Gospel Mt 3:1-12

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the

Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers!

Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'

For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Advent Reconciliation Services

Thursday, December 15 St. Stephen Church, Port Huron 7PM

Saturday, December 17 Holy Cross Church, Marine City 1PM

Wednesday, December 21 St. Augustine Church, Richmond 7PM

"We, the members of St. Mary's Parish of St. Clair, Michigan, worship and grow together in faith, minister to all and share the Good News of Jesus Christ."

St. Mary's Catholic Church St. Clair, Michigan December 4th, 2016 Second Sunday of Advent



Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by GOD, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved from all stain of original sin....

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary December 8th, 2016



Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Schedule

9:00AM 6:30PM

Please Join us for a Light Reception Immediately Following both Masses In Church Basement

St. Mary's Current, St. Clair

<u>Office Hours</u>	MASS SCHEDULE	
Monthru– Thursday- 9:00AM-4PM	Mon., Tues, Wed8:00AM	
Friday 10:00AM-3:00PM	Thurs6:30PM	
Closed for Lunch: Noon– 1:00 P.M.	Friday, Sat9:00AM	
Rev. Michael Zuelch, Pastor	Saturday evening4:30PM	
	Sunday	
Rev. Edward Ritter, Pastor Emeritus	Holy Ďays of Obligation	
Rev. Mr. John Fitzmaurice	9:00 AM & Vigil Mass- 6:30PM	
<u>Deacon Emeritus</u>		
Rev. Mr. Robert E. McLeod	<u>CONFESSIONS</u>	

Music Director	<u> Maintenance Supervisor</u>
Andrew Meagher	Mark Hearn
<u>Bookkeeper</u>	<u>Office Manager</u>
Gary Grittini	Marie Coules
<u>Parish Secretary</u>	<u>Parish Life</u>
Anna Bissett	Richard Yamin

329-7801 **Religious Education** Mrs. Mary Beth Blum, Director

Mrs. Geralynn Sutherland, Principal **Deacon John Fitzmaurice, Dean of Students** Mrs. Chris Nesbitt, Secretary SCHOOL FAX329-5705

Mon., Tues., W	ed	.7:45-8:00AM
Saturday		.3:45-4:15PM

Sacrament of Marriage:

In accordance with the guidelines of the Province of Michigan, en-gaged couples must contact the Parish Office six months prior to the desired date and complete required preparation. The Parish expects couples to be active parishioners at least 2 months prior to setting the wedding date. Contact the Parish office to begin marriage preparation.

Sacrament of Baptism: Parents should contact the Religious Education office 329-7801 to schedule classes and the sacrament with Mrs. Mary Beth Blum It is recommended parents seeking Baptism should be active parishioners prior to setting a date and attend two baptismal preparation classes.

Sacrament of the Sick: Notify the Parish Office of any need for hospital or home visits.

BAPTISM	
MARRIAGE	
ANOINTING OF THE SICK	

4th Sundays 1:00PM/ Mary Beth Blum 329-7801 Contact the parish office 7 months prior to wedding date Contact the parish office 810-329-2255

Young Ladies Ministry: Deborah Majeski248-345-9060			
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS; Grand Knight :Mr. Dan EvesHall			
ROSARY/ALTAR SOCIETY: Contact Parish Office			
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL			

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Rev. Michael Zuelch Pastor 329-2255

Chair - James Diebold 326-0939 Vice Chair-Deborah Majeski248-345-9060

Members-at-large

Cris Nesbitt	637-8130
Mark Kehoe	
Michele Walworth	

Worship Commission Mary Ann Dodge

Education Commission

Vicariate Pastoral Council Kathy Stocki 329-8559

Christian Service

Pat Zajdel Michele Walworth

School Committee Mark Kehoe 326-0898

R.C.I.A Coordinator Mary Beth Blum......329-7801

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Please remember in your prayers the following people from the parish who are in need of our prayers.

