



# Our Lady OF THE Hills

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.

### 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 PROGRAM CONTACTS

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:

George Sakash; 937-205-0919

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Grand Knight, Jim Hehl  
937-661-4835

### OCIA:

Joyce Combs & Cindy Sprauer  
937-403-6708

### PARISH FAITH FORMATION, DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION, SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR:

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

### CHOIR/MUSIC DIRECTOR

Lynn Turner; 937-763-8522

### PRO-LIFE REPRESENTATIVE:

Mary Tamborski; 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  
justleahatstmary@gmail.com

## ST. BENIGNUS PROGRAM CONTACTS

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:

Gene DeBruin; 937-981-2785

### OCIA:

937-981-2785  
stbenignus@gmail.com

### ST. BENIGNUS MEN'S AUXILIARY:

937-981-2785

### PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:

Chyane Collins; 740-572-2101  
chyanecollins@gmail.com  
Bruce Bennett, Jr.; 740-572-2085  
bennettb@greatoaks.com

### CHOIR/MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Kristy Bockrath; 937-361-6590  
krbockr@icloud.com

### LADIES AUX:

President: Paula Miller  
937-876-9883

### ST. BENIGNUS CEMETERY:

937-981-2785  
stbenignus@gmail.com

### PRO-LIFE REPRESENTATIVE:

Mary Tamborski; 937-205-4458

### ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH OFFICE:

937-981-2785  
stbenignus@gmail.com

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 23, 2025 CONFESSION (RECONCILIATION): CONFESSION IS AVAILABLE BEFORE THE MASSES OR BY APPOINTMENT.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

8:00 a.m. *Mary, Queen of Heaven – Mass*  
9:30 a.m. *Holy Trinity – Mass*  
11:30 a.m. *St. Mary* – Barb Wilkinson (Mary Tamborski) &  
Jim Dean (Loretta Dean)  
1:00 p.m. *St. Benignus* – Ed Block (Jim & Margaret Block)

### MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025

6:00 p.m. *Confession/Adoration – Holy Trinity Church*  
7:00 p.m. *Holy Trinity Church – Mass*

### TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

9:00 a.m. *Mary, Queen of Heaven – Mass*  
9:15 a.m. *St. Mary – Communion Service Only*  
11:30 a.m. *St. Benignus – Communion Service Only*

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025

6:00 p.m. *St. Benignus – Exposition*

3rd Thursday Mass Every Month is dedicated to Pro-Life  
Holy Hour Every Thursday at St. Mary Church

### THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

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* – Theresa Staten (Jon & Michelle Salyer)

### FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

Noon *St. Benignus – Communion Service Only*  
Noon *Holy Trinity Church – Mass*

### SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

3:00 p.m. *St. Benignus* – Doris Conley (Eric & Cathy Givens)  
4:30 p.m. *Divine Mercy Chaplet*  
5:00 p.m. *St. Mary* – Dr. Monica Salido (Chuck & Rose Craycraft)  
7:00 p.m. *Holy Trinity – Mass*

### SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

8:00 a.m. *Mary, Queen of Heaven – Mass*  
9:30 a.m. *Holy Trinity – Mass*  
11:30 a.m. *St. Mary* – Dr. Monica Salido (Salyer Family) Lizzie Tamborski &  
Barb Wilkinson (Mary Tamborski))  
1:00 p.m. *St. Benignus* – Ann Marie Gunderman (Patty Hays)

## MARY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN – FREE LIVESTREAM

<https://www.twitch.tv/maryqueenofheaven>

## ST. MARY – FREE LIVESTREAM

<https://www.twitch.tv/saintmaryhillsboro>

No Sign-ups Needed, Free Live streaming of Mass  
WLRU Radio 106.9FM plays when Mass is not in session!

### St. Mary Online Giving Link & QR Code

[osvhub.com/stmaryhillsboro/giving/funds](https://osvhub.com/stmaryhillsboro/giving/funds)

You can give Online to (SOPC, SVdP, Building Fund, Church)  
to the link above.



