

**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 23  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve**  
5:00 p.m...Jess Huggins, Sr, Olive Huggins, & Jess Huggins, Jr. (*St. John's*)  
8:00 p.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's and St. John's (*St. Mary's*)  
**Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day**  
8:30 a.m...All Souls (*St. John's*)  
**Wednesday, December 26**  
12:00noon...No Mass (*St. John's*)  
**Thursday, December 27**  
5:30 p.m...Ron Watson (*St. Mary's*)  
**Friday, December 28**  
11:00 a.m...No Mass (*Miller's Merry Manor*)  
**Saturday, December 29**  
5:00 p.m...Kathy Rogers (*St. John's*)  
**Sunday, December 30**  
8:30 a.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's and St. John's (*St. John's*)  
10:30 a.m...George Watson (*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.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**



**JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS**

**Christmas Eve: 5pm at St. John the Evangelist Church,  
Hartford City**

**8pm at St. Mary Church, Dunkirk**

**Christmas Day: 8:30am at St. John the Evangelist  
Church, Hartford City**

**ALL ARE WELCOMED**

**ST. JOHN'S ADVENT TREE HELPS LOCAL KIDS**

Thank you to all who donated toward the Advent Tree. The collection of items will be delivered to the head nurse's office who will distribute them to the various school buildings throughout the county. The nurses and the school children thank you.

**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.

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

**SERVERS FOR ST. JOHN'S DEC. 24 & 25**

Sat., 5p.m...Madison Merkel & Kayli Henderson  
Sun., 8:30...Laurel McVicker

**SERVERS FOR ST. JOHN'S DEC. 29 & 30**

Sat., 5p.m...Kellee Merkel & Mason Merkel  
Sun., 8:30...Keyli & Allyson Henderson

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

**GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:**



celebration of her Son's birth. After our Lord Himself, Mary is our model and guide to a stewardship way of life.

Today's Gospel passage from Luke describes Mary's actions immediately after her "yes" to the angel Gabriel's message. "Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah... and greeted Elizabeth." Mary immediately begins to think of others before herself, setting out quickly to be with her cousin, modeling two of the pillars of stewardship – Hospitality and Service

What warmth and humility the Mother of our Savior shows, traveling to Elizabeth to spend time with her, rejoicing with Elizabeth over her own incredible pregnancy, and assisting her in a time of need. And what joy this hospitality and service brings to Elizabeth.

Our Blessed Mother's example of a stewardship way of life is one that we, her children, can follow in our own lives today. With all the gifts God gives us — our time, our talents, our material possessions — we, too, can offer ourselves to God by using these gifts to serve and glorify Him. In so doing, we will effectively spread the Good News of the Gospel to the world around us today.

We will be stewards after our Mother's own heart.

**SAFE AND SACRED**

All staff, clergy, religious and volunteers who work directly with children or vulnerable adults must register and complete the diocesan safe environment training program every three years.

<https://safeandsacred-dol-in.org/>

Our Blessed Mother takes center stage on this fourth Sunday of Advent, and fittingly so, as we draw near to the

**THIS WEEK:**

Monday 24, Christmas Eve  
Tuesday 25, Christmas Day  
Saturday 29, Haiti at St. John's  
Sunday 30, Haiti at St. John's

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

*Dec. 24:* 2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1: 67-79  
*Dec. 25:* [The Nativity of the Lord] Is 62: 11-12; Ti 3: 4-7; Lk 2: 15-20  
*Dec. 26:* [St. Stephen, the first martyr] Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59; Mt 10: 17-22  
*Dec. 27:* [St. John, apostle & evangelist] 1 Jn 1: 1-4; Jn 20: 1a, 2-8  
*Dec. 28:* [The Holy Innocents, martyrs] 1 Jn 1: 5 – 2: 2; Mt 2: 13-18  
*Dec. 29:* [St. Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr] 1 Jn 2: 3-11; Lk 2: 22-35  
*Dec. 30:* [Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph] 1 Sm 1: 20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3: 1-2, 21-24; Lk 2: 41-52



**SAVE THE DATE:  
February 2, 4:30-7pm  
Knights will host a fish fry in the parish hall.**

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

**St. Mary's**  
Collection: \$1,283.00  
Flowers: \$55.00  
Needed Weekly: \$887.87  
**St. John's**  
Sunday Collection: \$3,307.00  
Building Fund: \$150.00  
Food Pantry: \$108.00  
Flowers: \$35.00  
Needed Weekly: \$3,225.23

**The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.**

**“WALKING TOGETHER IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”**

**Still Almost!** No changes had been made toward pledges from the previous week. As of December 14, 68 pledges for St. John’s total \$43,405 toward a goal of \$44,717 and for St. Mary’s 25 households have been returned with pledges totaling \$13,430 of a goal of \$13,697.

**DJN**

**NEW TO YOU CLOSED FOR WINTER MONTHS...**

It will reopen the first of April. If you have drop-offs during this time, please get them to school. Do not leave items on the doorstep.

We wish to thank all involved with the thrift shop as we provide this ministry through our church. Special thanks to Claire Aulbach and Renee Gillis for all their efforts to make the shop run smoothly.

**If you would be willing to help run the shop, we are looking for new leadership of this ministry (individually or as a team). Contact Fr. Dave or the office if this is of interest to you.**

**Update from Sister Rita on Matthew Booher:**

Matthew has now been living in Fort Wayne for 3 months. He is surrounded by a team of professional people who are helping him create and live into a more positive life style. He is deeply grateful to us here at St John's for welcoming him and showing him what it means to worship and live as a follower of Jesus in a Catholic faith community. If any of you would like to send him a Christmas card, his address is: 6243 St Joe Rd Apt 303B, Fort Wayne IN 46835. (Remember, he cannot read cursive, only print!)

**“Lift up the eyes of your heart to the sacred light, watch closely to see the glory and majesty of the Lord.”**

*--St. Elizabeth of Schonau*



**O Lord, Come!**

The phrase "marana tha" appears at the end of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians:

*Marana tha.*

*The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.*

*My love to all of you in Christ Jesus.*

In the original Aramaic it means "O Lord, come!" and was most likely an expression or acclamation used in the early Christian liturgy. During the season of Advent the coming of our Lord is set before us in an immediate way in the scriptures proclaimed during Mass - both in anticipation of his birth and looking ahead to his return at the end of time.

Interestingly, if the phrase is reparsed as "maran atha" it shifts to the past tense: "Our Lord has come." During the celebration of the Christmas season we rejoice that God has come in the form of a helpless infant, taking on our human nature and transforming it so that "not only does human mortality receive unending honor but by wondrous union we, too, are made eternal." (Preface III of the Nativity of the Lord)

(Office of Catechesis, Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana)

**A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Moved by the joy of the gift,  
little Child of Bethlehem,  
we ask that your crying may  
shake us from our indifference  
and open our eyes**

**to those who are suffering.**

**May your tenderness  
awaken our sensitivity  
and recognize our call  
to see you in all those**

**who arrive in our cities,  
in our histories, in our lives.**

**May your tenderness  
persuade us to feel our call  
to be agents of the hope  
of our people. Amen**

*--Pope Francis*



**FOURTH 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](mailto: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.