

CELEBRATE THE LORD'S DAY MASSES:

Saturday: 5:00pm at St. John's

Sunday: 8:30am at St. John's
10:30am at St. Mary's



LITURGY SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Monday, December 3

0:00 a.m...No Mass (*St. John's*)

Tuesday, December 4

5:30 p.m...Fay Lenz (*St. John's*)

Wednesday, December 5

12:00noon...Karleen Reidy (*St. John's*)

Thursday, December 6

5:30 p.m...Martha Kistler (*St. Mary's*)

Friday, December 7, Holyday Vigil

5:30 p.m...William Whitacre (*St. John's*)

Saturday, December 8, Holyday

10:30 a.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's and St. John's
(*St. Mary's*)

Saturday, December 8

5:00 p.m...Tony & Ginny Wesolowski (*St. John's*)

Sunday, December 9

8:30 a.m...June Holcombe (*St. John's*)

10:30 a.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's and St. John's
(*St. Mary's*)

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR DECEMBER:

Evangelization – In the Service of the Transmission of Faith

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLYDAY

This Saturday, December 8, we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary, conceived in the normal way through an act of love by her mother and father (St. Joachim and St. Anne), was born free of original sin and its effects from the first moment of her existence. While we honor Mary for this privilege of being without sin, we also try to be like her in becoming faithful bearers of Christ in the world. This is a holyday of obligation. See the schedule or Mass times.

To see about a ride to Church call the Church office at 348-3889 or contact a Knight.

IMAGES OF MARY

St. John's Altar & Rosary will gather at 5:30pm on December 6 for a soup and sandwich supper (provided) to celebrate the season. As a group we will then go to the Blackford County Arts Center for a 7pm presentation on *An Interfaith Experience - Images of Mary in Islam and Christianity* presented by Liz Hanks and Dr. George Wolfe. All are invited.

ALTAR & ROSARY DINNER

St. Mary's Altar & Rosary will hold their Christmas Dinner on Monday December 10th beginning at 6 PM. All ladies of the Parish are invited to this pitch-in meal. We will have an optional Christmas Ornament Gift Exchange in the \$5-\$8 price range. We hope to see you there!

THANKS FOR YOUR DONATION

St. John's Altar & Rosary would like to thank all who donated items for the bake sale, made monetary donations, or helped work. We raised over \$600 for this event. All proceeds help with the altar supplies for the church as well as other projects. Thank you all!

If you need to put someone on the prayer chain, please contact Janice Jackson at 348-1521. Thank you

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Dec. 3: [St. Francis Xavier, priest] Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

Dec. 4: [St. John Damascene, priest & doctor of the Church] Is 11: 1-10; Lk 10: 21-24

Dec. 5: Is 25: 6-10a; Mt 15: 29-37

Dec. 6: [St. Nicholas, bishop] Is 26: 1-6; Mt 7: 21, 24-27

Dec. 7: [St. Ambrose, bishop & doctor of the Church] Is 29: 17-24; Mt 9: 27-31

Dec. 8: [The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary] Gn 3: 9-15, 20; Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12; Lk 1: 26-38

Dec. 9: [Second Sunday of Advent] Bar 5: 1-9; Phil 1: 4-6, 8-11; Lk 3: 1-6

St. Mary's Altar & Rosary is seeking New and Gently used items for a white elephant silent auction.

Ideas are toys, gift items, home décor, lotions, books - children & adult, cookbooks, jewelry, purses, dish towels, craft supplies, Christmas items, guy stuff, or something you received and want to re-gift (we won't tell).

Please bring your items in by December 9th and place on the table downstairs marked Silent Auction. This will be a great way to get rid of things and also a way to buy nice items or last-minute Christmas gifts and have a fun time at the St. Nicholas pitch-in on December 16th. Thanks for your support!

On **December 16** the extended Grady Family will host the December **Parish Pitch-in** with Ham and Cheesy Potatoes. Please plan to join us, visit with St Nick, enjoy the silent auction, and bring a covered dish to share.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the Church for future Parish Pitch-Ins.

The start of Advent brings back our annual Advent tree. This has become a tradition at St. John's on which the county schools and students have come to rely. The schools have a new head nurse who was very happy to give us an updated list of needed items. The parishioners of St. John's are very generously answering the call to help those in need and so once again, Thank you! As always take as many tags from the tree as you wish. Return them with the unwrapped items by Christmas eve. After Advent the collection will be delivered to the head nurse's office who will distribute them to the various school buildings throughout the county. If you have any questions, please call Tina Johnson 499-0585.

Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern.

--St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration will take place this Friday prior to the Holyday Mass. Adoration will begin at 4:30pm and end at 5:25pm. Mass will follow at 5:30pm. If you have not had the opportunity yet to participate in Adoration, maybe this is the time. Prayer books and materials are made available for use during the time of Adoration or you may bring your own as you pray and reflect. All are invited to participate.

