

*“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 11th, 2016 Third Sunday of Advent*

The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe

A Mission from the Virgin

On Saturday, December 9, 1531, while on his way for religious instruction, Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, an Indian and recent convert to Christianity, heard singing coming from the top of Tepeyac hill. Suddenly, the singing stopped, and a woman's voice called out to him: “Juantzin, Juan Diegotzin.” Ascending the hill, Juan Diego found himself before a beautiful woman adorned in clothing that “shone like the sun.” The woman introduced herself as “the immaculate Mother of God” and explained the reason for her appearance: she came to request a church to be built there, and she wanted Juan Diego to take her request to the head of the Church in Mexico, Bishop Juan de Zumárraga. The task would not be easy. Like many New World missionaries, Friar Zumárraga was suspicious of supposed visionaries, fearing it was indigenous idolatry. Skeptical of Juan Diego and the Virgin's message, the bishop sent him away, but promised to listen again at a later time..

Dignity of a Messenger

Dejected, Juan Diego returned to the Virgin and begged her to send someone more esteemed than himself. The Virgin listened tenderly but responded firmly, insisting that Juan Diego be her messenger. The following day (December 10th), Juan Diego returned to the bishop and recounted the many details of the apparition. This time, the bishop requested that Juan Diego return with evidence of the miraculous appearance. To be sure Juan Diego was being honest, the bishop sent two men to follow Juan Diego. But after trailing him for some time, the men lost sight of him, and told the bishop that Juan Diego was a fraud deserving punishment. Meanwhile, Juan Diego arrived at Tepeyac hill and told the Virgin of the bishop's request; she in turn asked Juan Diego to come back the following day, when she would give him the requested sign for the bishop.



Promises of Hope

Returning home, Juan Diego was met with sad news: his uncle Juan Bernardino had become deathly ill. Instead of going to Tepeyac hill, the next day (December 11th) Juan Diego found a doctor, but nothing could be done. So on Monday, December 12, Juan Diego put on his tilma (cloak) for warmth and went to find a priest. Hoping to avoid any delays, he took a different path so as to avoid the Virgin. But as he neared Tepeyac, she descended from the hill, asking what was wrong. She then reassured the sorrowful Juan Diego by declaring her motherhood and promising that his uncle was already healed. Hearing this, Juan Diego asked for the sign for the bishop, and went to the hilltop as she instructed him. There – in this barren, wintery spot – he found a garden of sweet-smelling flowers; he picked the flowers and brought them back down the
(Continued on Page 8)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
 415 N. Sixth St. St. Clair, MI 48079
 Parish Office: 329-2255 Parish Fax: 329-5997 Website : www.stmarysstclair.org

Office Hours

Mon.-thru- Thursday- 9:00AM-4PM
Friday 10:00AM-3:00PM
Closed for Lunch: Noon- 1:00 P.M.
Rev. Michael Zuelch, Pastor

Rev. Edward Ritter, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Mr. John Fitzmaurice
Deacon Emeritus
Rev. Mr. Robert E. McLeod

Music Director

Andrew Meagher

Bookkeeper

Gary Grittini

Parish Secretary

Anna Bissett

Maintenance Supervisor

Mark Hearn

Office Manager

Marie Coules

Parish Life

Richard Yamin

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

Mrs. GERALYNN SUTHERLAND, Principal
Deacon John Fitzmaurice, Dean of Students
Mrs. Chris Nesbitt, Secretary
SCHOOL329-4150
SCHOOL FAX329-5705

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon., Tues, Wed.....8:00AM
 Thurs.....6:30PM
 Friday, Sat.9:00AM
 Saturday evening.....4:30PM
 Sunday8:30AM—11:30AM
Holy Days of Obligation
9:00 AM & Vigil Mass- 6:30PM

CONFESSIONS

Mon., Tues., Wed.....7:45-8:00AM
 Saturday3:45-4:15PM

Sacrament of Marriage:

In accordance with the guidelines of the Province of Michigan, engaged 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	4th Sundays 1:00PM/ Mary Beth Blum 329-7801
MARRIAGE	Contact the parish office 7 months prior to wedding date
ANOINTING OF THE SICK	Contact the parish office 810-329-2255

Young Ladies Ministry: Deborah Majeski.....248-345-9060
 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS; Grand Knight :Mr. Dan EvesHall 329-2334
 ROSARY/ALTAR SOCIETY: Contact Parish Office
 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL810-300-6603 ST. CLAIR ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY810- 990-4189

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Rev. Michael Zuelch Pastor 329-2255

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

Members-at-large

Cris Nesbitt637-8130
 Mark Kehoe326-0898
 Michele Walworth367-3315

Worship Commission

Mary Ann Dodge

Education Commission

Mrs. Mary Beth Blum329-7801

Vicariate Pastoral Council

Kathy Stocki 329-8559

Christian Service

Pat Zajdel

School Committee

Mark Kehoe 326-0898

R.C.I.A Coordinator

Mary Beth Blum.....329-7801

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

11:30am

Church Basement

Any questions please call Marie at the parish office 810-329-2255



IF IT FITZ

The Lord is coming and the gift of recompense is near! Recompense is a reward or compensation for someone who has experienced a loss. Our loss is our sinfulness, but the coming of the Lord will make amends for our transgressions if we repent. The result is that we dwell someday in a beautiful place where the fields are laced with the Rose of Sharon. These are beautiful white blossoms which blanket our path to glory in the kingdom of God. And now.....

