



Welcome to all who celebrate the Mass with us today. May God's grace and peace fill us all so that we can serve one another in unity and love.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"We claim to be "the Body of Christ" and the "people of God." If we truly are the presence of Christ in the world, it should be apparent from our sense of mission. Can any one of us say: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God?" Our lives are no longer our own. Our time, our talents, and our treasures have all been given to us for a purpose. The whole reason for our being must mirror the life of Christ. We are here to serve God and serve our neighbor. As church, we do that together. Our proclamation of the gospel is often carried out by our participation in the life of the institution. We cannot all be missionaries, but we can all participate in mission work through prayer and sacrifice. We cannot all labor among the poor, but we can all share our resources. We cannot all work among the captives or the brokenhearted, but we can all demonstrate the freedom of the children of God and lift up our own hearts to the Lord.

This Sunday the readings are: (1) Isaiah 61, 1-2 and 10-11 (2) 1 Thessalonians 5, 16-24 (3) John 1, 6-8 and 19-28.

(Gather # 998 Year B)

Next Sunday the readings will be: (1) 2 Samuel 7, 1-5; 8-12; 14 and 16 (2) Romans 16, 25-27 (3) Luke 1, 26-38. **(Gather # 991 Year B)**



Masses For The Week

- SAT: 4:00PM** Walter Arkenberg, off: Charlene LaCroix
SUN: 11:15AM For the Parish
MON: 10:00AM Funeral Mass Susan Takacs
TUE: 8:30AM Jeri Ann Brewer, off: The Mattachione Family
SAT: 4:00PM Clyde Carney, off: Arlene Carney & Family
SUN: 11:15AM For the Parish
4:00PM James & Ruthellen MacDonald, off: The Family
(Christmas Eve)
9:00PM Jenny Roadruck, off: Carolyn Marth
(Christmas Eve)
MON: 11:15AM Evelyn Steiner off: Tracey Jayne Thompson
(Christmas Day)

STEWARDSHIP

Collections for December 10, 2017

Regular Collection & loose cash (150 envelopes)	\$8,003.47
Children's (1 envelope)	\$5.00
Capital Improvement Donations (8 envelopes)	\$136.00
Total collections for December 10, 2017	\$8,144.47

Collection for Immaculate Conception was \$1,424.55
Collection Trinity Dome at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was \$674.00
Retirement Fund for Religious Collection was \$3,755.51

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FOR ALL SERVERS: Today, the 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 17, you are invited to pick up your Christmas gift in the sacristy after Mass.

WELCOME HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

TO ALL OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL AND ALL OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS!



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE AT MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS, 2017-2018

ADVENT HOLY HOUR AND EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 7:00-8:00PM Light a Candle of Faith

SATURDAY, DEC. 16 FROM 3:00PM-3:30PM (USUAL SATURDAY TIME)
MONDAY, DEC. 18 FROM 11:45AM-12:30PM; 7:00PM-7:30PM

MASSES:

CHRISTMAS:

DEC. 24 - 4:00PM AND 9:00PM
DEC. 25 - 11:15AM
SUNDAY, DEC. 24 - 4:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
(MUSIC PROGRAM BEGINS @ 3:45 PM)
SUNDAY, DEC. 24 - 9:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
(MUSIC PROGRAM BEGINS @ 8:45PM)
MONDAY, DEC. 25 - 11:15AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

NEW YEARS:

MONDAY, JAN. 1 - 10:00AM SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

EPIPHANY:

SATURDAY, JAN. 6 - 4:00PM
SUNDAY, JAN. 7 - 11:15AM

MUSIC PROGRAM:

THURSDAY, DEC. 21 CHOIR REHEARSAL FROM 6:30PM-8:30PM IN CHURCH

HAVE A BLESSED ADVENT & CHRISTMAS!



PLEASE HELP CLEAN & DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!

We will be cleaning the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 23 at 9:00AM - 1:00PM. We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 24 at 12:30PM-3:00PM after the 4th Sunday of Advent 11:15AM Mass. This is a little different this year because the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve are on the same day. We need many people to clean, set-up, and decorate. If you can help, please come. Thanks!