Our Lady of the Hills Facebook Page  
Please Like and Share!

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565871562111](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565871562111)

Fr. Mike Sermon YouTube Direct Link

[www.youtube.com/@ourladyofthehills](https://www.youtube.com/@ourladyofthehills)



**ST. MARY COLLECTION – MARCH 16, 2025**

Weekly Need .....	\$ 7,200.00
Weekly Collection.....	\$ 4,559.00
Variance .....	\$ -2,641.00
<b>FISCAL YEAR NEED .....</b>	<b>\$ 263,600.00</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR COLLECTED .....</b>	<b>\$ 201,113.00</b>
<b>VARIANCE.....</b>	<b>\$ -62,487.00</b>

**ST. BENIGNUS COLLECTION – MARCH 16, 2025**

Weekly Need .....	\$ 2,900.00
Weekly Collection.....	\$ 2,549.00
Variance .....	\$ -351.00
<b>FISCAL YEAR NEED .....</b>	<b>\$ 103,300.00</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR COLLECTED .....</b>	<b>\$ 87,078.00</b>
<b>VARIANCE.....</b>	<b>\$ -16,222.00</b>

**Thank You for your Generosity!**

*“Dismiss all anger and look into yourself a little. Remember that he of whom you are speaking is your brother, and as he is in the way of salvation, God can make him a saint, in spite of his present weakness.”*  
 – St. Thomas of Villanova

**ST. MARY CHURCH BINGO**

**Bingo Team 2 (May 2, 2025)** – David T., Mary T., Tara B., Joyce C., Kevin/Teresa S., Mary B./JoAnn M. Looking for something fun to do on a Friday night?! Come Play Bingo at St. Mary! Bring a friend/family or come and make new friends! Support St. Vincent de Paul (Food Concession) during Bingo! All are welcome! **Must be over 18.**



**BULLETIN CAN BE EMAILED**

If you would like to have the Bulletin emailed to you, please contact 937-840-9932 or email [justleahatstmary@gmail.com](mailto:justleahatstmary@gmail.com).

**FISH FRY – HELP NEEDED**

**Knights of Columbus/St. Vincent de Paul** – Fish Fry at St. Mary. Please see the sign-up sheet in Narthex if you can help!!! We need desserts and help working the buffet line. If you have any questions, contact Lois Richendollar. Thank you!



**HOPE EMERGENCY PROGRAM**

Do you have a few hours of time to volunteer once a week at Hope? Call us 937-364-1055. **Wish List 2025:** We need sheets, blankets, towels, Crock Pots, microwaves, handheld can openers, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, paper towels, toilet paper, men’s and women’s deodorant, pod-type laundry detergent, dish soap, bath towels and air mattresses with built in air pumps for our clients. **“Like Us” on Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/HopeEmergProg/>. Follow us on Facebook to find out more about Hope Emergency, special events, weather emergencies and other stories!

**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**

Pope Francis, Archbishop Schnurr, Dave Shoults, Kristen Wise, Gail Grim, Hannah Burton, Robert Wheaton, Ally Wright, Bonnie Hammons, Joe Carson, Bob Dye, Joe Turley, Jeff Thoroman, David Tolle, Brittany Kinzer, Eric Arrington, Paula Miller, Claudia Frank, Jeff Hadley, Becky Hiser, Theresa Shackelford, Cathy Thompson, Edna Maxwell, Jean Smith, Howard Smith, Ron Speakman, Linda Strahler, Dick Lester, Linda Bradford, Joe Wright, Emily Konerman, Kirk Wuellner, Roseann Cordrey, Pam Ryan, Robert Wintrow, Evers Family, Richard Vilvens, Danielle Gehler, Mike Vermeersch, Lydia Breckel, Rosemarie Muenster, Dale Braun

**\*\* 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 email [justleahatstmary@gmail.com](mailto: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**

