

Glory to God

IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH PEACE TO THOSE
ON WHOM HIS FAVOR RESTS!

– LUKE 2:14



OUR LADY OF THE HILLS

ST. MARY CHURCH

212 S. HIGH ST, HILLSBORO, OH 45133 | 937-840-9932

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

612 E. MULBERRY ST, WEST UNION, OH 45693 | 937-544-2757

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ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 21, 2025****SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025**9:00 a.m. St. Benignus – Donald Allison +
11:30 a.m. St. Mary – David Rosselott +**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025**

Noon St. Benignus – Joyce Seal +

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 – CHRISTMAS EVE3:30 p.m. St. Mary – Dr. Monica Salido +
5:30 p.m. St. Benignus – Loren, Margaret & Michael Hays +
9:00 p.m. St. Benignus – Judy Hagerty +
11:00 p.m. St. Mary – Thomas Moran +**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025****THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – MERRY CHRISTMAS**

10:00 a.m. St. Mary – Thomas Moran +

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2025

Noon St. Mary – Joseph Moses, Jr. +

Saturday, December 27, 2025

5:00 p.m. St. Mary – Jane Lawson +

Sunday, December 28, 2025

9:00 a.m. St. Benignus – Max (Buddy) Kilgore +

11:30 a.m. St. Mary – Jack Boler +

Adoration & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**Wednesday: 12:30 p.m. – St. Benignus****Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – Holy Trinity; 6:00 p.m. – St. Mary Confessions****Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – Queen of Heaven; 12:30 p.m. – St. Benignus****Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – Holy Trinity; 6:00 p.m. – St. Mary Saturday****4:00 p.m. – St. Mary; 4:00 p.m. – Holy Trinity**

Daily Mass Readings can be found at: usccb.org

ST. MARY – LIVESTREAM<https://www.twitch.tv/saintmaryhillsboro>

No Signups Needed, Free Livestreaming of Mass

Audio Stream for WLRU Radio is: wlrw.radio12345.com**OUR LADY OF THE HILLS FAMILY FACEBOOK PAGE**

Please Like & Share !!

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565871562111>*"Crosses release us from this world and by doing so bind us to God."*

– Saint Charles de Foucauld

"Never give up prayer, and should you find dryness and difficulty, persevere in it for this very reason. God often desires to see what love your soul has, and love is not tried by ease and satisfaction."

– St. John of the Cross

Better that only a few Catholics should be left, staunch and sincere in their religion, than that they should, remaining many, desire as it were, to be in collusion with the Church's enemies and in conformity with the open foes of our faith.

– St. Peter Canisius

From the Pastor's Desk



As we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we stand at the threshold of Christmas. The days of waiting are nearly complete, and the Church places before us readings that draw our attention to the quiet, hidden ways God fulfills His promises. These final moments of Advent invite us not simply to prepare decorations or finalize plans, but to prepare our hearts to receive Emmanuel – “God with us.”

In the first reading from the prophet Isaiah, King Ahaz is offered a sign from the Lord. Though Ahaz hesitates, God acts anyway, promising: “The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.” God’s faithfulness does not depend on human perfection or understanding. Even in moments of doubt or fear, the Lord remains steadfast, working His plan of salvation in ways far beyond what we expect.

The Gospel continues this theme through the figure of Saint Joseph. Joseph is a righteous man, faithful to God’s law, yet he is faced with a situation that would have caused deep confusion and pain. In a dream, the angel reveals God’s plan and invites Joseph to trust: “Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.” Joseph responds not with words, but with action. He places his life entirely at the service of God’s will, becoming the quiet guardian of the Savior and a model of humble obedience.

Together, these readings remind us that God often works through ordinary people who are willing to listen and trust. Joseph does not fully understand the mystery before him, but he believes. He teaches us that faith does not always mean having answers – it means allowing God to lead, even when the path is unclear. As Christmas approaches, the Fourth Sunday of Advent asks us to slow down and make room for the Lord. Like Joseph, we are invited to welcome Christ into our lives, our homes, and our hearts. Emmanuel comes to dwell with us – not in power or splendor, but in humility and love. May these final days of Advent help us grow in trust and openness to God’s presence. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we recognize Him as Emmanuel, the God who is always with us, guiding us gently toward the fullness of life.

Fr. Scott Morgan

Notes from Fr. Adam Lewis



Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday (Year A):

Seeking to Suffer and Rise with Christ

The further you withdraw from earthly things the closer you approach heavenly things and the more you find God. Whoever knows how to die in all will have life in all. Abandon evil, do good, and seek peace (Ps 34:14).