BULLETIN DEADLINES IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Due to the holidays, we received an accelerated deadline for the bulletin December 31st. Please submit your articles for the December 31st bulletin by 11:00 AM on Wednesday, Dec. 20th. Thanks for your help in meeting this deadline.

Parish Office Hours over the Christmas Holidays

The parish office will be closed Friday, December 22nd at 12:00PM, Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th. There will be a Tuesday morning Mass at 8:30AM. We will reopen the parish office on Wednesday, December 27th at 9:30AM.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Journey Through Bethlehem

THANKS! THANKS! THANKS!

A big "Thank You" to

Molly Hynes Collinsworth, and everyone who worked to help make The Journey Through Bethlehem a success. Many enjoyed this awesome event.



PSR: There will be no sessions December 17, December 24, or December 31. Sessions will resume January 7. *Have a blessed Christmas!*

Are you grieving the death of a loved one?

Mary, Help of Christians has a grief support group to care for people on their bereavement journey in a Christ centered environment. This is an opportunity for individuals to share their personal experience of grief with other bereaved persons who understand their pain. If you are interested, our monthly meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 10:00AM – Noon in St. Francis Hall. Call Molly Hynes Collinsworth @ 878-7325 or email @ mollymhc@gmail.com for more information. **Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 16, 2018. No Meeting in December.**

K of C Parish Dinner this Saturday, December 16, 2017.

The Knights of Columbus will hold our next Parish Dinner this Saturday, December 16th. This month we will be featuring a wonderful meal of roast pork loin, stuffing and gravy,

scalloped potatoes, buttered peas, coleslaw, and another special dessert. You get all this for just \$10 for adults \$5 for children. We'll be serving in the Parish Center right after the 4:00 Mass. Come and join your fellow Knights and Parishioners for some good food and even better company.

The 2018 Catholic Calendars are available on a table in the Gathering Space.

St. Vincent de Paul collects monetary donations at the doors after Mass on the 3rd weekend of every month.



DISABLED AND WHEELCHAIR SEATING...Available in the left front section of the church.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS all our parishioners, relatives, and friends who have died, especially, Anne M. Brewer, wife of Allen Brewer "Smiley".

TAX CUTOFF INFORMATION: This year December 31st falls on a Sunday. All offerings placed in the collection basket during the 11:15AM Mass will be recorded in parishioner tax files as a 2017 contribution. All offerings placed in the collection basket during the 10:00AM New Year's Day Mass on Monday, January 1st, will be recorded in parishioner tax files as a 2018 contribution. (Please note that this will be the case regardless of when checks are dated, as we must go by when we actually receive them.) Thank you for your generous donations.

MUSIC MINISTRY:

We rehearse on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00. For more

information, please contact our music director, Julian Calvin, julian.calvin1@gmail.com or 878-8092.



WHY WE SING AT MASS

"God has bestowed upon His people the gift of song. God dwells within each human person, in the place where music takes its source.

Indeed, God, the Giver of song, is present whenever His people sing His praises." **"SING TO THE LORD: MUSIC IN DIVINE WORSHIP"**

Parish Satellite Library



A large number of books from the Parish Library have been relocated to the Usher's Room/ Satellite Library in the church. This move will make it more convenient for parishioners to select reading material. Access to this collection can be made online at www.mhccparish.com and click on religious library.

Come and check it out!

We are open during PSR and Saturdays and Sundays after Mass.

For more information call Carol Maiorano @ 340-6084.

To see all the wonderful books available go to <http://mhc.libib.com/i/mary-help-of-christians-library>

Poinsettia Memorials Envelope:

The Poinsettia Memorials envelope inserted in your November section of parish offering envelopes is specifically for Christmas poinsettias. If you wish to memorialize someone, please **PRINT** their name (s) on the blank lines on the back of the provided envelope, or **PRINT** the name(s) of those to be remembered on a plain envelope with your name. *We ask that you please limit your entries to 6*, or feel free to use collective groups such as "the friends and families of Mr. and Mrs. Jones." (Donation of \$10.00 is appreciated, but not required.) The memorials will be published in a subsequent bulletin insert. Envelopes can be placed in the Sunday collection basket or turned in at the parish office. Thank you for your kind donations.



