

**MASS INTENTIONS/LITURGIES**

DECEMBER 23-31 2023

**Saturday, December 23 | 3:00 p.m. Confession (ST. PAT)**

**4:00 p.m. Mass (ST. PAT)**

*Mary, Queen of Angels Parishioners*

**6:00 p.m. Mass (SMOW)**

*Joanne Maag by Roger & Treva Schulze*

**Sunday, December 24 | 8:00 a.m. (SMOW)**

*Couples who are expecting/trying to conceive*

*by Alan & Renee Winner*

**10:00 a.m. Mass (ST. PAT)**

*LaVerne & Tom Born by Morissa & Mitch Sweeney*

**CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24 | 4:00 p.m. Mass (ST. PAT)**

*Staff of Mary, Queen of Angels Parishes*

**6:00 p.m. Mass (SMOW)**

*Marie Beuschlein by Debra Beuschlein*

**\*\*\*NOTE THERE IS NO 10:00 P.M MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE\*\*\***

**CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25 | 8:00 a.m. Mass (SMOW)**

*John & Marlene Bihn by The Bihn Family*

**10:00 a.m. Mass (ST. PAT)**

*Priests of Mary, Queen of Angels Parishes*

**Tuesday, December 26 | 8:00 a.m. Mass (ST. PAT)**

**\*\*\*CANCELLED\*\*\***

**Wednesday, December 27 | 8:00 a.m. Mass (SMOW)**

*Joanne Maag by Cliff & Janet Schroeder*

**Thursday, December 28 | 6:15 p.m. Mass (SMOW)**

**6:45 p.m. Adoration/Confession**

*Herb & Bernie Bensman by Donna, Ruth & Linda*

**Friday, December 29 | 8:00 a.m. Mass (SMOW)**

**8:45 a.m. Confession**

**\*\*\*CANCELLED\*\*\***

**Saturday, December 30 | 3:00 p.m. Confession (ST. PAT)**

**4:00 p.m. Mass (ST. PAT)**

*Diane Price by Judy & Jeff Lamb*

**6:00 p.m. Mass (SMOW)**

*Joanne Maag by Walter & Janet Maag*

**Sunday, December 31 | 8:00 a.m. Mass (SMOW)**

*Living & Deceased Members of the*

*Dirksen/Gutsmann/King/Winner Families*

**10:00 a.m. Mass (ST. PAT)**

*Mary, Queen of Angels Parishioners*

**YOUR TITHE TO GOD**

WEEK OF DECEMBER 16/17	ST. MARY	ST. PATRICK
MASS COUNT:	281	372
SUNDAY COLLECTION:	\$ 3,065.98	\$ 5,511.00
ONLINE COLLECTION:	\$ 995.00	\$ 1,112.07
OTHER COLLECTIONS:		
BUILDING IMPROVEMENT:		\$ 770.00
ADVENT:		\$ 1,077.00
CHRISTMAS:		\$ 260.00
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:	\$	\$ 135.00
RETIREMENT FUND:	\$ 200.00	\$ 160.00
OTHER:	\$ 110.00	\$ 210.00
TOTAL TITHING:	\$ 4,370.98	\$ 9,235.07

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS DECEMBER 30/31, 2023**

**ST. MARY OF THE WOODS**

**6:00 P.M. SATURDAY**

**SERVERS:** Benjamin Packer, Owen Klinker, Michael Klinker, Lincoln Nielsen

**READER:** Jennifer Klinker

**USHERS:** Jeff True, Willie Dearwester, Derek Zumberger, Volunteer

**CANTORS:** Deb Ulrey, Kathy Robinson

**SACRISTAN:** Donna Hesser

**8:00 A.M. SUNDAY**

**SERVERS:** Benjamin Packer, Louis Luthman, Adam Luthman, Anthony Luthman

**READER:** Ben Luthman

**EEM:** Jim Thiel

**USHERS:** Dan Reichert, Fred Wheeler, Ed Fisher, Jeff Codora

**CANTOR:** Mary Kuba, Donna True, Rebecca Bihn

**SACRISTAN:** Susan Brunner

**ST. PATRICK**

**4:00 P.M. SATURDAY**

**SERVERS:** Della Baker, Mason Marcinko, Kaije Snider, Lexi McKirahan

**READERS:** Rose Lyons, Cathy Dinovo

**EEM:** Mike Dinovo

**10:00 A.M. SUNDAY**

**SERVERS:** Montana Coleman, Nevada Coleman, Utah Coleman, Spencer Stolly

**READERS:** Mindy Bailey, Keith LeVan

**EEM:** Catherine Oder



- All Parish Offices will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
- Next week's (December 31) second collection is for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Please be generous.



