



**ST. MARY
PARISH**

731 Exchange Street
Vermilion, OH 44089

440-967-8711

stmaryvermillion.org

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VERMILION, OHIO
PERMIT 38

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 8:00am, 10:30am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - 8:30am

Tuesday - 8:30am

Followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday - 6:15pm

Thursday - 8:30am

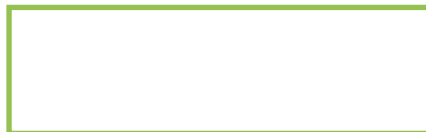
Friday - 12:05pm

CONFESSION TIMES

Sunday - 9:45am - 10:15am

Tuesday - 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Saturday - 3:00pm - 3:45pm



Advent is a time of celebrating God's presence. Although we cannot see him or touch him, as we can with sense-perceptible things, he really is here, and comes to visit us in many ways.

Jesus invites us to stop and be silent, to take in His presence. If we steep ourselves in this reality during Advent, we shall feel encouraged to talk confidently to him in our prayer and during the day; we will put before him the sufferings that make us sad, the impatience and questions that arise in our hearts. This is the right time to strengthen our conviction that he is always listening to us.

By being watchful and attentive for loving details from our heavenly Father, our heart will pour out acts of thanksgiving. The grateful memory of the good things God has done for us helps us also in dark times of difficulties, problems, sickness, and suffering.

Advent invites us to become aware of our watching and waiting for the Lord. *It is full time now for you to wake from sleep. Watch at all times. What I say to you I say to all: watch.* These calls from Sacred Scripture in the readings for the first Sunday of Advent remind us of the constant comings, the *adventus*, of our Lord. Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today. God is not just in heaven, uninterested in us and our history. He really is the God who is coming.

Advent is a time of presence and of waiting for what is eternal; and a time of joy, an intimate joy that nothing can take away. The joy of the time of waiting is a deeply Christian attitude that we can see in our blessed Lady: Mary teaches us to wait with a peaceful heart for the coming of our Lord, while we also prepare interiorly for that meeting, joyfully trying "to build a crib for our God in our hearts."

Fr. Paul

Parish Life

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

1ST - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Hospitality Sunday" / Coffee & Donuts
- following Sunday morning Masses. (PLCC)
"Do you Believe in Miracles?"
3 pm - 5:30 pm @ St. Peter Catholic Church,
Huron.

3rd Adoration | 9:15 am - 7 pm

4th First Wednesday
Mass of Healing & Anointing @ 6:15 pm
Adoration & Benediction followed by
Advent Prayer Service with Lessons & Carols @ 7 pm
Coffee, Study, and Conversation @ 9:15 am
6th First Friday

Funeral for Dick Dunegan @ 11 am

Because of 11 am Funeral there will be **no** 12:05 Mass today
St. Francis Society will be meeting off campus today.

7th First Saturday - **Men's Breakfast Group** @ 8 am
Live Nativity - St. Mary, Wakeman |
11am-2pm & 5:30-7:30 pm

8th - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OCIA Class @ 11:30 am (Lib)
Family Faith Formation @ 11:45 am (Gym)
SFO | **Christmas Dinner** @ 12 Noon (Café)
SFO | Formation and Meeting

9th - **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**
(Celebrated on Monday) (Holy Day of obligation.)
Mass: 9 am & 7 pm

12th Coffee, Study, and Conversation @ 9:15 am
14th Knights of Columbus

Breakfast with Santa/St. Nicholas @ 8 am (Gym & Café)
Altar & Rosary-**Christmas Bake Sale** |
Before & After Masses this weekend

15TH - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christmas Bake Sale | Before & After Masses this weekend
Evening of Grace | 4-6 pm
(Opportunity for Reconciliation)

18th - **First Penance Celebration** | 7 pm (After 6:15 Mass)
19 - Coffee, Study, and Conversation @ 9:15 am

22nd - **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
OCIA Class @ 11:30 am (Lib)

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS:

24th - **Christmas Eve - Anticipatory Masses: 4, 6 pm and
12 Midnight** (Christmas Concert begins at 11:40 pm)

25th - **Christmas Day - 10 am Mass ONLY**

26th **NO Mass Today** - Parish Office Closed for Christmas

29TH **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

Feast of the Holy Family - Sat. (28) 4 pm | Sun. (29) 8 & 10:30 am

JANUARY, 2024

1st **Solemnity of Mary Mother of God**
Vigil Mass Tues. (31) 4 pm | Wed (1/1) 10 am **ONLY**

Christmas Open House
(At the Rectory/Fr. Paul's House | Ohio Street)
Friday Saturday Sunday

January 3 January 4 January 5

5-8 pm | 5-8 pm | 1-5 pm

DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?

