A PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY
Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees God. Show us your face and we will be saved.

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:

let the Church be your visible face in the world.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. Amen. -Pope Francis

THANK YOU FROM ST. MARY RAS

The ladies of the Rosary Altar Society would like to thank the following with providing us with your help and talent with the Christmas Bazaar that we had this past weekend. It would be impossible for us to do everything that was done without your help.

Thank you to the Lavey Insurance Company of Pinckney for printing the raffle tickets. Your help is so very much appreciated. To all the crafters and vendors, your support and providing us with the beauty seen on your tables gave us many good reasons on why we went home with many bags. Now to all the other ones that are always there for us…Father Bill, the Church staff, Mrs. Kinsey and her staff in the school, the school auction committee, the art teacher and the 6th and 7th grade teachers in providing usage of the classrooms for the day, Mike from maintenance, the confirmation and youth group under the direction of Mel, Maureen and Allison, the students that help by providing the vendors and crafters with food at their tables, the men that worked in the kitchen, the Men’s Club and the Knights of Columbus. We are very Blessed to have all of YOU in making our day so much easier.

We had many parishioners donate Christmas goodies and items. Our Bake Sale Table was kept super busy and ended the day with a sell-out. The Christmas table was another success with many beautiful Christmas items and ended the day with very few items left.

The following is a list of our Raffle donors and the Winners for the day. The Quilt designed, made and donated to us from June Darrow was won by Cindy Plesiewicz. One afghan was designed, made and donated to us from Jan Hollister was won by Pam Asher. The second afghan was designed, made and donated to us from Maryanne Meilak and was won by Jeannette Kiernan. The $100 Gift Card to Busch’s donated from the RAS was won by Maridith Carriveau.

Our parish is very Blessed in many ways and with your help in supporting us, only makes us want to continue being a volunteer here at St. Mary and to continue to take care of our church. Thank you all again and our wishes are that all of our parishioners have a very Blessed Christmas and a wonderful 2016.

St. Mary Catholic School News

Mark your calendar for the next exciting event at St. Mary Catholic School! Miracle at Midnight is the theme of this year’s Annual Christmas Program. This exciting event will take place in the school gym on Thursday, December 17, 2015, at 7:00 pm. We will begin our program with some Christmas tunes featuring our band students, give some money away by drawing winning tickets from our raffle, and then our entire student assembly will present the grand finale of the evening. It is sure to be a great evening that you won’t want to miss and a wonderful way to begin your Christmas celebrations. All are welcome!

THANK YOU

To The St. Mary Family:

Food for the Poor wishes to thank you for the welcome you extended to Fr. Baptiste on our recent visit to your parish. On behalf of our brothers and sisters throughout the Caribbean and Latin America, we thank you for your compassion and care. We are all blessed by and grateful for your generosity.

In Christ,
The Food For The Poor Family

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

October-November Baptisms
Norah Elise Stuk
Natalie Rose Holmberg
Gavin Michael Dicosola
Cadence Lauren Wilson

“And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit’.” - Acts II:16

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

REPOSE:
December 23rd @ 4PM

RESUME:
December 31st @ 5PM

December 13, 2015
RING THE BELL CAMPAIGN

During this season of Thanksgiving, we give special thanks for the faithful support and commitment of parishioners to our parish. We are grateful for the many blessings we have in our parish; for parishioners who actively support our efforts; for parents committed to their children’s formation; and for teachers whose dedication make our mission a reality. Thank you and God bless.

The “Ring the Bell” campaign we are trying to raise $300,000.00; the first $250,000.00 will go directly on the principal of our parish debt, and with the remaining $50,000.00 will be used toward building a simple bell tower.

We continue to need your support for the financial stability of our Parish. Please return your pledge card whether you are pledging over a period of time, or a zero pledge. We as a faith community are praying that every parish family will make a pledge, committing to help us to reach our goal. Please take this to prayer; we are counting on your faithful support. Payments can be made annually, quarterly, monthly, weekly or a one-time donation. Payments can begin now or at a date that is convenient for you.

