

OUR LADY OF THE HILLS

The Catholic Community of Adams and Highland Counties

ST. MARY CHURCH

212 S. High St. • Hillsboro, OH 45133

937-840-9932

Masses Sat. 5:30 p.m. Sun. 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Tues. 9:15 a.m. Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH

204 S. Second St. • Greenfield, OH 45123

937-981-2785 • stbenignus@gmail.com

Masses Sat. 3:30 p.m. Sun. 12:00 p.m.

Tues. 11:00 a.m. Fri. 12:00 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

612 E. Mulberry St. • West Union, OH 45693

937-544-2757

secretary@holytrinity-ac.org

Masses Sat. 5:00 p.m. Sun. 11:00 a.m.

Mon. 7:00 p.m. Wed. 9:00 a.m. Fri 12:00 p.m.

ST. MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN CHURCH

205 Wendell Ave. • Peebles, OH 45660

937-544-2757

secretary@holytrinity-ac.org

Masses Sun. 8:30 a.m.

Tues. 9:00 a.m. Thurs. 9:00 a.m.

FR. MIKE PARANIUK, PASTOR

937-403-2510 • edbourdase@yahoo.com

FR. MARK BREDESTEGE, VICAR

937-637-8035 • frbredestege@holytrinity-ac.org

FAMILY WEBSITE

<http://www.ourladyofthehillsoh.com>



ST. MARY CHURCH • HILLSBORO
ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH • GREENFIELD



ST. MARY PROGRAM CONTACTS

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:

George Sakash
Phone: 937-205-0919

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Grand Knight, Jim Hehl
Phone: 937-661-4835

OCIA:

Joyce Combs
Phone: 937-403-6708

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (GRADES PRE-K THRU 12TH)

Michelle Vanzant Salyer
Phone: 937-840-9932
Email: stmarycre119@gmail.com

CHOIR/MUSIC DIRECTOR

Lynn Turner
Phone: 937-763-8522

PRO-LIFE REPRESENTATIVE:

Mary Tamborski
Phone: 937-205-4458

ST. MARY CHURCH OFFICE & ST. MARY PRESCHOOL:

Leah Salyer, Administrative Assistant & Beacons of Light
Office: 937-840-9932
Cell: (937) 205-3038
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ST. BENIGNUS PROGRAM CONTACTS

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Gene DeBruin
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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Grand Knight, Bruce Bennett, Sr.
Phone: 740-463-3406

OCIA

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PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Chyane Collins
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Phone: 740-572-2085
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CHOIR/MUSIC DIRECTOR

Kristy Bockrath
Phone: 937-361-6590
Email: krbockr@icloud.com

LADIES AUX

President: Paula Miller
Phone: 937-876-9883

ST. BENIGNUS CEMETERY

Phone: 937-981-2785
Email: stbenignus@gmail.com

PRO-LIFE REPRESENTATIVE

Mary Tamborski
Phone: 937-205-4458

ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH OFFICE

Phone: 937-981-2785
Email: stbenignus@gmail.com

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
AUGUST 25, 2024**

CONFESSION (RECONCILIATION): CONFESSION IS AVAILABLE BEFORE THE MASSES OR BY APPOINTMENT.

**ROSARY EVERY SUNDAY AT 7:40 A.M. AT ST. MARY CHURCH
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024**

8:00 a.m. St. Mary Isidor & Lydia Brown (Lydia Breckel)
Marian Markland
(Joseph Markland & Jesse Caplinger)
10:00 a.m. Mary, Queen of Heaven
11:30 a.m. Holy Trinity Church

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

6:00 p.m. Holy Trinity Church Confession
7:00 p.m. Holy Trinity Church

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024

9:00 a.m. Mary, Queen of Heaven – Communion Service Only
9:15 a.m. St. Mary Sally Frydryk (Jane Ann Cadwallader)
11:30 a.m. St. Benignus – Communion Service Only

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2024

9:00 a.m. Holy Trinity Church – Communion Service Only

**3RD THURSDAY MASS EVERY MONTH IS DEDICATED TO PRO-LIFE
HOLY HOUR EVERY THURSDAY AT ST. MARY CHURCH**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024