Marge Brown, David Brozo, Milton Dubay, Frank Gatz, Iris Emerich, Betty Jones, Margaret VanTongeran, Teresa Wallis, Ann Kotwica, Kelly Zichi, Ilene Warchol, Eileen Morgan, Adrianna Greer, Mary Pingel, Mark Terhune, John Distelrath, Jeffrey, Alex Mucci, Dennis McCabe, Jesse Zielinski, Isabel Zielinski, Dr. Edward Kane, David Truiett

Consecration to the Guardian Angels

Meeting

First Thursday of the month December 8th

11:30am

Church Basement

Any questions please call Marie at the

parish office 810-329-2255



In the first reading from Isaiah we are introduced to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are the gifts we receive during the Sacrament of Confirmation. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are very useful tools to apply to our different challenges in life. The two gifts I often pray for are wisdom and understanding. When I encounter a new challenge or struggle in my ignorance, the Holy Spirit is often there to guide me to find answers. What a great gift to have a counselor to help us on our journey. And now.....

Moses was leading the Hebrews to the Red Sea and the Egyptians were coming fast.

Moses turned to his PR agent: "Where are all those boats I told you to get!"

The PR man said, "What boats? You never mentioned boats to me."

"Just great" said Moses; "what am I supposed to do, lift my staff and part the waters?????"

The PR man answered: " If you can pull that one off, I can get you a whole section in the Bible."



The Immaculate Conception

Catholic Catechism of the Catholic Church

490 To become the mother of the Saviour, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role."132 The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace".133 In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.

491 Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God,134 was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.135

492 The "splendour of an entirely unique holiness" by which Mary is "enriched from the first instant of her conception" comes wholly from Christ: she is "redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son".136 The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" and chose her "in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love".137

493 The Fathers of the Eastern tradition call the Mother of God "the All-Holy" (Panagia), and celebrate her as "free from any stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature".138 By the grace of God Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long.

"Let it be done to me according to your word. . . "

494 At the announcement that she would give birth to "the Son of the Most High" without knowing man, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary responded with the obedience of faith, certain that "with God nothing will be impossible": "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word."139 Thus, giving her consent to God's word, Mary becomes the mother of Jesus. Espousing the divine will for salvation wholeheartedly, without a single sin to restrain her, she gave herself entirely to the person and to the work of her Son; she did so in order to serve the mystery of redemption with him and dependent on him, by God's grace:140

ST. VINCENT De PAUL – GIVING TREE CHARITY

Please consider sponsoring a family!!! There are still many families to be sponsored.



Greetings Fellow Parishioners -

I am asking that the gifts be purchased, wrapped and returned to the church by Sunday, December 4th. However, there are still many families who need to be sponsored.

The date has been extended to Wednesday December 7th at the latest.

As in the past, please attach the angel gift tag to the gift before returning it to the church. If you are having difficulties finding the items you have chosen from the tree, please give me a call; I will do everything I can to help you find the item. It is imperative that all items be returned in a timely manner, as we will need time to sort and package the items for delivery. I would also encourage includ-

Poinsettia Christmas Memorials

Deadline December 13

Each year we offer families the opportunity to remember loved ones by placing poinsettias in the sanctuary for the Christmas season. Envelopes to order these memorials are in your offertory packet. There are also envelopes available in the church. Envelopes should be returned by December 13, for publication in the Christmas bulletin. The suggested offering for each poinsettia is \$25.00.

St. Mary's Pies...

Apple, Cherry and Blueberry \$15.00

Please contact Michele Walworth: 810-367-3315 ing exchange only gift receipts with your gift. Most of the items provided to the children are clothing items, and it can be very difficult to get the sizing just right, therefore including an exchange receipt ensures the child will not go without that item. As always, parishioners are encouraged to use St. Mary's Scrip Program to make your purchases or to provide gift cards. Please consider participating in this very important charity by choosing a tag from the tree. This is a great opportunity for us to give back, and share our blessings with those in need in our community.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at (810) 858-7473. I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the Giving Tree. Thank you in advance for your participation.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God"

Hebrews 13:16 May God Bless You ~ Amanda Schweihofer

Advent Series Do not need to attend all sessions! Join anytime!!!

Everyone is invited

Brown Bag Lunch Church Basement DVD/Discussion

Dec. 7th	Wednesday	Noon-1PM
Dec. 14th	Wednesday	Noon-1PM
Dec. 21st	Wednesday	Noon-1PM

We are viewing an Advent DVD Series presented by FORMED

The Best Catholic Content. All In One Place.

