







### THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ADAMS AND HIGHLAND COUNTIES

**FR. MIKE PARANIUK, PASTOR** 937-403-2510 • edbourdase@yahoo.com

#### 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.

#### 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. **Fr Matthew Lee, Vicar** 937-544-2757

#### 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.

#### 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.

FAMILY WEBSITE: http://www.ourladyofthehillsoh.com

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.









ST. MARY	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 8, 2024	
PROGRAM CONTACTS	CONFESSION (RECONCILIATION): CONFESSION IS AVAILABLE	
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:	BEFORE THE MASSES OR BY APPOINTMENT.	
George Sakash	Rosary Every Sunday at 7:40 a.m. at St. Mary Church	
Phone: 937-205-0919	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024	
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:	8:00 a.m. St. Mary – Suzanne Walters (Walters Family)	
Grand Knight, Jim Hehl	10:00 a.m. St. Mary – Tom Moran (Todd & Mary Heskett)	
Phone: 937-661-4835	12:00 Noon St. Benignus – Mildred Allison (Dan & Teresa Allison)	
OCIA:	Fr. Matthew Lee	
Joyce Combs & Cindy Sprauer	Monday, December 9, 2024 – Solemnity of Immaculate Conception	
Phone: 937-403-6708	6:00 p.m. St. Benignus –	
PARISH FAITH FORMATION,	7:30 p.m. St. Mary – Suzanne Walters (Walters Family)	
DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION,	Fr. Mike Paraniuk	
SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024	
Michelle Vanzant Salyer	9:15 a.m. St. Mary – NO MASS	
Phone: 937-840-9932		
Email: stmarycre119@gmail.com	11:30 a.m. St. Benignus – NO MASS Fr. Mike Paraniuk	
CHOIR/MUSIC DIRECTOR		
Lynn Turner	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024	
Phone: 937-763-8522	3rd Thursday Mass Every Month is Dedicated to Pro-Life	
PRO-LIFE REPRESENTATIVE:	Holy Hour every Thursday at St. Mary Church	
Mary Tamborski	6:00 p.m. Exposition at St. Mary	
Phone: 937-205-4458	6:30 p.m. Recitation of the Rosary at St. Mary	
ST. MARY CHURCH OFFICE &	6:50 p.m. Benediction at St. Mary	
ST. MARY PRESCHOOL:	7:00 p.m. St. Mary – Joel Griggs (Colleen Bolton)	
Leah Salyer, Administrative Assistant &	Fr. Mike Paraniuk	
Beacons of Light	Friday, DECEMBER 13, 2024	
Office: 937-840-9932	Noon St. Benignus –	
Cell: (937) 205-3038	Fr. Mike Paraniuk	
Email: justleahatstmary@gmail.com	Saturday, DECEMBER 14, 2024	
	3:30 p.m. St. Benignus –	
ST. BENIGNUS	5:30 p.m. St. Mary – Tom Moran (Gary & Joyce Baker)	
PROGRAM CONTACTS	Fr. Mike Paraniuk	
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL	Divine Mercy Chaplet before Mass at 9:45 a.m. at St. Mary Church	
Gene DeBruin	Sunday, December 15, 2024	
Phone: 937-981-2785	8:00 a.m. St. Mary – Rita Blankenship (Jim & Joan Winner)	
OCIA	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> St. Mary – Ruth Vanzant (Michelle Vanzant-Salyer)	
Phone: 937-981-2785	Noon St. Benignus –	
Email: stbenignus@gmail.com	Fr. Mike Paraniuk	
ST. BENIGNUS MEN'S AUXILIARY		
Phone: 937-981-2785	FAMILY WEBSITE!! http://www.ourladyofthehillsoh.com	
PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION		
Chyane Collins	LUA M	
Phone: 740-572-2101	339 0	
Email: chyanecollins@gmail.com	and a second sec	
Bruce Bennett, Jr.		
Phone: 740-572-2085	OT MADY OOL FOTION DEOD (DED 1 2024	
Email: bennettb@greatoaks.com	ST. MARY COLLECTION – DECEMBER 1, 2024	
CHOIR/MUSIC DIRECTOR	Weekly Need\$	7,20
Kristy Bockrath	Weekly Collection\$	5,34
Phone: 937-361-6590		-1,85
Email: krbockr@icloud.com		55,60
LADIES AUX		11,08
President: Paula Miller		44,51
Phone: 937-876-9883	ST. BENIGNUS COLLECTION – DECEMBER 1, 2024	
ST. BENIGNUS CEMETERY	Weekly Need\$	2,90
Phone: 937-981-2785	Weekly Collection\$	
Email: stbenignus@gmail.com	Variance\$	
PRO-LIFE REPRESENTATIVE		59,80
Mary Tamborski		40,11
Phone: 937-205-4458	VARIANCE\$	
ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH OFFICE	回报主命 Our Lady of Thank You for your Generosity!	<b>.</b>
		للتوري وي
Phone: 937-981-2785 Email: stbenignus@gmail.com	The Hills Family Facebook Page St. Mary Online Giving Link & QR Code Please Like and Share! osvhub.com/stmaryhillsboro/giving/funds	282