**\$44,505.66** Debt on Fr. Luehrmann Hall

*“Work hard every day at increasing your purity of heart, which consists in appraising things and weighing them in the balance of God’s will.”*  
 – St. Francis de Sales

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS**

- March 23** – Rick Howell
- March 27** – Matthew Thery
- March 29** – Nicholas Cimis
- March 30** – Saint C. Markel, Robert Roth
- March 31** – Adam Rockey, Ellen Turner
- April 2** – Dan Allison, Lauren Cimis, Gabriella Howard
- April 4** – Kevin Stuebs
- April 5** – Dana Cooper
- April 6** – Cindy Sprauer
- April 7** – Ashley Taylor
- April 10** – Bethany Taylor
- April 11** – Pat Hays
- April 12** – Kevin Kelner, Franklin Thery, Tim Wells
- April 13** – Joe Howell





## WHAT ARE “EMBER DAYS”?

The U.S. bishops have encouraged us to observe this ancient practice.

The Ember Days are an age-old custom of the Church, originating about the 4th century. They were observed four times per year, at the beginning of each season, and consisted of three days of prayer, fasting, and abstinence as a way of thanking God for the gifts of Creation, to ask His help in using them well, and to assist those in need. Like Rogation Days, these days were closely connected to the seasonal farming cycles and were a profound way of sanctifying our earthly doings.

The Ember Days are always Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, and the dates are as follows:

1. The Third Week of Advent
2. The First Week of Lent  
(The week after Ash Wednesday)
3. The week after Pentecost
4. The third week in September

Traditionally, priestly ordinations have taken place on Ember Saturdays, a custom that dates all the way back to Pope Gelasius in the 5th century. Although this is not observed as a rule anymore, the Ember Days are still a good opportunity to offer prayer and sacrifice for our clergy.

In fact, various bishops and clergy in the U.S. have encouraged the renewed observance of the Ember Days as a way to pray for vocations, priests, and the needs of the Church.

In their *Pastoral Statement on Penance and Abstinence* of 1966, the U.S. bishops also encouraged the voluntary observance of vigils and Ember Days as a way of participating in the Church's traditional custom of a “fast before a feast.”

Yet penance is an essential part of the Christian life. Why not bring it back through the observance of the Ember Days, in whatever way – small or large – that you are able?

You don't have to perform great feats in order to embrace a spirit of self-denial. St. Thérèse of Lisieux – whose “Little Way” has become the path to holiness for countless souls – knew that little sacrifices are the key to sanctity.



## The Annunciation of the Lord March 25



“Dear Mary, when the angel gave you a message that God wanted you to conceive Jesus, the savior, you said yes to Him without questioning your well-being. You were engaged to Joseph, you knew you could be stoned to death, you knew people would not like you, but you trusted God fully because you knew He knew better and had your best interest at heart no matter what happened. Even if you would suffer. Pray for me, too, that I may be humble like you and accept God's Will in my life, no matter what that is. Also, pray for me that I may have the discernment to know His Will, and to live as a reflection of His commandments, especially the greatest of all that Jesus left us, Love God above, and my neighbor as I love myself!”

## Our Lady of The Hills

The Stations  
of the Cross  
During Lent

Monday

6:30pm at Holy Trinity

Thursday

St Mary at 6:30pm followed by  
Mass

Friday

Following the Noon Mass at Holy  
Trinity

Friday

St Benignus at 7:00pm

## NUTRITIOUS MEALS HELP CHILDREN GROW HEALTHY IN GUATEMALA

In Santa María Chiquimula, Guatemala, over half the community is affected by malnutrition. Amid rising food prices and job loss, Ana Belén and her husband were struggling to provide for their growing family. But they saw a ray of hope through their participation in a Catholic Relief Services' program that helps them ensure their children are healthy and have the nutrition they need to thrive and play. Visit [csrricebowl.org/week-3](http://csrricebowl.org/week-3) to read this week's Story of Hope.