Noon Mary, Queen of Heaven
6:00 p.m. Exposition at St. Mary
6:30 p.m. Recitation of the Rosary at St. Mary
6:50 p.m. Benediction at St. Mary
7:00 p.m. St. Mary Thomas Moran (Margaret Hudson)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2024

11:00 a.m. Holy Trinity Church – Eucharistic Adoration
Noon Holy Trinity Church
Noon St. Benignus – Communion Service Only

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET BEFORE MASS AT 5:10 P.M. AT ST. MARY CHURCH

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2024

3:30 p.m. St. Benignus Alfred Seigle (Dan & Teresa Allison)
5:30 p.m. St. Mary Mary Hovan (Thomas & Linda Hovan)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024

8:00 a.m. St. Mary Deacon Len Parker (Jeff & Sandy Kilbarger)
10:00 a.m. Mary, Queen of Heaven
11:30 a.m. Holy Trinity Church

**FAMILY WEBSITE!! <http://www.ourladyofthehillsoh.com>
Celebrant for Our Lady of The Hills Masses: Fr. Mike Paraniuk**

ST. MARY COLLECTION – AUGUST 18, 2024

Weekly Need	\$	7,200.00
Weekly Collection.....	\$	3,409.00
Variance	\$	-3,791.00
FISCAL YEAR NEED	\$	47,600.00
FISCAL YEAR COLLECTED	\$	32,943.00
VARIANCE.....	\$	-14,657.00

ST. BENIGNUS COLLECTION – AUGUST 18, 2024

Weekly Need	\$	2,900.00
Weekly Collection.....	\$	2,967.00
Variance	\$	+67.00
FISCAL YEAR NEED	\$	16,300.00
FISCAL YEAR COLLECTED	\$	13,057.00
VARIANCE.....	\$	-3,243.00

Thank You for your Generosity!

****Fr. Mike has increased the weekly need for each church based on the financial standing.
Church year financial summary will be forthcoming for each church in the bulletin****

“Even when God’s will does not correspond to your own desires, it is always beneficial for you.”— St. Arnold Janssen

ST. MARY CHURCH BINGO

**** Volunteers Needed for Bingo** – Bingo teams are short a few people. **We really need help!** Even if you can only work before Bingo starts (5:30-7:00 p.m.), that would be great. All teams could use extra hands to help with this ministry. If you could work on a team or just work a few hours, all help is welcome! Contact Michelle Salyer at 937-840-8655 for more information.

Bingo Team 1 (September 6, 2024)

Michelle Salyer, Jane Horne, Ann Lerch, Barb Rayburn, Taryn Hastings, Josh Pohlman

PRAYER REQUEST

Please keep **Archbishop Schnurr** in your prayers. His health overall is good, but can use the support and prayers of the faithful.



DATES TO REMEMBER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024

2:30 p.m. St. Benignus Parish Council Meeting, Religious Ed. Bldg. – **St. Benignus**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

7:00 p.m. Outdoor Farm Mass at 10550 State Route 247, West Union, OH 45693
(Our Lady of The Hills Family of Parishes)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

6:00 p.m. OCIA (Formerly called RCIA) – St. Mary Parish Meeting Room – **St. Mary**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

6:30 p.m. Ladies Aux. Meeting – Religious Ed. Bldg. – **St. Benignus**
7:30 p.m. St. Mary Parish Council Meeting – St. Mary Parish Meeting Room – **St. Mary**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

8:45-9:50 a.m. **PSR-St Mary**
1:00 p.m. **Our Lady of The Hills Highland County Picnic** – Mitchell Park,
753 S. 7th Street, Greenfield, OH 45123
TBD **PSR Open House – St. Benignus**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

7:30 p.m. Stewardship & Evangelization Team Meeting –
St. Mary Parish Meeting Room – **St Mary**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

After 8:00 a.m. Mass Lector, Server, Eucharist Minister Training at **St. Mary**

OUR LADY OF THE HILLS FAMILY

OLOTH VISION STATEMENT

The OLOTH Family is committed to live out this Vision:

At Our Lady of the Hills Catholic Family, our vision is to be a vibrant community that radiates love and compassion, grounded in prayer, and guided by the Holy Spirit. We strive to be a beacon of hope and refuge for all who seek God’s Grace, welcoming all with open hearts and unwavering faith in Jesus.

