

January 1, 2017

**OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS  
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**



**Mary Hears The Word of God  
And Keeps It**

**With great hope and genuine pride, the Church begins this new year with a celebration of Mary, Mother of Jesus, proto-disciple and model of strength, grace and courage for all believers. Mary's history is inextricably bound to that of Jesus, and she is portrayed as such in Scripture – whenever she is mentioned, Mary is represented as an exemplary disciple, that is, one who hears the Word of God and keeps it.**

Today's Bulletin is sponsored by Cathy Perez  
in memory of Willie Perez.

**MASS INTENTIONS**



Friday, January 6

**8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration**

Saturday, January 7

6:30 p.m. Sophie & August Kasper

Sunday, January 8

6:30 a.m. Gladys & Ronnie Dodds

9:30 a.m. Agnes Svatek

**PREPARING FOR SUNDAY LITURGY**

Next weekend is *The Epiphany of the Lord*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

**First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

**Responsorial Psalm: 72**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

**Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

The K.J.Z.T. Society will lead the Saturday evening rosary during the month of January.

Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Thomas Hoyer and Robert Shockley.

**The Sanctuary Light will be lit  
this week for the  
Anderle & Muehlstein Families.**

**2016 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL**

2016 Assessment ..... \$17,080.00  
Contributions So Far ..... \$17,827.00  
Number of Families Who Have Contributed ..... 43

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

*Forrest Kroschel*

*Niki & Chad Chaloupka*

*Lorrie & Michael Janecek*

**Congratulations! We have reached our assessed goal for 2016. Good job. We thank all those who have contributed towards our 2016 D.S.A. assessment so far. Any amount collected over and above the parish's goal is returned to the Parish.**

**FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

8:30-9:30 a.m. – Doris Foster, *open*  
9:30-11:00 a.m. - Anna & Michael Fishbeck  
11:00-11:30 a.m. – Barbara Hermes, *open*  
11:30-12:00 p.m. – Gussie Machalec, *open*  
12:00-1:00 p.m. – Eleanor Wagner, James Wenske  
1:00-2:00 p.m. – Mary Ann Wenske, *open*  
2:00-3:00 p.m. – Lisa Rothbauer, *open*  
3:00-3:30 p.m. – Linda Pilat, *open*  
3:30-4:00 p.m. – Linda Pilat, Cathy Wenske  
4:00-4:30 p.m. – Rose Rothbauer, *open*  
4:30-5:00 p.m. – Rose Rothbauer, Mike Janecek  
5:00-5:30 p.m. – Mike Janecek, Angie Jalufka  
5:30-6:00 p.m. – Angie Jalufka, Deacon Kenneth Fishbeck

*Come spend some time in prayer before the Lord.*

**2017 Church Support Envelopes**

As in the past offertory envelopes have been mailed to parishioners who use them or have expressed the wish to have them. If you have been overlooked and want to support the Church through the Sundays offertory envelope system, do please call the Church office. Many thanks for your continued support. Keep up the good work.

**BOOKINGS AVAILABLE**

**Mass** – Saturday, January 28

– Sundays (6:30 a.m.), January 15, 22 & 29

**Sanctuary Light** – January 22 & 29

**Bulletin Sponsor** – January 8, 15, 22 & 29

**Altar Flowers** – January 8, 15 & 29

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

MONDAY – No Gold Star Club Meeting (Christmas Holidays)

WEDNESDAY – Champions Club Meets, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., YMC

THURSDAY – KC Bingo, former KC Hall

FRIDAY – Eucharistic Adoration, 8:30 - 6:00 p.m., Family Room

– Parish Office closed on Fridays. For any Pastoral emergency, call the Office at any time.

## REFLECTION

The blessing found in Numbers may be one of the oldest pieces of poetry in the Bible. Although it is the priests who ultimately bless the people, it is Moses who receives the blessing from God and who delivers it to Aaron and his sons (vv.22-23). Each line invokes a personal action from God: to bless with good fortune and to keep from harm; to look favorably toward and to be gracious; to look upon and to grant peace – the blessings that make life worth living.