Anyone who complains or grumbles is not perfect, nor even a good Christian. The humble are those who hide in their own nothingness and know how to abandon themselves to God....

If you desire to be perfect, sell your will, give it to the poor in spirit, come to Christ in meekness and humility, and follow him to Calvary and the sepulcher. Those who trust in themselves are worse than the devil. Those who do not love their neighbor abhor God.

Anyone who does things lukewarmly is close to falling.

Whoever flees prayer flees all that is good. Conquering the tongue is better than fasting on bread and water.

Suffering for God is better than working miracles.

Oh, what blessings we will enjoy in the vision of the Most Blessed Trinity!... As for trials, the more the better. What does anyone know who doesn't know how to suffer for Christ?

Saint John of the Cross (+ 1591) is called the Mystical Doctor. The above words are taken from his “Sayings of Light and Love.”

Our Lady of Guadalupe miracles:

The tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe is associated with a cluster of extraordinary features. Taken together, they're why the image has been studied for nearly 500 years and still defies a full natural explanation. Here are the main miracles traditionally cited, explained plainly and carefully.

- **The tilma should have disintegrated** – but didn't. A tilma made from **agave fibers normally lasts 10-30 years** at best. The Guadalupe tilma has **survived nearly 500 years**, exposed to: humidity, smoke from candles, dust and pollution, handling and movement. Despite this, the fabric has not deteriorated as expected, which alone is highly unusual.
- **No detectable brushstrokes or known pigments.** Multiple examinations (including 20th-century scientific studies) found: No brushstrokes; No preparatory sketch; No known mineral, animal, or plant pigments that match the image in several areas. Some pigments appear to sit on the surface of the fibers rather than soaking in, unlike paint.
- **The eyes: microscopic reflections.** One of the most discussed features is found in Mary's eyes: When magnified, the eyes appear to show reflections of human figures. The reflections follow the Purkinje–Sanson law, which governs how images reflect in a human eye. Figures appear consistent in both eyes and scaled correctly. Among the reflected figures are what appear to be Juan Diego, the bishop, and others present at the unveiling. This phenomenon was unknown to science in 1531.
- **Stable temperature like living tissue.** Measurements have shown the tilma maintains a constant temperature around **98.6°F (37°C – close to human body temperature** – despite environmental changes. This is unusual for a fabric hanging in open air.

Collection Information

St. Mary Collection December 13, 2025

No Sunday, December 14th Mass Due to Snow

Weekly Collection.....	\$ 2,770.00
St. Vincent de Paul:	\$ 0.00
Southern Ohio Pregnancy Center:.....	\$ 2.00
Retirement Religious Fund.....	\$ 160.00
Christmas Flower Offering	\$ 55.00

Online Giving makes it easy to fulfill stewardship commitments. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and improve its budget. It's less risky than writing checks or bringing cash to church. **Electronic contributions cannot be lost, stolen, or destroyed and have an extremely high rate of accuracy.**

St. Benignus Collection December 14, 2025

Weekly Collection (No Mass due to Snow).....	\$.00
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Thank You for your Generosity!

[St. Mary Online Giving Link & QR Code](#)

osvhub.com/stmaryhillsboro/giving/funds

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



OLOTH CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

December 24th-January 1, 2026

BULLETIN DEADLINE OR BULLETIN EMAIL REQUEST

Bulletin can be Emailed – If you would like to have the Bulletin emailed to you, please contact the email below or church office. Please submit by **Monday 10:00 a.m.** Bulletin submissions in writing or email justleahatstmary@gmail.com or submit in my mailbox located at the front of the school or call the office at 937-840-9932.

HIGHLAND COUNTY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Next Parish Council Meeting for St. Benignus & St. Mary – January 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary. Highland County Parish Council Meetings will be held the 2nd Wednesday of every month and rotate locations between St. Mary & St. Benignus.

DATES & INFORMATION AT ST. BENIGNUS

Volunteers are needed to help set up the Church Nativity Scene after 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 21, 2025.

St. Benignus PSR students will have a donation box in the back of the church for new or gently used winter hats, gloves, socks and scarves. The items collected will be donated to St. Benignus, St. Vincent de Paul and will be dispersed as needed.

SVDP OF ST. BENIGNUS

SVDP meetings are on the **first and third Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.** All are welcome. Do continue to support our youth drive for winter items: hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, socks.