~ SEEING IS BELIEVING ~

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

3:00 PM - 5:30 PM



Can miracles stand up to the test of science?

- Exclusive film footage of a stigmatist who bleeds from her hands, feet, and head. Are these the wounds of Christ? What does science have to say?
- A consecrated Communion Host becomes living flesh and blood. Is it heart tissue? What does science have to say?
- A scientist (former atheist), an attorney and a famous TV Journalist witness statue of Jesus weeping real tears and shedding real blood. Are these claims true? What does science have to say?

St. Peter Catholic Church is hosting an

EVENT for everyone in the area. If you have an "I will believe it when I see it" attitude, don't miss this event!

"Put it this way-this is either the biggest hoax of the 20th Century, in which case it would have to be a fairly huge conspiracy, or the most important moment of the century, if not the whole millennium."

Alastair Thompson
New Zealand journalist

St. Peter Catholic Church

430 Main St

Huron, OH 44839



www.ScienceTestsFaith.com/Peter

DECORATING For CHRISTMAS



Please join us in preparing the
church for the celebration of
Christ's birth.

WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP

to set up the Nativity, decorate, and make this a
joyous celebration!

**At the time of publishing,
we are still finalizing the date.**

Many hands make light the work.

Needed: Strong arms and backs but gentle hands.

Thank you!

If you have any questions, please contact
Terri Pabon at: 440-371-2919



Do you like to sing? Think you have a
nice voice? Join the choir. Ed
Klimczak is looking forward to the
Advent and Christmas Seasons.
Rehearsals will be held in church on
Thursday evenings

December 5, 12, and 19, at 6:05 PM.

(Please enter through the side door of the church.)
Also, any instrumentalist that can be incorporated
in to Mass, please join us. Rehearsals will be for 55
minutes. If you have any questions, email Ed at
eklimczak@stmaryvermilion.org and join us.



Hello my dear Parish Family!

It has been a little time since I shared with you our appreciation and gratitude for all that you do - your thoughts, your words, and your actions. We, your staff, depend upon you...you keep us in your prayers, you speak wonderful words about the things that we do, (and lovingly tell us what we have failed to do), and you bless us with wonderful gifts at so many different times of the year. You give of your time, talent, and treasure. All of which is talked about in this issue of the newsletter. Thank you for all that

you do! Thank you for all that you share in your personal giftedness! Thank you for your generous giving to the many collections...the Christ's Light, ACA, 2nd Collection for the renovations, flowers, 2nd collections for the Diocesan missions, not to mention our regular Sunday collection. Bless you for reaching down into your pockets - always!

Here we are again - beginning a new church year. We are awaiting. Anticipating. A young girl said yes to an Angel who appeared to her. Do we have the same kind of faith that could say... "Be it done to me according to your will"? Isn't that the question that Advent presents to us? We walk through these next four weeks listening to the readings, listening to the music, and hearing the movement on the journey to Bethlehem. Pay close attention to Mother Mary, to her beloved spouse St. Joseph as they travel. The smells, the feeling in the air, the response of the people...what do you see, hear, and feel? There's no room in the inn for them. Where would you go? What would you do? And then the Baby comes. Then the shepherds come, animals bow down, people gather...where are you standing? Are you close? Can you smell the new baby smell? Is your heart full? You are standing at the side of the crib of the Redeemer of the World!

I still ask all my questions...those things have never changed...and pray God...will not. Christmas blessings to you and yours.

Love and Prayers,
Kathie McBride

You have united, O Lord, your divinity with our humanity and our humanity with your divinity; your life with our mortality and our mortality with your life. You have assumed what is ours, and you have given us what is your, for the life and salvation of our souls. To you, O Lord, be glory forever.

Taken from Maronite Liturgy ~ Eucharistic Prayer

MARY ON THE MANTEL

(The Catholic version of Elf on the Shelf)

Beginning December 1st, look for 25 days of messages on Facebook to guide you and your family through the 2024 Advent season.