**You can visit [csrricebowl.org](http://csrricebowl.org) for stories, meatless recipes, prayers and more to enrich your Lenten journey. Please pick up your Rice Bowl for your family, located in the church.**



## CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS

A date has been announced for the **installation of Most Reverend Robert G. Casey!** He will be installed as **Archbishop of Cincinnati on Thursday, April 3 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. Attendance will be by invitation only.** Additional information about the livestream of the installation Mass is forthcoming.



**LENTEN CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE RETREAT** – The Southeast Region, St. Mary Deanery, and the Catholic Social Action Office are offering a daylong retreat “Mass-Misa-Mission: The Eucharist as the Source of all Mission” on **Saturday, April 5th from 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**, (Sunday liturgy included). The retreat will be held at The Chatfield Edge (formerly Ursulines of Brown County and Chatfield College) 20918 St. Rte.251, St. Martin, OH 45118. Fr. Steve Pawelk of Glenmary Home Missioners, accompanied by five novices in community formation, will lead the retreat. (The Glenmary community had its beginning in the Southeast region and served parishes there for several decades.) The **deadline to register is Friday, March 28th.** To register and pay the \$10.00 fee, go to <https://resources.catholicaoc.org/event/crl-2025-retreat-day>. For more information, call Sr. Christine Pratt at 513-407-3006 or email [cpratt6@tds.net](mailto:cpratt6@tds.net).


**GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION** – Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the **Pontifical Good Friday Collection for Christians in the Holy Land**. Your support helps the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, offer religious education, and preserve the sacred shrines. For information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit <https://myfranciscan.org/good-friday-2025/>.

**2025 PARISH VITALITY REPORT** – Curious about progress toward parish vitality and the goals of Beacons of Light in our 57 Families of Parishes? Archbishop Schnurr has released the 2025 Parish Vitality Report to bring everyone in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati up to date. In addition to facts, figures, stories and witness, there’s an opportunity for you to give feedback on your experience of parish life, which we will use as we plan for the future. Check it out at [www.catholicaoc.org/pvr](http://www.catholicaoc.org/pvr).

**CROSS THE BRIDGE FOR LIFE** – Join thousands of others **Sunday, June 1 at 1:00 p.m.** for the annual Cross the Bridge for Life across the Purple People Bridge to raise awareness for the sanctity of human life – born and unborn. Meet at Newport, KY’s Riverfront Row Festival area for live music, food, face painting and balloons for children, brief presentations, and many booths sponsored by our local life-saving agencies! All are welcome to participate in this day of family fun and powerful witness. For more information, see [CrossTheBridgeForLife.org](http://CrossTheBridgeForLife.org).

**THE PARISH VITALITY REPORT**

The Parish Vitality Report highlights progress and challenges of Beacons of Light. Take a moment to review the report and help us build a vibrant future for our community! <https://pathway.catholicaoc.org/parish-vitality-report/>.



**2025 PARISH VITALITY REPORT**

Are you curious about the progress of Beacons of Light and how our 57 Families of Parishes are growing?

The Center for Parish Vitality recently released the 2025 Parish Vitality Report, providing key updates for everyone in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Read the report and share your experience in your Family of Parishes by responding to the Parish Vitality Survey.

**BEACONS of LIGHT**

**OUR LADY OF THE HILLS  
ST. BENIGNUS ANNUAL FLOWER SALE**

**May 3/4, 2025**, Orders will be taken from March 22, through April 20, of 2025. This year, we are offering Begonias, Geraniums, Small Petunias, and, new this year, Mixed Sun Impatiens. Color of flowers in baskets are determined by florist. Each basket will cost \$30.00 and is payable at time of ordering. Checks can be made out to St. Benignus Ladies Aux. Pickup of baskets on the weekend of May 3/4, at the church. Just in time for a beautiful Mothers’ Day Gift.