"Our true worth does not consist in what human beings think of us. What we really are consists in what God knows us to be." –St. John Berchmans

#### 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 937-840-8655 for more information. Bingo Team 2 (January 3, 2025) - David & Mary T., Tara B., Joyce C., Kevin & Teresa S., Mary B., JoAnn M.

#### **IUBILEE YEAR 2025**

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has launched a web page with information for the Jubilee Year 2025. Visit https://catholicaoc.org/jubilee-2025 to learn about the Church's celebration of an Ordinary Jubilee every 25 years, obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence, pilgrimage sites within the archdiocese, and a special pilgrimage to Italy in October 2025. All are invited to join Archbishop Schnurr for Mass on Sunday, December 29, 4:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains to open the Jubilee Year in communion with dioceses throughout the world.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

8:45-9:50 a.m.	St. Mary Hall/Classrooms – <b>PSR</b> – <i>St. Mary</i>			
10:30 a.m.	Snacks and class, 10:45-11:45 a.m. – PSR – St. Benignus			
11:00 a.m.	Youth Group Breakfast in the Parish Hall – St. Mary then to			
Highland Lanes to Bowl from 12:00-1:30 p.m.				
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024 – SOLEMNITY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION				
6:00 p.m.	Mass – <b>St. Benignus</b>			
7:30 p.m.	Mass – <i>St. Mary</i>			
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024				

Evangelization and Stewardship Teams will have a Zoom meeting. 10:00 a.m. If you would like to join either committee, please email Michelle Salyer at stmarycre119@gmail.com to have an invite sent to you.

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

8:30 a.m. PSR Family Breakfast, each family is asked to bring a dish to share - PSR -St. Mary

10:30 a.m. Snacks and class, 10:45-11:45 a.m. - PSR - St. Benignus

#### EVANGELIZATION AND STEWARDSHIP TEAMS

Evangelization and Stewardship Teams will have a Zoom meeting on December 14, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to join either committee, please email Michelle Salyer at stmarycre119@gmail.com to have an invite sent to you.



#### FAMILY PICNIC COMMITTEE HELP NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help, prepare and plan the annual Our Lady of The Hills Family Picnic for 2025 – Sign up by email to justleahatstmary@gmail.com or call 937-840-9932.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. MARY COAT DRIVE ENDS DECEMBER 15TH

Please donate your gently used, no-longer-needed coats to the box located in the Narthex.

#### ST. MARY GIVING TREE

St. Mary Giving Tree asks that all Gifts be Wrapped and Returned with the Tag by Sunday, December 8th, 2024 – Any Questions, please contact the office at 937-840-9932.