STEWARDSHIP & EVANGELIZATION TEAMS MEETING

Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. – Library/Meeting Room – **St. Mary – Hillsboro**

HELP NEEDED

DO YOU FEEL THE CALL TO DO MORE AT MASS?

Lector – readings at Mass

Server – assist the priest at Mass

Eucharist Minister – assist the priest with distributing the Holy Eucharist and Precious Blood during Mass.

A training session will be held on **Sunday, September 22 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, at St. Mary.**

If interested or need more information, contact the church office at 937-840-9932.

Would you like to work with the older youth in our parish? We are looking for a Youth Group Leader at St. Benignus Church. Students are 6th through 12th grade. Typically meet once per month. Please call/text Chyane at 740-572-2101, if you’re interested!

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Remember in your prayers those parishioners or their family or friends who are sick, in a hospital, nursing home, homebound or in need of prayers...

ST. BENIGNUS & ST. MARY PRAYER LIST

Archbishop Schnurr, Jeff Thoroman, Judy Hagerty, Matt Scheeler, David Tolle, Brittany Kinzer, Eric Arrington, Paula Miller, Claudia Frank, Jeff Hadley, Becky Hiser, Theresa Shackelford, Cathy Thompson, Teresa Staten, Edna Maxwell, Jean Smith, Howard Smith, Ron Speakman, Linda Strahler, Dick Lester, Linda Bradford, Jean Barnes, Emily Konerman, Jonda Davidson, Kaleb Fraizer, Kaye Miller, Joe Wright, Kirk Wuellner

**** To Add/Remove from Parish Prayer List, please inform the office (937-840-9932 St. Mary) or leave a note in the collection basket. (St. Benignus Church Office, 937-981-2785) ****

BULLETIN DEADLINE

****Please submit by Monday 10:00 a.m.** in writing or e-mail justleahatstmary@gmail.com or submit in my mailbox located at the front of the school or call the office at 937-840-9932.**

FR. LUEHRMANN HALL

\$60,294.33 Debt on Fr. Luehrmann Hall



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

- August 25 – Diane Jolitz
- August 26 – Bryce Corns, Jennifer Howland
- August 27 – Keith Addington, Dave Gunderman
- August 29 – Callum Fullenkamp, Ryan Howland, Joseph Lane, Mary Tamborski, Joseph York
- August 30 – Jim Powell
- September 1 – Isabella Tesmer, Anthony Hawk
- September 2 – Kristy Bockrath, Rebecca Gillespie
- September 3 – Annette Houck, Harley Pack, Cathy Shanahan
- September 6 – Mary Bradley, Wendy Culbreath
- September 7 – Emily Davis, Tara Karnes, Rudy Thomsen, Jr.
- September 8 – Ethan Howard
- September 9 – Jack Cornele
- September 10 – Cathy Givens, John Mayer, Ana Lopez, Chris Salyer
- September 11 – Jerry Leibold, George Worley
- September 14 – Kathy Hutchens, Jinny Wendel
- September 15 – Mary Frump, Sarah Smith

**ST MARY CHURCH - PARISH AND CEMETERY ACTIVITY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

CHURCH	YTD ACTUAL
SUNDAYS AND HOLYDAYS	\$ 295,984.98
BEQUESTS	\$ 36,321.05
DONATIONS	\$ 13,430.00
VOTIVE LIGHTS	\$ 2,239.75
MASS STIPENDS	\$ 1,658.00
REBATE – CATHOLIC COMM FOUND	\$ 1,110.00
BINGO	\$ 6,921.00
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS	\$ 9,202.82
RENTAL INCOME	\$ 220.00
OTHER INCOME	\$ 618.46
TOTAL CHURCH INCOME	\$ 370,705.51

CEMETERY

DONATIONS	\$ 661.00
CEMETERY FEE INCOME	\$ 1,450.00
INTEREST	\$ 731.12
TOTAL CEMETERY INCOME	\$ 2,842.12
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 373,547.63