As our year closes, SVDP of St. Benignus thanks everyone for donations of time, talent, goods or donations; any prayers for our success or client's needs; or suggestions you've made. We gave over \$12,000 toward client needs, mostly in pantry items (food, cleaning supplies, toilet paper) and utilities in danger of being disconnected. There were a few exceptions made for gasoline (for medical appointments) and overnight emergency housing. Shoutout to Ian Woods who organized a hats/glove/socks drive for SVDP clients. Extra donations allow us to bless clients with a voucher for a single meat purchase at Community Market.

SVDP welcomes new members. We want not only to help our neighbors but also grow in faith ourselves through fellowship and generosity to others.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

ST. BENIGNUS & ST. MARY PRAYER LIST

Harry Todd, Pat Stevens, Wayne Bryant, Jason Wood, Steve Faust, Madge McCoy, Richard Oakes, Dave Shoultz, Gail Grim, Robert Wheaton, Ally Wright, Bonnie Hammons, Joe Carson, Bob Dye, Joe Turley, Jeff Thoroman, David Tolle, Brittany Kinzer, Paula Miller, Claudia Frank, Jeff Hadley, Becky Hiser, Theresa Shackelford, Cathy Thompson, Edna Maxwell, Jean Smith, Dick Lester, Linda Bradford, Roseann Cordrey, Barry Reinholtz, Rosemarie Muenster, Dale Braun, Mary Williams, Greg Burns, Rob Wintrow, Nicole Rhoads, Alan Lane, Elaine Feder, Aubrey Griego, Jamey Phillips, Mike Vermeersch, Ervin Moore, Sarah Severyn, Cathy Fox, Bob Prosek

** 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) **

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

December 20 – Creed Culbreath

December 21 – Mack Pohlman

December 22 – Henry Koehler

December 23 – Joanne McDaniels

December 27 – Kristy Bruckner

December 28 – Lois Richendollar

December 29 – Jane Horne, Thomas Miller

December 30 – Joyce Baker, Tara Beery, Teresa Stuebs

December 31 – Sheri Duckwall

January 3 – Norma Butsch

January 4 – Ethel Wood

"Those whose hearts are pure are the temples of the Holy Spirit." – St. Lucy



<https://catholicaoe.org/beacons-of-light>

ST. BENIGNUS MEN'S GROUP

Men's Group of St. Benignus 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.; all men are invited to join us at 6:00 p.m.

ST. BENIGNUS LADIES AUXILIARY

St. Benignus Ladies Auxiliary Meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Religious Ed Bldg. Any questions, please reach out to Paula at 937-876-9883. Meetings will resume on **March 12, 2026**. All are invited to come and help support your church.

ST. MARY REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Year-End Offering Statement: If you would like it emailed or printed for pick up in the back of the church, please contact the church office at 937-840-9932 or by email to justleahatstmary@gmail.com.

St. Mary Knights of Columbus meetings are the **2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. of each month at St. Mary**

ST. MARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Mary Art and Environment Committee is looking for a few volunteers to help with church decorations throughout the year. A Catholic Art and Environment Committee will use various elements like flowers, fabrics, plants, and religious art to create a prayerful and beautiful environment to reflect the liturgical season and enhance the worship experience. If interested or would like more information, please call the church office at 937-840-9932.

TRAVELING MARY AND JOSEPH AT ST. MARY

A long-standing tradition at St. Mary is the traveling Holy Family. During Advent, Joseph, Mary with child and a donkey move to different locations each weekend until they make it to the place where the Creche will be erected. So, make sure you keep an eye out, say a little prayer for all travelers this holiday season and in all the rush and stress be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

St. Mary Choir: Your Saturday organists would love to have voices join them upstairs for Saturday Mass. Announcing songs, singing the songs familiar to you and new to us, keeping us on the right verse – all would be helpful. Please wander upstairs and introduce yourself. No special process is necessary. Help us make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

– Kristy and Cathy



ST. MARY CHURCH BINGO

Bingo Team 1 (January 2, 2026)

Michelle V.-S., Jane H.,
Ann L., Josh P.,
Tim L., Joann M.

We are looking for parishioner volunteers to join our dedicated crew of counters to help with counting the weekly collection. If you are a current counter, or would like to volunteer for this ministry, please be sure to sign up on the sheet in front of Mary on the communion rail. Training will be provided. Counting will be done after the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. Volunteers can sign up until January 12, 2026, please contact the church office for more details.

