This Week at Our Parishes

Sunday, November 27: First Sunday of Advent

Readings: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44
Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Angelus, Psalter I Seasonal Prop
8:30 a.m. Rosary prayed at Our Lady of Grace
9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace for † Raymond and Catherine Betlejewski by Ronald Betlejewski
10:00 a.m. Fellowship coffee and donuts at OLG
10:00 a.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary
10:30 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Frank E. Weiss by the Nielson family
11:30 a.m. Fellowship coffee and donuts with Education Endowment Fund raffle at St. Mary
12:00 p.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary (Spanish)
12:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Micaela Perez by Delores Olivarez
4:15 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
5:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for the people of our parishes
6:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group at OLG

Monday, November 28: .

Readings: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-2. 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11
Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Angelus
12:10 p.m. Communion Service at Our Lady of Grace
6:30 p.m. Follow the Light to Christmas at OLG
6:30 p.m. R.C.I.A. at Our Lady of Grace
8:00 p.m. A.A. at St. Mary

Tuesday, November 29

Readings: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Prayers: Sorrowful mysteries, Angelus
8:00 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at OLG
8:30 a.m. Holy Mass at OLG

Wednesday, November 30: St. Andrew, Apostle

Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter and a disciple of John the Baptist. Tradition holds he preached north of the Black Sea and in Greece. He died, bound to an X-shaped cross, at Patras, Greece. He is the patron of Russia and Scotland, and the fishing industry. He was the first called apostle (See John 1:40). He is mentioned in the Roman Canon.

Readings: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 4:18-22
Prayers: Glorious mysteries, Angelus
6:15 p.m. Religious Education classes at OLG

Thursday, December 1

Readings: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Prayers: Luminous mysteries, Angelus
11:40 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
12:00 p.m. Christian Social Concerns Committee meeting at Our Lady of Grace
12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for Blessings on Ryker on his 6th birthday by Grandma Christine
5:30 p.m. St. Mary's Altar Society Christmas Party in Lourdes Hall
5:30 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
6:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish)

Pray fervently to end abortion, artificial birth control, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research.

This Week at Our Parishes

Friday, December 2

Readings: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Prayers: Sorrowful mysteries, Angelus
11:00 a.m. **First Friday** Devotion at St. Mary: Adoration, Benediction, Rosary and Sacrament of Reconciliation
12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Anita Bates by Marty and Monica Stevens

Saturday, December 3: St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Francis was from Navarre and one of the founding Jesuits. He preached with Thérèse of the Child Jesus in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Japan. He is the co-patron of the Apostleship of Prayer and patron of the foreign missions. He died in 1552 at the age of 46 on the island of Sancion off the China coast.

Readings: Is 30:19-21,23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Angelus
10:00 a.m. **First Saturday** devotion at St. Mary: Rosary
10:30a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for the conversions of sinners and to make reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary
3:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at OLG
4:00 p.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace for † Elsie Gust and Stella Shunta by Dan and Pam Shunta

Sunday, December 4: Second Sunday of Advent

Readings: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12
Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Angelus, Psalter II Seasonal Prop
8:30 a.m. Rosary prayed at Our Lady of Grace
9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace for † Raymond and Catherine Betlejewski by Ronald Betlejewski
10:00 a.m. Parish Breakfast at Our Lady of Grace
10:00 a.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary
10:30 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for the special intentions of Fr. Jegar Fickel by Dave and Jane Tomczak
12:00 p.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary (Spanish)
12:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Jose Luis Perez by the Contreras family
4:15 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
5:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for the people of our parishes

Holy Day of Obligation

Thursday, December 8, 2016
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Masses will be celebrated:
Wednesday, December 7:
6:00 p.m. at St. Mary's
Thursday, December 8:
12:10 p.m. at St. Mary's
6:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace
6:00 p.m. at St. Mary's (Spanish)

Fr. Bernott
Education Endowment Fund Raffle

This raffle subsidizes each parish's assessment to Muskegon Catholic Schools as well as the textbook voucher that is extended to all of our middle and high school students that attend MCC. It also helps to cover the cost of Sacramental preparation and Religious Education programs that benefit the children of our parishes.

The first raffle will be held today, November 27th, following the 10:30am Mass at St. Mary's. You can still purchase tickets from the parish office to be included in next month's raffle. Raffles are held the last Sunday of each month November through August.

Tickets are $10.00 each or six (6) for $50.00. One ticket has monthly chances to win $100.00.

