

A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Parish Family,

The Fourth Sunday of Advent brings us to the threshold of the Christmas Season. In these final hours of the Advent Season, the Gospel reading for this Sunday takes us to the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38). Mary's obedience to the will of God stands in stark contrast to the disobedience of Adam and Eve. Indeed, our Blessed Mother's example serves as the perfect example of discipleship for a world that all too often assumes that God does not even exist.

As we make our preparations for Christmas and the season that follows, let's never lose sight of the One who must be our focus in every season – Jesus Christ our Lord. I pray that you and your loved ones will enjoy a peaceful and blessed Christmas season. May the one, true God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, enlighten your mind and fill your heart with the grace and peace of the Savior who came in humility. May the love and mercy of the Savior who will come again in glory give you comfort and hope in all the seasons of your life.

May God bless you.

Fr. Dan Redmond

HAPPY FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“May the eyes of [your] hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones ...” Ephesians 1:18

AND

MERRY CHRISTMAS, PARISH FAMILY!

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

Hope

In His joy,

The Women of the Well Ministry (WOW)

Legacy Giving

Christ is born, the angels sing and the world rejoices! Celebrate the joyous occasion of Christ's birth with a legacy gift to benefit St. Mary's Parish.

ATTENTION SERVERS

Mary, Mother of God [Jan. 1st] are now available in the Community Room. Please sign-up for these special Masses.



Calling all Men – adults and teens. Join us for our December **Men on a Journey!** Monthly Prayer and Discussion group.

We will meet **Saturday morning December 30th at 7:00 am at St. Mary, Chardon.**

Since it is the eve-of-the-eve of the New Year, we can “pray out” 2017 and “pray in” 2018.

Hope to see you there!

Any questions, contact
Gary Burling gt2784@roadrunner.com.

Art and Environment



Volunteers are needed to take down the Christmas decorations and prepare the church for ordinary time. We will meet on **Tuesday, January 9th from 9:00am—12 Noon**

Please contact Judi Parker at jparker@stmarychardon.org or 440-313-4040 for more details or if you can help.

A Letter from the Principal



Dear Families and Friends

All of us at St. Mary School wish you and yours a very Blessed and Merry Christmas! May the love, joy, and peace of the Christ-child fill your hearts and homes today and all year long! We are so blessed in our school to have your support! Not a day goes by that we don't appreciate this in thought and prayer. We look forward to serving this community in faith formation and education for many years to come.

I would also like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to the many people, committees, and organizations that help us keep our school innovative and academically excellent. Thank you to our PTU. Your selfless support to our teachers and students helps make our dreams a reality! Thank you to our STEM Board! You help make the dreams and wishes become concrete and tangible projects and activities. Thank you to our partners – both in and outside of this community! You are our inspiration and you help our vision to grow and expand. Thank you to the Boosters and CYO Sports for helping stay well-rounded and healthy. Lastly, but most importantly, thank you to Fr. Redmond for his unwavering support and spiritual guidance that is so willingly given to the school community! Thank you, one and all!

St. Mary School is on Christmas vacation from December 21 – January 3rd. Classes resume on January 4th. Please note that there will be no all-school Mass on January 5th.

Merry Christmas,

Mary Petelin

Principal



Dear Science Fair Judges,
On **Saturday, January 27, 2018, Saint Mary's School in Chardon, Ohio**, will be hosting our Science Fair for grades seven and eight. If you are interested in judging, please email me as soon as possible. The fair will be held from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Lunch will be provided for all judges.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please email at sallin@stmaryschoolchardon.org.

Also, if you know anyone that would be interested in helping, please feel free to forward my email. Thank you and have a wonderful day and I am looking forward to hearing from all of you.



Empty Nesters Pot Luck Breakfast
Sunday, January 7, 2018
9:15 a.m.—ABC Room

The Annual Empty Nesters Meeting will be held in the ABC Room. We will plan the agenda for 2018 and your input is important. Please plan on attending this meeting.

Call Beth Ryan at 286-9080 for reservations for breakfast.

We need breakfast items such as casseroles, juice, fruit, donuts, muffins, etc...

At this meeting we will be discussing events for 2018. Dues can be paid at this time. \$15.00 per couple, \$10. per person.

