

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Mary’s prayer is revealed to us at the dawning of the fullness of time. Before the incarnation of the Son of God, and before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, her prayer cooperates in a unique way with the Father’s plan of loving kindness; at the Annunciation, for Christ’s conception; at Pentecost, for the formation of the Church, his Body. In the faith of his humble handmaid, the Gift of God found the acceptance he had awaited from the beginning of time. She whom the Almighty made ‘full of grace’ responds by offering her whole being: ‘Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word.’ ‘Fiat’: this is Christian prayer: to be wholly God’s, because he is wholly ours” (CCC 2617).

### This Week at Our Parishes

#### Sunday, December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;  
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus

8:30 a.m. Rosary prayed at Our Lady of Grace

9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at OLG for † Joel Gustin by Jason and Jamie Gustin

10:00 a.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary

10:30 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Eugene, Sr. and Rose Hower by Marty and Monica Stevens

12:00 p.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary (Spanish)

12:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish) for the people of our parishes

Please note: There will not be a 9am Mass (Spanish) or a 5:00pm Mass at St. Mary’s to fulfill the 4th Sunday of Advent obligation.

#### Sunday, December 24: Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

Readings: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 29;  
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25

Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus

4:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for the Children

6:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish)

6:30 p.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace

#### Monday, December 25: The Nativity of the Lord

Readings (Day): Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus

Midnight Holy Mass at St. Mary

9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace

10:30 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary

12:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish)

#### Tuesday, December 26: St. Stephen, the First Martyr

Readings: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17;  
Mt 10:17-22

Prayers: Sorrowful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus

11:40 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary

12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Scheibner by Louise Scheibner

#### Wednesday, December 27: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Readings: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Prayers: Glorious mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus

11:40 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary

12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for the special intentions of Fr. Matt Barnum

6:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary

6:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish)

#### Thursday, December 28: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Readings: 1 Jn 1:5 – 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Prayers: Luminous mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus

11:40 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary

12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for an end to the slaughter of abortion by Marty and Monica Stevens

#### Friday, December 29: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

Readings: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Prayers: Sorrowful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus

11:40 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary

12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Peg Shields by Therese LeMieux

#### Saturday, December 30:

Readings: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus

3:15 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at OLG

4:00 p.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace for † John and Betty Gary by the Gary families

#### Sunday, December 31: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Readings: Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;  
Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Lk 2:22, 39-40

Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus

8:30 a.m. Rosary prayed at Our Lady of Grace

9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at OLG for † Sue Westenfelder by Greg and Penny Russick

9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish) for the people of our parishes

10:00 a.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary

10:30 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Robert Moblo by his family

12:00 p.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary (Spanish)

12:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish)

4:15 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary

5:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Tori Houghtaling by Kayleigh McCollum

### Masses on Tuesday and Wednesday

Please make note of the location and time change for the Mass on Tuesday, December 26th. This Mass will be celebrated at 12:10p.m. at St. Mary’s instead of Our Lady of Grace. An additional 12:10p.m. Mass has been added to Wednesday, December 27th.

### Mass Attendance: December 17, 2017

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| OLG 4:00pm: 205 | OLG 9:00am: 134 |
| SM 9:00am: 50   | SM 10:30am: 204 |
| SM 12:30pm: 124 | SM 5:00pm: 172  |

### Religious Education News

A huge thank you to all our parish catechists in CCD, CLOW, RCIA, and Youth Group for your willingness to share the faith. May you have a very merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

- Kacey Kersman, DRE



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 RequestsPlease keep these individuals in your prayers

Diane Williams, Mike and Patti Birkhold, Larry Gilbert,  
Fred Kenny, Jr., Yvonne Petersen, Delores Zakroczemski,  
John Potter, Ellis Dilts, Rose Marie Mikesell, Ron Betlejewski,  
Ben Offrink, Gail Gee, Betty Gee, John McCormick,  
Sotero Leyton, Billie Leonard, Gloria Cline, Pat Hogan, Jeff Kenny,  
Shirley Green, Ron Faino, Jose Alcahuter, Christine Siedlecki,  
Ralph Alvesteffer, Bill Forton, William & Benita Mikesell