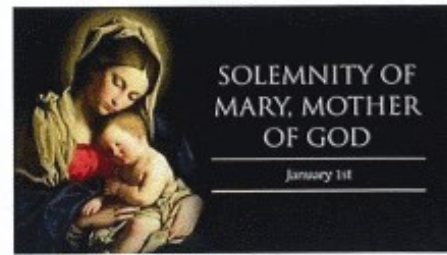




**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

OF DECEMBER 24, 2023

- Sunday:** Second Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38
- Monday:** Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6  
Hebrews 1:1-6  
John 1:1-18
- Tuesday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59  
Psalms 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17  
Matthew 10:17-22
- Wednesday:** First John 1:1-4  
Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12  
John 20:1a and 2-8
- Thursday:** First John 1:5-2:2  
Psalms 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8  
Matthew 2:13-18
- Friday:** First John 2:3-11  
Psalms 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6  
Luke 2:22-35
- Saturday:** First John 2:12-17  
Psalms 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10  
Luke 2:36-40
- Sunday:** Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
Psalms 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 or  
Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5  
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or  
Colossians 3:12-21  
Luke 2:22-40 or Luke 2:22, 39-40



9:00 a.m. - St. Mary, Urbana  
9:00 a.m. - St. Patrick, Bellefontaine



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
"PROJECT MERRY  
CHRISTMAS"**

St. Patrick Church chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank all who helped brighten Christmas for those in need. Our annual Christmas Box event with food, toiletries, and presents for the children was met with an overwhelming response. This year, we shared the Christmas spirit with 81 families in our community! "Project Merry Christmas" truly makes a difference to those in need. Thank you for supporting our SVDP!



**BEAUTIFUL EUCHARIST**

*Beautiful Eucharist*, by Matthew Kelly, is a stunning collection of life-changing reflections about Jesus truly present in the Eucharist and wonderfully present in our lives. Pick up your free copy in the back of any of our parish churches.

**Welcome**

Whether you recently moved here or are just visiting, we are happy that you are here with us! If you would like to join one of our parishes, please contact the Parish Office for a registration form.

**NEW COLUMBARIUM (CALVARY CEMETERY)**

Calvary Cemetery has recently installed a second columbarium, and is now selling niches for \$3,000.00 each (holds two urns and etching on plate is extra). Please contact either Joe Steggeman at 937-844-7426 or Mike Maze at 937-935-8546 if interested in purchasing a niche. Niches are sold first-come, first-served.

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

Currently, St. Patrick Church is accepting Mass Intentions for **November and December 2024**. Please fill out this form and bring it to the church office or drop it into the offertory basket. There is a \$5.00 stipend for each Mass requested. Each family is allowed 12 requests per calendar year. Only three requests may be submitted at one time.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!**

Intention: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Offered by: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date requested: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mass time requested: \_\_\_\_\_  
 # of Masses you are paying for: \_\_\_\_\_



“For to you is born this day  
a Saviour” (Lk 2:11).







**SAVE THE DATE**

Friday, February 9th, 2024, the Knights of Columbus will sponsor a prime rib dinner in Makley Hall to benefit the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Seminarians. This dinner is also in honor of the founder of the "Pennies for Heaven" dinner, K.C. Steggeman. Tickets (\$30.00/per person) will go on sale at a date TBD. Check future bulletins for updates on this dinner.



**2024 CALENDAR**

Don't forget to pick up your 2024 Calendar from the table in the cry room of St. Patrick. Please take only one per family.



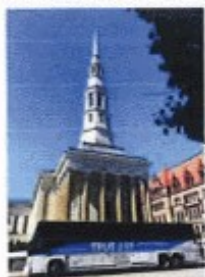
St. Patrick is in need of a lead Sacristan (Dottie Poeppelmeier is wanting to retire)

Please contact the parish office if you or someone you know is interested.

[champaigncatholics.org](http://champaigncatholics.org)  
[saintmaryofthewoods.com](http://saintmaryofthewoods.com)  
[catholicbellefontaine.org](http://catholicbellefontaine.org)

**Ashley's Consecration**

Taking reservations for transportation to the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains on January 13th on the True Joy Ltd. Charter Bus and lunch at the Hofbrauhaus - German Restaurant



**Lunch Entree Selections**

- Hofbrauhaus Wurst Combo
- Haus Reuben Sandwich
- Newport Fish Sandwich
- Schnitzel Sandwich

Price for transportation and lunch \$40

Add \$4 if you want the Schwarzwaldler Kirsch Torte (Black Forest Cake) -delicious!

For info : contact Jenny Korte 937-508-6369 to reserve seat and order lunch by Jan. 4th . [truejoyltd@yahoo.com](mailto:truejoyltd@yahoo.com)

ALL ARE WARMLY INVITED AS

*Ashley Fitzgerald Roberts*

IS

*Consecrated to a Life of  
 Virginity Lived in the World*

AT THE HANDS OF THE  
 MOST REVEREND DENNIS M. SCHNURR

SATURDAY | JANUARY 13TH | 11:00 AM

CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINT  
 PETER IN CHAINS

*In lieu of gifts, please consider making a  
 donation to St. Vincent de Paul.*

**RECEPTION**

In honor of Ashley Roberts' newly consecrated life, please join us for her reception on Sunday, January 14th at 11:00 a.m. in Makley Hall. All PFF and PSR classes on the 14th are cancelled.



