of our schoolchildren who are preparing to be baptized. It’s wonderful to see the Lord at work as our spiritual family continues to grow.

During the past two weeks, I have also had three wedding appointments. Despite the best efforts of many to destroy the institution, marriage still has a future.

Our local St. Vincent de Paul spent a couple of days during the past week putting together Christmas boxes for many needy families. It’s important to remember that St. Vincent de Paul needs our help all year long, because need knows no season.

Don’t forget that we have extra confession time scheduled for Monday, December 22, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

See you on Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Thomas Buffer

Reminder for Visitation of the Sick: Please notify the Parish Office if you or a loved one is ill or in the hospital by calling 382-2118. Please leave a message on the voicemail. Thank you.

NURSERY
Looking for a rewarding way to acquire service hours for Confirmation? Think about helping in the nursery.
The nursery is available at the 11:00 a.m. Mass each Sunday. Call Angie at 419-834-5783 if you would like to help out.

Healing Blanket Ministry:
Healing Blanket Ministry continues its mission to sew blankets. Would you like to join us in this ministry? We will supply the material for you to sew. We ask those who give a blanket to a loved one, to please sign the blue binder with your name and the name of the person receiving it.

We need more people to sew the blankets. Please contact Elaine Kelly at 389-1018.
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  DECEMBER 21, 2014

~ SERVERS ~

This Weekend: December 20/21, 2014
5:00 p.m.  Tierza Hart, Cameron Smith, Christian Smith
8:00 a.m.  Christie Longo, Michael McLernon, Chris McLernon
11:00 a.m. Thomas Starks, Matthew Starks, Clare Stevenson

Next Weekend: December 27/28, 2014
5:00 p.m.  Gavin Baisden, Jamie Baisden, Darby Fancelli
8:00 a.m.  Nate Slemmons, Jake Slemmons & Kelly Baer
11:00 a.m. Ben Waldo, Luke Waldo & Zane Dine

~LECTORS~

This Weekend: December 20/21, 2014
5:00 p.m. (I) Pat Stevens
          (II) Mary Ann Stolarczyk
8:00 a.m. (I) Dora Jean Mendoza
          (II) Joe Stanko
11:00 a.m. (I) Michael Starks
           (II) Daniel Newmarker

Next Weekend: December 27/28, 2014
5:00 p.m. (I) Joan Shoup
          (II) Mary Ann Stolarczyk
8:00 a.m. (I) Sharon Baldinger
          (II) Deb Ketcham
11:00 a.m. (I) Mary Dutton
           (II) Dean Jacob

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Commons. You are invited to join us as we study and reflect on the current Sunday’s readings and apply the message of God's Word to our everyday lives.

IRISH LUCKY 10 SWEEPSTAKES

By now you should have received your book of sweepstakes tickets in the mail and may have a WINNING raffle ticket! Please complete the stub(s) and, along with your check in an envelope, return them to St. Mary School, 274 N. Prospect Street, Marion OH 43302, or place in the offertory basket. Additional tickets may be picked up at the school or parish office. Please contact Rebecca Concepcion with any questions at (419) 704-2616. Good Luck!

Next Baptism Workshop:
Sunday, January 11, 2015, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in the Commons (White building next to St. Mary Grade School)
Parents: Please call Dolores at the Parish Office (582-2118) to register.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS:

THANK YOU! “We can certainly call you friends because of the way you care for our retired members,” writes a religious brother. Your gift to last week’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious benefits some 35,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. May God bless you for your generosity!

Prepare your heart for the Celebration of Christ’s birth...

Additional time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on Monday, December 22nd, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. In addition to Fr. Buffer, several visiting priests will also be hearing confessions.

IRISH LUCKY 10 SWEEPSTAKES

Decorated Church for Christmas

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 21, starting at 2:00 p.m. Any help would be most appreciated. Thank you!

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY – this Sunday, December 21st after the 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses in Moira Hall. Please join your fellow parishioners for coffee and donuts and fellowship. Hosted by Knights of Columbus.

St. Mary’s Boy Scout Troop 50 will be selling their handmade candles and Mystic Monk Coffee & Tea during Hospitality Sunday, December 21st. They make great gifts and help our Scouts’ community service efforts. Merry Christmas from the St. Mary Scouts!

Introduction Catechist Certification Course

St. Mary Respect Life Committee

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Please return your wrapped/tagged gift or cookies to the church this weekend. Place your item near the crèche. We can always use and appreciate any help in delivering the gifts to the nursing homes. We will meet after the Mass in Spanish today, Sunday, December 21st, at approximately 2:15 p.m. Thank you for your help.

