

December 16
3rd Sunday of Advent

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD CATHOLIC CHURCH

*"Serving the People of God
Spiritually and Physically since 1848"*

1101 S. LAFAYETTE, FT. WAYNE, IN 46802

FATHER PHILLIP A. WIDMANN, *Pastor*

WWW.STMARYSFW.ORG

Mass Schedule

Sunday - 10:45 am

Holy Day - 5:15 pm



Parish Office

1101 S. Lafayette • Ft. Wayne, IN 46802
Hours Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 am-4:00 pm
Fri. 8:30 am-2:00 pm
Telephone (260) 424-8231
Fax (260) 426-2029
Email stmarysfw@stmarysfw.org
Mail P.O. Box 11383
Ft. Wayne, IN 46857-1383

Parish Staff

Pastoral Associate & SVDP

Anthony Henry (260) 424-8231

Sacramental Coordinator

Mary Kay Matasky (260) 424-8231

Music Director

Greg Childs (260) 466-8770

Mary's Kids Director

Therese Spencer (260) 747-4242

Liturgical Environment

Chuck Luther (260) 424-8231

Bulletin Editor

Jan Kortenber (260) 424-8231

Office & Hall Manager

Sue Koester (260) 424-8231

Business Manager

Julie Crouch (260) 424-8231

Receptionist

Karen Grashoff (260) 424-8231

Nursery Director

Judy Parrott (260) 420-1929

Wedding Coordinator

Rebecca Silkworth (260) 223-7018

Building Operations/SK Deliveries

Tom Freehill (260) 424-8231

St. Mary's Soup Kitchen Director

Diane Day (260) 426-1217

Soup Kitchen Volunteer Coordinator

Dee Kumfer (260) 422-4968

Ave Maria House

Dottie Carpenter (260) 424-3355

Prayer Line

Dottie Carpenter (260) 705-1690

Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council

Jennifer Hayes (260) 450-2193

Sacraments

Matrimony

Arrangements are to be made with priest at least 6 months in advance. Pre-marriage instruction required.

Sick and Communion Call

Please keep the Church Office informed of the sick and homebound, particularly when there is serious illness.

Baptism

For details please call the Church Office. Baptismal Preparation is required for parents.

Reconciliation

Sunday: 10:00am-10:30am OR
Anytime by appointment.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Call Parish Office for information.

Parish Pastoral Council

Nov, Jan, Mar, May, 1st Sunday, after Mass

Bulletin Deadline

Monday 12:00 pm
Call or email submissions.

Parish Mission Statement

"Believing in faith in action, St. Mary Mother of God Catholic Church strives to reach out to others through the joyful celebration of Word and Sacrament, embracing diversity, and working for peace, justice, and non-violence."

Parish Membership Welcome

Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us, whether visitors, long time residents, or newly arrived in the parish. *We thank God for you.* If you wish to register, please call the parish office, pick up a registration form in the pew, or complete below and place in collection basket.

Name _____ Phone No _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Check one:

New Parishioner New Address New Phone Number Moving, remove from list

3rd Sunday of Advent

In Christianity, we hear often about the "Good News." We might often associate it with Jesus' compassion to the poor, his healings and miracles, and the salvation he won for us. In today's Gospel, we read of John the Baptist. "Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people." Yet as we examine the rest of the reading, we see examples of John's preaching. If you have two cloaks, give one away. Don't cheat others out of their money, extort, or lie. And, of course, the warning that the Messiah is on the move and "his winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Merry Christmas!

Not only do John's listeners enjoy his message, but they seem to think he might be the awaited Messiah! To understand today's Gospel, it's important to understand the Jewish people. For most of their history, God's chosen people had been under someone else's heel. They were slaves in

Egypt. Their kingdoms were ravaged first by the Assyrians, then the Babylonians. Now they were under the yoke of the Roman Empire. Familiar with being strangers in a strange land, welcoming the stranger, caring for the vulnerable, and enacting justice was incredibly important to them as a people. While John's words may seem odd or strong to our modern ears, this call to justice was welcome, even if it was directed at the hearer.

The truth is, no one is exempt from John's call to repentance. We all have further to go in the Christian life. We can all grow in virtue and love our neighbors more generously. The Church gives us the Advent season to examine our own hearts. Did any of John's warnings resonate with you? That could be a great thing to bring to Jesus this week!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*



Sunday, December 16

Sacristan: Sue Jehl

Commentator/Petitions: Carmen Doyle

Servers: Nicole Obioma, Michele Obioma, Michael Obioma

First Reading: Ben Clemmer

Second Reading: Greg Gemperline

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Sue Jehl, Joanne Miller, John Barnett, Eugenia Barnett, Kathleen Smith, Celeste Streicher, Kate Brogan, Jennifer Hayes

Ushers: Antonio Salazar, Christine Myles, Jasmin Myles, Dennis Doyle

Greeters: Christine & Jasmin Myles

Sunday, December 23

Sacristan: Sue Koester

Commentator/Petitions: Dottie Carpenter

Servers: Aric Koenig, Noah Johnson, John Peterson

First Reading: Ken Yahne

Second Reading: Louise Yahne

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Sue Koester, Pat McBride, Andrea Thomas, Rosemary Mausser, Judy Wagoner, Barb Chmiel, Jane Wick, John Barnett

Ushers: Val Vorndran, Liz Peterson, Andy Johnson, Katrina Johnson

Greeters: Katrina & Andy Johnson,

"to everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven"

"a time to be born..."