LET IT BE DONE TO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD



All women are invited to prepare for the Advent season with us! The evening will include heavy hors d'oeuvres, music, and fellowship with other women of Christ. We will also have a 50/50 raffle and raffle baskets! This year's speaker is Pat Oedy-Murray.

Monday, December 2 from 6:30-9 PM

Saint Mary's Commons • Doors open 6:15 PM | St. Mary Catholic Church, 429 Central Avenue, Sandusky, OH., 44870

Traveling Mary Statue

Our Blessed Mother travels from Home to Home. For 35 years, many blessings and intentions have been offered before her. The faith shown are the Graces she brings with her during her visit.

Do not fear children or pets as she has survived 35 years.

If you would like to have our Blessed Mother visit your home, please call

Denise at 440-420-1646



PRAYING FOR PRIESTS

An Urgent Call for the Salvation of Souls



KATHLEEN BECKMAN, L.H.S.
Foreword by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J.

Praying for Priests Ministry

Parish Cenacles

Every parish is invited to create prayer groups (called Vianney Cenacles). Cenacles can run in two different formats:
A Eucharistic Holy Hour or a Group that includes prayer, study, and discussion.

Interested in leading this ministry?

For more information, please contact Deacon John Murray, Jr.
Deacon@stmaryvermilion.org

From the Heart of Deacon John Murray, Jr.

During our 40 Hour Devotion Deacon Jose Zamora and Deacon Jim Tokarsky spoke about the National Eucharistic Revival Year of Mission. Then I spoke of what that means for our Parish Family. Year of Going Out on Mission continues through Pentecost Sunday 2025. Having enkindled a missionary fire in the hearts of the American faithful, the Holy Spirit calls us out on mission to share the gift of our Eucharistic Lord as we enter the universal Church's Jubilee Year 2025, themed "Pilgrims of Hope." Every parish is invited to reinvigorate worship, create moments of personal encounter, engage in robust formation, and send Catholics forth as missionaries. A good way is by using the Walk with One.



What is a Eucharistic Missionary? (Good question Campers!) **A Eucharistic Missionary is any Catholic who—inspired by an encounter with Christ in the Eucharist and fueled by the Bread of Life - allows God to use them as an instrument of his grace “for the life of the world.” These missionaries embrace their deepest identity as a member of the Body of Christ and commit to living a Eucharistic life with a heart for those who are most in need, those who are lost, and those who are The “least.” They follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel by word and deed. Remember, you aren’t doing this alone. The whole Church is walking on mission together, and we are here to support you with resources, inspiration, and encouragement as you embark on this exciting journey.**

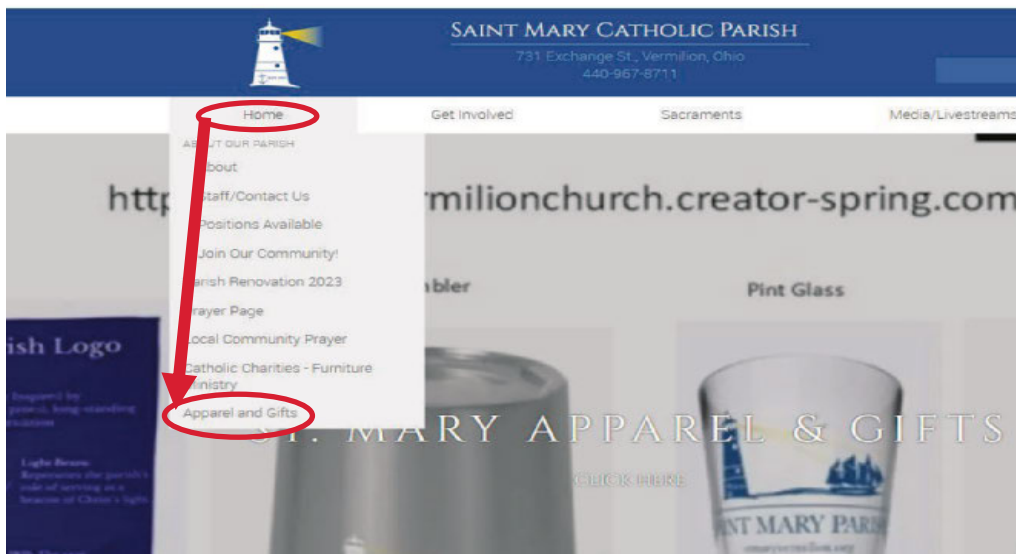
We are Embracing Our **Apostolic Roots**. Jesus in the Eucharist is the answer to every restless longing of the human heart. If we truly believe this, then that living faith will compel us to share this joy with our brothers and sisters! The Holy Spirit has enkindled a missionary fire in the heart of our nation, and now He is sending out every member of the Church to spread the Good News - sharing the gift of our Eucharistic Lord with those on the peripheries. And **YOU** are invited to be a part of it!

