

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 9 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Monday, December 10

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

Tuesday, December 11

5:30 p.m...Clarence & Bernice Pahl (*St. John's*)

Wednesday, December 12

12:00noon...Deceased of Trant & Helm Families
(*St. John's*)

Thursday, December 13

5:30 p.m...All Souls (*St. Mary's*)

Friday, December 14

11:00 a.m...Bill & Pat Schantz (*Miller's Merry Manor*)

Saturday, December 15

5:00 p.m...Jess Huggins, Jr. (*St. John's*)

Sunday, December 16

8:30 a.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's and St. John's
(*St. John's*)

10:30 a.m...Living & Deceased of Landon & Mauer
Families (*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.

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!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Dec. 10: Is 35: 1-10; Lk 5: 17-26

Dec. 11: [*St. Damasus I, pope*] Is 40: 1-11; Mt 18: 12-14

Dec. 12: [*Our Lady of Guadalupe*] Zec 2: 14-17; Lk 1: 26-38

Dec. 13: [*St. Lucy, virgin & martyr*] Is 41: 13-20; Mt 11: 11-15

Dec. 14: [*St. John of the Cross, priest & doctor of the Church*] Is 48: 17-19; Mt 11: 16-19

Dec. 15: Sir 48: 1-4, 9-11; Mt 17 9a, 10-13

Dec. 16: [*Third Sunday of Advent*] Zep 3: 14-18a; Phil 4: 4-7; Lk 3: 10-18

ST. MARY'S PARISH PITCH-IN

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-In's.

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

SUGGESTED ADVENT READING:

The Word Among Us, December 2018-This booklet offers short meditations for Catholics on the daily Mass scripture and is available in our church on the top of the missalette book case. It is also online WAU.ORG

Bishop Robert Barron author and narrator of the Catholicism series has an online daily meditation on the Gospel. Sign up for the Advent email series at dailycatholicgospel.com

ST. JOHN'S ADVENT TREE HELPS LOCAL KIDS

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.

SERVERS FOR ST. JOHN'S DEC. 15 & 16

Sat., 5p.m...Helen Whitesell & Cameron Rinker

Sun., 8:30...Laurel McVicker & Jenna Payne

PRAY THE ROSARY

Let us pray the rosary as we move through Advent that we will focus on preparing our hearts as we await the coming of Jesus, both as a celebration of his birth at Christmas and His second coming.

St. Mary's Church Parishioners:

Thank you for your generous donation to our Project Fried Food Pantry.

Director, Linda Bowdell

THIS WEEK:

Monday 10, Altar & Rosary 6pm at St. Mary's
Tuesday 11, Advent Confessions and First Reconciliation 6:15pm at St. John's

Wednesday 12, RCIA 6pm at St. John's

Saturday 15, Reconciliation after 5pm Mass at St. John's

Sunday 16, Parish Pitch-In & St. Nicholas Visit after Mass at St. Mary's

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

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:

BAR 5:1-9; PS 126: 1-6; PHIL 1: 4-6, 8-11; LK 3: 1-6

The readings for the Second Week of Advent offer both encouragement and challenge as we reflect and prepare for the two "comings" of Christ — His coming as a baby on the great feast of Christmas, and the anticipation of His second coming at the end of time.



Our First Reading, from Baruch, is a wonderful reminder that God has triumphed over sin and death and

that we — His faithful disciples — will live in the light of His glory one day. Until He comes again, we must remain faithful to Him as true disciples and good stewards of all the gifts He has given us.

While it can be tempting to give in to the materialism and calls for self-indulgence that surround us, (ironically more than ever at this time of year), this reading calls us back to the spiritual reality that this life is passing and that we are made for eternal life with God. We are called to prepare for *eternal* life by the way that we use our time, our talents and our treasure *now*.

The Gospel reading from Luke shows us how personal and detailed is God's love for humanity as He prepared the way for Christ's coming among us. We are told the precise time, place and person, John the Baptist, He appointed to announce the arrival of our Savior.

John tells us how to celebrate to the fullest this first "coming" on the feast of Christmas and how to prepare for the second coming — through repentance. This Advent, let's turn away from any bad habits or sin that may have crept in to our lives and turn our hearts and minds back to Christ. This is what the stewardship way of life is all about —moving closer ever closer in relationship with Christ and imitation of Him, ready to celebrate His birth, with eyes fixed on eternal life with Him.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

The Knights will hold their December meeting a week early, December 19th, at 6:30pm at the Pickle Lounge. This meeting is for members only. Come enjoy food and fellowship with your fellow Knights.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

St. Mary's

Collection: \$729.00

Flowers: \$42.00

Needed Weekly: \$887.87

St. John's

Sunday Collection: \$4,426.00

Building Fund: \$1,145.00

Food Pantry: \$255.00

Flowers: \$271.00

Needed Weekly: \$3,225.23

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the Psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

"WALKING TOGETHER IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST"

Both of our cluster parishes are drawing closer to our required Fruitful Harvest goals. However, we still have quite a few cards out at least at St. John's and we need to account for all 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 30, 62 pledges for St. John's total \$40,735. toward a goal of \$44,717 and for St. Mary's 24 households have been returned with pledges totaling \$13,330 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

VISIT NEW TO YOU THIS WEEK

Shop the New-To-You this week before we close for the winter next Saturday, December 15. Many bargains for the holidays are still available.

Thursday 11-5, Friday & Saturday 11-2

NEW SPONSOR ADVERTISING SHEETS

Be sure to check out our bulletin ad sheets. These advertisers subsidize the cost of the bulletins, so if you have the opportunity, you may thank them by using their products or services.

This week's sponsor is:

VARIETY UNLIMITED, LLC
THANK YOU!

PREPARING

**Good and Gracious God,
as I prepare Christmas cards and letters,
writing words of joy and love,
prepare my heart to receive
the Word made flesh— Jesus, your Son.
As I prepare our home for guests,
for feasts, and for friends,
help me open the door of my heart
just a bit wider to make room
at our table for all.**

**As I prepare gifts to go beneath the tree
and packages to bless loved ones near and
far, deepen my gratitude for your many
gifts to me. Amen.**

Just as the Virgin Mother pondered in her heart on the Word made flesh, so every individual soul and the entire Church are called during their earthly pilgrimage to wait for Christ who comes—and to welcome him with faith and love ever new.

--Pope Benedict XVI



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.