



SOLEMNITY OF  
THE NATIVITY  
OF OUR LORD  
JESUS CHRIST

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

We are people of God,  
celebrating our faith  
as a parish.  
With diverse roots  
and unique talents,  
we strive to live  
our baptismal  
commitment to love  
and serve God  
and neighbor.  
As we gather in prayer  
and worship to praise  
our Lord, we share a  
communion of faith,  
grace and service.  
We endeavor to live  
as Christians  
by reaching out to our  
brothers and sisters,  
proclaiming the Word,  
demonstrating  
compassion, and  
by sharing our faith  
through evangelization  
in order to make our  
parish a community of  
love and service.



**Parish Leader and DRE: Deacon Randy Smith 330-323-5904**

**Office/ St. Mary Site: 1602 Market Ave. S., Canton, OH 44707 330-453-2110**  
Office is open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday - Friday

**St. Benedict Site: 2207 Third St. SE., Canton, OH 44707**

**Sunday Eucharistic Celebrations:**

**8 a.m. St. Mary Worship Site & 11 a.m. St. Benedict Worship Site**

**Weekday Eucharistic Celebration:**

**8:30 a.m. Wednesday & Friday, St. Mary Worship Site**

**Liturgy of the Word with Communion:**

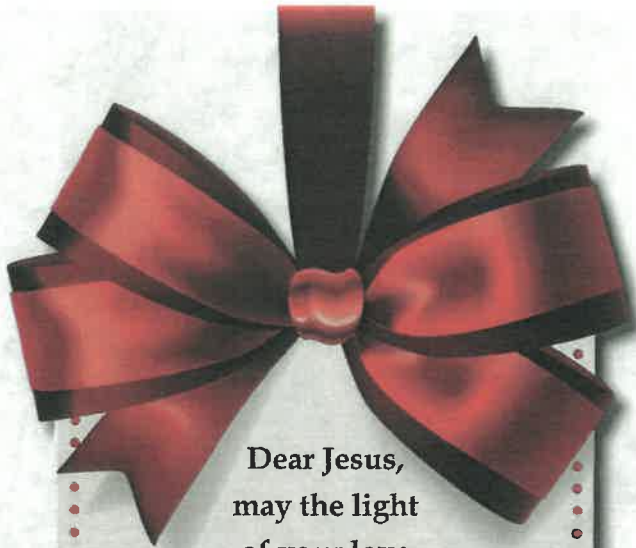
**8:30 a.m. Tuesday & Thursday, St. Mary Worship Site**

**Reconciliation: First Sunday of the Month**

**9 a.m. St. Mary Worship Site & 10:30 a.m. St. Benedict Worship Site**

**Sacristan/Office Administrator: Brenda Jones CCD Principal: Lee Ann Smith 330-575-0918**  
**Facilities Manager: Shawn Roush Secretary: Christine Freese**

**Website: StMary-StBenedict.com Email: OfficeStM-StB@sbcglobal.net**  
**Facebook: St Mary/St Benedict Catholic Church**



Dear Jesus,  
may the light  
of your love  
always shine in our hearts.  
At Christmas and throughout  
the New Year may we marvel  
at your great love for us.  
Let your love transform  
every aspect of our lives  
and touch everyone we encounter.  
Our hearts are open to you, Jesus.  
Amen.

*Because he didn't stay a baby...* we want to tell you the rest of the story. At Christmas we focus on the baby in the manger, the angels' praise, and the shepherds' worship, but there is much more to this story. The praise and worship weren't solely for a cute baby with a touching back-story about his parent's struggles that brought them into a barn for their baby's birth. The praise and worship were for the fulfillment of centuries of prophetic promises. The prophets' consistent message was that God had not abandoned a world that had turned its back on Him. Immanuel, "God with us" is no longer a vague promise, but is the baby in the manger.