During the mission year, Catholics are called to eucharistic encounter, have eucharistic identity, life, and go out

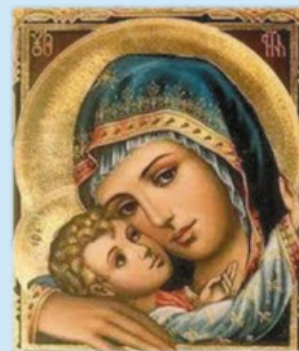
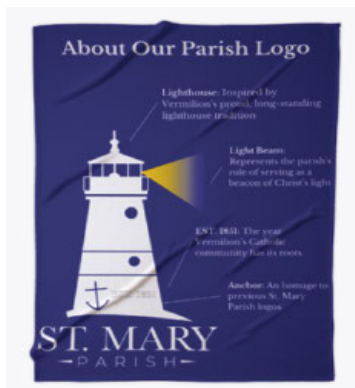
on eucharistic mission. These are known as the four pillars (invitations) of mission.

- **Eucharistic Encounter** - In order to lead people to a relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist, we have to maintain an active relationship with him ourselves. Deepening that personal relationship through prayer, adoration and the sacraments. Regular, profound encounters with Jesus strengthen us to be a more authentic and powerful witness to his love.
- **Eucharistic Identity** - To truly live out our mission as Catholics, we must first embrace our identity as beloved children of the Father, shaped by our relationship with Christ in the Eucharist. There is an importance of internalizing and living out the teachings and love of Jesus, allowing our Eucharistic encounters to define who we are. Through these encounters, our hearts and minds are transformed, guiding us to reflect Christ's love in every aspect of our lives.
- **Eucharistic Life** - We are encouraged to integrate our love for Christ into every aspect of our lives, transforming daily actions into continuous acts of worship and service. As we love Christ more, our lives become configured to his, reflecting his sacrificial love. When we live a Eucharistic life, we join in Christ's self-offering, allowing his love to flow through us to others.
- **Eucharistic Mission** - This Mission is a call to evangelize, boldly spreading the Good News of Christ's Eucharistic love and mercy in word and deed. As our love for Christ deepens, our lives will become increasingly configured to his mission, compelling us to serve others with his heart. We will be drawn to compassionate service, living out our call to be his hands and feet to our neighbors and bringing his presence to the margins.

May God Bless Us Everyone,
Deacon John Murray, Jr.



Once clicking on the link (above), you will see the products below from the Spring Website.



For Your Convenience

We just launched our web site with new merchandise that you can purchase.

Here are the instruction for getting onto the site and a sample of some of the items that are available.

Many of us have the tee shirts, (long and short sleeve), crew neck sweatshirts and for many of us...a long cherished full zip up sweatshirt jacket that we purchased for our NCYC fund raiser years ago.

Now you have a chance to choose from many other colors and styles, as well as glasses, coffee mugs, and wine tumblers.

Just follow the instructions beginning at St. Mary's parish web site.

What are our social concerns? Are there teaching of the Church concerning social concerns? Is there something that I can do?

These are all good questions - especially today. The teachings of the Church today regarding social concerns call us to be Disciples of Christ to all those in both the world as well as our community. Our Social Concerns Committee here at St. Mary's tries to embrace the major themes of our Catholic Church's Social Concerns teachings:

- ◆ Life is Sacred and the Dignity of the Human person is to be respected.
- ◆ All people are to be afforded human rights and challenged to life up to human responsibilities.
- ◆ We are called to emulate God by showing a special preference for those who are poor and weak.
- ◆ Work to continue God's plan for the earth; work is dignified when worker's rights are protected; economy serves the needs of all people.
- ◆ We belong to a global family and are challenged to promote peace and solidarity.
- ◆ We share one planet; we are stewards of God's garden, the earth.

