

The Feast of the Holy Family
December 31, 2017
 Fr. Dooley – Celebrant

Sunday, December 31

- 9:10 a.m.** Rosary Meditations for the Return of Fallen Away Catholics
9:30 a.m. Mass for Charles Davena by Michael & Angela Migyanko
 • Coffee and Donuts Social after Mass
5:30 p.m. Mass for Pat Slagle by Suellen Slagle and Family

Wednesday, January 3

- 5:00-5:15 p.m.** Private Confessions
5:10 p.m. Rosary Meditations for Vocations
5:30 p.m. Mass for Pat Slagle by Suellen Slagle and Family

Sunday, January 7

- 9:10 a.m.** Rosary Meditations for Vocations
9:30 a.m. Mass for Bob Holland by Pat Holland
 • Coffee and Donuts Social after Mass

Suggestions for Outreach Food Pantry:
 Canned meat sauce

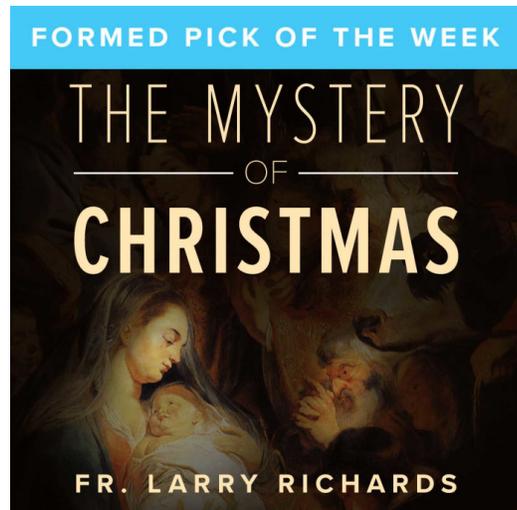
Mass for Mary, Mother of God

The Mass for Mary, Mother of God will be celebrated this evening, **Sunday, December 31st at 5:30 p.m.** Please join us as we pray for peace in 2018.

Mark Your Calendars!

February 17, 2018: Catholic Women's Conference at Cardinal Hall, Ohio Expo Center in Columbus. More information at www.columbuscatholicwomen.com.

February 26, 2018: Catholic Men's Conference at Cardinal Hall, Ohio Expo Center in Columbus. More information at www.catholicmensministry.com.



In this inspiring talk, renowned preacher and retreat master Fr. Larry Richards illuminates how the true joy of Christmas is found in the greatest gift ever given – the gift of Jesus Christ to the whole world. With humor, compassion, and clarity, Fr. Larry gets to the heart of the true meaning of Christmas and helps us to better appreciate the immensity of God's love for us as His children. Find this and more in the audio section on the formed website (www.formed.org). Access Code VZ4F2W or download the free app for your phone!

Christmas Gift

We invite you to pick up the Consortium Christmas Gift near the doors of the Church! Please pick up a copy of the book entitled: *Kingdom of Happiness: Living the Beatitudes in Everyday Life* by Fr. Jeffrey Kirby. Happy reading from St. Mary Queen of the Missions Parish!

Interested in working with orphans at the Miryante Orphanage in Uganda, Africa?

A mission trip is being planned for August 2018. There will be a meeting for anyone interested in going on the 2018 Mission Trip to Uganda on Sunday, December 31 from 9:15 to 10:30 in the Holy Family Library in the St. Peter, Chillicothe Parish Center. Laura Corcoran, volunteer at Miryante and daughter of Pat & Diane Corcoran will be available to answer questions you might have. For information or questions before then, call Diane Corcoran at 740-703-2196.

Hope Clinic of Pike County is a free clinic for the uninsured residents of the surrounding community of Pike County, Ohio. Our county is a medically under-served community which means there aren't enough doctors to provide medical care for the people who live here. As Christians who understand this need, we desire to live out the Gospel of Christ by working to meet the healthcare needs in our community. We are at 116 South Market Street, Waverly (former Pike County Sheriff's office building), on Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00 p.m. You may also make a tax-deductible donation to: THE HOPE CLINIC OF PIKE COUNTY, PO BOX 101, WAVERLY, OH 45690. See: www.hopeclinicpike.org for volunteer form.

