



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.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH



We would rightly think that a man in a sinking boat, who refused to bail out the water because he didn't want to give it up, a fool. How often, however, we hold on to the elements in our lives that cause us to sink. Jesus warned us that those who try to preserve their lives will lose them, while those who surrender their lives will gain everlasting life. Many might consider Simeon and Anna foolish in the light of worldly values. To surrender life, even in retirement, to religious observance may seem excessive, but Simeon and Anna looked forward to deliverance for themselves and their people, not to personal gain. May God deliver us from a world that would trap us in passing fads and false values. Let us give up the flood of materialism in favor of a boat with room enough for the Messiah.

This Sunday the readings are: (1) Sirach 3, 2-6 and 12-14
(2) Colossians 3, 12-21 (3) Luke 2, 22-40. **(Gather # 1007 Year ABC)**
Next Sunday the readings will be: (1) Isaiah 60, 1-6
(2) Ephesians 3, 2-3 and 5-6 (3) Matthew 2, 1-12
(Gather # 1011 Year B)



MASSES For The Week

SAT: 4:00PM Thad Houston, off: Marg Houston
SUN: 11:15AM For the Parish
MON: 10:00AM Joe Lang, off: Tom & Andi Boland
Solemnity Of Mary, Mother of God (New Years Day)
TUE: 8:30AM Anne Brewer, off: Mary Ann Schmidt
SAT: 4:00PM Thaddeus Zarycki, off Lois Gagle & Family
SUN: 11:15AM For the Parish

STEWARDSHIP

Collections for Christmas and Sunday, December 24, 2017 will be reported in the Sunday, January 7, 2018 bulletin

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

PLEASE REMEMBER MHC IN YOUR WILL

The parish gratefully accepts donations of stock. A tax deduction for a gift of appreciated securities to a charity equals its full fair market value.

Parish Office Hours over the New Years Holidays



The parish office will be closed Friday, December 29th at 12:00PM, and Monday, January 1st. There will be a Monday morning Mass at 10:00AM (Solemnity Of Mary, Mother of God). We will reopen the parish office on Tuesday, January 2nd at 9:30AM.

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

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

NEW YEARS:

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

EPIPHANY:

SATURDAY, JAN. 6 – 4:00PM

SUNDAY, JAN. 7 – 11:15AM

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

Many Thanks for Beautiful Works

To Diana Stidham and all the wonderful volunteers who give of their time and talents to make the church and grounds clean and beautiful. Thanks to all who helped clean and decorate the church this Advent and Christmas season.

Thanks for Wonderful Music

Thanks to Julian Calvin and the choirs for all the beautiful music during the Advent and Christmas Season.

Thanks to the Scrip Program Crew!

Many thanks to Judy McCoy and Myra Limbach and all their helpers for their work on the scrip program throughout the year. We appreciate all the time and effort that goes into running the scrip program, and the parish is grateful for the profits that are earned by the program.

Good job, Judy & Myra!!!

THANKS TO OUR PARISH OFFICE VOLUNTEERS!

Many thanks to all our volunteers who have so willingly helped us over this past year. We are very fortunate to have you ladies and gentlemen. You step in and help us when we need you the most! Thank you for your unending enthusiasm and dedication! In particular, we express our gratitude to Rosalie Sloat, Rita Normand, Cal Smith, Larry Bogemann, Phil Amb, Frank Carchedi, and Charlie Lump.

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.

SERVERS: You are invited to pick up your Christmas gift in the sacristy after Mass if you have not done so.

A Gift from the Parish



If you did not receive your Christmas Gift, we have a few books left! The book this year is "*Perfectly Yourself*" by Matthew Kelly. These books are located on tables at the doors. Please take one and when you are finished reading it, pass it on.

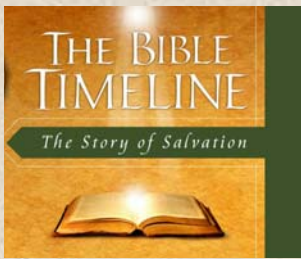


DISABLED AND WHEELCHAIR SEATING...
Available in the left front section of the church.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS all our parishioners, relatives, and friends who have died, especially, Alice Halbisen, mother of Mark Halbisen; Ralph Goecke; and Paul Stutz..

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

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



THE BIBLE TIMELINE RETURNS !!

The Bible Timeline: God's Plan for our Salvation returns. **Join us on Wednesday evening, January 10, 2018 at 7:00PM in St. Francis Hall at Mary Help of Christians Church.**

After Moses led the Hebrews out of their slavery in Egypt and crossed the Red Sea, they spent 40 years wandering through the desert. Moses died just before they entered the Promised Land. This week's Faith-formation class focuses on Joshua leading the Hebrews across the Jordan River and defeating the mighty people of Jericho. You could better prepare yourself for this session if you read Joshua 1-4, 6-8, and 23-24. There are so many details and "stories behind the story" to learn. If you have any questions, feel free to please call Joe Hand @ 329-0912 or Molly Hynes Collinsworth, DRE @ 878-7325.

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.**

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 ☺

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.



Scrip News

Thanks to all parishioners who ordered Scrip for the holidays. We will not sell Scrip on the holiday weekend (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.

Liturgical Colors

Liturgical Colors

After our four weeks of Advent purple, we arrive to see our church beautifully decorated for the

Christmas season. Our liturgical colors for Christmas are white and gold. In the secular world the colors of Christmas are green and red, so it is common to see these colors in the church, also—mainly in the popular red poinsettias and the green trees. If you read our article during the Easter season, you learned that white symbolizes Christ, purity, victory over death and joy among other things, and therefore, is used for our most holy solemnities and seasons, as well as baptisms and funerals. Our Christmas season continues until the Baptism of the Lord, which follows Epiphany. At that point, we enter the first round of Ordinary Time, which means measured, numbered time. (You may remember that we celebrated the long second round of Ordinary Time after the Easter Season.) Green symbolizes the hope we have with faith.

PSR Registration - It's Not Too Late

If you are interested in coming, but not registered, you are still welcome. Come a little early and you can register on site. Now that the fall sports season is over, you might think it's too late to sign up your child for the Parish's religious education program. It's never too late!! We are happy to have your child. We offer religious education and faith formational activities for children in grades 3-4 year olds-6th, Jr. High, High School, and adults. For more information, call Molly Hynes Collinsworth @ 878-7325. **SESSIONS WILL RESUME JANUARY 7th**

Add JOY to your life this winter!

All adult parishioners and friends are invited to attend JOY Club which will meet on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 1:00PM in St. Francis Hall. **JOY Club** meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from September through June from 1:00PM-3:00PM. Come to **enJOY** an afternoon of cards, games or bingo along with fellowship and refreshments with your fellow parishioners and friends. Come feel the **JOY!**

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 makes it more convenient for parishioners to select reading material. Access to this collection can be made online at www.mhparish.com and click on religious library.

Come and check it out!

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>**



May the Peace of the Holy Family be with you always.

Best wishes to you and your family for peace and joy throughout this Christmas season and the New Year.

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