GOOD CATHOLIC DIGITAL CONTENT SERIES

Even when we are fully awake and walking around, going to work or taking care of things at home, we are often spiritually asleep – and don't realize it. We forget that we are in need of a savior. We are caught up in this world, just as the people at Bethlehem were when Joseph and Mary sought shelter for the soon-to-be-born Christ Child. Our lives are so full, so busy with daily tasks, that heaven becomes a vague idea which rarely affects us. And this is certainly understandable. Our days are filled with the average and the ordinary: ordinary responsibilities, ordinary frustrations, ordinary sins. Advent calls us back. Advent wakes us up.

– Good Catholic Digital Content Series, Great Advent

The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

– Psalm 50:1

Our Lady of the Hills Parish Family will be going to a **Cincinnati Reds game on Friday, June 12, 2026! 7:10 p.m. is the scheduled first pitch. The ticket price is \$34.00** (with the group discount applied) and we will be in section 415-419 (depending on the total number of tickets needed).



Chyane Collins is coordinating the ticket purchase. You can reach her directly by calling/texting 740-572-2101 with your ticket quantity or questions.

Additional information will be shared but we wanted to share the date!



Donald Markland, Robert Arbaugh, Amy Kirst-Barnett, Amy Simpson, Rob Wintrow, David Rosselott, Elmer & Ethel Wilkens, Janet Wilkens, Barb Wilkens, Braun Family, Hovan Family, Dale Walker, Ken Breckel, Isador & Lydia Brown, The Hagerty Family, Deceased Members of Dean Family, Jim Block Family, Norman & Pat Givens, Calvin & Ruth Peterson, Joni Peterson, Luke Givens, Kyle Garrison, Eric Givens, Kennedy & Haitz Families, Debbie Kennedy, Steve Strahler, Mark Smith, Mrs. William Soards, Craycraft Family, Ronald & Sandy Burnett, Russell & Reva Salyer, Clayton & Ruth Vanzant, Max & Mary Lou Haines, Kathy Vanzant, Michael Cowdrey, Jennifer Henize, Wise Family

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our Knights of Columbus for sponsoring the purchase of a new sign for St. Mary. I am grateful to my brother Knights for their continued prayers and support of our parish!

Fr. Scott Morgan



Our Lady of The Hills Family

Christmas Eve Christmas Day Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24

3:30pm	-St Mary
5:30pm	- St Benignus
9:00pm	-St Benignus
11:00pm	- St Mary
5:00pm	-Holy Trinity
8:00pm	-Queen of Heaven

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25

10:00am	- Holy Trinity
10:00am	-St Mary

Our Lady of The Hills

New Years Eve
(Mother of God)

7:00pm	- Queen of Heaven
7:00pm	- St Mary

we wish you a

2025

2026

Happy New Year

New Years Day
(Mother of God)

10:00am	- St Benignus
10:00am	-Holy Trinity
Noon	- St Mary



Did you know there are three Christmas Masses?

There were three traditional Christmas Masses ...

The Catholic tradition of celebrating three distinct Masses on Christmas Day is an ancient and profound custom, rooted in the history of the Church in Rome and steeped in theological symbolism. While Catholics are only required to attend one Mass to fulfill the Holy Day Obligation, the three Masses beautifully symbolize the threefold birth of Christ: His eternal birth from the Father, His temporal birth from the Virgin Mary, and His spiritual birth in our hearts.

1. The Mass During the Night (The Angels' Mass) Time:

Midnight (or late Christmas Eve).

Symbolism: This Mass focuses on Christ's Eternal Birth from the Father, a hidden, mysterious, and miraculous event. Celebrated in the darkness of night, it mirrors the spiritual darkness of the world before Christ's coming. It emphasizes the immediate, hidden moment of the Nativity.



Key Scripture Theme: The Nativity Narrative itself, featuring the Gospel of Luke where the angels announce the birth to the shepherds.

2. The Mass at Dawn (The Shepherds' Mass) Time: Daybreak.

Symbolism: As the natural light begins to return, this Mass focuses on Christ's Spiritual Birth in the hearts of the faithful. Christ is celebrated as the "Sun of Justice" bringing illumination to the world. The shift from the deep night to the first light of day symbolizes the dawning of grace in humanity. The Shepherds, the first to adore Christ, represent the simple faithful who are drawn to Him.

Key Scripture Theme: The Adoration of the Shepherds (Luke), focusing on the shepherds hastening to the crib and proclaiming the Good News.

3. The Mass During the Day (The King's Mass) Time:

Morning/Daytime.