**Annual Fish Fry!!!**

**St. Benignus Church**  
204 S. Second St  
Greenfield, Ohio  
Basement

**Fridays from March 7 through April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
4:00 – 7:00

**Adults \$12 – Kids \$8 – Sandwich only \$5**

Fried fish	Macaroni and Cheese
Homemade Coleslaw	Green beans
Drinks	Dessert



*Saint Benignus  
Men's Group*

**Fish Fry**

St. Mary Catholic Church - Church Hall  
119 E. Walnut Street, Hillsboro, OH 45133  
Every Friday - March 14th - April 18th - Time: 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm  
Dine in or Drive-thru

*Fish(1) Dinner & 2 sides.....	14.00
Fish (1) Sandwich.....	7.00
*Fish(2) Dinner & 2 sides.....	17.00
*Shrimp (8)Dinner & 2 sides.....	14.00
Shrimp (8).....	7.00
*Jumbo Baked Potato Dinner & 2 sides.....	10.00
*Fish (1)& Shrimp (4) & 2 sides.....	17.00
*Kids Fish Meal (ages 6-12) (1 Fish & 1 Side, Juice Box) .....	7.00
*Kids Shrimp Meal (ages 6-12) (4 Shrimp, 1 side, & Juice Box) .....	7.00
Ala Carte side.....	3.00
(Hush Puppies, Cole Slaw, Small Baked Potato, French Fries, or Macaroni and Cheese)	
Ala Carte Drink.....	2.00
Dessert .....	3.00

\*Drinks included  
Accepting cash or credit cards  
Proceeds goes toward  
The Knights of Columbus & St. Vincent de Paul  
Thank you for your support.



*Our Lady of The Hills*

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS SCHEDULE**

**SATURDAY APRIL 12TH**  
 3:00pm - St Benignus  
 5:00pm - St Mary  
 7:00pm - Holy Trinity

**PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13TH**  
 8:00am Mary Queen of Heaven  
 9:30am Holy Trinity  
 11:30am St Mary  
 1:00pm St Benignus

**MONDAY APRIL 14TH**  
 6:00pm Confession/Adoration - Holy Trinity  
 7:00pm - Mass - Holy Trinity

**TUESDAY APRIL 15TH**  
 9:00am Mary Queen of Heaven- Communion Service  
 9:15am - St Mary -Mass  
 11:30am - St Benignus- Mass

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 16TH**  
 No Mass/ Communion Services

**Holy Thursday APRIL 17TH**  
 7:00pm - St Mary  
 7:00pm - Holy Trinity

**Good Friday APRIL 18TH**  
 Noon - St Mary  
 Noon - Holy Trinity  
 6:00pm St Benignus  
 6:00pm - Mary Queen of Heaven  
 7:30pm - St Mary

**Holy Saturday APRIL 19TH**  
 8:45pm - Easter Vigil- Mary Queen of Heaven

**Easter Sunday APRIL 20TH**  
 8:00am Mary Queen of Heaven  
 9:30am Holy Trinity  
 11:30am St Mary  
 1:00pm St Benignus



**ST MARY PRESCHOOL**

**PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT**

St Mary Preschool is a high-quality preschool program designed to provide a strong foundation for children's learning and development.

**3-5 YEARS OLD**

**PROGRAM FEATURES :**

- Full Day Classes
- Developmental curriculum
- Play-based learning
- Outdoor play
- Monthly Tuition
- Before Care & After care



119 E Walnut Street  
 Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

For More Information  
 937-840-9932 or stmarypreschool119@gmail.com

*Our Lady of The Hills*

**Spring Retreat**

**April 26, 2025**

**9:30am- 4:30pm**

**9:00 am- Optional Donuts & Coffee**

**Lunch will be provided**

**Mass is at 5:00pm**

*Do you long for a deeper more fulfilling relationship with Jesus?*

*Do you hunger for more happiness and meaning in your life?*

**All Are Welcome To Attend**

**No Charge Retreat - a free will collection will be taken for Haiti 180, a Catholic mission that serves the poor of Haiti.**

**Guest Speaker: John Beaulieu, founder and president of Romans 5:2, a Catholic apostolate committed to the renewal of the Catholic Church.**