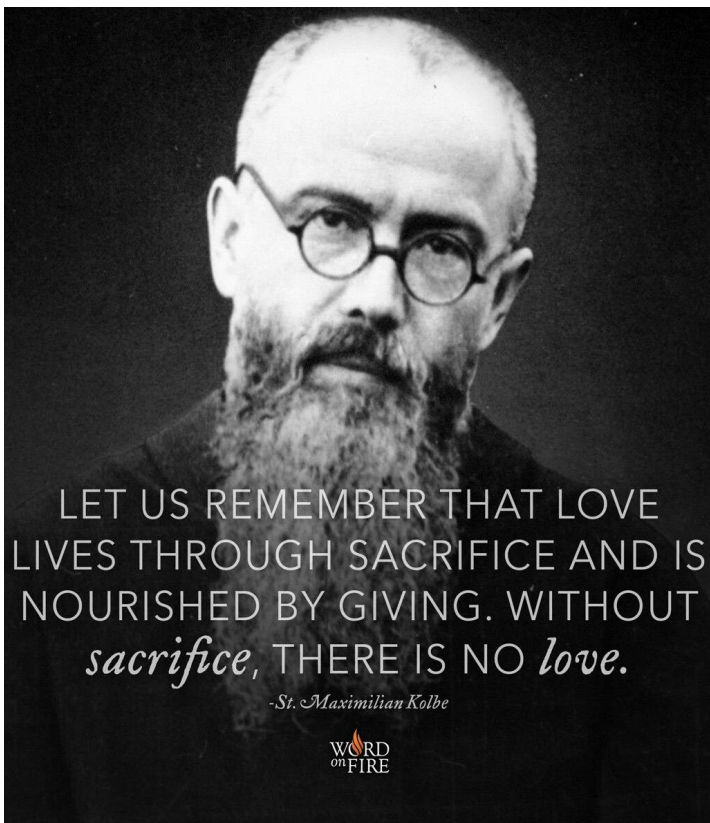
CHURCH	YTD ACTUAL
PRIESTS COMPENSATION	\$ 20,329.00
EXTRA CLERGY COMPENSATION	\$ 100.00
LAY EMPLOYEES - STAFF WAGES	\$ 63,461.50
PAYROLL TAXES	\$ 7,098.07
HEALTH INSURANCE	\$ 3,959.32
PRIESTS PENSION	\$ 4,125.00
LAY PENSION	(\$ 839.40)
PRIEST LIVING EXPENSES	\$ 6,175.00
EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS	\$ 35,653.37
BLDG REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 20,899.39
JANITORIAL SERVICES & SUPPLIES	\$ 2,443.78
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	\$ 5,910.00
PROPERTY/LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$ 8,609.46
PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 2,036.92
UTILITIES	\$ 48,137.58
TRAVEL & MEAL EXPENSE	\$ 3,303.69
COLLECTION ENVELOPES	\$ 2,476.82
SUPPLIES	\$ 11,716.74
POSTAGE	\$ 996.81
COPYING AND PRINTING	\$ 2,736.54
TELEPHONE/INTERNET/CABLE TV	\$ 4,633.67
SERVICE CHARGES	\$ 40.18
FOOD AND BEVERAGES	\$ 2,016.29
MARKETING	\$ 160.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS AND REFERENCE	\$ 3,007.14
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$ 5,634.95
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	\$ 49.00
INTEREST EXPENSE	\$ 5,484.09
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 681.86
DONATIONS	\$ 0.00
GENERAL ASSESSMENT	\$ 38,982.00
TEXTBOOKS	\$ 0.00
STUDENT ACTIVITY EXPENSES	\$ 0.00
TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSE	\$ 310,018.77

CEMETERY

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$ 730.80
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	\$ 8,775.00
ELECTRICITY AND GAS	\$ 780.36
SERVICE CHARGES	\$ 3.00
TOTAL CEMETERY EXPENSE	\$ 10,289.16
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 320,307.93
EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF INCOME	\$ 53,239.70

