



CELEBRATE THE LORD'S DAY MASSES:

LITURGY SCHEDULE
December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 21 at St. John's
 9:30a.m...Rollin & Helen Waters

Tuesday, December 22
 0:00a.m...No Mass

Wednesday, December 23, at St. John's
 12:00noon...Parishioners of St. Mary's, St. John's and Holy Family

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve
St. Mary's 5:00p.m...Ron Watson
St. John's 8:00p.m...Jesse, Sr. & Olive Huggins & Jesse Huggins, Jr.

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day at Holy Family
 9:00a.m...Donald Johanning

Saturday, December 26, at St. Mary's
 5:00p.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's, St. John's and Holy Family

Sunday, December 27
 9:00a.m...Larry Aulbach at St. John's
 11:00a.m...Matthew Christman at Holy Family

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

NEW MISSALETTES FOR NEW CHURCH YEAR

Our new missalettes are here for St. John's and St. Mary's. You are welcome to take a missalette home with you, but keep it as we are still not able to distribute these at church. There is a box at each church entrance.

Starting this past Thursday as part of the Liturgy of Hours, we pray as priests and religious, we have special antiphons that we use as part of our preparation for Christmas. Each day these focus on a key aspect of Jesus and His role as the messiah and savior of the world. These titles include God's Wisdom, Leader of Israel, Radiant Dawn, the Root of Jesse, Key of David, King of the Nations, and Emmanuel of course. These are ancient titles for the Messiah that Jesus now fulfills in His incarnation and birth and they date back at least to the eleventh century.

The unique thing about these antiphons is when you line up these titles in their original Latin, they spell SACORE, which backwards in Latin spells ERO CRAS that translates, *Tomorrow, I will come*. It actually took scholars centuries to notice this beautiful message from the unknown author reminding us all that Jesus and life with Him is one of beautiful and wonderful surprises ready to come at a moment's notice. I hope and pray that as Christmas day approaches, we can look forward to great surprises that God wants to bestow on us in the days to come. Please continue to know of the prayers for our staff and volunteers for all of you as we look forward to the coming festivities.

In Christ, Fr. Hurley

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

- Dec. 21: [St. Peter Canisius, priest & doctor of the Church] Sg 2: 8-14; Zep 3: 14-18a; Lk 1: 39-45*
- Dec. 22: 1 Sm 1: 24-28; Lk 1: 46-56*
- Dec. 23: [St. John of Kanty, priest] Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24; Lk 1: 57-66*
- Dec. 24: Is 62: 1-5; Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25*
- Dec. 25: 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: [The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph] Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14; Col 3: 12-21; Lk 2: 22-40*



FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

Please remember in your prayers Jerry Trant, parishioner of St. John's, who passed to eternal life this week. May his family be comforted by your prayers.



An excerpt from the December 13th edition of *The Catholic Moment*

Chipping Away, by Father Sean Pogue

I am a new missionary pastor. While I spent a year as a parochial administrator in one of my previous assignments, I think this is different. The diocese is undergoing a process of conversion and change, in order for each pastorate - and each individual - to be led into a deeper experience of Christ and his saving mission, and to share the Gospel with others.

The word "evangelization" is still foreign to many Catholics, and the very word itself conjures up images of knocking on unsuspecting peoples' doors, trying to convince them to "join us." While there is some truth to this image, as I am sure many of us have experienced the "knock," this is not what we are talking about in Uniting in Heart.

The vision of Uniting in Heart is to share the Good News, the Gospel, the saving work of Jesus Christ, with the world, and we do that one person at a time, one relationship at a time, one conversation about God at a time. Many people think that evangelization and Church-growth are one and the same. They are not. While we want to see the Church grow in numbers, we need to see the Church grow in depth of spirituality. When we speak of evangelization, we need to evangelize ourselves first. We cannot give what we do not have. Ultimately, our hope is that as people hear the Good News, they will find its fulfillment with us in the Catholic Church.

It takes a while to change a culture, and we have to chip away at it as if we were digging a tunnel. I am confident that with patience and time we will all see the fruit of our labors, if we use the right tools and we tunnel in the correct direction. We need to use the saving message of Jesus Christ to chip away at the indifference and cynicism in our hearts. Eventually we'll reach the other side to eternal life with Christ.

This year will be different than Christmases past, no doubt. But that doesn't mean it can't be the best Christmas ever. In fact, next year, when you look back on Christmas 2020, it will be with a new perspective, and a new appreciation for whatever passes as normal next year. Even with all the changes 2020 has wrought, you can still enjoy Christmas. Who knows, but the ways you celebrate the holidays this year may become your best traditions yet. In the end, opening your hearts to Jesus, and your lives to the Holy Spirit, is what it's all about anyway.

"Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope."