“Be generous, sharing what you have.” (1 Timothy 6:18)

New donors to St. Mary Catholic Parish Capital Campaign will have the opportunity to have your name(s) placed on the recognition plaque in the gathering space. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Debbie at the parish office 734-878-3161 ext. 219.

Tips for Christmas and Year-End Giving: Many people enjoy using this as a special time to give to their favorite charity or non-profit organization. Year-end gifts can provide many advantages to you, the donor and the receiving organization. St. Mary’s Ring the Bell Campaign and St. Mary Catholic Parish invite you to remember us in your gift giving this year.

Calculate Your Income. Try to get a handle on your tax liability for the year. Did your unearned income increase? Did you sell any appreciated assets: will you owe more taxes? This alone may motivate you to increase your giving before December 31st. In fact you may even want to move some of next year’s giving to this current year in order to create a larger income tax deduction for this year. Non-itemizers may especially find this “grouping of gifts” useful to take possible advantage of an itemized tax return every other year. In any case, by the time you fill out your income tax return in early 2016, it will be too late to make charitable gifts for 2015 tax year. Take the time to do some planning now while you still have an opportunity to make a year-end gift.

Do Your Giving Early. This is especially true if you want to make a gift of non-cash assets (Securities, real estate, etc.). It also applies to life-income gifts (Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts, etc.). Some gift transactions will take more time to finalize than others, so we recommend that you complete your gift sooner rather than later.

Talk to Your Advisor. Before making any significant gift, you should have your attorney, CPA or other advisor help you understand the impact of your gift on your income tax return or estate. The Church wants your giving to be not only generous and joyful, but also as beneficial as possible to you.

Donations must be received or postmarked by December 31st to be eligible for your 2015 taxes.

The parish office will close at 12 noon on December 31st.

December 13, 2015

GREETERS NEEDED

We need additional Greeters for the 11:30 AM Masses. Qualifications are a warm smile and simultaneous welcoming verbal greeting! Yep, that's it. There is no age requirement (whole families can do this ministry), there is no training. The commitment is to come 15 minutes before Mass starts to greet those attending the 11:30 Mass on the one Sunday you are scheduled each month. So easy and fun to do, you get a lot of smiles and warm greetings back. Anyone interested please call Peggy at 734-475-5958.

ATTENTION:

Altar Servers, Lectors / Greeters, & Eucharistic Ministers

The new schedule that starts on January 9, 2016 and ends on May 1, 2016 is now available for pick-up and online. This 17 week schedule includes 16 scheduled weekends and one sign-up opportunity for Easter Weekend (3/26-3/27/16).

Lectors: I want to thank all those who have agreed to continue in this important ministry for 2016 and I want to welcome 6 new lectors to our ranks.

Altar Servers: Thanks go out to all the Altar Servers who are continuing to serve in 2016 and a warm welcome to the 8 new Altar Servers who are joining in this ministry.

Greeters / Altar Servers / Lectors: please pick up a copy of the schedule so you can put the dates you are scheduled to serve on your home calendars.

Eucharistic Ministers are self-scheduling by sign-up and so do not need to pick up a schedule. There are 3 ways to sign up to be a Eucharistic Minister please see page 5 of the Bulletin. Eucharistic Ministers do need to sign in prior to each Mass in the Lay Minister Notebook in Meeting Room A so that we know that we have the number needed before each Mass. PLEASE don’t wait to be asked - come to Meeting Room A when you arrive and VOLUNTEER.

Ushers are self-scheduling by attendance and so do not need to pick up a schedule and do not need to sign in each weekend in the Lay Minister Notebook in Meeting Room A.

On behalf of the St. Mary’s Parish I want to thank all those who serve our faith community as Lay Ministers.

Peggy Clough

ATTN: ADULT MEN OF ST MARY PARISH

St Mary Men’s Club will be meeting this Thursday, December 17th, in Meeting Room A (due to the school Christmas Program) at 7:30pm. The Men’s Club offers a gratifying opportunity to get involved in this wonderful Parish of ours. With each event we sponsor we strive to make a real difference in our Parish and our community. We know your time is valuable, so we do not ask you to commit a large block of time but rather as you are able. We hope you will join us. A light snack and a feeling of making a difference provided. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Bob at 810-623-0300.

