

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 15, 2019
Third Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 16

9:00 a.m...No Mass (St. John's)

Tuesday, December 17

5:30 p.m...Deceased of Oswalt Family (St. John's)

Wednesday, December 18

12:00noon...Gary Litton (St. John's)

Thursday, December 19

5:30 p.m...Phillip Coutinho (St. Mary's)

Friday, December 20

10:00 a.m...Mae Pursley (Bridgewater Centre)

Saturday, December 21

5:00 p.m...Robert Heiser (St. John's)

Sunday, December 22

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

10:30 a.m...Matt Pitman (St. Mary's)

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR DECEMBER:

The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

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

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

Call the Church office at 348-3889 or contact a member of the Knights.

JOY: The Shepherds heard and saw and then shared the news of Christ. As still today, we do too.

"What is more precious than to be in the hand of God? God is Life and Light, and those who are in God's hands are life and light."

--St. John of Damascus

ARE YOU READY TO MEET THE LORD

The season of Advent is a time to watch and wait for Jesus' coming. As you reflect on the themes in the liturgy over the next few weeks, be aware of how you are preparing for Jesus' return. Have you been to the Sacrament of Reconciliation lately? Are you praying regularly and entering into conversation with God? Are you being called to greater participation in the Works of Mercy in your community? Pray that this Advent will be a time of renewed commitment to your ministry and continued growth as a disciple of Jesus. *Maranatha* -- come, our Lord!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THANK YOU

Located at each entrance to church, both at St. Mary's and at St. John's, there are homemade wooden crosses. These are a gift from Fr. Paul to each family in our two parishes. Please take one per family. Merry Christmas and Thank You!

Fr. Paul

SHOP THIS WEEK

NEW-TO-YOU

Thursday 11-5, Friday 11-2, Saturday 11-2.

We will close for holiday break at 2pm on the 22nd until January 3.

WINTER HOURS: This year we will be open on Saturdays only 11am-2pm during January and February.

Regular Hours resume March 5.

*We are in need of brown paper bags. If you have a surplus you would like to donate, please drop them off this week at the shop or anytime at the school. Thank you.

ADVENT TREE HELPS STUDENTS

Please return Advent tree items by next weekend unwrapped and with the tag. Thank you for your ongoing support on behalf of the children of Blackford county.

WREATH EXTRAS

St. John's Altar & Rosary has a few extras for sale from their wreath sale. There are two wreaths, two centerpieces, and 6 swags all for sale in the ramp at school. Prices are labeled. Pay in the office. These would make a great last-minute gift or decoration.

LECTIO EUCHARIST

Each video stands alone, but also is sequential. If you missed one, you can come for the next one, **Wednesday, December 18 at 6 pm.** Light refreshments are available. *Childcare is available with prior notice on Monday.*



Session 9: The Mass

The Eucharist affected the thinking of the early Church in all aspects of its worship and practices. But how did the Apostles put into practice Christ's command to "Do this in memory of me?" The story of two men and the miraculous encounter they had on the road to Emmaus could show us more than we realize.

Mark your calendar for January 8 for the final session of the Lectio Eucharist series on Revelation.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Dec. 16: Nm 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21: 23-27

Dec. 17: Gn 49: 2, 8-10; Mt 1: 1-17

Dec. 18: Jer 23: 5-8; Mt 1: 18-25

Dec. 19: Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1: 5-25

Dec. 20: Is 7: 10-14; Lk 1: 26-38

Dec. 21: [St. Peter Canisius, priest & doctor of the Church] Sg 2: 8-14; Zep 3: 14-18a; Lk 1: 39-45

Dec. 22: [Fourth Sunday of Advent] Is 7: 10-14; Rom 1: 1-7; Mt 1: 18-24

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday 18, Lectio Eucharist DVD Series 6-7:15pm at St. John's

Sunday 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

SERVERS FOR ST. JOHN'S DEC. 21 & 22

Saturday, 5p.m...Serena Merkel & Bryson Michael

Sunday, 8:30a.m...Louis & Juan Velasquez

ADDITIONAL ADVENT PENANCE TIMES AT NEIGHBORING PARISHES:

Monday, Dec. 16 2:00PM & 6:30PM St. Lawrence, Muncie

Wednesday, Dec. 18 6:30PM St. Mary, Alexandria

Thursday, Dec. 19 2:00PM & 6:30PM St. Paul, Marion

Something to see... Wilson Christmas Lights!