FORMED.org is a revolutionary online platform featuring the best Catholic videos, audio talks, eBooks and movies from trusted partners like the Augustine Institute, St. Paul Center, Marian Fathers, Lighthouse Catholic Media, Ignatius Press and Word on Fire. Formed can be compared to Netflix or Amazon for Catholics.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Terra Sancta Pilgrimages with Franciscan friar Fr. Alex Kratz will be leading a Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from March 27-April 10, 2017. This life-changing experience walking in Jesus' footsteps includes daily Mass and Rosary, biblical readings on site, time for prayer and spiritual guidance, and meeting local Christians. Cost is \$4,299 (all expenses included, round trip from Detroit, 3 daily meals, all tips and taxes). \$500 deposit due at registration. Orientation Meeting is January 24. Next pilgrimage: October 9-23, 2017. Call (248) 514-1747 or mrspattig@yahoo.com.

Spartan Spotlight

Boys Basketball Starting time for all games (except the league tournament) is 6:30 PM.

Mon 12/5	MCA at St. Mary's
Tue 12/6	St. Augustine at St. Mary's
Mon 12/12	OLIC at St. Mary's
Tue 12/13	St. Mary's at MCA
Mon 1/9	St. Mary's at St. Augustine
Wed 1/11	Holy Cross at St. Mary's (Varsity only)

Thu 1/12 thru Sat 1/14 JV League Tournament at St. Mary's (dates and times to be announced)

SPECIAL OFFER! Students in Pre-school through Grade 3 who attend St. Mary's School, or St. Mary's Religious Education Program, or home schooled in our parish, are admitted FREE to all home games and will receive one free snack item or drink. We want everyone to come and cheer for our Spartan basketball teams!

Christmas Novena Cards



St. Mary's Christmas Novena Christmas Day thru January 2nd, 2017 The suggested stipend is \$10.00 Christmas Novena Cards are available on the registers in the church. Please return the intention card to the parish office before December 20th.

Soup Dinner Fundraiser Tuesday, December 6th 5:30pm-7:30pm

8th grade students are raising money for a trip to Washington D.C. to attend the March for Life event in January.

Come for an evening of basketball and enjoy a homemade soup dinner to support our Spartans! Adoration will from 7-8 in the church as well.

*Free will offering

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 3 9:00 AM Special Intentions for members of St. Mary's Rosary/Altar Society Virginia Vito by Family & Friends Richard Biewer by Friends

4:30 PM Sara Cummings by Steven & Alicia Heisler Chuck Westrick by Family Lee Strickler by Susan & Ann Strickler Robert Rickerman by Mary Lukas

Sunday, December 4 8:30AM People of the Parish Living & Deceased Lawrence Schweihofer by Family Patricia S. Mackley by Frank & Barb Schaller Val Maitland by Cathy Maitland Richard Biewer

11:30 AM People of the Parish Living & Deceased George Stockwell by Family Ray Oles by Doris & William Netter Julian & Irene Go by Joan Go James & Mathew Fowler by Family

Monday, December 5 8:00 AM Sp. Int. of Philip & Angela by Mom & Dad

Tuesday, December 6 8:00 AM Sp. Int. of Elizabeth Peters by Mom & Dad

Wednesday, December 7 8:00 AM Carol Heckmann by Eric Heckmann Virginia Vito by Josephine Vincent Thomas Dwyer 10th Ann. by Kelly Brinker

Thursday, December 8 9:00 AM People of the Parish Living & Deceased

6:30PM People of the Parish Living & Deceased

Friday, December 9 9:00 AM Joyce McLeod by Anne & Anthony Westrick Gerald Magneson by Pinery Neighbors

Saturday, December 10 9:00 AM Sp. Int. Edward Isquierdo by family

4:30 PM Ed Rhein by wife LuAnn Ray Oles by Jeanette Osterland Dave Whitehead 28th Anniversary by Wife & Family Robert Rickerman by Mary Lukas

Sunday, December 11 8:30AM People of the Parish Living & Deceased Deceased Members- Julius & Agnes Westrick family by the Clara Westrick Family John T. Zimmer 3rd Ann. by wife Marilyn Richard Biewer by Jim & Ann Bennett

11:30 AM People of the Parish Living & Deceased Julian & Irene Go by Joan Go Virginia Vito by Kirk & Carol Kammer Lorie Marks by the Kuntz Family