Elizabeth's Hope Pregnancy Resource Center

Pregnant? Need help? Phone 740-947-1060, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Call option line 1-800-395-HELP, Confidential, caring assistance is available 24 hours.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

Raphael's Hands Healing Outreach

A place where you will find an open door to hope, prayer and a safe comfortable environment, as you walk the path to healing the wounds caused by abortion in your own life. Our "NEW" location, St. Francis Catholic Outreach Center, 2311 Stockham Lane, Portsmouth. Call (740-357-9822), or e-mail RaphaelsHands@yahoo.com to begin your journey of healing today. *We are praying for you.*

Weekly Reflections for Feast of the Holy Family

You may not be THE Holy Family, but you are still a holy family. Share an expression of gratitude for the gift of your family today. Pray for wholeness and holiness for all members of the family of God. (Colossians 3:12-21)

(Year B)**December 31, 2017**

- Monday, January 1:** Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
Tuesday, January 2: 1 John 2:22-28; Psalm 98:1-4; John 1:19-28
Wednesday, January 3: 1 John 2:29-3:6; Psalm 98:1, 3-6; John 1:29-34
Thursday, January 4: 1 John 3:7-10; Psalm 98:1, 7-9; John 1:35-42
Friday, January 5: 1 John 3:11-21; Psalm 100:1-5; John 1:43-51
Saturday, January 6: 1 John 5:5-13; Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20; Mark 1:7-11 or Luke 3:23-38
Sunday, January 7: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Lay Ministers for Sunday, January 7th**Eucharistic Ministers:****Lectors:** Chip – Donna C**Altar Servers:** Grace – Anna – Sarah**Rosary:** Bernadine**Collection Counters:** Donna C. – Jerry T.**Church Cleaning Week of January 1st –**

Angela Migyanko and Brenda Pettay

Happy Birthday This Week to: Jean Horn, Mary Jane Lilly, Harmony Stanley, Noli de la Pena, Kay Robarge, and Kathryn Skinner.**Pray for the Sick:** Hank Adler, Antonio Arriaga, Rose Bamba, Betty Beck, Mike Blanford, Susan Biogan, Jim Bonifield, Juanita Bryant, Jon Click, June Close, Tucker Davis, Rebecca Fouts, Lauren Frost, Evelyn Hammond, Judy Hart, Sr. Frances Joseph Hildebrand, Lawrence Hoffman, Kim Howard, Ronald Hurlles, Cliff Jones, Bob Lee, Andrea Lutz, Annette Mangan, Frank McDonald, Andy O’Pry, David

O’Pry, Patricia Perez, Bobbie McEhee, Connie McQuay, Abby Melton, Jeff Morris, Lucille Nichols, Tracy Patterson, MaryAnne Raphael, Wayne Robarge, Betty Simpkins, Ray Simpkins, Kathy Tapp, Randy Tong, Patsy Walder, and Jeannie Williams.

Shut-Ins: John Cannon, William Haidet, Esther Kordes, Mike Murphy, Richard Renollet, Wanda Salvail, Leona Sarver, Betty Shea, Katherine Skinner, and Kim Summers.**Pray for Those Serving in Our Military:** Matthew Pyzik

(Please check the Prayer List for people who are no longer in need of prayer. We strive to keep this list current for those in their hour of need. If someone needs to be removed, please call the office (740-947-2436). If someone is in need of prayer, let us know that, too! Note: If someone is in the hospital and needs a visit, please let one the priests or the office know since the hospital cannot notify us.