#### THE ANGEL GIVING TREE - ST. BENIGNUS

St. Benignus Church each year helps with gifts for the Greenfield Area Christian Center Families. The turn in date is early, due to Christmas falling on Wednesday. The presents need to be back at the church by December 18th. Please help the 60 children who are on the Angel Tree this year. Please take a tag and purchase the suggestion on the tag and return to church. Thanks so much for your support!!!

#### ST. BENIGNUS LADIES AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS DINNER

The St. Benignus Ladies Auxiliary will be holding their Christmas Dinner at the home of Judy Schmidt on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Please sign the sheet at the back of the church so that we will have enough food. There will not be a gift exchange. Just come and enjoy the company of each other.

#### ST. BENIGNUS LADIES AUXILIARY MEETINGS REMINDER

Ladies Auxiliary will not have a regular meeting on December 12th, there will be no meetings in January, February. We will return March 9, 2025 - more to follow next year!! Spring Flower sale details will be forthcoming!

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

#### **ST. BENIGNUS &**

#### ST. MARY PRAYER LIST

Archbishop Schnurr, Robert Wheaton, Ally Wright, Bonnie Hammons, Joe Carson, Agnes Volk, Bob Dye, Joe Turley, 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, Joe Wright, Tina Hudson, Thomas Hovan, Emily Konerman, Kirk Wuellner, Roseann Cordrey, Pam Ryan, John Fusion, Nevaeh Fusion, Robert Wintrow

\*\* 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 \$52,434.65 Debt on Fr. Luehrmann Hall

"He who labors as he prays lifts his heart to God with his hands."

– St. Bernard of Clairvaux

#### **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS**

**December 7** – Christian Gunderman. Cindy Simmons December 8 – Margaret Block December 10 - Nancy Bushelman, Ronnie Ludwick, Lana Sakash December 13 – Kimberly LaFontaire Martin, Caryl Moenster December 15 – Roy Tesmer, Troy Tesmer December 16 - Austin Huff December 17 – Charles Elking December 18 – Erika Thery December 19 – Adrian Ekhator, Micah Eldridge, Avery Salyer, Mary Takacs December 20 – Creed Culbreath December 21 – Ali Ishmael, Mack Pohlman December 23 – Pamela Huff, Joanne McDaniels December 24 – Keith Ray **December 27 –** Kristy Bruckner December 28 – Lois Richendollar December 29 – Jane Horne, Thomas Miller December 30 – Joyce Baker, Tara Beery, Teresa Stuebs December 31 - Karla Ronneberg, Sheri Duckwall

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, DECEMBER 14TH – 3:30 P.M. MASS	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH – NOON MASS
SACRISTANS	Needed	Needed
MINISTERS OF THE WORD	Anita O'Connor	Vicki Brock
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Debbie Kennedy Cathy Givens Eric Givens	Jim Block Susan Stuckey Vicki Brock
SERVERS	Volunteer Needed	Dan Allison
COUNTERS		Cory T. / Smoke B.



WHO IS THE PATRON SAINT OF ALTAR BOYS?

This heroic young martyr is a model for all who serve. "Whatcha doin', Tarcisius?" came a familiar voice. "Don't you want to play with us?" "Yeah, where are you going?" said another. Tarcisius recognized the voices – they belonged to some friends he went to school with. But they weren't Christians, and he didn't trust them. "What are you carrying?" said a third. Tarcisius turned to see a whole group of them flocking towards him. He kept on walking. "Just heading to visit a few friends down the road," he said, honestly. "Can't stop to talk." His step guickened and he held the Blessed Sacrament, hidden beneath his mantle, a little closer. He, an acolyte, had been sent to carry Jesus to those ministering to the imprisoned Christians condemned to die. "You've got something. What is it?" "I have nothing for you." "Yes, you've got something. Let's see! Is it one of your Christian things?" "Ooh, maybe it's that weird bread they worship!" This was not going to end well, Tarcisius decided. He grasped the Sacrament tighter and began to run, but the mob quickly surrounded him. "You're not going anywhere! Get him! Get the bread!" Knowing what was about to happen, the courageous young man may well have prayed, "Into your hands, O Lord, I commit my spirit." The vicious gang descended on him. By the time a Christian soldier passing by drove them off, Tarcisius was mortally wounded. The soldier gathered the martyr in his arms, where he soon died. Still grasped in his faithful hands, safe and untouched, was the Blessed Sacrament.