The mission of Christ to the world is the major focus of Paul's teaching in the second reading. The designated time refers to that time in history when God brought the messianic expectations to fulfillment by sending his Son into the world. Referring to Christ as God's Son establishes his divine nature; acknowledging that he was born of a woman establishes his human nature.

In today's Gospel, Mary is the focus, not the child. It is Mary who is described as holding all these things in her heart. She is the one who ponders the significance of these events.

By her willingness to hold all these things in her heart, Mary becomes to Christians an inspiration of contemplation and reflection. She inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events rather than to go blindly through life without meaning or direction. She inspires us to constant reflection on the truths of the faith that continues to be made real in life's experiences. She inspires us to fidelity to the practices of our faith, practices which are the disciplines of souls that lead the community to a clearer focus on God's presence in human affairs.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Jan. 1 – Edwin Pavlicek  
Jan. 2 – Rosie Koudelka, Benedict Wenske  
Jan. 3 – Allen Hermes, Mava Jalufka, Stayton Jalufka,  
Loretta Janak, Sheryl Zimmerman  
Jan. 4 – Gladys Kubenka  
Jan. 5 – Robert Lee Simper  
Jan. 7 – Eugene Anderle, Lucy Schoenfeld

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Jan. 7 – Beth & Aaron Gaertner

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

**Today** – No C.C.D. (Christmas Holidays)  
Jan. 2 – No K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade After School Program (Christmas Holidays)  
Jan. 4 – 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade After School Program  
Next Sunday – C.C.D. Resumes

## Happy New Year !

The first of January has many observances: We mark the conclusion to the octave of Christmas; it is New Year's Day; we celebrate the Day of Prayer for World Peace; and we observe the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

**Mary The God-bearer:** The Church today celebrates Mary as the Mother of God. She is called *Theotokos* (God-bearer), for "God sent his Son born of a woman." Because Mary found favor with God, his Son took the flesh of Mary – it is thanks to her that Jesus is *fully* human with flesh like ours, except for sin, and also fully divine. Mary is the ultimate symbol of the Christian, for what is a Christian if not one who bears Christ within our world and brings him to people?



**New Year's Day:** On New Year's Day we gather together and realize that our lives are made of days and nights, of seasons and years. We mark ends and we make beginnings and, in all, we praise God for the grace and mercy that fill our days.

**Prayer:** *Remember us, O God, from age to age be our comforter. You have given us the wonder of time, blessings in days and nights, seasons and years. Bless your children at the turning of the year and fill the months ahead with the bright hope that is ours in the coming of Christ. You are our God, living and reigning, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## The Christmas Season Events / Happy New Year!

We thank Faith Nichols (Advanced Health Services) and her family for sponsoring the Advent-Christmas decorations in the Church. Thanks also to Lisa & David Rothbauer for putting up the outdoor manger scene; to Hostyn Hill Greenhouses and to all parishioners who contributed to the Christmas Flower Fund for the purchase of the poinsettias; to Sharon Etlinger and the Christmas choirs; to all the children who participated in the Christmas Eve pageant, those who sang in the choir, the parents and all who worked behind the scenes to pull it all together. I thank all my friends who remembered me with cards and gifts. I really do appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness.

You know by now that like the groundhog, I go into hiding during the Winter. It is a time for me to reflect, pray, rest and visit my friends and family after Christmas. I pray that God continues to smile on you and keep you safe. While I am away, Mary Lou will hold the fort, taking care of the Pastoral office. Deacons Fishbeck and Kram and Fr. Ramsey will help with the weekend Masses. Arrangements have been made with Fr. Dominic in case there is a funeral. Do please contact Mary Lou to make arrangements. It has been a hectic year but a good one.

Once again, it was a beautiful Christmas celebration. I very much appreciate what you do for the Church and for me personally.

Happy New Year and God bless,

*Fr. Gabriel*