10437 W Division Road, Dunkirk, Dec 8 - Jan 1

Lots of lights including a lighted nativity, birthday cake for Jesus and something new!

Holiday Hours: Mon-Thur 5:30 - 10:30, Fri-Sun 5:30 - Midnight, Christmas Eve - All Night Long

All Are Welcome!

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

St. Mary's Dec. 1

Collection: \$637.00

Flowers: \$202.00

Needed Weekly: \$887.87

St. John's

Sunday Collection: \$2,278.29

Food Pantry: \$88.00

Building Fund: \$55.00

Flowers: \$30.00

Needed Weekly: \$3,225.23

Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the Kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?

CONTINUED PRAYERS AND THANKS

Six weeks ago I was hospitalized with what we thought was a heart attack, but it turned out to be shingles. Upon my return home, Jack was taken to Lutheran Hospital with liver failure that was determined to be caused by a pancreatic tumor which was malignant. He had stints put in and is home now, but has regular doctor appointments. We ask for continued prayers please.

We miss everyone at church! We both thank you for your prayers, cards, well-wishes, and help. Merry Christmas from Jack & Becky Cain

“O Antiphons” -- seven special invitations to prayer

December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19

O Root of Jesse’s stem, sign of God’s love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20

O Key of David, opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

—From *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*



Why not invite a friend or family member to share the true joy of the season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior!

Christmas Eve Mass

5:30pm at St. Mary’s, Dunkirk

8:00pm at St. John’s, Hartford City

Christmas Day Mass

9:00am at St. John’s, Hartford City

PLEASE make note that St. Mary’s and St. John’s Christmas Eve Mass times have flipped from years past.

MIDNIGHT MASS: Holy Family Church in Gas City will hold a Midnight Mass (at 12am) this year.

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:

[IS 35:1-6A, 10](#); [PS146:6-10](#); [JAS 5:7-10](#); [MT 11:2-11](#)

Good news, Christian stewards — we are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and it is time



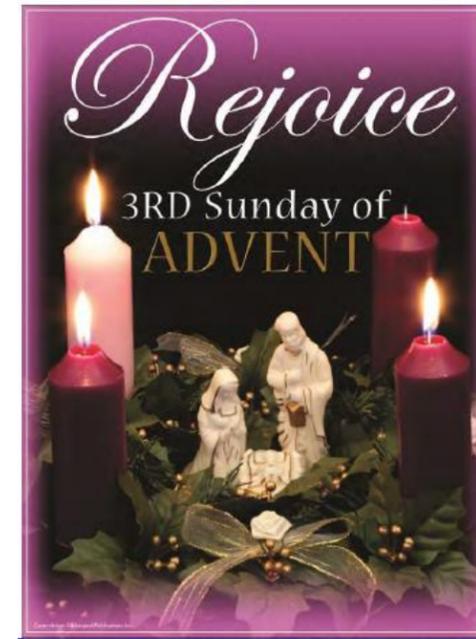
to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. Today’s readings on this Gaudete (“Rejoice”) Sunday are filled with reminders of God’s final victory over suffering and injustice, and encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples.

Such a day almost seems too good to be true, especially when we look around at the dire circumstances we face in our world at present. But by faith we know this day is coming. Lest we grow weary as we await the glorious day of Christ’s return, St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. “Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord... Make your hearts firm... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged.”

This is excellent advice for us Christian stewards as we face the challenges of everyday life in our broken world, especially in the hectic days that precede Christmas, when stress can make us and those around us less than our best selves. St. James reminds us that we can choose our response to both the great strains and the minor annoyances of life.

In other words, we can be good stewards of our attitude, “making our hearts firm” by practicing patience with others and refusing to give in to the temptation to complain.

We can choose to see and rejoice in God’s presence with us, no matter the circumstances surrounding us.



THIRD 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, by appointment; St. John, the first Saturday and third Saturday 4:00pm.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Generally, Fr. Paul 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. Paul Hudson

PARISH OFFICES

e-mail: stmaryjohn@att.net

St. Mary, Dunkirk

P.O. Box 286, Dunkirk, IN 47336

Parish Office: 765-348-3889

Church Basement: 765-768-1283

St. John the Evangelist, Hartford City

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

Parish 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.