What we know for sure of the life of St. Tarcisius comes to us from a short poem written about him and St. Stephen by Pope Damasus in the 4th century, which tells us his name and that he died defending the Holy Eucharist. A 6th-century legend adds that he was an acolyte. He was probably killed between the mid-3rd and early 4th centuries.

With his courage, devotion, and steadfast love for Jesus in the Eucharist, Tarcisius remains a model for all young men, especially those who serve at the altar of God.

Ower Lady of Theoftills

Solemnity Of The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass Schedule

<u>December 9th – Monday</u> Noon – Holy Trinity (Fr Lee) 6:00pm – St Benignus (Fr Mike) 6:00pm– Mary Queen of Heaven (Fr Lee) 7:30pm– St Mary (Fr Mike)

> "May the feast of our Mother help us to make our whole life a "yes" to God, a "yes" made of adoration of him and of daily gestures of love and service."

> > -Pope Francis, December 8, 2019



#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Our Christmas poinsettias memorialize those who have gone before us.

Give them eternal rest, O Lord, and may Your light shine on them. Amen.

#### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF ....

Dean Family, Ruth Ward, Speed Kennedy, Emma Griffith, Albert & Betty Kearney, Charles E. Morgan, Kathryn Morgan, Norm & Pat Givens, Calvin & Ruth Peterson, Joni Peterson, Kyle Garrison, Arthur & Eleanor Block, Ralph & Ruth Bryant, Luke Givens

## ST. ANDREW the APOSTLE

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

#### WHAT IS THE SAINT ANDREW NOVENA?

It is a devotion, also known as the Christmas Anticipation Prayer, that starts on the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle, November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve – December 24. It consists in reciting the prayer found below 15 times each day of the Novena period. Its exact origin is unknown, but it is believed to have begun in Ireland during the 19th century. This is a very meditative prayer that brings about graces, increases our awareness of the real focus of Christmas and prepares us spiritually for His coming.

Novena – Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, [here mention your request] through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen. Recite the above prayer 15 times a day from November 30 to December 24.

#### THANK YOU!

Our Lady of The Hills, Thank You to everyone who donated candles and donations for shipping costs. In the last two weeks, we mailed 19 boxes to Ukraine! They will be so grateful and appreciated. The boxes included medical supplies, warm clothes and candles that will provide light and heat and medical supplies



for many, donated by several of my friends here, friends from Seneca and Wyandot Counties, and the Sister's and Associates of St. Francis in Tiffin. Together we can shine hope and light in our world!!

Thank You So Much, Lana Sakash



God of patience, show us your wisdom in time, that we may grow to expect your action on your time. Teach us to be gentle and patient with ourselves. Make us receptive to your timing in others. Help us see the long view when we are caught in the frustration of waiting. Amen.

Together as a family of faith, let us celebrate **#OURACVENT** Follow **@archtoronto** on **f** Facebook, **v** Twitter and **b** Instagram PRATER FROM WWW.CCCBCA

Our Lady of the Hills St. Mary Youth Group

St. Mary Youth Group Grades 6th through 12th

You are invited to Breakfast after the 10:00 a.m. Mass in the Parish Hall on December 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. We will be traveling to Highland Lanes to Bowl from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Please pick your child up there. Any questions and to RSVP, please call Jennifer Howard, Youth Group Leader at 937-763-5031 or Michelle Salyer at 937-840-9932.



#### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

Monthly Donations	\$	1,038.00
Bingo Concession	\$	283.00
Big Ernie's Fundraiser & Donations	<u>\$</u>	718.00
Total	\$	2,039.00
Thank you for your generous monthly contributions.	Your con	tributions

Thank you for your generous monthly contributions. Your contributions will help more families and individuals in crisis. **Special thanks** to all who came out to Big Ernie's for the Fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul. You helped make this event a success. **THANK YOU!!!** 

#### Expenditures

Assistance to neighbors:

\$ 2,172.00

This includes help with paying utility bills, gasoline, rent, temporary housing, furniture, groceries and more. The local SVDP phone number for a neighbor in need is: 937-205-0919.



# Our Lady of The Hills Family

## <u>Christmas Eve. Masses- Dec. 24th</u>

3:30pm - St Mary (Fr. Mike) 5:30pm - Holy Trinity (Fr. Lee) 5:30pm - St Benignus (Fr. Mike) 8:00pm - Mary Queen of Heaven (Fr. Lee) 9:00pm St Benignus (Fr. Mike) 11:00pm- St Mary (Fr. Mike)

## <u> Christmas Day Masses- Dec. 25th</u>

10:00am - St Mary (Fr. Mike)

11:00am - Holy Trinity (Fr. Lee)

### SERMON ON LUKE 3:1-6

y first brand new car was a 1975 Toyota Corolla. I bought it in the dead of winter to get a good deal. I parked it away from other cars so no one could dent it with their doors. One day, I heard this thumping outside my apartment window. I saw a young boy throwing snowballs at the side of my car. I yelled for him to stop doing that. He ran away. I was aghast when I saw the side of my car riddled with dents.

I knew where the kid lived. I calmed down before paying a visit to the kid's dad. I explained to him his son did a lot of damage. The father felt the son should be accountable to pay me back the cost of the 100-dollar deductible, which was a lot of money back then. We devised a plan where the son would give me all the money he made cutting grass. The money collected would be stored in a big glass jar which he would give me in the fall.

That kid kept his part of the bargain. I would see him cutting grass all over Batavia. I even let him cut my grass, paying him his usual fee - a buck fifty (worth 10.00 dollars today).

The boy came to my house in the fall and handed me the glass jar filled with dollar bills. He said, "Here's the money I owe you. Sorry about denting your car by throwing snowballs at it. I just got bored."

He handed me the jar. I told him, "I don't want the money." He looked at me like I was nuts. I told him, "I want you to take this money and give it away to someone standing in line waiting to get free bread at that building near Holy Trinity Church (the one in Batavia). Pick any person you want." I personally drove him up there to make sure he gave it away. I instructed him, "Say to whomever you give this jar to, 'This is a gift from God.'"

The following Sunday, I attended Mass at Holy Trinity. This guy came up to me very excitedly. He said, "My wife is sick with cancer. I have to take her for many visits at the hospital in Cincinnati. I prayed to God for gas money which I don't have. Then this kid comes to me at the bread line and gives me a jar filled with dollar bills, saying 'This is a gift from God.' God sure works in mysterious ways."

To declare "God works in mysterious ways" simply means God has a plan to help us. God reveals His plans in Jer 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Advent is a celebration that God sent Jesus to give you a future life that never ends and a hope that God loves you so much He would die to have you with Him. "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) God loved the unlovable sinner. That is the joy of Advent.

John the Baptist was yelling out to everyone: "Prepare the way of the Lord." The best way for you to prepare to meet Jesus is to "love the unlovable" like Jesus did. There are so many people that have no self-worth, believing themselves not worthy of God's love nor deserving of love from anyone.

I felt that way. When I left the seminary in 1974, I felt unloved by God, the Church and a disappointment to others for giving up the call to priesthood. I carried around the scarlet letter on my chest, "F" for failure. But God sent me a wonderful priest, Fr. Ed, who affirmed my worth. He restored my faith in God's Love for me. He told me, "God loves you for your faith, not your successes." I am a priest today because Fr. Ed became "God in the flesh" loving me when I felt unlovable.

As the beautiful hymn says, "All I Ask of You Is Forever to Remember Me as Loving You."