**ST. MARY CHURCH
ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	YTD ACTUAL
TUITION FROM PARISH FAMILIES	\$ 4,083.23
TUITION NON-PARISH AFFILIATED FAMILIES	\$ 28,514.00
TUITION FROM VOUCHER PROGRAM	\$ 8,291.85
ADMINISTRATIVE COST REIMBURSEMENT	\$ 0.00
FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES	\$ 1,079.84
DONATIONS	\$ 3,141.98
BEQUESTS - SCHOOLS	\$ 0.00
RENTAL INCOME	\$ 100.00
OTHER INCOME	\$ 154.00
INTEREST	\$ 432.96
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 45,797.86
LAY EMPLOYEES – STAFF WAGES	\$ 41,885.32
FICA TAX EMPLOYER	\$ 3,533.38
HEALTH INSURANCE	\$ 0.00
LAY PENSION	\$ 2,788.74
EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS	\$ 338.46
SUPPLIES	\$ 1,008.46
POSTAGE	\$ 0.00
FOOD AND BEVERAGES 442.53	\$ 0.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS AND REFERENCE	\$ 399.60
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	\$ 380.65
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$ 0.00
INTEREST EXPENSE	\$ 290.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 120.00
STUDENT ACTIVITY EXPENSES	\$ 51,187.14
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ (5,389.28)
EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF INCOME	



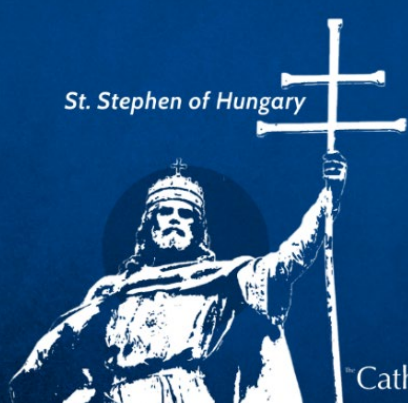
LET US REMEMBER THAT LOVE
LIVES THROUGH SACRIFICE AND IS
NOURISHED BY GIVING. WITHOUT
sacrifice, THERE IS NO *love*.

-St. Maximilian Kolbe

**WORD
on FIRE**

**Be humble in this life, that God
may raise you up in the next.**

St. Stephen of Hungary



Catholic Company

ST. MARY CHURCH, HILLSBORO – CONFIRMATION MASS

Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Bernie Weldishofer, our Dean from St. Columbkille, will be the celebrant.

Sunday, October 13, 2024

11:00 a.m. Knights of Columbus St. Benignus
Meeting in Father Lay Hall
Grand Knight: Bruce Bennett, Sr.
Contact: 740-463-3406



OCIA

The OCIA team is looking for volunteers to help. If you feel the call to this ministry or would like more information, contact Michelle Salyer at 937-840-8655 or Joyce Combs at 937-403-6708. O.C.I.A. First Meeting – (Formerly called R.C.I.A.) The 2024-2025 preparation for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults will begin after the County Fair. We will hold our first meeting on **Wednesday, September 11, at 6:00 p.m.**, in the parish library. (Enter using the single door on the Walnut Street side of the building. There will be an “O.C.I.A.” sign on the door.) This meeting is for anyone interested in investigating the Catholic faith in order to join the Church, or anyone who just wants to deepen their understanding of the oldest Christian Church, which was instituted by Jesus the Christ Himself. If you are interested, please contact Joyce or Cindy. If you hear the Lord calling, please do not pass up this opportunity to answer Him. God’s peace and blessing to you all. Joyce Combs – 937-764-2030 / Cindy Sprauer – 513-571-1431.

iVoteCatholic

WEEK 4: Life and Dignity of the Human Person: As a gift from God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. The life and dignity of every person must be respected and protected at every stage and in every condition. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. Not only must human life not be taken, but it must be protected with loving concern. Society as a whole must respect, defend and promote the dignity of the human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person’s life. (St John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, no. 81) We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person. Every economic decision and institution must be judged in light of whether it protects or undermines the life and dignity of the human person. (The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, Economic Justice for All, no. 13)

During this fourth week, we focus on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person, which is also the focus of Respect Life Sunday. The Church teaches that we are all created in the image and likeness of God. Because of this fact, every human life is sacred. Every life is worth living. There is nothing anyone can do to take this dignity away. All of our Catholic social teaching flows from this principle. People are more important than things. Under this principle fall issues such as abortion, racism, war and terrorism, the death penalty, and assisted suicide.