**From the Desk of Fr. Dooley**

Thank you to all those who decorated, our servers, readers, ministers, our organist Alex Brady, and everyone who participated in our Christmas liturgies. May the Infant Jesus remind us that God comes to us in unexpected ways. We continue with our Christmas journey as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. We celebrate the gift of family life and for the opportunities to grow in grace and love with our family members. This is not to say that family life does not have its share of challenges. We might be tempted to have a ‘false picture’ of family life. We see this all the time in our TV sitcoms and dramas.

I remember as a boy staying with my Grandma Morgan who loved to watch the hit 1970s TV show: “*The Waltons*.” The show followed the challenges of a mountain family in the era of the Great Depression and the Second World War. I really never cared for this show (sorry to the fans out there!), but even as a boy, I was amazed that most of the family’s problems were solved by the time the credits would roll down the screen. Wouldn’t that be great? We could have all our family problems and issues solved in 30 minutes or less!? Family life is not easy with schedules, putting our preferences over others, past hurts, finances, unemployment and the list goes on.

Our Lord knew this reality of the challenges of family life. We know very little of Jesus’ “private life.” It is fascinating to think that Jesus waited for about 30 years to begin his public ministry. This family time of Jesus was not a waste, but it was a time of patience. Jesus was growing, learning, and he spent his time waiting as a carpenter and citizen of Roman controlled Nazareth. Life consists in waiting for the next phase or purpose. Jesus is our model for patience in the joys and struggles of family life. We pray for all families who are facing transitions and pains.

Speaking of families, we come to the end of the year in our world and in our parish. It is always healthy to look over the past year as a parish family – our strengths and what we could improve on for the future. Here is our “Year of Review” for 2017, we had **3 Baptisms** in our parish community. Those baptized were two children and one infant. We also welcomed **Annette Dickens** to the Catholic Church as she made her **Profession of Faith**. She received the sacraments of **Confirmation and First Holy Communion** on Pentecost Sunday. The parish also celebrated **one other First Holy Communion** this year.

St. Mary’s had **one wedding** in 2017. We pray for **Mr. Rodney and Mrs. Teresa (Seamen) Brown** as they live out the covenant of marriage. This was our first marriage in the parish since 2012.

While we celebrated joyous occasions, St. Mary Queen of the Missions Parish had **5 funerals** this year. We said farewell to **Deborah Ann DiMaggio, Julian Cross, Susan Zmuda, Charles Davena, and Barbara Gilmore**. We are a people of faith who look to the Crucifixion and Empty Tomb of our Lord. We know that Jesus transforms darkness to light, and death never has the final say. We pray for all those who mourn the loss of loved ones this year.

In other news, we were sad to see **Sr. Amelia Mary** leave for her new assignment in Indianapolis this past July. Our FIH Convent and parish also welcomed **Sr. Ruhitha Mary** and **Sr. Zephрина Mary**. We are now blessed to have **4 Franciscan Sisters** who serve St. Mary’s and the wider community of Pike County.

Our parish continues to materially and spiritually support **Pike County Outreach** and **Elizabeth’s Hope**. These are crucial ministries in our county and we are proud to support these causes. St. Mary’s also had a successful **Parish Picnic** and **Thanksgiving Dinner**. It is always good to share fellowship with one another.

In addition, the **Men’s Ministry** group here at St. Mary’s has seen an **increase** in attendance this year. The group gathers on the first and third Saturdays for prayer, faith sharing, and reading of the Scriptures. This is open to all men in the parish. Also, please watch the bulletin for other adult faith formation opportunities for the upcoming year.

I have noticed that most of our Sunday and Wednesday Masses have been well attended this year. This is a sign of a healthy community of faith! Our current count in the parish stands at about **85 households**.

As the famous CBS anchorman Walter Cronkite would say at the end of each newscast: “And that’s the way it is…” This is our summary as individuals, families, and as a community of disciples. This was our year of 2017. May we have the courage to look at the problems and realities in our lives. May we never forget the grace that God has given us.

And that’s the way it is,
Fr. Dooley