Veekly Schedule

Monday, December 5 8:00AM Mass/Church 9:00AM-12:00pm Adoration 7:00PM-Bible Study

<u>Tuesday, December 6</u> 7:10-Our Lady of Perpetual Help 8:00AM-Mass 9:00AM-12:00PM Adoration 5:00PM-RE class 6:30PM-SVDP 7:00PM Adoration

Wednesday, December 7 8:00AM-Mass 9:30AM-Catholic Faith Study Group 12:00PM-Advent Brown Bag Lunch 7:15 Adult Choir Rehearsal

<u>Thursday, December 8</u> <u>Feast Immaculate Conception</u> 9:00AM: Mass 6:30PM Mass 7:00PM-Shepherds Gate-(Catholic Charismatic prayer)

Friday, December 9 9:00AM Mass 10:00AM Adoration 2:45PM Benediction

Saturday, December 10 9:00AM– Mass 10:00AM-Bible Study 4:30PM-Mass

Sunday, December 11 Third Sunday Advent 7:30AM-Rosary 8:30AM-Mass 10:00AM-R.C.I.A 10:00AM RE Class 10:40AM-Rosary 11:30AM-Mass

Parish Hours

9:00AM-4:00PM Monday 9:00AM-4:00PM Tuesday 9:00AM-4:00PM Wednesday 9:00AM-4:00PM Thursday 9:45AM-1:00PM Friday CLOSED NOON-1:00PM LUNCH

Readings for the Week of December 4, 2016 Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12 Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85/Lk 5:17-26 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96/Mt 18:12-14 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103/Mt 11:28-30 Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1/Mt 11:16-19 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80/Mt 17:9a, 10-13 Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Observances for the Week of December 4, 2016 Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent Monday: Tuesday: St. Nicholas, Bishop Wednesday: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Thursday: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Friday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin Saturday: Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Bulletin Information

To improve the bulletin your assistance is needed and appreciated. Please contact me by email.

- Please email mcoules@stmarvsstclair.org.
- Articles for the bulletin are due on Friday by noon-for the fol-• lowing Sunday
- Please contact me if there is a misprint or error in the bulletin.
- The Mass Schedule and Weekly Schedule are checked weekly with our parish calendar, compiled from all staff and ministry calendars.
- Articles should be proofread before submitted
- Weekly Schedules and Mass Schedules are not always typed by • the same person
- We apologize for any inconvenience for a misprint
- Thank you for your cooperation!!!! God Bless



Friday: 10:00AM-2:45PM Benediction

sewardship

Weekly Offering November 20 \$ 9,686 **Catholic Charities of** Southeast Michigan \$ 2,021 November 27 \$10,424

Weekly Goal

Rosary/ Altar Society

\$13,400

St. Marys League #2 Kathy Galliker Mary Zobl Madeliene Addy

Weekend Liturgy December 10th –11th			
DAY/TIME	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday
	4:30PM	8:30AM	11:30AM
Presider	Fr. Opara	Fr. Michael Zuelch	Fr. Michael Zuelch
Lector	Steve Sliwinski	Sue Fitzmaurice	JoAnne Wilkie
Eucharistic	4 EME'S	4 EME'S	4 EME'S
Minister	(please sign-in/ ushers room)	(please sign-in/ ushers room)	(please sign-in/ ushers room)
Ushers	Ron Distelrath 4	Denny Askew 5	Gary Grittini 12
	Joseph McLeod	Tom Askew, Sr.	Michael Cyplik
	Ray Dietlin	Ron Miller	Frank Gorecki
	Harold Krul	Todd Askew	David Holden

Open Gym Sessions St. Mary's Family Life Ministry The St. Clair Knights of Columbus

Open gym sessions will resume on Sunday, December 4 with basketball for boys and girls in grade 6 and younger from 5:30-7:00 PM. Basketball for boys and girls in grades 7 and above will be from 7:00-8:30 PM.

> Volleyball will be played in late January.



SUNDAY BREAKFAST December 4th 8am to 11:30am

ALL YOU CAN EAT!!!!

Bring the family out for a delicious home cooked country breakfast.

MENU:

Join us for an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet, featuring an extended menu including pancakes, scrambled eggs, western scrambled eggs, French toast, waffles, potatoes, biscuits and gravy, sausage, coffee, and lemonade.

