

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday, December 26, 2020

4:00 PM Vivian Jutte-Watkins Family

Sunday, December 27, 2020

10:00 AM Saint Patrick Parishioners (Pro Populo)

Tuesday, December 29, 2020-Mass cancelled

Thursday, December 31, 2020

7:00 PM (Saint Mary of the Woods)

Followed with Adoration

Friday, January 1, 2021 Solemnity of Mary,

The Holy Mother of God

10:00 AM Arlene Holman-Janice Naderer

Saturday, January 2, 2021

4:00 PM Carol O'Rielley-Jack Kuwik

Sunday, January 3, 2021

10:00 AM Sant Patrick Parishioners (Pro Populo)

Mass Attendances: not available

Parish Offering: not available

Your parish thanks you for giving your time and devotion to our parish. May our dear Lord bless you as you serve.

January Ministry for 1 Jan 2021

Fri. Jan 1 @ 10 am Holy Day

Servs: Chloe, Patrick, Sloan, Spencer Stolly

Readers: Steve Oder, Kelsey Baughman

EEC: Emily Baughman

January schedule not available

"ORIGIN OF "THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS"

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written.

It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts.

Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in *writing* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head - or hanged, drawn and quartered, a rather peculiar and ghastly punishment I'm not aware was ever practiced anywhere else.

Hanging, drawing and quartering involved hanging a person by the neck until they had almost, but not quite, suffocated to death; then the party was taken down from the gallows, and disembowelled while still alive; and while the entrails were still lying on the street, where the executioners stomped all over them, the victim was tied to four large farm horses, and literally torn into five parts - one to each limb and the remaining torso.

The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."

The other symbols mean the following:

2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments

3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues

4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists

5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.

6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation

7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments

8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes

9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments

11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles

12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

--Fr. Hal Stockert, Fishnet

MASS INTENTIONS: Please, fill out the form below and drop in the collection basket or mail to the office. There is a \$5 stipend for each Mass requested. **PLEASE, PRINT!**

Intention: _____

Offered by: _____

Date requested: _____

Mass requested: _____

We will make every attempt to get them on the date you request; however, funerals, prior requests and other events may prevent this, a specified date needs a 3-week notice to meet publication deadlines, first-come, first-served.

THIS WEEKS SCRIPTURE READING:

Mon., Dec 28: 1 Jn 1:5 Ps 124:2-5,7c-8 Mt 2:13-18

Tues., Dec 29: 1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-3,5b-6 Lk 2:22-35

Weds., Dec 30: 1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:10 Lk 2:36-40

Thurs., Dec 31: 1 Jn 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2,11-13 Jn 1:1-18

Fri., Jan 1: Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5,6,8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

Sat., Jan 2: 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 1:19-28



Is 60:1-6
Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-13
Eph 3:2-3a,5-6
Mt 2:1-12

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US: The Rosary will be recited: Saturday at 3:30 pm and Sunday at 9:15 am before the Mass. Volunteers are needed. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Parish Prayer Line: Tammy Bauer, 937.441.0645

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: If you are a registered parishioner who is homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the office.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (937. 592.9455)

Hours: 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Tuesday & Thursday;

5:00-7:00 pm, Wednesday. Dates: not available

Money Spent: not available Clients: not available

Things we need: thank you

Upcoming Events

**7:00 AM (RCIA Rm) Catholic Men's Gp
Every Saturday**

**10:00 AM Solemnity of Mary, The Holy
Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)**

Pastoral Planning

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is beginning a new phase of planning for the future. The goal is to help our parishes to be 'Beacons of Light' that are vibrant and effective in bringing the Gospel to the world. The planning will also require us to adapt to a projected decline in the number of pastors available to serve our parishes in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. For more details on this process, see the following link:

<https://resources.catholicaoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Beacons-of-Light-2.pdf>

The Catholic Telegraph Online-For the latest in Catholic news and events on the local, national, and global levels, be sure to visit <http://www.thecatholictelegraph.com>

**Bulletins and Calendars can be read online—
St. Patrick Church: www.catholicbellefontaine.org
St. Mary of the Woods: www.saintmaryofthewood.com**

FAMILY

During the Octave (eight days) of Christmas we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The significance of the Feast becomes much more meaningful when we consider the deeper truths it reveals. Yes, it teaches us about Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. But it also speaks to each one of us how to live differently in our own families, make Jesus Christ the center of our life together.

We live in Church. We were baptized into the Lord and now live in His Risen Body as members. The Church is a communion, a relationship in Christ. The Christian family is the smallest cell of that Body of Christ. The extended church community is a family of families.

Family life is where the *rubber hits the road* for most Christians. It is here where the universal call to holiness, in all its real, earthy, humanness and ordinariness, is first issued. It is here where we learn the way of discipleship.

Family is where progress in the Christian life, the way of ordinary holiness, can find its raw material. Whether we choose to respond to grace - and develop the eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to accept the hidden invitations to learn to love beneath the surface of that daily stuff - is all wrapped up in the mystery of human freedom. Our choices not only affect the world around us, they make us become the people we will become.

www.PrayAMinute.com—Did you forget, make a pledge to pray!!