Our church is here to share that story in all its fullness, to answer your questions, and to help you grow in faith. Have you or a family member been away from the church for a while? Would you or a family member like to complete sacraments? We'd consider it a privilege if you were to call the office or Deacon Randy directly (see front of bulletin for numbers)

If you are considering becoming a Catholic, this is not a decision to be taken lightly. Again, you can always contact Deacon directly – any time. Also, consider exploring these sites: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org); [www.doy.org](http://www.doy.org); [www.catechist.com](http://www.catechist.com); [www.avemariapress.com](http://www.avemariapress.com); [www.ohiocathconf.org](http://www.ohiocathconf.org); [www.catholic.com](http://www.catholic.com)

New Year's Day is not just the start of a new year, it's also a **Holy Day of Obligation** in the Catholic Church. These special dates, also called feast days, are a time for prayer and refraining from work.

In the United States, New Year's Day is one of six Holy Days of Obligation that are observed:

**January 1:**

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

**40 Days After Easter:**

Solemnity of the Ascension

**August 15:**

Solemnity of the Assumption  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**November 1:**

Solemnity of All Saints

**December 8:**

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

**December 25:**

Solemnity of the Nativity  
of Our Lord, Jesus Christ

**THE CHURCHES WILL BE OPEN  
FOR QUIET REFLECTION**

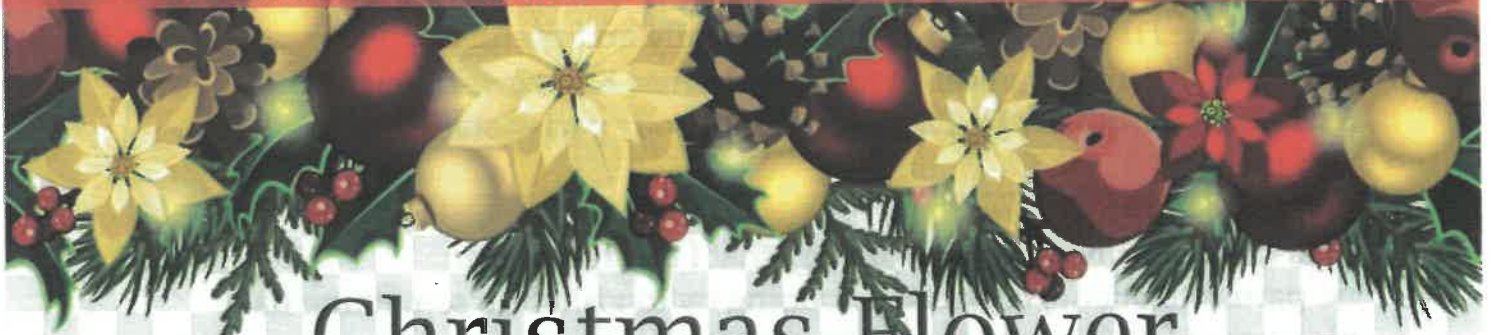
You are welcome to stop in for a little while, to appreciate the beauty of the church and give thanks for all of God's Blessings while enjoying some peace and personal prayer.

**Tuesday, December 29th**  
from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. @ St. Benedict's  
and

**Wednesday, December 30th**  
from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. @ St. Mary's



SAFETY PROTOCOLS  
WILL BE IN PLACE.



# Christmas Flower *Memorials*

## IN HONOR OF:

The Almasy Families  
John Biedenbach  
Ruth Chipko  
Clare Evans  
Fr. Pat Manning  
Meyer Family  
John Moauro  
Nau Family  
Fr. Benson Okpara  
Cletis & Barbara Rohr  
Deacon Randy & LeeAnn Smith  
David Stropki

## IN MEMORY OF:

Cam & Mary Abbott  
Abbott Family  
John & Josephine Almasy  
Simon & Susie Almasy  
The Babbo Family  
The Battista Family  
Jack & Edna Baughman  
Willard & Mary Benedum  
Robert & Narice Breiding  
Bernard, Mary & Brian Brown  
Dorreen Clymire  
Rick Criss  
Stephen Criss  
Gabriel & Lois Cuenot  
Cugini Family  
Emil & Bernadine Daniska Sr.  
Emil & Vera Daniska Jr.  
Richard Daniska  
Gino DeGasperis  
Michael S. DeSerio  
Connie Donahue  
William & Florance Donahue  
Olga Drabick  
Rudy Drabick  
Ron Drabick  
John J. & Mary E. Dureska  
David Ebner