We have challenging work ahead of us! During this election season, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will be offering prayers, scripture, quotes, family activities and discerning questions through the lens of the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching to aid the discerning vote. We will not be telling you for whom or what to vote. We will be encouraging careful discernment, intentional prayer, and a universal call to holiness and compassion to inform your voting. Find out more at www.iVoteCatholic.org Contact Andrew Musgrave at amusgrave@catholicaoc.org with any questions.



FALL HERITAGE FESTIVAL – THE CHATFIELD EDGE

The Annual Brown County fall event features car, quilt, and craft shows and offers fun for the whole family. Mark your calendars now and check back for application and ticket details. chatfieldedge.org

COME SHARE CATHOLIC FAITH IN THE COUNTRY!

You are invited to join us for an outdoor Mass at the farm home of Byron and Dawn Brodt on **Friday, September 6, at 7:00 p.m.** Their farm is located at 10550 State Route 247, West Union, OH 45693. The Mass is being sponsored by Our Lady of the Hills Family of Parishes. In case of inclement weather, Mass will be moved to Holy Trinity Catholic Church in West Union. Please bring a chair and a snack to share. For more information, contact Patrick Hornschemeier, Chairperson of Southeast Catholic Rural Life, at 513-752-0647.

OUR LADY OF THE HILLS MASS SCHEDULE

AUGUST 25TH THRU AUGUST 31ST

Sunday August 25, 2024

8:00am -Mass-St Mary
10:00am-Mass- Mary Queen of Heaven
11:30am- Mass-Holy Trinity Church

Monday August 26, 2024

6:00pm- Confession- Holy Trinity Church
7:00pm-Mass Holy Trinity Church

Tuesday August 27, 2024

9:00am- Communion Service Only- Mary Queen of Heaven
9:15am- Mass - St Mary
11:30am- Communion Service Only-St. Benignus

Wednesday August 28, 2024

9:00am- Communion Service Only- Holy Trinity Church

Thursday August 29, 2024

Noon- Mass- Mary Queen of Heaven
6:00pm- Exposition/Rosary/Benediction- St Mary
7:00pm- Mass- St Mary

Friday August 30, 2024

11:00am- Eucharistic Adoration- Holy Trinity Church
Noon- Mass-Holy Trinity Church
Noon-Communion Service Only - St. Benignus

Saturday August 31, 2024

3:30pm- Mass- St Benignus
5:30pm- Mass- St Mary



Questions/Requests: Call Kristy Bockrath at 937-361-6590 or email krbockr@icloud.com. If you cannot attend as scheduled, please find a substitute.

ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH	SATURDAY, AUGUST 24TH – 3:30 P.M. MASS
SACRISTAN	<i>Needed</i>
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Margret Mobley
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Debbie Kennedy Cathy Givens Eric Givens
SERVER	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
COUNTERS	Cory T. / Smoke B.

“ Love Mary! She is lovable, faithful, constant. She will never let herself be outdone in love, but will ever remain supreme. If you are in danger, she will hasten to free you. If you are troubled, she will console you. If you are sick, she will bring you relief. If you are in need, she will help you. She does not look to see what kind of person you have been. She simply comes to a heart that wants to love her.”
– St. Gabriel Possenti

RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

September, 13-15, 2024

Healing the Broken-hearted

A Retreat for the Divorced and Separated: “The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.” (Ps. 34:19) “Come to me all you who are weary and I will refresh you.” (Matt.11:28) and “give you a future full of hope.” (Jer.29:11)

Consolation of the Holy Spirit

Strength in the Challenge of Widowhood:

“Look to him that you may be radiant with joy.” (Ps. 34:6) “Cling to him” that you may find greater freedom of heart, body and spirit. Let the holy spirit console and strengthen you.

September 20-22, 2024

Singles Retreat for the Discerning

Who Am I in Christ? This Retreat looks at all the vocations possible for us and how the Lord calls and equips us for a life living in His perfect will. He has a plan for your life, which He invites you to embrace and live fully for Him in every vocation.

