

ST. MARY CHURCH – GROVEPORT, OHIO - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011

Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass - For the Parish Family
	9:30 p.m.	Office of Readings
	10:00 p.m.	Jerry Jenkins by Family
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Tom Roberts by Kaye Roberts
Monday	8:30 a.m.	Novena & Rosary
Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	Annio Borghese by Klarman/Durano Family
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Lee Nowak by Mike Nowak
Thursday	8:30 a.m.	Tony Neuherz by Connie, Karen, Marcy, Rick & Matt Neuherz
Friday	8:30 a.m.	Margaret Devlin by Kathy Kelly
Saturday	5:00 p.m.	For the Parish Family
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Carrie Billiter by Her Parents & Sister
	11:00 a.m.	Peter Blazvick by Audrey Hall

THIS WEEKEND

SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Brian Ropchock, Jessie Slone, Luke Dorion
	10:00 p.m.	Brian Ropchock, Jessie Slone, Nathan Gawarecki, Frank Trammer
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Jessie Slone, Jon Hart

NEXT WEEKEND

5:00 p.m.	Brian Ropchock, Frank Trammer, Jon Hart
8:30 a.m.	Jessie Slone
11:00 a.m.	Please see schedule in Sacristy.

LECTOR SCHEDULE

Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Mayellen Fowler
	10:00 p.m.	Rebecca Devillers, Colleene Weiser, Rosemarie Watters, Debra Thorn
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sandy Crites, Ken Koebel

5:00 p.m.	Debra Thorn, Sandy Crites
8:30 a.m.	Colleene Weiser, Rosemarie Watters
11:00 a.m.	Mayellen Fowler, Bobbi Dunfee

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER SCHEDULE

Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Irene Fagan, Mark Dorion, Kelly Stoltz
	10:00 p.m.	Christine Boucher, Cindy Kinch, Pat Jenkins, Karen Kitchell, Mary Slone
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sandy Crites, Elizabeth Allen, Christine Boucher, Irene Fagan, Mary Slone

5:00 p.m.	Karen Kitchell
8:30 a.m.	Christine Boucher, Pat Jenkins, JoEllen Stebelton, Carolyn Veit, Ken Koebel
11:00 a.m.	Elizabeth Allen, Jean Bobst, Dorothy Carter, Cindy Kinch, Nancy Scholl

From The Pastor's Desk

Christmas: We will have three different Masses for Christmas. **Vigil:** Isaiah assures us that the time for Israel's suffering is over and it is time to announce a blessing. The Response continues with the Lord's blessing and our joy. Paul assures us that Jesus is God's blessing and the descendant of Jesse. The one who was promised. In the Gospel, we have the beginning of Matthew's Gospel showing the genealogy, good and bad, of Jesus and how the birth of Jesus came about. Emmanuel = God is with us. **Mass During the Night:** Isaiah counsels that the time of darkness is over because a "child is born." The Response announces the birth of Christ and our joyful response. Paul assures us the salvation is offered to all, with Christ. Luke puts the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, David's city. This birth is revealed to shepherds, who sing the Gloria. **Mass During the Day:** This is the more original Christmas Mass. Isaiah has the announcement of good news. The Response tells us that the whole earth has seen it and responds in joy. Hebrews tells us we are in the final age instituted by the coming of Christ. We have the beginning of John's Gospel, which was used as the Last Gospel in the old Mass previous to Vatican II. It tells of the importance of John the Baptist and that the New Age was begun when Christ came into the world, but He existed with the Father from the beginning. A reading worthy of much meditation and thought.

Special thanks and blessings to all who worked so hard to decorate and prepare the church, to the candleers, choir, servers, and all who helped to make our celebration of Christmas a blessing. I also want to thank the many who sent cards, letters, goodies and gifts. Your generosity is much appreciated!

There is a blessing of homes during the Christmas Season. I will be happy to bless the homes of parishioners during this time. The blessing should take about 10 minutes and the family members should be present. **The Christmas Season ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which is January 9, 2011.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 24– Christmas Vigil – Is 62:1-5 / Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Mt 1:1-25; **Mass During the Night** – Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-14

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day - Is 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn 1:1-18

Monday, December 26 – Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday, December 27 – 1 Jn 1:1-4 / Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday, December 28 – 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 / Mt 2:13-18

Thursday, December 29 – 1 Jn 2:3-11 / Lk 2:22-35

Friday, December 30 – Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3 / Lk 2:22-40

Saturday, December 31– 1 Jn 2:18-21 / Jn 1:1-18

Sunday, January 1– Nm 6:22-27 / Gal 4:4-7 / Lk 2:16-21

OUR GIFTS TO GOD AND CHURCH

Will be posted later!