Please help support this great legacy of Fr. Bernott and buy tickets - the greatest thing we can do for our kids is to pass on the faith!

Christian Social Concerns Committee News

Annual Christmas Gift Drive
Gift tags on the CSC Giving Trees are available at both parishes. Please choose a tag of a sponsored child and be sure to sign it out. Gifts should be wrapped with the tag taped to it and placed under the Giving Tree by December 4th. Please remember the less fortunate this Christmas season.

Happy New Year!

The start of a new liturgical year, beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, also marks the transition from one lectionary cycle (A, B, or C) to the next.

These cycles are a result of the Second Vatican Council, which ordered a change in the Sunday readings at Mass so that Catholics would become more familiar with the text of the Bible. As a result we now have a three-year cycle of readings built around readings from the three synoptic Gospels - Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

Cycle A: The Gospel of Matthew
Cycle B: The Gospel of Mark
Cycle C: The Gospel of Luke

This Sunday, we start the lectionary cycle **A**. Keep this in mind when looking for the readings in the St. Augustine hymnal.

St. Mary's Church Cleaning Day

Mark your calendars! The church cleaning day is Wednesday, December 7 at 9am. Many volunteers are needed to prepare the church before it is decorated for Christmas. This is a commitment of approximately 3-4 hours. Please call Jean Gawel at 231-798-8493 if you are willing to lend a hand.

Mobile Food Pantry

Saturday, December 10, 2016
Our Lady of Grace parking lot
10:00 a.m.
Volunteers are needed to help from 9:00am - til done.
Sign-up sheets are located in the church hallway/ narthex or call the Chandonnet's at 755-0357.

Book of Remembrance

There is a *Book of Remembrance* located near the piano at OLG and by the Baptismal font at St. Mary's to remember our loved ones who have gone before us. Parishioners may write the names of their deceased loved ones in the book during the month of November.

Flower Fund Memorials

Due Sunday, December 4

Honor your departed loved ones all year by donating to the Flower Memorial Fund this Christmas. December 4th will be the bi-annual collection for this fund. It will be used to purchase poinsettias for the Sanctuary at Christmas and ensure that there are flowers to honor our Lord and Savior all year. It is fitting that we honor God in this way and make His house beautiful as possible. Envelopes are in your contribution boxes.

On the envelope, please **PRINT** the names of your loved ones whom you wish to remember.

Please give generously!

Will your heart be in the right place this Christmas?

Follow the Light to Christmas

Monday, November 28, 2016
Our Lady of Grace
6:30 p.m.

EVERYONE is invited to this special program!

Sponsored by the Our Lady of Grace Women's Guild.

St. Mary's Altar Society Christmas Party

Thursday, December 1, 2016
Lourdes Hall
Social Hour: 5:30pm; Dinner: 6:15pm

Beverages, appetizers, meat and table service provided.

Please bring a dish to pass.

Please RSVP: A sign up sheet is in the narthex or call Jackie at 760-4393 or Jo Ann at 744-9313.

Personal drivers are welcome to join us for dinner.

First Saturday Devotion

For the conversion of sinners and to make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

ST. MARY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
10:00 A.M.
ROSARY AND MASS

Prayer Line

St. Mary's: Benita Mikesell, 231-803-4425 or Jean Gawel, 231-798-8493

Our Lady of Grace: Anna Mogdics, 231- 670-5073

Prayer Requests

Please keep these individuals in your prayers

Mary Beth Schulist, Gloria Cline (Fr. Fekete's sister), Pat & Bob Hogan, Jeff Kenny, Carolene McIntosh, Shirley Green, Christine and Dennis Siedlecki, Marysa Morales Yack, Baby Omar, Sophia Saavedra, Tom Carlson, Ron Faino, Jose Alcahuter, Jeannie Holstrom, Rosemary Kellogg, Ralph Alvesteffer, Marty Neff, Mark Smith, Donna Jackson, Ellis Dilts, Evelyn, Gene Perdew, Bill Forton, Jackie Somerville, Julia Gonzales, Cara Burkall, Fran Wright, Phyllis Hernandez, Ben Offerink, William & Benita Mikesell, Johnathon Jacobs, Belinda Gerard, Maria Loreto Bravo, & Sophia Cerniglia

Please pray for our homebound parishioners

Jim Dalum, Fran Wright, Rose Ann Bird, Bernice Brown, Rosemary Keefe, Vivian Smith, Betty Reilly & Johanna Ripka