For more information or to register, go to: www.presentationministries.com or email: bpojesu2000@gmail.com or call 513-373-2397. Our Lady of Guadalupe Discipleship Center, 5701 Lawshe Road, Peebles Ohio 45660.

The next St. Benignus Ladies Auxiliary Meeting is our Ladies Night Out. On Thursday, September 12, our meeting will be held at Old Towne Pizzeria, downtown Greenfield, at 6:30 p.m.. Make sure you sign up in the back of church, so we know how many to expect!

SERMON ON JOHN 6:60-69

My father had a strong devotion to Jesus as a child. There is a famous statue of the Divine Child Jesus made of wood, dressed in royal robes and a king’s crown. It is called the Infant of Prague, named after the city where it has resided with the Carmelite nuns now for nearly 400 years. The nuns had to flee the city due to war in 1628. Needing to flee quickly to save their lives, they were not able to take the statue. The conquering soldiers found the statue in the nun’s chapel, seized it and threw it away. In 1637, peace once again came to Prague. The nuns could return to their convent. But where was the statue made to honor the Child Jesus?

A priest, Fr. Cyril, went looking for it. He found it in a pile of garbage behind the main altar, desecrated by the previous conquerors. Joy filled his heart as he held the statue, but saddened that the hands of Jesus were broken off. As Fr. Cyril lovingly held the statue in his hands, the Child Jesus appeared to him and spoke these words: “Give Me My hands, and I will give you peace. The more you honor Me, the more I will bless you.” The statue was restored, including the hands of Jesus. Devotion to the Holy Infant spread throughout the world. For almost 100 years, a replica of this statue has adorned the sanctuary of St. Mary Church in Hillsboro.

Jesus says in John 6:63 “The words that I speak to you are spirit and are life.” What does this mean? I will now use my father’s story and his devotion to the Holy Infant Jesus to explain.

My father was promoted in 1970 to VP of Production for H.H. Robertson Air Systems at their new plant in Batavia, Ohio. The company rewarded him for twenty-four years of loyal service in Pittsburgh. He relocated to a nice home with my mom, happy with the financial and personal rewards of his promotion. Sadly, it would all come crashing down.

In 1985, the company closed. My father was now a 60-year-old man with no income nor job for the first time in his life. Who would hire a 60-year-old? He couldn’t receive Social Security for another two years.

My father turned to the one person who never let him down - Jesus. He said fervent prayers to the Holy Child. My father told me, “I kept my faith in Jesus. I put myself in His hands. Where else could I go but Him?”

Dad pounded the pavement for weeks, looking for work. He never had to do this before as he worked steadily since he was 20. It was so discouraging. He was rejected over and over again because he was “overqualified.” But he didn’t give up looking or give up on Jesus.

One day, he went for an interview at Ellis and Watts, builders of trailers that house mobile X-ray machines. He said, “it was humiliating being interviewed by some guy 30 years younger than me who obviously didn’t know anything about the job.” My father was seeking a job as a simple purchasing agent. Once again, he heard the words, “overqualified.” Dad dejectedly rose from his chair ready to leave. The interviewer yelled, “wait” and said, “Please don’t leave. Your overqualified for the job you applied for, but you are very qualified for a position we desperately need filled – plant manager.” The president of the company personally interviewed Dad and hired him on the spot. The president said to my father, “You’re so perfect for this job, it’s like you just plopped down from Heaven.” Dad replied, “No, I’m trying to get there.” Dad worked at Ellis and Watts for the next ten years. He retired at 70. But they called him out of retirement because the new plant manager messed up so badly. And who was this incompetent plant manager who replaced my father? The young guy who interviewed my father ten years earlier.

The story of my father is a witness to the power of unwavering faith. Our journey to God is a road with many potholes. Fill those potholes with faith so you won’t fall into worry, fear and doubt. If you do fall, the hands of the Infant Jesus are always reaching out to lift you up. When you completely believe in Jesus, you will see the power of His Spirit working in your life on earth. “And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

God’s purpose for you is to live your life in Heaven. Give honor to God now by believing in His Son who will hand over to you eternal life. Then Jesus will hand over to you His Spirit of peace. In the hands of Jesus are so many blessings that await those who honor Him. Blessings...Fr. Mike

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