

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

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| Dec. 25 | \$1,250 |
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MASS SCHEDULE

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| <i>THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD—OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS</i> | | |
| Sat. Dec. 31 | 5:00 PM | For †Henrietta Zellerer |
| Sun. Jan. 1 | 9:00 AM | For the Living and Deceased People of Our Parish |
| | 12:00PM (Latin) | For the Intention of the Celebrant |
| Mon. Jan. 2 | XXXXX | NO MASS THIS WEEK-SCHOOL MEETINGS |
| Tue. Jan. 3 | XXXXX | NO MASS THIS WEEK-SCHOOL MEETINGS |
| Wed. Jan. 4 | 8:00 AM | For †Rufus Marcum |
| Thur. Jan. 5 | 8:00 AM | For †Benedict XVI (Adoration 6:00-7:00 PM) |
| Fri. Jan. 6 | 8:00 AM | For †Mrs. Marcum (First Friday Mass) |
| <i>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</i> | | |
| Sat. Jan. 7 | 5:00 PM | For †Ellarie Glenn |
| Sun. Jan. 8 | 9:00 AM | For the Living and Deceased People of Our Parish |

PRAYER LIST—Jerry & Eileen Ehlman, Sherri Moffett, Charles Taylor, Chris Rauf, Katie Davis, Barry Bergman, Andrew Lauck, Bradley Franzen, Pam Babbington, Dave Kordenbrock, Kate & Colton Sherold, Karen Reilly, Emmitt Thomas, Jeff suffering from Meniere’s disease, Tony Bach, John Jackson, Hank Bond, Hudson Feinauer, Mike and Bill Lemming, Dave Neuspickel, Kambie Perkins, Bonita & Jim Happe, Dave Verst, Andy Sper, Billie Huffman, Larry Slusher, Brenda Johnson, Verna Payne, Roger High, Rita Funke, Johnathan Briggs, Cheryl Miller, and Missy Fryman.

BIRTHDAYS— Jan. 3-Christine Thorwarth, Jan. 3-Karly Bach, Jan. 4-Caedan Feinauer, Jan.6-Trisha Moore, Jan. 8-Myra Cooper, Jan. 10-Rachel Broering, Jan. 11– John Mills, Jan. 15-Linda Fryman, Jan. 20-Joe Bach, Jan. 23-Jerry Ehlman, Jan. 23-Tim Dickerson, Jan. 29-Maybalee Miller

ANNIVERSARIES— Jan. 17-Christine and Nathan Thorwarth, Jan. 17-Jeanne and Mark Cooper,

Please send any requests for prayers or memorials to the parish email or call to make a request. If you birthday or anniversary is not listed, let Linda know.



SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Jacob Straub – Cell (859) 445-2436

Address: 13782 Decoursey Pike Morning View, KY 41063

Phone: (859) 356-6530

Fax: (859) 356-1695

Parish Email: stmatthew13782@gmail.com – Bulletin submissions by Fri. afternoon

Parish Website: stmatthewskenton.org

Worship Schedule:

Saturdays – 5:00 PM

Sundays – 9:00 AM

Weekdays – 8:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration: Thursdays 6-7:00 PM

Confession Times:

Saturdays – 4:00-4:50 PM

Sundays – 8:00-8:50 AM

Thursdays—6:00-7:00 PM

Parish Staff and Volunteers

Religious Education – Roseanne Rawe (859) 635-1572

Bulletin/Prayer List – Linda Fryman (859) 240-2377

Parish History/Cemetery Info – Patty Neuspickel (859) 472-2508

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 1, 2023

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL—Classes will resume on January 8.

TAX STATEMENTS—Your tax statements should be available in the gathering space on January 8 or January 15. All that are not picked up will be mailed on January 16.

LECTOR— Jan. 1-Lisa Cooper, Jan. 8-Bill Funke

CLEANING— Jan. 2-Genita and Daughters

POPE BENEDICT XVI 1927-2022

Eternal rest grant unto Benedict, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

The funeral for Pope Benedict XVI will be on Thursday, Jan. 5, at the Vatican. The 8:00 AM Mass for Thursday will be a Mass offered in union with that funeral Mass for his intention.

From now through Thursday and for the *novem-dies* (nine days of mourning after his funeral), please pray an Our Father, a Hail Mary, and a Glory Be for the repose of his soul.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK—MOTHER OF GOD

We celebrate Christmas beyond one day, but for a season, however brief it may be. The octave of Christmas ends the immediate celebration on the 8th day of Christmas, by celebrating Mary as Mother of God. Why should we praise Mary? Our Protestant brethren will scoff at this practice and accuse of practicing idolatry. Yet this is far from the case. The Church has never held Mary to be equal to God: our true and total object of worship is the Most Holy Trinity. Yet this does not mean we cannot praise and show respect to those whom God exalts for our emulation and praise, above all the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Why is Mary the most praised of all human beings after Jesus Christ? It is because of her most unique and intimate connection to Jesus; she is His mother. Everything we praise in the Virgin Mary comes from her particular vocation as the Mother of the Word Incarnate.

The Church has praised her from the very beginning of her existence. Numerous Church fathers from the first centuries praised Mary as the mother of Jesus, such as Irenaeus of Lyons (2nd century). This central characteristic of Mary was so important that an ecumenical council – the Council of Ephesus in AD 431 – solemnly affirmed this with the following declaration:

For it was no ordinary man who was first born of the Holy Virgin and upon whom the Word afterwards descended; but being united from the womb itself He is said to have undergone fleshly birth, claiming as His own the birth of His own flesh. Thus [the holy Fathers] did not hesitate to speak of the holy Virgin as the Mother of God.

The word that the council fathers used for “Mother of God” is the Greek word *Theotokos*, which literally means “God-bearer.” While Protestants may take offense at this verbiage and try to say that Mary is only the Mother of Jesus, we must affirm that if Jesus is God, and Mary is His mother, then she is the Mother of God. This does not mean that she is the mother of the Holy Trinity (which many Protestants think we believe), but this title affirms that Jesus is the God-Man who was born from her virginal womb.

We ultimately praise Mary not in herself but because of the wonderful things God worked through her. Jesus could not become a human being without her; why would we forget her or cast her aside? Mary wishes us to know and love her Son; who better to help us do this than His own mother?



Let us rejoice in the Blessed Virgin Mary who was made worthy by God's immense grace to bring to birth the Incarnate Word who is our Savior. Let us bring not only the flowers of the earth but the flowers of our hearts to her through our prayers and praises. Let us crown her who humbly accepted her vocation to be the Mother of God every day of our lives. Ave Maria!

Fr. Jacob Straub