Please pray for our parishioners who are in care

Ruth Stevens, Shirley Sterritt, Marie Peterson, Ruth Ruby, Rosemary Sleak, Gene Gianetti Jr., Ellen Gill, Leone Misze, Rosalie Venne, Barbara Wilson, Ethel Darien, Alyce Donalson, Alice Grevious, Josephine Hiersman, Isabelle Nelson, Joe Paquette, Lucille Radke, Kathy Hale & Tillie Standage

Please pray for our parishioners in the Military

Seaman Recruit Ryan McIntire, US Coast Guard; Erin McDermott, currently in US Army Boot Camp; Nic Frank, Air Force; SSG. Richarda (Rikki) Amaya; Elias Vihtelic, US Navy; 1st Lt. Timothy Merkle; Staff Sgt. Casey Sowa; Master Sgt. April Sowa; IS3 Cody Hacker; Private Jakob Bergquist; Major Adam Shaw; PFC Abraham Angel Luis Aguilar; Spec. Alex Block; Andrew Shadowski, U. S. Army; & Noah Sweet, U. S. Army

Looking Ahead...

Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24
4:00 p.m. Holy Mass for Children at St. Mary's
7:00 p.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace
7:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary's (Spanish)
12:00 Midnight Holy Mass at St. Mary's

Sunday, December 25
9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace
10:30 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary's

Please note well: There will not be a 12:30 p.m. or a 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day.

The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

During the season of Advent, the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary may be prayed on Sunday's.

The first five decades, the "joyful mysteries", are marked by *the joy radiating from the event of the Incarnation*. This is clear from the very first mystery, the Annunciation, where Gabriel's greeting to the Virgin of Nazareth is linked to an invitation to messianic joy: "Rejoice, Mary". The whole of salvation history, in some sense the entire history of the world, has led up to this greeting. If it is the Father's plan to unite all things in Christ (cf. Eph 1:10), then the whole of the universe is in some way touched by the divine favour with which the Father looks upon Mary and makes her the Mother of his Son. The whole of humanity, in turn, is embraced by the *fiat* with which she readily agrees to the will of God.

Exultation is the keynote of the encounter with Elizabeth, where the sound of Mary's voice and the presence of Christ in her womb cause John to "leap for joy" (cf. Lk 1:44). Gladness also fills the scene in Bethlehem, when the birth of the divine Child, the Saviour of the world, is announced by the song of the angels and proclaimed to the shepherds as "news of great joy" (Lk 2:10).

The final two mysteries, while preserving this climate of joy, already point to the drama yet to come. The Presentation in the Temple not only expresses the joy of the Child's consecration and the ecstasy of the aged Simeon; it also records the prophecy that Christ will be a "sign of contradiction" for Israel and that a sword will pierce his mother's heart (cf Lk 2:34-35). Joy mixed with drama marks the fifth mystery, the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple. Here he appears in his divine wisdom as he listens and raises questions, already in effect one who "teaches". The revelation of his mystery as the Son wholly dedicated to his Father's affairs proclaims the radical nature of the Gospel, in which even the closest of human relationships are challenged by the absolute demands of the Kingdom. Mary and Joseph, fearful and anxious, "did not understand" his words (Lk 2:50).

To meditate upon the "joyful" mysteries, then, is to enter into the ultimate causes and the deepest meaning of Christian joy. It is to focus on the realism of the mystery of the Incarnation and on the obscure foreshadowing of the mystery of the saving Passion. Mary leads us to discover the secret of Christian joy, reminding us that Christianity is, first and foremost, *euangelion*, "good news", which has as its heart and its whole content the person of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, the one Saviour of the world.

Apostolic Letter: *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* of the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II to the Bishops, Clergy and Faithful on the Most Holy Rosary, Paragraph 20, October 16, 2002.

Lectio Divina

Lectio divina is a form of meditation rooted in liturgical celebration that dates back to early monastic communities. It was a method practiced by monks in their daily encounter with Scripture, both as they prepared for the Eucharist and as they prayed the Liturgy of the Hours.

The Latin phrase "lectio divina" may be translated as "divine reading." As one reads and invites the Word to become a transforming lens that brings the events of daily living into focus, one can come to live more deeply and find the presence of God more readily in the events of each day. The method of lectio divina follows four steps:

- lectio (reading)
- meditatio (meditation)
- contemplatio (contemplation)
- oratio (prayer)

There will be a bulletin insert of Lectio Divina each week throughout Advent.