Dear Lord, I've done alright. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, nasty, selfish, or over indulgent. And I'm very thankful to you for that. But.....in a few minutes, I'm probably going to need a lot more help because I'm getting out of bed.

HOW TO  A BETTER CATHOLIC

FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CCC=Catechism of the Catholic Church

CCC 2507 Respect for the reputation and honor of persons forbids all detraction and calumny in word or attitude.

CCC 2477 Respect for the reputation of persons forbids every attitude and word likely to cause them unjust injury. He becomes guilty of rash judgment who, even tacitly, assumes as true, without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbor; of detraction who, without objectively valid reason, discloses another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them; of calumny who, by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them.

CCC 2478 To avoid rash judgment, everyone should be careful to interpret insofar as possible his neighbor's thoughts, words, and deeds in a favorable way: Every good Christian ought to be more ready to give a favorable interpretation to another's statement than to condemn it. But if he cannot do so, let him ask how the other understands it. And if the latter understands it badly, let the former correct him with love. If that does not suffice, let the Christian try all suitable ways to bring the other to a correct interpretation so that he may be saved.

CCC 2479 Detraction and calumny destroy the reputation and honor of one's neighbor. Honor is the social witness given to human dignity, and everyone enjoys a natural right to the honor of his name and reputation and to respect. Thus, detraction and calumny offend against the virtues of justice and charity.

Sins like these against the 8th Commandment (Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness); may be a much more serious sin, when sent via social media, because of the large number of recipients and the temptation to forward them to an even larger audience. These sins can destroy one's individual soul and cause great harm to a parish family. Be holy yourselves in all your conduct. 1 Peter 1:15.

Unless the matter under discussion is a common news item; when someone's gossip negatively alters the opinion another has regarding a third person, one has committed a grave action. If it is done with full knowledge and deliberate consent, the grave action then becomes a mortal sin. Gossip is a far more serious matter than most of us like to consider. --Fr. Vincent Serpa O.P. (Catholic Answers Chaplain)

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.



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.

Widowed Friends
Breakfast: 9:00AM
2nd & 4th Monday of the Month.
information contact Julie at
810-388-0868.

St. Mary's Alumni Basketball Game



The annual St. Mary's Alumni Basketball Game will be held on Friday, December 23 at 7:00 PM in the school gym. Anyone in high school and older who played basketball at St. Mary's School is invited to participate. Donations will be accepted for admission and all proceeds will go to St. Mary's sports program. We will also take a moment to honor the memory of Adam Maniaci, a former student who died unexpectedly a few years ago while still in high school. Everyone is encouraged to come and watch the St. Mary's stars of yesteryear show their basketball skills to those in attendance. For more information please contact me at the phone number below.

Mark Kehoe

Advent Series

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

Everyone is invited

Brown Bag Lunch
Church Basement
DVD/Discussion

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.

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



Christmas Eve Masses

Saturday, December 24th, 2016
4:00PM 7:00PM 12:00 Midnight
(No Confession)

Christmas Day Masses
Sunday, December 25th, 2016

8:30AM 11:30AM

New Year's Eve Mass
Saturday, December 31, 2016

4:30PM

New Year's Day Masses
Sunday, January 1, 2016

8:30AM & 11:30AM



Mass Intentions

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

Monday, December 12 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

9:00 AM People of the Parish & Staff Living & Deceased

Tuesday, December 13

8:00 AM Virginia Vito by Family & Friends

Special Int. Rev. Edward Ritter by Friends

Wednesday, December 14

8:00 AM Virginia Vito by Family & Friends

Thursday, December 15

6:30 pm Special Int.for John & Patty Klecha by Albina DiLaura

Friday, December 16

9:00 AM Gerald Magneson by Friends

Rosemarie Reilly by John & Sue Fitzmaurice

Saturday, December 17

9:00 AM Edward Scheuer by Rose Scheuer

4:30 PM Ethel Niebauer by Nelson & Patti Jones

Linda Tomaszewski by Alger Mahn

Harold Westrick by Ken & Nancy Eisen

Sunday, December 18

8:30AM People of the Parish Living & Deceased

Ken Brozo by Mother & Dad

Leo Distelrath 12th Anniversary by Family

Richard Jaronoski Sr. by Dawn & Family

11:30 AM People of the Parish Living & Deceased

Janet Westrick 2nd Anniversary by Cathy Maitland

Peter Bay VanNguyen & Anna Phep ThiNguyen

by Gai Bay Nguyen Family

Please Note:

**There will be no Confessions the
weekend of Christmas**

Weekly Schedule

Monday, December 12

9:00AM Mass/Church

10:00AM-12:00pm Adoration

7:00PM-Bible Study

Tuesday, December 13

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 14

8:00AM-Mass

9:30AM-Catholic Faith Study Group

12:00PM-Advent Brown Bag Lunch

7:15 Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15

Feast Immaculate Conception

9:00AM: Mass

6:30PM Mass

7:00PM-Finance Council

Friday, December 16

9:00AM Mass

10:00AM Adoration

2:45PM Benediction

Saturday, December 17

9:00AM- Mass

10:00AM-Bible Study

4:30PM-Mass

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday Advent

7:30AM-Rosary

8:30AM-Mass

10:00AM-R.C.I.A

10:00AM RE Class

10:40AM-Rosary

11:30AM-Mass

1:00PM-Baptisms

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 11, 2016
 Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
 Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34/Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85/Lk 7:18b-23
 Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30/Lk 7:24-30
 Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67/Jn 5:33-36
 Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72/Mt 1:1-17
 Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



Adoration Hours

Mon. Dec. 12. 10:00AM-Noon
Tues. Dec. 13 9:00AM-Noon

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

Bulletin Information

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

- Please email mcoules@stmarysstclair.org.
- Articles for the bulletin are due on Friday by noon-for the following 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

COFFEE & DONUTS SUNDAY CHURCH BASEMENT
 8:30AM & 11:30 MASSES
 EXCEPT FIRST SUNDAY

Christmas Decorating in the Church!!!
All are Welcome!!!!
Sunday, December 18th
1:00PM

Rosary/ Altar Society

St. Mary's League 3
 Sue Kreusel
 Margaret Westrick
 Sharon Rybinski



Weekly Offering	
December 4	\$11,929
Weekly Goal	<u>\$13,400</u>
	-1,471
YTD thru December 4	\$276,063
Needed YTD	<u>\$308,200</u>
	-32,137

Weekend Liturgy December 17-18			
DAY/TIME	Saturday 4:30PM	Sunday 8:30AM	Sunday 11:30AM
Presider	Fr. Michael Zuelch	Fr. Opara	Fr. Michael Zuelch
Lector	Linda Schwehofer	Greg Kudela	Trish Morrow
Eucharistic Minister	4 EME'S (please sign-in/ ushers room)	4 EME'S (please sign-in/ ushers room)	4 EME'S (please sign-in/ ushers room)
Ushers	Jerry Umlauf 9 Al Kukuk Mike Pastiva Fred Kiline Alger Mahn	Dick Kinney 8 Joe Duch James Harkins Jim O'Connor Larry Tomayko	Greg Pieprzak 10 Randy Young John Distelrath

(Continued from page 1)

Our Lady of Guadalupe

to the Virgin, who arranged them in his tilma. Juan Diego then set out for the bishop's house.

More than Flowers

When Juan Diego arrived, the servants refused him entry, but eventually let him enter when they could not take the flowers from his tilma. Before the bishop, Juan Diego recounted the Virgin's words and the miracle of the flowers. When Juan Diego opened his tilma and flowers fell out, an even greater miracle was revealed: on the tilma's surface was the Virgin's image. The bishop and those in the room fell to their knees, admiring and praying, and the bishop asked to be

shown the place for the Virgin's church. With his mission fulfilled, Juan Diego returned home to find his uncle completely healed, just as the Virgin had promised. Even more, the Virgin had appeared to Juan Bernardino, too, and had told him her name: "the Perfect Virgin Holy Mary of Guadalupe." Two weeks later, the day after Christmas, her chapel was completed, and the tilma with its image was placed above the altar.

But that was just the beginning of the story. In the centuries since her apparition, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas has continued to transform lives. Her message and her image have been celebrated, venerated, studied, and passed on throughout the world. View the timeline to follow the Guadalupe Story from the apparitions to the present day.



Men of the Sacred Hearts Home Enthronement

Jesus requested that we all Enthroned His Sacred Heart in our homes when he appeared to St. Margaret Mary in 1675. Deacon John is available as a member of this organization, to help your family lead the ceremony in which your home is enthroned through the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. If you are interested please call or text him at 810-329-3404 or email at: jfitzmaurice01@att.net to set up an appointment. Your family will receive a complimentary image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary as a gift from the Men of the Sacred Hearts.

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.

Catholic Study Club Christmas Party Wednesday, December 14 7:00PM Home of Mary Patrick

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!

Holiday Hours:

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, California-blend 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.
- Or check us out at www.doficircle419.com

Book of Life

Each Sunday at Mass one of our general intercessions is: "For the 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.

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December 21st.

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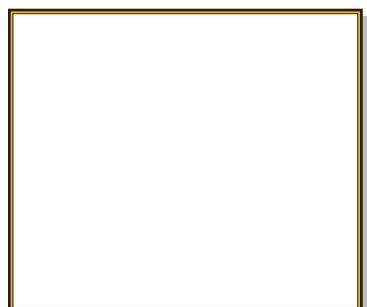
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