**Location: 119 East Walnut Street Hillsboro, Ohio 45133**

**(937) 840-9932 stmarycre119@gmail.com**

**LENTEN**

**Baby Shower**

**SHOWER**

**HELPING PARENTS CHOOSE LIFE... WHAT BETTER TIME TO GIFT TO NEW LIFE THAN EASTER!**

Saint Mary Catholic Church is accepting collections for our local mothers and babies. Simply gift a box of diapers and/or purchase items listed and return to Narthex by **April 13th**. Items will be given to The Southern Ohio Pregnancy Center before Good Friday. Items in need:

- Baby wipes
- Diapers, size 3 and 4
- Pull-ups all sizes
- Sleepers, size 3 months to 18 months
- Spring clothing for girls, size 18 months and 24 months
- Lightweight Spring jackets, size 0-3 months up to 2T

*"It is not the magnitude of our actions but the amount of love that is put into them that matters."* — Mother Teresa

Thank you for your donation.  
 Let us pray for peace this Lenten season and always.  
 In JESUS' name.

## SERMON ON LUKE 13:1-9

**S**R 247 must be the home base for every deer in Adams County. I drive that road very cautiously to avoid hitting a deer running across the road. If you see one deer, wait for the other six to follow. But on this one night, I encountered something new. A deer lay on its side in the middle of my lane, probably hit by another car. It was still alive, moving its legs as if trying to run. By the time I saw the deer, it was too late. I hit the poor creature again. I felt so guilty to cause it more pain. I also felt guilty that right before hitting it I got distracted fiddling with the radio. If I had only kept my eyes on the road instead of changing the station, maybe I could have prevented the accident. As it is said, "Hindsight is always 20/20." When you look back at situations that didn't turn out so good, you can more clearly see how to do it better.

That is what repentance is all about. The word "repent" comes from two Greek words that mean, "to see clearly afterwards." We are all pilgrim people travelling the road to Jesus. We are residents of another country called Heaven. God's people are as strangers, just passing through this earth for a very brief time. The Bible says, "For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands." (2 Corinthians 5:1)

Since Heaven is our home, we must live in a heavenly manner. We must live like Jesus. This is why repentance is so important. Jesus said that you perish if you don't repent. It is easy to get distracted with the false lights of this world. St. Paul wrote, "Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." (2 Cor 11:14) Satan tries to take your eyes off the heavenly road. Repentance gives the clear vision to get you back on the right road to Jesus when you realize afterwards you're lost on a detour called sin. There are seven detours that lead you away from Heaven: pride, greed, anger, lust, envy, gluttony and laziness. Thankfully, God has built for you an "on ramp" to get you back on the heavenly path. It's called love. God says, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8)

Repentance can take years before someone realizes they must get right with God. God is patient. He waits. I witnessed in nature what God's patience looks like. There are two bald eagle mates for life named Jackie and Shadow. A live camera has broadcast for seven years their love as they bring forth little eaglets into the world. Their nest is 125 feet high in the Big Bear Valley. After an empty nest for several years, Jackie finally laid three eggs this year. Both eagles have faithfully sat on those eggs through the worst conditions possible. Sometimes the wind is so strong, the whole nest might blow away. A winter storm brought 45 inches of snow. Poor Jackie was buried under snow with only her head sticking out, but she kept sitting on her eggs, undaunted. Shadow would catch fish for her to eat. Jackie stayed right on that nest knowing her babies would die without her warmth.

Finally, Jackie and Shadow watched as the first fledgling began to hatch, followed by the other two eggs. Their patience and love bore fruit with new life. It was heartwarming to see Jackie rip pieces of fish with her beak and place them into her eaglet's mouth.

God is patient with sinners, waiting for them to break out of the shell of sin. "The Lord... is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

Happy Lent



# WLRU 106.9 FM

"The Lord is Right for U."

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## TURNER FUNERAL HOMES AND CREMATORY

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Ann Burwinkel-McKenzie, D.D.S.

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