December 13, 2015
THAT MAN IS YOU!
Are you looking to deepen your relationship with God? Be a better husband? Become a more loving father? Build friendships with other like-minded men? And seek to be the best man you can be? Then Come Join... That Man is You! Saturday mornings from 7-8:30am. Join us in the New Year. We will resume on January 9th.

WOMEN OF GRACE
Women of Grace Study Program Begins January 10, 2016
The Women of Grace Study Program leads women on an exciting journey to discover the gift of authentic femininity, holiness of life, and woman’s purpose and mission in the world today. Taking the Blessed Virgin Mary as their exemplar and spiritual mother, participants grow in the feminine virtues and the secrets of true fulfillment. The program takes a multi-faceted approach by exploring all aspects of the feminine person including her spirituality, psychology, emotional reality, and physical being. We will begin with the Women of Grace foundational study series entitled: Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life. An organizational meeting will be held in St. Mary’s multi-use room on Sunday, December 13th at 1pm, to answer questions and determine how many study materials are needed. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact Connie Knieper at (734) 954-0094 or by email at clknieper@gmail.com.

THE LETTERS
NOW SHOWING AT
BRIGHTON MJR & QUALITY 16 - ANN ARBOR
MOTHER TERESA, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, is considered one of the greatest humanitarians of modern times. Her selfless commitment changed hearts, lives and inspired millions throughout the world. THE LETTERS, as told through personal letters she wrote over the last 40 years of her life, reveal a troubled and vulnerable woman who grew to feel an isolation and an abandonment by God. The story is told from the point of view of a Vatican priest charged with the task of investigating acts and events following her death. He recounts her life’s work, her political oppression, her religious zeal and her unbreakable spirit.

A WINTER WONDERLAND: NEW YEAR PARTY
December 31, 2015, 7pm to midnight
St. Agnes, Fowlerville
Dinner, Champagne, Cash Bar, Music & Dancing
Tickets: $30 per person. Please call: 517-223-8684

SAVE THE DATE!!
Livingston County’s 9th Annual
COMMUNITY CONNECT
Saturday, February 6, 2016
Howell Parker Middle School
A Free One-Day Event to Help People Connect to Information and Services
Benefits Information, Financial Services, Free Lunch, Legal Consultation, Senior Services, Health Screenings, Baby Items, Haircuts, Books, Clothing, and much more...

Surprise your spouse with the perfect Christmas gift. Plan to attend the 6th Annual Marriage Enrichment Conference Fighting For Your Marriage ... Together
Featured Speaker: Dr. Ray Guarendi Saturday, February 6, 2016
St. Patrick Catholic Church, Brighton MI
To register and for more information, visit www.idoforlife.org

SALUTE TO THE STARS!
Tickets will be on sale beginning December 10, 2015 (would make great stocking-stuffers!) for Livingston County Catholic Charities Annual Salute to the Stars and Celebrity Dance Competition. Our 2016 celebrity dance teams are:
- Kate & Terry Braciszewski (Ann Arbor Rehabilitation Centers)
- Karen & Carlos Garza (Liv. Cty. Catholic Charities Board Member)
- Crystal Wietecha & Jim Metz (LOC Federal Credit Union & Law Offices of James Metz II)
- Amanda & Ethan Whitesell (Lansing State Journal, Michigan.com and MBS Envision, Inc.)

There will be one overall winning team that night based on the judge’s scores and a community favorite award which will be awarded to the team with the most votes both on-line and at the event. Stay tuned for more information to come regarding the on-line voting which will open February 15, 2016.
The event will be held on March 12, 2016 at Crystal Gardens in Howell. Tickets are $60/person or $440/table of 8. For more information, to sponsor the event or to purchase your tickets, contact Julie Amman at 517-545-5944. Individual tickets can also be purchased on-line through Eventbrite at www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org starting December 10, 2015.

How is God preparing you personally to receive the coming of Christ?
What selfish perspectives and habits clutter up your ability to say yes?

