

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

## MISSION STATEMENT

ST. MARY'S IS A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ON A JOURNEY OF FAITH WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO WITNESS CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

**From the Pastor: (Welcome the Christ Child)** As Joseph and Mary began their journey to Bethlehem, they were going to fulfill the census. Historians tell us of the Roman census taken at the time. The census happened every fourteen years. Every family was to enroll their members, most particularly for tax purposes.

For Joseph and Mary the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem was eighty miles. The accommodation for travelers was most primitive. Travellers brought their own food; all that the innkeeper provided was feed for the animals and fire for cooking. The town was crowded and there was no room for Joseph and Mary. So it was in the area with a partial cave that Jesus was born. Swaddling clothes consisted of a square of cloth with a long bandage like strip coming from each corner. The child was first wrapped in the cloth and then the long strip was wound around Him. The word *manger* means a place where animals feed; therefore it was like a stable.

That there was no room in the inn was symbolic of what happened to Jesus. The only place where there was room for Him was on the cross. He desired to enter the overcrowded hearts of those around Him, His search still goes on. Who will welcome the Christ child?

There is a similar story about Mother Teresa and her reception of the unwanted children. In the Soviet Union, some children were marked as outcasts, often seen as incapable of life. Mother Teresa said, "I will take all the children who are incapable of life." Among them were two boys named Sergei and Alexei. Sergei was a boy with a tiny emaciated body who did not walk but could only drag himself along the floor, suffering terribly all the while. Later it turned out he only had a tendon that was too short. He was completely neglected and half-starved because in the orphanage he did not manage to scoot quickly enough to the soup pot, so he regularly went hungry. A surgeon performed an operation on Sergei's tendon and it solved the problem.

Alexei, in the beginning was considered a rather difficult child. The Sisters said that he was unhappy because he realized that his birth mother had mistreated him and given him away. Like all the children he wore a miraculous medal on a string around his neck. The Sisters explained to him that from now on, the Mother of God would be his mother. From that moment on, Alexei was the best-behaved child at the midday meal; he would kiss his medal over and over again. When he was getting dressed, anyone who tried to help had to kiss the medal first; only then could they help him.

Mother Teresa had the gift of seeing the child Jesus in these children, whom many people rejected and were repulsed by, because of their terrible sufferings. Mother Teresa said, "What a wonderful child, see how tenderly it is holding my finger." To her it was clear, she loved Christ and God's light comes into the world even through severely handicapped children. Every child was a gift sent from God.

When we welcome the child Jesus, we receive the tenderness of God. If God treats us as tenderly, as cheerfully and with joyful hope as Mother Teresa, we have a great opportunity to accept his love and make it to Heaven. That was probably the secret of her success: the power of tenderness. People were not touched because of any of her special intellectual achievements or social status, but because they saw that she treated people with so much tenderness, empathy and self-

sacrifice. What touches people's hearts is when they feel how much they are loved. For Mother Teresa this love was simply passing on the love that God had given her. And many who shed tears after meeting Mother Teresa, were once again able to trust in the love and forgiveness of God that she had so beautifully express. It is the kind of love that restores people's hope of reconciliation and of being able to lead a happy life again.

On this night we remember the child Jesus being born into a world that did not accept Him. He searches hearts to see which one will receive Him. Welcome the Christ child this night more deeply into your heart. Christ gives his love to all who will receive Him and in turn gives them grace to share His love with others.



**Merry Christmas on the Feast of the Nativity!**

**POPE BENEDICT:**The symbols of Christmas -- such as the tree and the crib -- point to the great mystery of the Incarnation and are important references, according to Benedict XVI.

The Pope said this today as he received a delegation from Ukraine, the country which donated this year's main Christmas tree for St. Peter's Square. The tree, a spruce from the Zakarpattia region, was lit up today. It is just over 100 feet tall and is decorated with 2,500 silver- and gold-colored ornaments.

The tree and nativity scene, Benedict XVI went on, "are elements of that typically Christmas atmosphere which is part of our communities' spiritual heritage; a climate impregnated with religiosity and family intimacy that we must seek to conserve, even in modern societies where consumerism and the search for material goods sometimes seem to prevail."

"Christmas is a Christian feast," he stated, "and its symbols are important references to the great mystery of the incarnation and birth of Jesus, which the liturgy constantly re-evokes. The Creator of the universe, by becoming a child, came among us to share our journey; He became small to enter the heart of man and renew it with His love. Let us prepare ourselves to welcome Him with faith."

**WEEKLY BIBLE VERSES TO MEMORIZE: Jn 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. And we saw his glory-- the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father--full of grace and of truth..