## Did the Pope Allow Blessings of Same Sex Unions?

On December 18, The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a document signed by Pope Francis called *Fiducia Supplicans*. This led to a firestorm of headlines in the media and strong reactions from Catholics. Catholics should look to the Catholic Church as a rock of moral clarity, and many are confused, angered, or saddened about what some may see as a change in the Church's position on same-sex unions. I encourage you to prayerfully reflect on the following points to gain a clearer understanding of *Fiducia Supplicans*.

First, certain media headlines were false. For example, an ABC News headline said, "Pope says priests can bless same-sex unions." In paragraph 5, the document states, "The Church does not have the power to impart blessings on unions of persons of the same sex." This document opposes the practice of some German bishops who began blessing same-sex unions. Articles in the media often lack the proper clarity necessary when dealing with a nuanced topic like this.

Second, *Fiducia Supplicans* upholds Church teaching on marriage. Paragraph 4 defines marriage as the "exclusive, stable, and indissoluble union between a man and a woman, naturally open to the generation of children—and what contradicts it are inadmissible. This conviction is grounded in the perennial Catholic doctrine of marriage; it is only in this context that sexual relations find their natural, proper, and fully human meaning. The Church's doctrine on this point remains firm." *Fiducia Supplicans* tries to be clear that it is not changing Church teaching.

Third, context is helpful. Pope Francis goes to great length to reach out to people who are estranged from the Church. A good shepherd will seek out the lost sheep; the heart of every Christian should have a desire to seek the lost. *Fiducia Supplicans* makes some distinctions about blessings in an attempt to offer "simple gestures" to reach out pastorally to some who are estranged or might feel excluded from the Church.

If Church teaching isn't changing, what is new in this document? This document makes some distinctions regarding blessings. The Church cannot bless same-sex unions, but the Church does routinely offer non-liturgical blessings to individuals, even individuals who might be in a state of sin. Think of those who can't receive the Eucharist but come up for a blessing. *Fiducia Supplicans* discusses a third category: a couple that "recognizing themselves to be destitute and in need of his help—do not claim a legitimation of their own status, but who beg that all that is true, good, and humanly valid in their lives and their relationships be enriched, healed, and elevated by the presence of the Holy Spirit" [31]. The blessing suggested here isn't a blessing for the same-sex union, but for the couple seeking God's help. Ultimately, although this is not stated in the document, the couple would need to repent and become chaste friends or end their relationship in order to be truly "enriched, healed, and elevated."

Do Catholics need to agree with this document's pastoral approach on blessings of same-sex couples? No. Pastoral approaches are not the same as Church doctrine, and they do not fall under the charism

of infallibility. Catholics can legitimately agree or disagree on the best pastoral approach for dealing with situations. In evangelization, there is a delicate balance between the need for clarity on moral teachings with the need to reach out to the broken and meet them where they are. Some may agree with the approach presented in this document, while others may think it is dangerous to “blur the line” by blessing same-sex couples. Some Catholics in good standing argue that, because of the connection between being a same-sex couple and being in an objectively immoral relationship, it is dangerous or even scandalous to use the language of blessing a same-sex ‘couple.’ Whether we agree with the Holy Father’s pastoral approach or not, we still should show him respect and offer him our prayers.

We should be prepared for what will come about in the aftermath of this document (abuses and misunderstandings are already widespread). Catholics can rightly wonder if the Dicastery anticipated that this document would be misused to advance agendas that are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church and the good of society.

*Fiducia Supplicans* states that it is seeking to prevent scandal. “Precisely to avoid any form of confusion or scandal, when the prayer of blessing is requested by a couple in an irregular situation, even though it is expressed outside the rites prescribed by the liturgical books, this blessing should never be imparted in concurrence with the ceremonies of a civil union, and not even in connection with them. Nor can it be performed with any clothing, gestures, or words that are proper to a wedding. The same applies when the blessing is requested by a same-sex couple” [39]. These requirements are already being violated by priests who are publicly doing blessings contrary to the stated intent of this document. Unfortunately, the world may not hear the nuanced distinctions *Fiducia Supplicans* attempted to make.

My heart goes out to those who are distressed or shaken by *Fiducia Supplicans*. To anyone who might be wavering in their faith because of it, I hope this letter gives you assurance that the Church’s teaching is not changing. Feel free to discuss this further with me or Father Lindle. *Fiducia Supplicans* is not a step that will eventually lead to a change in Church teaching, and no faithful Catholic is being asked to compromise on Catholic doctrine. Five, ten, or a hundred years from now, the Church teaching will remain the same. For our part, we must not give in to fear or anxiety, nor to an attitude of anger towards others in the Church. Trust in Christ’s promises, and keep your focus on living your vocation to holiness. Do not allow the chaos of the times to undermine your peace in Christ and our mission to live for the glory of God and His Kingdom.

With prayers,



Father Shawn Landenwitch, Pastor

Mary, Queen of Angels Family of Parishes