Please pray for our homebound parishioners

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

Please pray for our parishioners who are in care

Dorothy Bauer, Eugene Rewalt, Joan Gardner, Arlene LeBeau,  
Carolene McIntosh, Pat Simonson, Jackie Blake, Shirley Sterritt,  
Ruth Ruby, Gene Gianetti Jr., Rosalie Venne, Alyce Donalson,  
Lucille Radke, Kathy Hale & Tillie Standage

Please pray for our parishioners in the military

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

Evangelization Clip

by Deacon Jim Schiltz  
December 24, 2017

In each Sunday of Advent, God calls us to renew our relationship with Him and His Church. "Be watchful! Be alert!" (First.) "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Second.) "Testify to (witness) the light." (Third.) The child will be called holy, the Son of God." (Fourth.) How appropriate that Advent comes just before a New Year. Because of Advent, how will you be different in 2018? Discuss with your children how you plan to grow deeper in the faith in 2018. Plan some new approaches with them, perhaps some family faith time to read and discuss the Sunday Gospels. See your bulletin for the Scripture references or go to the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops website at USCCB.org. Lots of information there!

**Parish Office Hours:**  
**The Octave of Christmas**

The Parish Office will be closed during the Octave of Christmas, December 26 - January 1. The office will reopen January 2nd. If you have a sacramental emergency, please call the Emergency Line: 231-670-3017.

From Fr. Matt, Fr. Edwin and the Parish Staff

*Merry Christmas* 

Sacrificial Offerings & Other Contributions

December 17, 2017

Our Lady of Grace

Budgeted Weekly Amount: \$ 5,544.00

General Fund n/a at time of printing

St. Mary's Church

Budgeted Weekly Amount \$ 7,128.75

General Fund n/a at time of printing

Contribution Counters: Week of December 24  
OLG Team 5

Contribution Counters: Week of December 31  
OLG Team 51 - St. Mary Teams 1 and 4

Midnight Mass and Concert

Midnight Mass and the Prelude of Carols with Brass, Strings and Choirs on Christmas Eve will be broadcast live from the Cathedral of Saint Andrew on FOX 17 (check your local listings) and online on the diocesan website, [dioceseofgrandrapids.org](http://dioceseofgrandrapids.org), and Facebook page (Diocese of Grand Rapids). The concert begins at 11 p.m. and Mass begins at Midnight.

There will be a replay of Midnight Mass on FOX 17 at 6:30 a.m. Christmas morning.

**Masses for Advent and Christmas:**  
**Holy Days of Obligation Information**

On December 24th, the morning and the 12:30pm Masses will fulfill your obligation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Any Mass after the 12:30pm Mass will not! The 4pm and the 6:30pm Masses will fulfill your obligation for Christmas. Please be sure to attend a Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and a Mass for Christmas in order to stay in good standing. As Fr. Matt put it, "It's a two for two this year."

Below, please find a list of all the Mass options for both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas. You simply need to attend one Mass from each list, and you'll be all set!

Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass Options

Saturday, December 23, 4pm Mass at Our Lady of Grace  
Sunday, December 24, 9am Mass at Our Lady of Grace  
Sunday, December 24, 10:30am Mass at St. Mary  
Sunday, December 24, 12:30pm Mass at St. Mary (Spanish)

Christmas Mass Options

Sunday, December 24, 4pm Mass at St. Mary  
Sunday, December 24, 6:30pm Mass at St. Mary (Spanish)  
Sunday, December 24, 6:30pm Mass at Our Lady of Grace  
Monday, December 25, Midnight Mass at St. Mary  
Monday, December 25, 9am Mass at Our Lady of Grace  
Monday, December 25, 10:30am Mass at St. Mary  
Monday, December 25, 12:30pm Mass at St. Mary (Spanish)