"a time to love..."

"a time to be healed..."

Pray for the sick of our parish

"a time to die"

"and a time for peace"

and in our world, all people, both military and civilian who are in the midst of war or natural disasters.

Ecclesiastes 3:1f



Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming." - Lk 3:15-16a

Readings for the week of December 16, 2018

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/
Lk 3:10-18

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/
Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Thursday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/
Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
[1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/
Lk 1:46-56

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/
Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

ELECTRONIC GIVING PROGRAM - St. Mary Mother of God Church offers this safe and convenient option for you to contribute your Sunday offerings to the Church automatically through your checking or savings account. To obtain the necessary form, please contact Julie Crouch at the Parish Office (jcrouch@stmarysfw.org, or 260-424-8231). You may also go to www.stmarysfw.org, click the "Donate" link, and complete the Authorization Agreement for Direct Payment form.



Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 16

10:45 am For the People of St. Mary Mother of God

Sunday, December 23

10:45 am Lawrence Endress



Altar of Service

Saint Mary's Soup Kitchen

Please mark your grocery lists for our Soup Kitchen. This week we are asking for ...MACARONI

Soup Kitchen Weekend volunteers

Saturday 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Sunday 11:30 -1:00 pm

Sunday, December 16: Carrie Loeffler, Judy, Kara & Katie

Saturday, December 22: Ephriam

Sunday, December 23: Rushelle Lill

Thank you for volunteering at the Soup Kitchen. Please call me if you are unable to make your scheduled day.

Val Vordran 625-5757 or 450-5170

AVE MARIA HOUSE PANTRY NEEDS:

Toilet Paper and Paper Products

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Do you feel a calling to minister to our shut-ins? Please call the church office at 424-8231 or Sue Koester at 493-4282 for more information, or if you know of a parishioner who may be homebound and in need of communion brought to them.



The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 16

- *Mary's Kids* 9:15 am

Sunday, December 23

- No classes for *Mary's Kids*

Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day

- Second Collection is for Catholic Charities



There will be a special presentation by the Cathedral Brass before and during St. Mary's Christmas Eve Mass.

ST. MARY'S HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

December 24—Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm

Christmas Day 25— 10:45 am

December 31—New Year's Eve—No Mass

January 1, 2019—New Year's Day—10:45 am

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate Christmas Eve Mass at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, Dec. 24, at 10:30 p.m.

Parish Announcements

Dear Parishioners:

As the Holy/Holidays approach, it is my heartfelt wish that you will experience the peace and joy of Christ our Savior in a very special way.

I urge you to make your real celebration of Christmas and the New Year a spiritual one. Try your level best to do this by taking the time to prepare in these remaining days of the Advent Season, because it is all too easy to get caught up in the material preparations for the season. Set some time aside to prepare yourself spiritually by doing some good spiritual reading, to avail yourself of the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation/Confession and of course to join us at Mass.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your generous support of our parish during this past year. Your efforts in this regard are deeply appreciated.

On behalf of myself and all those associated with me here at Saint Mary Mother of God Parish, we wish to you and yours a most blessed

Fr. Phillip A. Widmann

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

St. Charles Church located at 4916 Trier Road will hold a penance service on Monday, December 17 –7:00 pm.

St. Jude Church located at State and Randalia will hold a penance service on Wednesday, December 19 at 7:00 pm.

FESTISVALS OF LESSONS

Bishop Luers High School will host a Festival of Lessons and Carols **TODAY Sunday, Dec. 16, at 4 p.m.** in the Chapel of Saint Francis of Assisi. The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, the faithful listen to nine Scripture lessons, which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer. The Bishop Luers chamber ensemble, directed by Kristopher Andorfer, leads the music.

St. Therese Catholic Church, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd., will host a **Festival of Lessons and Carols on Monday, Dec. 17, at 6:45 p.m.** There is no charge, but a free will offering will be taken up to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society of the parish. All are welcome. We have adapted this Festival of Lessons and Carols to reflect the season of Advent that moves into the celebration of Christmas," said Beverly Rieger, St. Therese music director. "The beautiful, candle-lit service is not precisely a Christmas concert," she continued, "although attendees will experience beautiful Advent/Christmas music. The audience is invited to sing throughout, but it is not a Christmas Carol sing-a-long either," said Ms. Rieger.