Symbolism: Celebrated in the fullness of day, this Mass focuses on Christ's Temporal/Historical Birth and the full revelation of His Divinity and Incarnation to the whole world. It proclaims Christ as the Eternal Word made flesh and the undisputed King of Kings.

Key Scripture Theme: The Prologue of St. John's Gospel ("In the beginning was the Word..."), which provides the most theological reflection on the Incarnation: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." All of this comes from the Church's ancient historical practice, the texts of the Roman Missal, and authoritative theological teaching.

Dear St. Mary Parishioners,

As most are aware, there are a significant amount of deferred maintenance repairs that need to be made to our campus. We have gained estimates for repairs to begin in the St. Mary Rectory – for my soon-to-be permanent offices. We will also begin structural repairs on the main body of the church in the near future. Please note that in January your "Building Fund" envelopes will be called "St. Mary Maintenance Fund." Due to the Hall being paid off, this Maintenance Fund will begin to help offset the costs and allow us to begin the repairs needed to keep St. Mary a shining pillar in our community. The estimated cost for repairs to the interior of the rectory are \$13,274.16 Please prayerfully consider how you can support the maintenance fund to preserve our beautiful church.

Thank you, Fr. Scott Morgan, Pastor

A CHRISTMAS NOTE FROM FR SCOTT

"O sweet Child of Bethlehem..." With these tender words, Pope Saint John XXIII gives voice to the deepest longing of the human heart. His Christmas prayer reminds us that beneath every desire for joy, beauty, love, and goodness lies a hunger for peace – a peace the world cannot manufacture and that only Christ can give. In a single phrase, the Holy Father directs us to the true gift of Christmas: Emmanuel, God who is with us. In the weeks leading up to this holy day, many of us have been caught up in preparations. Homes have been decorated, gifts wrapped, meals planned, and calendars filled. The joyful busyness of the season can also bring a measure of stress and fatigue. Yet today, everything changes. Christmas arrives with a sacred stillness. The noise fades, the rushing pauses, and the world seems to hold its breath. In the quiet glow of this day, we are invited to kneel at the manger and to offer our own Christmas prayer. What has your heart been longing for? Peace in a troubled family? Healing in body or spirit? Strength simply to get through another day? Whatever your prayer, the words spoken by the angel to the shepherds are spoken now to each of us: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy... for today a Savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord." This is not distant or abstract news. It is for you. St. Catherine of Siena once asked, "What more could you have given me than the gift of your very self?" That is the mystery we celebrate today. God does not give something; He gives Himself. The eternal Word becomes flesh, born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem, entering fully into our human story. Like Mary, we are invited to ponder this mystery in our hearts. Like the shepherds, we are sent forth glorifying and praising God for all we have heard and seen – because it is exactly as we have been told. Today, God is with us. Today, a Savior is born. May this truth fill your hearts with lasting peace, deep gratitude, and the joy that comes from knowing that the greatest gift of all has been given: God Himself. Merry Christmas!

Fr. Scott Morgan, Pastor

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart?

Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern."

Mother Teresa

Christianbook.com
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CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS

FOLLOW AND PRAY WITH ARCHBISHOP CASEY – Archbishop Casey has launched his own social media accounts! Follow him at:

- Instagram: [@archbishopcasey](https://www.instagram.com/archbishopcasey)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/archbishopcasey](https://www.facebook.com/archbishopcasey)

SAVE THE DATE! CATHOLIC DAY AT GREAT AMERICAN BALLPARK ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 – The second annual Catholic Day at Great American Ballpark will be held on Saturday, September 5, 2026, which is the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. The Cincinnati Reds will host the Milwaukee Brewers that evening. More details will be announced soon.

ST. BENIGNUS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

When: Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2025

Time: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Where: Eagles Lodge, 1275 N. Washington Street Greenfield, Ohio 45123



Volunteers are needed from 8:00 a.m. To 2:00 p.m. We will be preparing all the food, put together the carryout meals, delivering meals and cleaning up.

We serve 700-800 meals of which 600 are delivered. The total cost for these meals is about \$2,500.00 per year and it is totally funded through donations. All food is purchased locally.

Donations can be dropped off to Eric Zint at corner pharmacy, 259 Jefferson Street, Greenfield, Ohio or St. Benignus Church Office.

This event would not be possible if it weren't for all the wonderful people who volunteer each year.

Anyone wishing to volunteer is asked to please sign up on the sheet in the back of church.

God bless everyone for helping to make this happen each year!

WLRU 106.9 FM

"The Lord is Right for U."

TURNER

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