Visit the parish web site at: www.mhccparish.com

The Loving Memory section on the back of our weekly bulletin will allow you to honor a deceased loved one by including them in the "In loving Memory" section. If interested please clip and fill in this slip.



You can put the slip in the collection or mail it to the parish. You will be billed by Diocesan, the bulletin publisher. If interested, please call the parish office, or you may contact **Mark Mazza** directly for pricing at [513-392-6768](tel:513-392-6768) or mmazza@diocesan.com. **Thank you for your support.**

*Mary, Help of Christians Church # 389
Fairborn, Oh.*

Loved One's Name: _____

Your Name: _____

Billing Address: _____

(make checks payable to Diocesan)

Phone number: _____

St. Vincent de Paul Thank You



St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank the parishioners and PSR families for their generosity that enabled us to provide monetary and food donations. During the month of November 2017, we received 347 calls for assistance. We assisted 73 families with utilities, medicine, rent, household goods and furniture. We also provided food to 184 families (406 adults and 299 children). We visited 11 of our clients homes to provide encouragement and help to determine specific assistance needs. Thank you! We are not able to provide this assistance without your committed, generous and faithful support!

GROWING CLOSER TO GOD THROUGH SPIRITUAL DIRECTION



Spiritual Direction is really not about being "directed," it is about being encouraged to draw closer to God. In spiritual direction you reflect deeply on the experiences of your daily life. You may come to realize how God's spirit is truly with you every day and everywhere. You discover that God has been waiting for you to seek this closer relationship. A person may come to spiritual direction for many reasons, including to: find encouragement and affirmation; share struggles, losses or disappointments; integrate spirituality into your daily life; grow in relationship with God, self, others and creation. After completing a two year training in spiritual direction I am offering to journey with you as you deepen your relationship with God. This involves confidential, one-on-one sessions, usually once a month for an hour. For more information or to make an appointment call Pat Scanlon @ 878-0461 or 572-2530.

"Be still and know that I am God..." Psalm 46



CENTERING PRAYER GROUP is open to all parishioners. Centering Prayer is silent prayer that emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and as a movement beyond conversation to communion with God. The focus of Centering Prayer is the deepening of our relationship with the living Christ. We often gather after morning Mass on

Mondays and Tuesdays for a 20 minute period of centering prayer. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month in St. Francis Hall from 7:00-8:30PM for prayer and continuing education. Please call Pat Scanlon at 878-0461 for more information.

Next meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 23, 2018.**

RECORD OF YOUR 2017 CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

A statement of your 2017 contributions will automatically be mailed in **January 2018** to any parishioner who has made any single contribution of \$250 or more during the year. (Please do not call to request a statement if you are in that category.) Anyone else wanting a statement should use the request form below or call the parish office @ 878-8353 from 9:30AM-4:30PM, Monday through Friday. You may return your request form in the collection basket in your envelope.

2017Contribution Statement Request

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ENVELOPE # _____

Is There Anyone Sick Among You?

If you are going to the hospital; if someone in your family is in the hospital; or if you know of a parishioner in the hospital, please call the parish office and let us know! Due to privacy rules the hospitals no longer call us unless specifically requested by the patient. Also, if you know of a parishioner that is sick or homebound for an extended period, please call the Rectory Office @ 878-8353.

Eucharistic Ministers Needed: Anyone interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister? We are currently in need of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion at both Masses. If you are a practicing Catholic and have a genuine love and reverence for Christ in the Eucharist, please call the parish office at 878-8353 for training. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Something for Families during Advent.