SERVERS FOR ST. JOHN'S DEC. 8 & 9

Sat., 5p.m...Madison Merkel & Matthew Aulbach
Sun., 8:30...Juan & Catalina Velasquez

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BREAK

The Tuesday Women's Bible Study and Sunday morning Adult Bible Study will each take winter break during the month of December. Following break they will each begin a new bible series. Watch the bulletin for further details!

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE Don't forget to get your ornaments in to the office for inclusion on the tree beginning. Thank you in advance for participating!

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday 5, RCIA 6pm at St. John's
Thursday 6, Reconciliation after Mass at St. Mary's Altar & Rosary soup & sandwich supper 5:30pm at St. John's following by Images of Mary at 7pm at Blackford County Arts Center Friday 7, Eucharistic Adoration 4:30-5:30pm at St. John's
Holyday Vigil 5:30pm at St. John's
Saturday 8, Holyday Mass 10:30am at St. Mary's
Sunday 9, Food Pantry at St. Mary's

PRAY THE ROSARY

Let us pray the rosary as Advent begins, that we will work to prepare our hearts as we await the coming of Jesus, both as a celebration of his birth at Christmas and His second coming.

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:

JER 33: 14-16; PS 25:4-5,8-9,10,14; 1THES 3:12-4:2; LK 21:25-28, 34-36

We have arrived at the powerful season of Advent, a season to prepare with awe and wonder for the Feast of the Incarnation of Jesus — born to us as Savior and Brother. It is a season to prepare for His return at the end of time.



It is also a moment to remind ourselves that that our individual judgment

coming,

too, when we will be called to give an account for all that God has given to us during our lifetimes. In other words, Advent is a steward's season! Our readings for the first week of Advent waste no time in calling our urgent attention to these themes of reflection and preparation. They seem to shout, "Wake up! Get ready!" and offer us some practical advice as we enter into this season.

The Gospel, from Luke, warns, "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life." How easy it is to lose focus on our Lord either by too much indulgence in our lives or by too much worry about our lives. Both extremes are easy to fall prey to. To avoid these traps this we are told to "be vigilant" and "pray for strength to sustain us."

During Advent, we Christian stewards must ask ourselves some hard questions. Am I staying faithful to my prayer life? Am I using my energy and skills to serve others? Am I overly concerned about material gain? Am I relying my "stuff" or my investments as my source of comfort or security? Am I living for the moment or for the coming of the Lord? Get ready Christian stewards! He's coming!

Let us prepare with awe and wonder.

Shop the New-To-You in the next couple of weeks before we close for the winter. Many bargains for the holidays are available. Thur 11-5, Fri-Sat 11-2

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

St. Mary's

Collection: \$487.00

Needed Weekly: \$887.87

St. John's

Sunday Collection: \$1,851.00

Building Fund: \$50.00

Food Pantry: \$50.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$52.00

Needed Weekly: \$3,225.23

"Be on guard," Jesus warns in today's Gospel, "lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence." Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

day is

"WALKING TOGETHER IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST"

Soon we will begin the contact phase of those households that have not returned their pledge cards. Even if you are not able to make a pledge at this time, please return your card. If you need a replacement card, they can be found on the bookcases at either church.

As of November 16, 55 pledges for St. John's total \$38,875. toward a goal of \$44,717 and for St. Mary's 14 households have been returned with pledges totaling \$9,800 of a goal of \$13,697.

Please prayerfully consider your pledge and plan to participate in our diocesan appeal, Fruitful Harvest 2018, and help us reach our goals. Thank you for your continued stewardship and prayers as we "Walk Together in the Light of Christ." *DJN*



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact the parish office about preparation. The sacrament is normally celebrated with the community during Mass.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are available by appointment as well as:
St. Mary, the first Thursday 6:00-6:30pm
St. John, the first Saturday 1:00-1:30pm and third Saturday after 5:00pm Mass.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Contact the parish office to begin the preparation at least six months in advance.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Generally, Fr. Dave is available after Mass for anointing, or you may contact the parish office to arrange a time.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Sessions for children and youth (grades pre3-12) are available on Sunday morning. Contact the parish office for details.

The Clustered Parishes Of

St. Mary, Dunkirk

**St. John the Evangelist,
Hartford City**

Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Pastor, Fr. David J. Newton

PARISH OFFICES

e-mail: stmaryjohn@att.net

St. Mary, Dunkirk

P.O. Box 286, Dunkirk, IN 47336

Office: 765-768-6157

Church Basement: 765-768-1283

St. John the Evangelist, Hartford City

209 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348

Rectory and Office: 765-348-3123

Secretary's Office: 765-348-3889

Fax: 765-348-4399

PARISH REGISTRATION

Visitors are always welcome. Residents are invited to join the community by calling the parish office.

RCIA

People interested in knowing about the Catholic faith and way of life meet each week. Contact the parish office for information.