St. Mary Respect Life Committee
DID YOU KNOW…
An assisted listening system is now available for parishioners of St. Mary Church.
Please see an usher for a unit to wear during Mass.

WOMEN’S STUDY GROUP
New Session begins Monday, January 12, 2015.
7:00-9:00 p.m. – St. Mary Commons

WOMEN OF GRACE (WWW.WOMENOFGRACE.com)
A nine week study designed to affirm women in their dignity and vocations as daughters of God and primarily to equip them to live out the divine mission God has entrusted to them.
To register and order the materials required for the course, please contact Mary Dutton at 740 528-2471 prior to December 30th.

MASS SCHEDULE:
Wednesday, December 31
5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, January 1, 2015 – (Holy Day of Obligation)
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
11:00 a.m. Mass

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Helen L. Angus
Albert & Fred Rubeck
Herman & Estella Anspaugh
Richard Behm
Mary Behm
Lamb, Dunn and Seiter Families
Cramp, Leinheiser and Sibbett Families
Russell Brady
James & Bessie Ruby
Bill Lindemann
Ed & Betty Masters
Carolyn F. Ward
Paul, Mary & Bud Fabian
John & Josephine Ward
John J. Ward
John O’Brien, Sr. and Deceased of Family
Jethro & Mary New
Charles & Elizabeth Hartman
Sister Dorothy Hartman
Bernard & Clara Bir
Sister Mary Evelyn Kuhn
Mike Armstrong
Anthony Darrow
Patrick Sullivan
Berg, Mullen, Sorrentino & Spinelli Families
Mary Theresa Porter
Pfeiffer & Giles Families
Shirley Stout
Bruno, LaRosa and Mazza Families
Moodie and Norris Families
Everett H. Granger
Dr. John & Patricia Mellen
Margo & Laszlo Bondor
Doris & Joe Sens
Ann & Paul Steiner
Joseph A. Wilmes
C. Michael Piacentino
Renate Hartline
Ed & Katie McKinney
Leroy & Martha Miller
Tony Breece

Tony & Anna LaVenia
Joe LaVenia
Kathryn Nauman
Emalee Caves
Harold Conway
Edna & Roger McCombs
Francis & Coletta Voll
Anna Katherine Wright
Joseph Voll
Jack Williams
Melvin (Moe) & Frances Miller
Kathleen Larcomb
Tom Criswell
Mike & Lucille Troiano
Cecil & Mina Daniel
Roger & Lucille Criswell
Zecchin and Blevins Families
Robert & Timothy Sherman
Carl W. Granger
Bill & Mark Snider
Orville E. Gaffney
Frank & Anna Orthmeyer
Causey & Foreman Families
Robert & Florence Murphy and Families
Dick Granlee
Tina Marie Granlee
Greg Walters
Mac & Vivian McEntire
Eboh, Zabaleta and Ochoa Families
Scharf, Thiel, Wolf & Gosche Families
Edward Washlaski
Tommy Wilson
Jost, Schlitt & Kirk Families
Heather Dindino
Bill Blackledge
Howard & Catherine Isom
Philip Isom
Andrew & Eleanor Sibbersen
Richard Poorman
Cletus & Marguerite Uhl
Tammy Michalkiewicz
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 21, 2014

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Josephine & George Zentkovich
Sister Agnes Siebenaler
Aline Hoffman

For the Living and Deceased Members of:
Angus, Lorenzo & Straw Families
Alexander & Lorenzo Families
Tedrow & Berridge Families
Carey & Darnell Families
Bibler & Reamy Families
Koontz & Mull Families
Ed Dunn & Simpson Families
Huntsman & Trainor Families
Dunn, Fazio & Sycks Families
Thiel & Gosche Families

Special Intentions:
In Thanksgiving
For the lost and forgotten
For Blessings Received

Thank you for your Christmas flower donations.
Please note: Donations made after the deadline will
have their Intentions included in the next bulletin.

Joy is the true gift of Christmas,
not expensive presents that demand time and money.
We can transmit this joy simply:
with a smile, with a kind gesture,
with some small help, with forgiveness.
Let us give this joy, and the joy given will be returned to us.
– Pope Benedict XVI

Homily for 4th Sunday of Advent 2005

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for
behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy
that will be for all people. For today in the city of
David a savior has been born for you who is
Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you:
you will find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying
in a manger.

Luke 2:10-12

Christmas Blessings
May all the blessings
of the Infant Savior
be yours at Christmas
and may His Divine Presence
enrich your life
throughout the New Year