For families planning to see the The Star in theaters this Advent season, a family discussion guide is available for free. If you are interested, leave a message for Molly or Courtney @ 878-7325 and we will print it out for you.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent Holy Hour and Eucharistic

Adoration This Monday

This advent season you are invited to be still and wait, to prepare for the coming of Christ who can be born anew into each heart, mind and soul. Advent is a time to be attentive, patient, hopeful and faithful as was Mary, the Mother of God. A Holy Hour and Eucharistic

Adoration will be held this Monday evening from 7:00-8:00PM in the church.



THE GIVING TREE IS HERE



All presents and money need to be returned by today, December 17th after the 11:15AM Mass. We will be sorting the presents and getting them to families today also. Volunteers are welcome to come to the parish center to help sort and get presents ready for delivery. We will begin **after 11:15AM Mass** and will continue until about 5:00PM or until we are done. Please call Pat @ 849-9140 or Annie @ 409-5299 with any questions. Thank you for being so generous with your time and money.

May you all have a Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Parish Advent Books: *Waiting in Joyful Hope*



Prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ with this popular, easy-to-use annual guide. During the especially busy Advent and Christmas seasons, this little treasure offers brief, down-to-earth reflections that bring prayer and Scripture into everyday life in a thought-provoking and lasting way. Through Mary De Turriz Poust insightful reflections on Scripture readings from the daily Mass, readers will grow in their understanding of the word of God. This book will help busy people achieve their goal of enriching their personal prayer life during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Copies are provided by the parish and will be located in the Gathering Space this weekend. Please pick one up for your family and start a new Christmas tradition!

What is the Handy Helpers Ministry? Volunteers from our parish make small home repairs and do "round-the-house" projects for elderly, disabled, and single parents. Materials are the responsibility of the homeowner, but the labor is free. (For those in need, St. Vincent de Paul and other donations may provide some materials.) Among the services that may be done are yard work, painting, carpentry, minor electrical work, general repairs, window washing, gardening, mending and other handy-person jobs. For more information or to request the services of a handy-helper, please call the Parish Office @ 878-8353. If you have skills that could be put to good use in this ministry, you are invited to call and join our "Handy Helpers."



BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH SERIES



Introducing the new Building the Domestic Church series, a collection of popular CIS books focused on issues of vital importance for Catholic families seeking to build up and strengthen the church at home. For more information, see our special display kiosk, Building the Domestic Church, in the back of the church side entrance near the rectory.

Scrip News

Scrip News:

Thanks to all parishioners who ordered Scrip for the holidays. **Scrip Christmas Order Deadline** - Last day to order Scrip for Christmas was Sunday, December 10th, with pick up this weekend of December 16th & 17th. **Please consider Scrip as presents for the Holidays for family members, the paper boy, the mail person, any service provider, or as last minute gifts. As always, we have a small number of popular cards available on a first**



come-first served basis.

We will not sell Scrip on the holiday weekends (December 23th & 24th) & (December 30th & December 31st.) Scrip will return before and after all Masses on the weekend of (January 6th & 7th). Thanks for your support of this program. Please stop in the Bride's Room and check at the Scrip desk before or after mass. Questions call Judy @ 879-3570 or Myra @ 902-0299.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASSES

The next two Baptismal Preparation Classes for parents seeking baptism for young children are being held on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 12:30PM and Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 12:30PM in the Church. Please call the parish office @ 878-8353 to advise us if you will be attending one of these classes.



BINGO

The Fairborn Knights of Columbus has BINGO every Wednesday night in the Parish Center. Doors open at 5:00PM and Instant start selling at 5:30PM. Early Bird Games start at 6:15PM and regular games start at 7:00PM. Packages start at \$12.00 (12 faces). Last series of the night is a \$1000 cover all in 50 numbers or less, 51 numbers for \$750 and then played out for \$500. (Prize reduced if under 80 players) A portion of the profit is donated back to our parish. For more information or if you would like to volunteer to work one night a month call Eric Rogalinski @ 657-6958.



ATTENTION LECTORS!!!

Please pick up your new Lector workbook for the coming year in the sacristy after Mass. Also, be sure to check off your name on the list. Thanks ☺