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

“The Christian family constitutes a specific revelation and realization of ecclesial communion, and for this reason it can and should be called a *domestic church*.’ It is a community of faith, hope, and charity; it assumes singular importance in the Church, as is evident in the New Testament” (CCC 2204)

**This Week at Our Parishes**

**Sunday, December 31: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

- Readings: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Lk 2:22, 39-40
- Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary prayed at Our Lady of Grace
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at OLG for † Sue Westenfelder by Greg and Penny Russick
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish) for the people of our parishes
- 10:00 a.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Robert Moblo by his family
- 12:00 p.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary (Spanish)
- 12:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish)
- 4:15 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Tori Houghtaling by Kayleigh McCollum

**Monday, January 1: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

- Readings: Num 6:22-27; Ps 67:1-8; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
- Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus
- 11:40 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
- 12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Vicky Jo Barton by Monica Stevens

**Tuesday, January 2: St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen**

- Readings: 1 John 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; John 1:19-28
- Prayers: Sorrowful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus
- 8:00 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at OLG
- 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass at OLG for † Ed McMahon by John and Jill Mastee

**Wednesday, January 3: The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

- Readings: 1 John 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1-6; John 1:29-34
- Prayers: Glorious mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus
- 6:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
- 6:15 p.m. Religious Education classes at OLG
- 6:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish) for the special intentions of Ron Friday by Jon and Chris Stewart

**Thursday, January 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Religious**

- Readings: 1 John 3:7-10; Ps 98:1-9; John 1:35-42
- Prayers: Luminous mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus
- 11:40 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
- 12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Charles Strouse, Jr. by Maureen McDermott and Charles Strouse, Sr.

**Friday, January 5: First Friday, St. John Neumann, Bishop**

- Readings: 1 John 3:11-21; Ps 100:1-5; John 1:43-51
- Prayers: Sorrowful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus
- 11:00 a.m. First Friday Devotion: Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary at St. Mary
- 11:40 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
- 12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Zenon Kowalczyk by Ed and JoAnn Simon

**Saturday, January 6: First Saturday, St. André Bessette, Religious**

- Readings: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-13; Eph 3:1-6; Matt 2:1-12
- Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus
- 10:00 a.m. First Saturday Devotion: Rosary at St. Mary
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary to make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and for the conversion of sinners
- 3:15 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at OLG
- 4:00 p.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace for † Scott Meyer by his family

**Sunday, January 7: The Epiphany of the Lord**

- Readings: Is 55:1-11; Is 12:1-6; 1 John 5:1-9; Mark 1:7-11
- Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary prayed at Our Lady of Grace
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at OLG for † Raymond and Catherine Betlejewski by Ron Betlejewski
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish)
- 10:00 a.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Helena Schaub by Gene and Barb Greenwood
- 12:00 p.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary (Spanish)
- 12:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish) for the people of our parishes
- 4:15 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Tori Houghtaling by Dave and Jane Tomczak

**Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

Please note: January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. The location of Mass has been changed. Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary’s instead of Our Lady of Grace.

**First Friday Devotion**

Friday, January 5  
St. Mary’s Church

11:00am: Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary

11:40a.m: Sacrament of Reconciliation

12:10p.m: Holy Mass

**First Saturday Devotion**

Saturday, January 6  
St. Mary’s Church

10:00am: Rosary

10:30am: Holy Mass



**The Holy Name of Jesus:** From apostolic times, the Church has professed, “At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil 2:10-11) Through the efforts of St. Bernardine of Siena, devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus was promoted through the inscription of its monogram (IHS) and the addition of the name of Jesus to the Hail Mary. Pope Sixtus V granted an indulgence for piously uttering the phrase “Praised be Jesus Christ!” (Enchiridion Indulgentiarum).