# Christmas Mass Decemeber 25, 2011

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Monday, Dec. 26</b>    | <b>Saint Stephen</b>                           |
| 6:00-7:00 pm              | Adoration                                      |
| 6:30 pm                   | Confessions                                    |
| 7:00 pm MASS              | †Henri Pierre Caubisens/Caubisens              |
| 6:00 pm-12:00am           | No Adoration                                   |
| <b>Tuesday, Dec. 27</b>   | <b>Saint John</b>                              |
| 6:30 am                   | Confession                                     |
| 7:00 am MASS              | †Iva Robertson Bell/Blanc                      |
| Noon-1:00 pm              | Adoration                                      |
| 12:00 am-12:00 am         | No Adoration                                   |
| <b>Wednesday, Dec. 28</b> | <b>The Holy Innocents</b>                      |
| 5:30 pm                   | Confessions                                    |
| 6:00 pm MASS              | Lawrence & Mary Wolfgram/50th Anv              |
| 6:30-7:30 pm              | Adoration                                      |
| 12:01 am-12:00 am         | No Adoration                                   |
| <b>Thursday, Dec. 29</b>  | <b>Saint Thomas Becket</b>                     |
| 6:30 am                   | Confession                                     |
| 7:00 am MASS              | †Robert & Merle Blanc/Blanc                    |
| Noon-1:00 pm              | Adoration                                      |
| 12:01 am-12:00 am         | No Adoration                                   |
| <b>Friday, Dec. 30</b>    | <b>The Holy Family of Jesus , Mary, Joseph</b> |
| 5:45 am                   | Men's Bible Study                              |
| 6:30 am                   | Confession                                     |
| 7:00 am MASS              | †George & Norma Kononen/Blanc                  |
| 7:30 am-8:30 am           | Adoration                                      |
| 12:01 am-10:00 am         | NO Adoration                                   |
| <b>Saturday, Dec. 31</b>  | <b>Saint SylvesterI</b>                        |
| 8:00 am MASS              | Special Intentions                             |
| 3:30 pm                   | Confession                                     |
| 4:00 pm                   | Holy Hour                                      |
| 5:00 pm MASS              | Max & Hayley Quinones/Torres                   |
| <b>Sunday, Jan. 1</b>     | <b>Mary the Holy Mother of God</b>             |
| 8:00 am                   | Holy Hour                                      |
| 9:00 am                   | Confession                                     |
| 10:00 am MASS             | Warren & Peggy Wagenseil/Helfrich              |
| 11:30 am SP MASS          | For the Parish                                 |

Our new e-mail address is [saintmary@qwestoffice.net](mailto:saintmary@qwestoffice.net)

**BOOK OF THE MONTH:**In this down-to-earth yet inspiring guide, Father Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R., book "*What to do When Jesus is Hungry?*" explains the Corporal Works of Mercy and illustrates multiple ways we can do them in our modern everyday life. The works of mercy provide us with the opportunity to let every person know he is a child of God and a brother in Christ. From the works of mercy will emerge a community of love and peace centered on Christ." According to the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus will judge us on the basis of whether or not we fed him when he was hungry, gave him drink when he was thirsty, welcomed him when he was a stranger, clothed him when he was naked, and visited him when he was sick or in prison. What we have done for others, he will tell us, we have done for him. The Catholic Church has traditionally called these six acts of kindness along with a seventh, burying the dead -- the "Corporal Works of Mercy."

**ADULT ED:** Fr Albert will teach an adult bible study on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm. on the 1st, 2nd and 5th weeks.

**LIBRARY HOURS:** The library will be open Monday-Friday from 8:00AM-Noon if you would like to come and check out a book or a video. We have lots of new books and videos including children's videos.

**DISHES:** If you have brought food for funerals or other events please remember to pick up your dishes in the kitchen. Thank you.

### ADORATION HOURS-OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS:

We will have one hour of Adoration each day between Christmas and New Years. Adoration Hours:

**Monday-Dec. 26th.....6:00-7:00 pm**

**Tuesday-Dec. 27th.....12:00-1:00 pm**

**Wednesday-Dec. 28th.....6:30-7:30 pm**

**Thursday-Dec. 29th.....12:00-1:00 pm**

**Friday-Dec. 30th.....7:30-8:30 am**

**ORGANIST:** We are looking for someone to play the organ during Masses. If you know of anyone please let Father Clemens know.

**PRO-LIFE:** This is a credit card where the proceeds go to Pro-Life. Check it out at <http://www.cardlabconnect.com/AffinityPortal/visitorAction.do?affinityName=savebabieswithyourcard>

Sienna is a mobile phone company that supports Pro-Life. For more info go to [www.sienna-group.com](http://www.sienna-group.com) or call toll free 1-877-474-3662. Their plans are very competitive with other cell phone providers around the area.

**WEBSITE!!** Our website is up and running—  
[stmaryspendleton.org](http://stmaryspendleton.org). or [gowestcatholicmen.com](http://gowestcatholicmen.com)

### Altar Servers for Dec 31-Jan 1

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 5:00 pm  | Seth & Peter Case/Remington Christensen   |
| 10:00 am | Daniel & John Kubishta/Soren & Lance Wolf |
| 11:30 am | Jonathan Lopez                            |

## We Would Like To Welcome You To Our Parish Family

If you are new to the Parish, please fill out your name and address below. We would love to add you to our Parish Family. Please visit us at the Parish Office or mail this form to us or place it in the collection basket.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

St. Mary's Church 800 SE Court Pendleton, OR 97801