**PART-TIME
HELP WANTED**

PART-TIME JOB OPENING: St. Mary Parish is in need of a part-time evening cleaning person. The hours for this job would be from 5:30 – 9:00 pm, Monday – Friday. The job would

entail cleaning the school and church areas, closing the building at 9:00 and the occasional set up of a room. Please call Michaela Boehnlein, Parish facilities manager, at 440-286-8879 for more details and to set up a time for an interview.



PRO LIFE: *The fundamental human right, the presupposition of every other right, is the right to life itself. This is true of life from the moment of conception*

until its natural end. Abortion, consequently, cannot be a human right — it is the very opposite. It is a deep wound in society."

-Pope Benedict XVI

Please continue to pray for life from conception to natural death especially in this beautiful season of love when our Lord came to us as a newborn child. Benedict XVI



The American Heritage Girls, Troop 0433, is having a **shoe drive**. They are collecting new and gently used shoes to benefit micro-enterprises around the world. Their goal is

to collect 2,500 pairs of shoes and they need your help. Please look through your closets to find any shoes you do not need. The troop will accept shoes for any season and any type of shoe as long as they are wearable. There is a drop off box located in the gathering space.

You may contact Mitzi Madej@ [madej44060@gmail.com](mailto:majej44060@gmail.com).

Mark your 2018 calendar!
Vacation Bible School
June 25-29
"Shipwrecked
Rescued by Jesus"

LIFE**TEEN**

Merry Christmas! As we are getting ready to end the Life Teen semester, the last 5:30 pm Mass will be on Sunday December 17th. However, we will continue with Sunday Life Nights, for the teens, going into the next semester. Our first Life Night after the Christmas break will resume, on **Sunday January 7th**, and we are possibly deciding on a start time of 6:00 pm, and a possible end time of 8:15 pm. However, we will be confirming that time frame, so please watch the bulletin for that information. Also, the structure of the Life Nights will still stay the same as we continue to provide dinner for the teens before we start the Life Night.

Also, if anyone has any questions about Life Teen, donating food gift cards or donating a meal to assist with food every week, please contact us at lifeteen@stmarychardon.org.

Thank you for supporting Life Teen and we wish all of you a joyful and hopeful Advent season! Sincerely, Sherry and Chris Loxterman and the entire Core Team.



Help with our Junior High STEM project

The junior high is in need of over 1500 empty and rinsed 2-liter bottles. There will be a large container in the gathering space for the 2-liter to be collected. Thank you for your support.

Community News

Retrouvaille Weekend – January 19-21, 2018 - A Lifeline for Troubled Marriages

Has your marriage become unloving or uncaring – your relationship cold, distant – thinking about a separation or divorce? Are you already separated/divorced but both of you want to try again? Then the Retrouvaille program may help. RETROUVAILLE (rediscovery), which is supported by the Catholic diocese of Cleveland, but open to couples of all faiths, consists of a weekend experience for couples and six follow up sessions. A registration fee of \$150 is required to confirm your reservation. For more information concerning the program, or to register, please call Marce or Liz Gliha at 440.357.6580 or 1.800.470.2230, or go online to www.helpourmarriage.org.

Jesuit Retreat House—Parma

January Individually Directed Retreat (IDR). January 7 – 14. Spiritual Directors: Sr. Peggy Duffy, OSU and Fr. Matt Roche, SJ. A sacred silence is a gift to the soul. You will experience silence on 57 acres of woods and meadows, complete with outdoor shrines and stations of the cross. The retreat house provides a home away from home with three chapels, a library, and home-cooked meals. As a companion on your journey, your spiritual director will offer guidance based on Ignatian Spirituality. Cost: \$575. To register contact 440-884-9300 or visit www.jrh-cleveland.org.



Holiday Helps for the Divorced and Separated

Divorced or Separated? Wondering what the New Year will bring? Join us for this special program intended to offer practical advice, support, and the skills to move forward. We will meet **Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 pm, on January 4th and 11th, 2018, at St. Noel Church,**

35200 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills. To register or for more info: call Karen @ 440-352-8282 or email: kjubeck@st-gabriel.org

*MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM OUR FAMILY TO
YOURS!
BLESSINGS & LOVE*