**Evangelization Clip**

by Deacon Jim Schiltz

December 31, 2017

Hope. Advent and Christmas readings speak of Hope. Optimism is just a wish. Hope is a gift bestowed by God from our prayer. Hope is having faith and trusting that God will grant us eternity in the next life and the means to obtain it. Hope is the confident expectation that God will grant us some desired good in this life and give us the Spirit's wisdom to obtain it. Hope relies upon our all-powerful God, not upon ourselves. Hope is believing that God can work out for good anything that comes against us. We grow in hope by reconnecting with God through conversational prayer. We grow in hope by committing to truth as taught in Scripture and by the Church. Are you hopeful? Discuss this virtue with your family.

**Religious Education News**

The Director of Religious Education is currently looking for an energetic person to assist in the Middle School Youth Group program. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact Kacey Kersman at 231-722-2803, ext. 16 or dre@stmarysmuskegon.org or dre@olgmuskegon.org.

**Cantors Needed!!!**

Do you have a good voice and the desire to serve the Lord with your talent? If so, we need you! Our Lady of Grace church is currently looking for more cantors to lead the congregation in song during Sunday Masses. If you are interested, please talk to the pianist or cantor after Mass, or call the parish office for more information.

**Tax Preparation Help**

VITA Services of West Michigan is a tax preparation program through Goodwill Industries. The program is free and prepares the Federal, State and Local tax returns for anyone with a simple tax return and earning less than \$60,000 of adjusted gross income. For more information, please contact Carl Lewis, Jr. at 231-722-7871, ext. 1070.

**Bereavement Ministry**

Deacon Bill Cook is looking for two volunteers from each parish to help start a grief support ministry. If you are interested, please call Deacon at 231-329-9504.

**Parishioner In Need**

A parishioner is in need of the following items:



Two twin beds  
Washer and Dryer  
Dressers  
End Tables



Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted to purchase paint, wall board, light fixtures, wiring and flooring. Please call the Russicks at 616-516-3580 if you can supply any of these items. Many thanks and God bless.

**Parish Office Hours****Regular Business Hours**

Monday - Thursday, 9am - Noon, 1pm - 5pm  
Closed on Friday's

**Office Closures**

If Muskegon Public Schools are closed due to weather and road conditions, the parish office will be closed. Please check your local news first before venturing out to the parish office.

**Mobile Food Pantry Ministry**

The parishes of Our Lady of Grace and St. Mary's is in need of someone to organize the Mobile Food Pantry Ministry. If the Lord is calling you to this ministry please contact the parish office. Training will be provided.

**2018 Contribution Envelopes for Parishioners**

You should have by now received two months worth of 2018 contribution envelopes at your home address. If you do not receive yours by the end of the year, please contact the parish office at 722-2803, ext. 11 or ext. 12 after January 1st.

If you prefer to contribute electronically, St. Mary's and Our Lady of Grace parishes are pleased to offer this option for your weekly tithes and donations! Contributions can be safely debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. This offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our parishes. Please visit our website at olgmuskegon.org or stmarysmuskegon.org, scroll down a bit and find these buttons on the right hand side.

Donate Online  
to Our Lady of Grace

Donate Online  
to St. Mary

**RCIA Catechumens**

Please pray for our Catechumens as they continue on their journey towards the Sacraments of Initiation: Alaina, Amanda, Jamica, Jaxin, Olivia, and Tiovanni.

**Prayer to the Holy Family**

O most loving Jesus, Who by Thy sublime and beautiful virtues of humility, obedience, poverty, modesty, charity, patience and gentleness, and by the example of Thy domestic life, didst bless with peace and happiness the family Thou didst choose on earth, in Thy clemency look down upon this household, humbly prostrate before Thee and imploring Thy mercy. Remember that this family belongs to Thee; for to Thee we have in a special way dedicated and devoted ourselves. Look upon us in Thy loving kindness; preserve us from danger; give us help in time of need, and grant us the grace to persevere to the end in the imitation of Thy Holy Family; that having revered Thee and loved Thee faithfully on earth, we may bless and praise Thee eternally in heaven. O Mary, most sweet Mother, to thy intercession we have recourse, knowing that thy Divine Son will hear thy prayers. And do thou, O glorious Patriarch, St. Joseph, assist us by thy powerful mediation, and offer, by the hands of Mary, our prayers to Jesus. Amen.