Cost is \$7for adults

St. Clair Knights of Columbus Hall

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:



IT DOES NOT PERTAIN to the Nativity (birth) of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



IT DOES NOT PERTAIN to Jesus' conception in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



IT PERTAINS to the conception of the Virgin Mary in the womb of Her mother St. Anne, wherein she [Mary] was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin by God's grace in view of the merits of Jesus Christ.

facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage

The St. Clair Community Singers' Annual Christmas Concert

Today-Sunday

December 4th

4 pm

First United Methodist Church

(Third and Vine Streets)

There is no admission for this festive presentation.

All are welcome!

Five St. Mary's parishioners are participants: Rosmarie Gambino, Rose Scheuer, Ray Govaere & John Moffett, as well as the Director of the S.C.Community Singers, Jo-Anne Wilkie.

A Few Good Men

A group of men meet the third Saturday of the month for breakfast at Achatz Restaurant at 6:30 a.m. for breakfast, Gospel reflection and prayer. If you are interested in joining us feel free to drop in. It is a little early on a Saturday, but I think you will find it a good group to spend an hour with as we share stories and contemplate on what Our Lord is teaching us that day. For more information contact Deacon John at jfitzmaurice01@att.net.

St. Mary's SCRIP Let us help you with your Christmas list!

<u>Holiday Hours:</u> Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00am -8:30am and 3:00pm - 3:30pm

> Tuesday 5:30pm - 6:00pm

Every Sunday 9:30am-11:15am

- * Cooking, baking, entertaining or traveling during the holidays?
- * Need a stocking stuffer, or a gift for those special people in your life?

We carry 27 gift cards with a value of \$10 / \$5 just for the holidays.

We have over 65 different cards that we carry in stock and over 300 available to order.

If you have questions please contact: School office 810-329-4150 JoAnn Westrick at 810-434-4664

By purchasing St. Mary's Scrip gift cards you are helping us raise funds for school/religious education tuition, organ fund, as well as our school and parish. Volunteers are Needed Coffee & Donuts Sundays 8:30AM Mass 11:30AM Mass

The Coffee & Donuts Social has been well attended. We are seeking some volunteers who would be willing to assist with the socials. This would include picking up the donuts from Niehman's on Sunday Morning, bringing them to the church basement, preparing the coffee, placing the donuts on the serving trays and cleaning the tables after the social. Only two people are needed for each Mass. The Rosary/Altar Society Ladies have agreed to help but we need more teams. If you are interested please contact the parish office. If we can make more teams the service could be once every two months. Thank you!!

The League of Catholic Women

The League of Catholic Women invite you to our annual Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at noon at the Black River Country Club in Port Huron Twp. Menu choices are Chicken Alfredo with garlic bread or White Fish with garlic mashed potatoes. Tossed salad, Californiablend vegetables, beverage and cheesecake for dessert are included at a cost of \$21. Reservations are due by December 5th at 810-941-8613 or by mail to H. Casper 3924 Tamarack Dr. Port Huron, 48060. Remember to bring your pajama donation or to give it to a league board member



D of I /Altar Society Christmas Party

The Daughters of Isabella/Altar Society Christmas Party will be on Monday December 12 at 6pm at the K of C Banquet Center on King Rd in Marine City.

- The theme will be Winter Wonderland, dinner and entertainment included. Reservations can be made by calling Ann Billock at 765-3657 before December 5 and are \$15.00 each and open to anyone who wants to attend. Please bring a donation for SVDP.
- November 21 at 6pm Next regular meeting at K of C Hall. We will be having Make Bake or Buy
- Please bring a donation for SVDP
- December 4th We will be having a Membership Drive at the St. Clair K of C Breakfast in St. Clair on Rattle Run from 8:30am - 11:30am. Come see what we are all about!
- Or check us out at <u>www.doficircle419.com</u>

Book of Life

Each Sunday at Mass one of our general For the *intercessions is:* sick, for the innocent victims of abortion, war and natural disasters, for those who serve and protect our country, and for all the intentions written into our Book of Life."

The Book of Life is a book into which parishioners are invited to write their personal prayer requests. The Book of Life sits on the register to the side of the statue of Our Blessed Mother.



15-0015