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us,
that the Spirit may open our hearts to receive and to live God’s word fully, according to the divine plan.
If you want to understand the Catholic Faith better and/or strengthen your relationship with God, please join us!

12/16: Session 7: The Holy Spirit & the Life of Grace
01/20: Session 8: Why Do I Need the Church?
01/27: Session 9: Mary & the Saints **meet in Church

All sessions will be held from 7-8:30pm in the multi-use room unless otherwise indicated.

If St. Mary School is cancelled due to bad weather (not holidays) we will NOT meet.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS
Special Collection: December 13, 2015
The aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies – often for little pay. Their sacrifices leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime!

Faith Formation
Kindergarten - Confirmation
www.stmarypinckney.org

Religious Education
http://www.stmarypinckney.org/#/faith-formation/formation-prek-12-grade

Faith Formation K-8 Schedule
12/13: K-8 Formation 10:15-11:20am
12/20 & 12/27: NO CLASS – Our Savior Is Born!
01/03: NO CLASS – Happy New Year!
01/10: K-8 Formation 10:15-11:20am

Confirmation
12/13: Confirmation Session 9am-1pm
01/10: Confirmation Session 9am-1pm

An evangelization community bridges distances and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others.

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL
Emmanuel, God-with-us, this Advent I anticipate your birth as the Prince of Peace: such expectations, such excitement, such joy!

At the same time, such a sobering reality as I reflect on the other side of what your coming among us means: experiencing the same sorrow, suffering, anguish, failure that sometimes accompany my days. May I always be grateful that you have embraced all aspects of my life. Amen. May it be so!

READ Matthew 17:10-13
Pope Francis
Living Advent with Joy & Peace

December 13, 2015
MASS INTENTIONS

**Sunday, December 13th**

9:00am: In Memory of Stanley Cach by Herman Hessling & family

11:30am: For Our Parish

**Monday, December 14th**

9:00am: Communion Service

**Tuesday, December 15th**

9:00am: Communion Service

5:00pm: In Memory of Glenn Kinsey by Fran Kinsey

**Wednesday, December 16th**

9:00am: In Memory of Tom Kochan by Hartubise family

5:00pm: In Memory of Jean Schmidt by Paula Pisaneschi

**Friday, December 18th**

9:00am: In Memory of Therese Trierweiler by family

**Saturday, December 19th**

5:00pm: For Our Parish

**Sunday, December 20th**

9:00am: In Memory of Bob Bensinger by Bensinger family

11:30am: In Loving Memory of Robert Casey by Marlene Casey (25th Anniversary)

WEEKLY READINGS December 13-19:

**Sunday:**
The Third Sunday of Advent
Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

**Monday:**
St. John of the Cross, Priest & Dr. of the Church
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Advent Weekday
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Advent Weekday
Is 45:6b-8, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Late Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2-8a-10; Mt 1:1-17

**Friday:** Late Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

**Saturday:** Late Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

LAY MINISTERS: Dec. 19-20

Communion Service Leaders
Dec. 14: D. Hall Dec. 15: R. Boos

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist
5:00pm 9:00am 11:30am
*Self-Scheduling by Sign-Up.
*Sign-Up In Meeting Room A.

Altar Servers:
5:00pm J. Hummel, G. Liddy, J. Peltier
9:00am M. Schultz, Z. LeVasseur, N. LeVasseur
11:30am J. Burke, B. Burke, G. Bylski

Proclaimers of the Word
5:00pm R. Gass, S. Jaskinski
9:00am D. Backlund, D. Schultz
11:30am T. Burke, L. Lichwala

Greeters
5:00pm J&L Wallace
9:00am Kuczajda family
11:30am R. Hall, L. Read

Offertory Gifts
*Please sign up if you’re available.

Home Chalice Program
*Please sign up if you’re available.

Linens:
December: F. Kinsey, L. Lavey

Cleaning the Altar
S. Katon

Collection Counters:
Dec. 14: D. Tryon, N. Rickelmann, C. Hazel
Dec. 21: R. Miller, B. Zielinski, D. Backlund

“Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the members of our community and for all who are in need. Heal our sick and protect our military.

In your loving name, Amen.”

December 13, 2015