The Church calls us to respond to people's present needs such as hunger, and homelessness. We are called to change systems that perpetuate injustice through advocacy, community organizing and social change organizations.

Through our Social Concerns Committee, here at the Parish of St. Mary, you are accomplishing these teaching. How, may you ask? Here are some things we do and you can do with us...

"Feed My Flock," a walk for hunger in Vermilion is held in April. Canned goods are collected before the walk. The purpose of the wok itself is to make people aware of the hunger that exists right around us.

Regular blood drives are organized to provide much needed blood. Are you able and willing to donate?

Grace's Kitchen prepares meals for the hungry. We do this in cooperation with several of other local churches. Can you donate food items or perhaps your time?

Garden of Grace was established to help provide produce to Grace's Kitchen and others who are in need. Do you enjoy gardening? Extra hands are always welcome. There are so many activities here.

Turkey envelope collection prior to Thanksgiving helps provide a meal for families where perhaps there would be none. What are you thankful for?

The Special Needs Account was established to help assist those in need with their utility or pharmacy bills.

All these and many more not mentioned are projects that our social concerns ministry is involved.

This season you will, once again, be presented with opportunities through the "Giving Tree" to be a Disciple of Christ. Each envelope hanging on the tree will have a picture which corresponds to a particular "NEED" in our community.

The following are the variety of "NEEDS" you will find: Vermilion Food Pantry; Birthright of Lorain County/Heartbeat of Erie County; St. Mary Special Needs Account; Tuition Assistance for PSR/St. Mary School; Grace's Kitchen; Cap Haitian Dental Clinic' Garden of Grace; Bio-Sand Water Filters; Assistance to Veteran's Home. If you feel you can help with one or several of these ministries, consider the words from that familiar song: "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto ME." If you are interested in joining Social Concerns, please contact the parish office at 967-8711.

The following are explanations of the symbols on the Giving Tree:

Garden of Grace: St. Mary provides vegetables and other produce to Grace's Kitchen. The garden is grown on St. Mary's property to the east of the playground, during the growing season. Money collected will help provide raised bed allowing greater return on the plantings and less loss of crops to animals.



Birthright of Lorain County/Heartbeat of Erie County: Both organizations help with women who are in need of assistance and to further the cause of Pro-Life. Money collected will be divided equally between these two organizations.



Bio-Sand Water Filters for Haiti:

A simple device which filters water for individuals and provides efficient, affordable and clean safe water thus combating the spread of water born diseases. St. Mary, as well as other churches in Vermilion, support this effort..



Vermilion Food Pantry: Always in need of non-perishable food items. All churches in Vermilion support this great need. Local distribution place is UCC Church on State Street. Money collected allows them to purchase perishable items.



Special Needs Account: This account helps individuals with bills (utilities and prescription medicine). We get an average of 2-3 people each week seeking this type of assistance.



Grace's Kitchen: Provides meals 2 times a week to area residents. Our church helps prepare and serve meals each month. The money collected helps support this endeavor. Volunteers are always welcome during our week. To volunteer, call Jen Allred at: 1-575-640-3688.



Cap Haitian Dental Clinic: A non-profit organization was founded by two of our parishioners. Its mission is to support the North Haiti Dental Association member dentists so they are able to deliver dental treatments to the public population. We continue to support this mission.



Tuition Assistance for our FFF & our former Students who now attend other Parochial Schools.

We have recognized that there is a need to assist families who are not be able to afford fees for our FFF program or tuition to a Catholic School. The money collected will be equally divided between the two unless noted otherwise.



Assistance to Veteran's Home To buy Christmas gifts to Veterans at Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky such as: Socks, hats, gloves, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, magazines, etc.



My dear parishioners,

We begin a new liturgical season with the season of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting - especially for the coming and arrival of Christ into the world. While we wait, there is a joyful expectation and hope that our faith gives us - the ability to anticipate the celebration that is to come. Sometimes we ask the Lord for certain gifts during the Advent season. We might ask for the grace to be silent and reflective; the strength to fast and pray; the perseverance to wait and be patient.



We have been blessed here at St. Mary Parish with several projects - some that have been completed, and some that we still wait for with eager anticipation. I am very thankful for several individuals who helped make our campus look more beautiful over the summer. I thank Roy Villarreal for disconnecting the electric in the intervention trailer, Deacon John, Denis Greg, Chris Duda, Chris Gallagher, Alan Anderson, Kevin Coughlan, Christian Diehl, Steve Stumphauzer, and Jay Krause for helping tear down the trailer between the Parish Life Center and the Rectory.