John Ebner  
Miriam Eckenweiler  
Francis "Bud" Eckenweiler  
Bob Engel  
Florence Engel  
John & Agnes Evanko  
John; Andrew Evanko  
Chris & Celeste Falvo  
Richard & Delores Fechheimer  
The Feller Family  
Raymond & Florence Foltz  
Francis Family  
John & Jeanette Frank  
Eileen & Robert Frank  
Miriam & Eugene Frank  
Joan Freese  
Ray & Millie Gill  
Fr. Larry Hambach  
Denise Himes  
Merle & Dorothy Himes  
The Hulesa Family  
Jeff Hummel  
Ryan Jedel  
Marion & Maxine Jones  
Mary Ellen Kimble  
Ray Kolunchuk Sr.  
Dick Koller  
Mildred & Walter Koller  
Richard Koller  
Gilbert & Mary Krone  
Margaret Lee  
Helen & Martin Lehotay  
Dewey & Isabelle Lewton  
Helen Claire Lewton  
Beverly Moauro  
The Moauro Family  
Avery Murphy  
Paul & Pauline Neining  
Keith Norris  
Keith D. Norris  
Kris Norris  
Ruth Norris

August Oberster  
Paul Parks  
Margaret Parks  
Deborah Prehodick  
John Ramos  
Remauh Family  
Carl & Stella Rice  
Eugene Rice  
Jeremy Rice  
James Reagan  
Mary Ellen Reagan  
Michael A. Reagan Sr.  
Risaliti Family  
The Roberto Family  
Marguerite Rodocker  
Maurice Rodocker  
Gordon Rodocker  
The Rosia Families  
Carl Roush  
Gilbert Roush  
Marvin & Janice Roush  
Mr & Mrs Howard Schell  
Earl & Elizabeth Schott  
Scifo Family  
Michael & Margaret Seman  
Wayne Spencer  
Darlene Stropki  
Don Stropki  
Charles & Evelyn Stropki  
Catherine & Walter Tinlin  
Exethel Torrence  
Yolonda & Delma Vincent  
Barbara & Fredrick Wadsworth  
Sharon Rose Warth  
Adam Weaver  
Doyle Weaver  
Maurice & Dorothy Weaver  
Tom Weaver  
The Weekley Families  
Verna Weidleman  
Duke & Arline Westover  
Lawerence & Alma Winkler

**Merry Christmas** to my parish family and friends,  
on behalf of our Canonical Pastor, Fr. Thomas Kraszewski, our  
Sacramental Minister Fr. Patrick Manning, our parish staff,  
and myself.

This Christmas is different from any that I can remember:  
no parties to attend, or friends stopping by to visit. But, something has  
blossomed from each of these disappointments: learning new ways  
to communicate with others, which meant taking time to ensure my  
thoughts were complete and focused. Spending less time shopping and  
more time with family; making sure love was the gift I worked harder  
to give. Checking in on friends to make sure they are okay. Calling  
parishioners and making sure I found ways to stay in touch with the  
parish as a whole. Having extra time to pray and work-out with the  
Holy Spirit; and asking for strength during tough times.

It truly is a wonderful life if we slow down and see what could be  
passing us by and if we spend more time doing what we are created for.

I hope this Christmas will allow you to look past the struggles and  
uncertainties. Like the Holy Family, may we place our fears and  
anxieties in God's hands and allow the light of Christ to illuminate  
our way forward.

Even though we were unable to see the Christmas Star in Ohio, it was  
still there behind the clouds, just as God is still there for us whenever  
life seems overcast.

May God's Blessings be upon all of you  
and your families



Deacon Randy