Catholic Charities Collection – The annual collection for diocesan Catholic Charities will be taken up this weekend. This collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations including J.O.I.N. (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs), St. Stephen's Community House, Catholic Social Services, St. Francis Center, St. Lawrence Haven, St. Vincent Family Center, and the

St. Vincent de Paul Society. You can help share in this important work by generously supporting the Catholic Charities Collection this year. Please use the envelope provided in your packet or mark your check or envelope Catholic Charities.

It is important to remember that Christmas Day is really just the beginning of our Christmas celebrations. **We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on Friday, December 30, a Christmas Feast.** We are reminded that we are members of God's family. We belong to the family of the Church and to St. Mary Parish Family. We are to experience the unconditional love that God has for us and to give this love to others. God, by becoming man, has given great dignity to all Christian families. We should always pray for family life and especially for those families that are experiencing difficulties, and families that have been broken.

Feast of the Holy Family

Let us pray for our families: *Father, help us to live as the Holy Family, united in respect and love. Teach us the sanctity of human love, show us the value of family life, and help us to live in peace. We are united with Jesus, Mary and Joseph because in Your great love for us, You sent Your Son to live in this world and to share our human experience. Help us to love each other as You love us and to be more aware of those families in the world who struggle with poverty, war and disease. Bring us all to the joy and peace of Your eternal home. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.*

Parish School of Religion

A special thank you to all the generous people who brought in items for our P.S.R. Mitten Tree. These items are very much needed and appreciated! **There will be no P.S.R. Classes** this Sunday, December 25, and next Sunday, January 1. Classes will resume, Sunday, January 8, 2012.

St. Vincent de Paul

Our parish will be preparing a **Meal for the Homeless this Thursday, December 29.** Donations of fruit, cookies and snacks are always greatly appreciated. Anyone who wishes to help prepare the meal, meet in the Parish Hall at 12:00 p.m. If you would like to help serve the meal, meet at the church at 5:15 p.m.

Many thanks to all who provided hams, turkeys and desserts for the Bethlehem on Broad Street Christmas Dinner Program. Your generosity helped to brighten Christmas for many of the less fortunate of our Diocese.

Thank you to all who donated men's & women's new underwear and socks during Advent. These will be taken to Central St. Vincent de Paul in Columbus for distribution to the needy.

The St. Vincent de Paul has a food basket in the vestibule for the Groveport Food Pantry. For the month of **December**, they are requesting **boxed dinners.**

The St. Vincent de Paul will be preparing 500 sandwiches for the homeless on Monday, January 2, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Many hands make light work! It takes about 45 minutes with 8-10 people helping. All are welcome to come and help!

Thank you to all who contributed to the SVDP Collection last weekend!

Hugs and Prayers – Please remember in Prayer those of our parish family and friends who at this time are hospitalized, ill, or recovering: Rosa Alonzo, Jane Boden, Mary Jo Borghese, Kelly Brothers, Chris Burkhart, Kathy Daw, Lore Durst, Dominic Elizondo, Giuseppe Fazio, Ben Garrison, John Gentile, Tara Hetterscheidt, Bill & Agnes Hillis, Austin Hosfeld, Mary Jones, Barb Kellenbarger, Leatrice Lutz, Maria Mayes, Mary Ann McGrothers, Vince Mennetti, Tricia Mentzer, Ray Nardi, Al Nehr, Don Peck, Jim Peoples, Ula Prichard, Fr. Reichert, Bill Schmidt, Bernie Sokolowski, Olive Stirrop, Dave Verbance, Caroline Weiland, Ron West, and Virginia Whittemore.

There is a 2012 flower chart on the bulletin board in the vestibule. Please sign up to donate flowers in 2012 in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Next Sunday, January 1, 2012, we celebrate the Octave Day of Christmas. On this Christmas Feast, we remember Mary, Mother of God. It is important and helps us believe that God truly became man and dwells among us. We will also have a prayer for world peace on this day.

We would like to thank O.R. Woodyard Funeral Home for providing us with our 2012 calendars! They are available in the vestibule for each family to take home.

There is a blessing for the New Year that is available in the vestibule for those who wish it.