Happenings in the Parish Continued...

I thank Deacon John, Jay Krause, Christian Diehl, Steve Stumphauzer, and Steve Schreiner (my Dad), for helping replace the sidewalk in from of the stone parking lot.



I also thank William Matheson for his Eagle Scout Project of relocating the outdoor Stations of the Cross, and Doug Bodde for refurbishing the Stations - after a lot of hard work, they look beautiful.



We are moving forward with the conceptual design phase for the future renovation of our Church. Our RCM Architecture firm has been working closely with the parish feedback given at our listening sessions, along with our Renovation Committee and the Office of Divine Worship in the Diocese. If all goes well, I am hoping to be able to share conceptual artwork and professional renderings of the renovation by this coming January. It is a very exciting process! At this time we are getting closer to the next phase, in which we will be estimating the cost of the renovation, and planning for several fundraising events to help raise money. Please continue to pray for patience, wisdom, and perseverance as we begin a new liturgical year - one that is full of waiting and expectation!

St. Mary Fiscal Year Report: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

PARISH INCOME		
Sunday & Holy Day Collections	\$	561,262
Christmas and Easter Collections		25,599
Other Collections		701
Mass Stipends		6,905
Fish Festival - Other fundraising		5,619
Religious Education and Youth		6,082
Bequests/Special Gifts		6,031
Renovation Income		82,825
Other: Flowers, Candles, etc.		8,871
Maintenance And Upkeep		75,279
Other Misc Income		62,489
Non-Operating Gifts		67,963
Total Income	\$	909,626

PARISH EXPENSES		
Salaries/Payroll		321,370
Payroll Taxes & Benefits		84,435
Altar, Sanctuary, Liturgical		16,070
Religious Education and Youth		21,628
Rectory Expense		3,211
Office Supplies, Telephone, Internet		64,100
Utilities		39,955
Maintenance Supplies		12,146
Services: Trash, Security, Cleaning, etc.		11,794
Repairs		33,018
Insurance, Permits, Other Building		18,490
Diocesan Assessments		55,815
Other Misc Expenses		15,543
Non-Operating Expenses		15,460
Total Expenses	\$	713,035
Parish Net Income	\$	196,591

Parish Checking/Savings/Investments		
Parish Checking/Savings		190,745
Investments at Key Bank		338,555
Catholic Foundation		408,050
Parish Endowment		561,305
Total Cash/Investments	\$	1,498,655

2024 Annual Parish Picnic



Christmas Flowers & Memorial Wall Donations

Donations may be made in memory of your loved ones to our **Christmas Flowers Fund**

(envelopes are in your pack so you can add their names).

You may have your loved one(s) remembered on our **Memorial Wall**.

For the **Memorial Wall**, please print your loved one's name(s) as you want it (them) to appear engraved on the brass plate. **Suggested donation is \$50.00.**

Please mark your envelope "Memorial Wall Donation" and please include your name and phone number.

Christmas blessings!!

Hope

for the
Holidays

December 1st - 1st Sunday of Advent

December 4th - Advent Prayer Service
6:15 Healing Mass followed by
Lessons and Carols

December 8th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 9th - Holy Day Of Obligation
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Masses - 9 am and 7 pm

December 14th - Breakfast with Santa

December 15th - 3rd Sunday of Advent
December 15th - An Evening of Grace
Adoration and Reconciliation - 4 - 6 pm

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every Saturday at 3 - 3:45 pm,
Sunday at 9:45-10:15 am, and Tuesday 5-6 pm.*



We, St. Mary Catholic Parish,
open our doors to you and yours,
this season (and always)!

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS TIMES:

Dec 24 | 4:00 PM

Dec 24 | 6:00 PM

Dec 24 12 Midnight

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Dec 25 | 10:00 AM

ONLY

St. Mary Catholic Parish
731 Exchange Street
Vermilion, OH., 44089

Join us this
Christmas for

Hope

Joy

Inspiration

Blessing

Holy Family Masses

Saturday, December 28 | Vigil Mass - 4:00 PM

Sunday, December 29 - Feast of the Holy Family | 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Tuesday, December 31 | Vigil Mass - 4 PM

Wednesday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Mass: 10 AM ONLY