— Pope Benedict XVI

WEEKLY CALENDAR:

Wednesday, Dec. 23: K of C 7:30pm at St. John's
Sunday, Dec. 27: Haiti at St. John's
 Youth Group Christmas Party 6-8pm at St. John's

PRAYER CHAIN: To have someone prayed for or be one of those doing the praying, please contact Janice Jackson at 348-1521 or the office at 348-3889 or 674-2605.

Please pray for all those parishioners and their families dealing with illness.

SAINTS OF THE SEASON

How can we imitate a saint during Advent? Each week there will be a question(s) for us to consider as we strive to grow in faith like the saints.

Who would I most like to share the Christmas story with? How can I do more to help my family prepare for Christmas?

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

FOR DECEMBER:

For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

ADVENT PRAYER:

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek him. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

HOLIDAY & HOLIDAY MASSES:

Christmas Mass Schedule is as follows:

Christmas Eve 5pm at St. Mary's

Christmas Eve 8pm at St. John's

Christmas Day 9am at Holy Family

Solemnity of Mary, January 1, is a holyday of obligation with Mass schedules as follows:

Vigil, Thursday, Dec. 31, 5pm at St. Mary's

7pm at St. John's

Holyday, Friday, Jan. 1, 10am at Holy Family

Join us as we give thanks and praise and celebrate each of these special days.

PRAY THE ROSARY

This week we transition into the Christmas season from Advent preparations. Let us pray the rosary asking Mary that through prayer and preparation, we through her, will be ready to meet her son, Jesus, when he returns in glory.

The rosary is prayed each Sunday at 4pm with Divine Chaplet and each Wednesday at 4pm with recitation of 15 decades at Holy Family.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:

Find information about our three parishes on the web at www.stmaryjohn.org. Mass times, adoration, and confession schedules are listed. Bulletins, newsletters, calendars are under the "About" tab. The Catholic Moment, Vatican news and Advent Reflections by Bishop Barron are also available as you scroll down on the home page.

We also now have online giving set up under "Donate". You can pick the parish and for what the donation should be applied.

(The web address will change once a pastorate name has been decided and approved by the diocese.)

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16; PS 89:2-5, 27, 29; ROM 16:25-27; LK 1:26-38

There are just five days left until the celebration of Christmas begins. Let's live these last days of Advent well.

We read in today's Gospel passage from Luke the wonderful words of the Blessed Mother's "fiat," her "yes" to God's plan.

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." These are among the most beloved words in the Gospel. But the next sentence is also important for the Christian steward.

After Mary's fiat, we read, "Then the angel departed from her." Our Blessed Mother was left with a lot of unexplained details about God's plan for her! Yet, she followed God's will perfectly. She gave herself and her life fully to God as a gift. She was the first disciple. We are called to follow her example today.

This Christmas let us resolve to make our whole life a gift to the One Who has given us everything. He will give us all the help and strength we need.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

St. Mary's

Sunday Collection: \$1,497.00

Food Pantry: \$146.00

Needed Weekly: \$887.87

St. John's

Sunday Collection: \$2,369.00

Building: \$60.00

Food Pantry: \$100.00

Flower Fund: \$55.00

Advent Tree: \$305.00

Needed Weekly: \$3,225.23

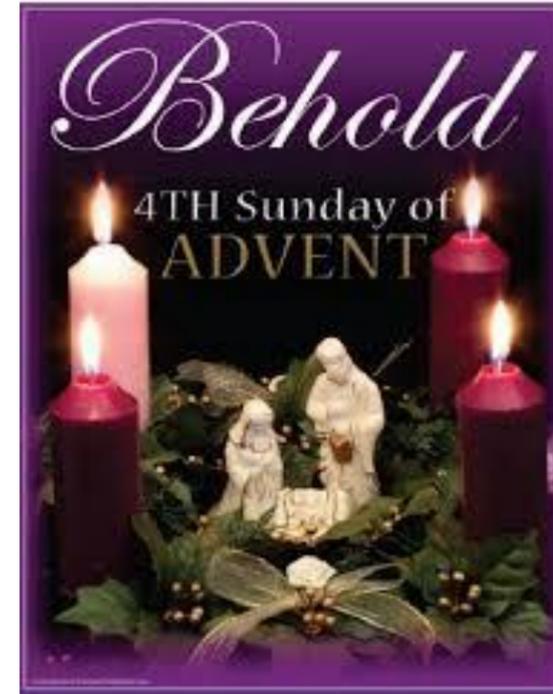
Holy Family

Sunday Collection: \$3,347.05

Sharing Cupboard: \$237.00

Needed Weekly: \$2,238.00

In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" – "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." -- that the promise finds fulfillment.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact the parish office about preparation.

The sacrament is normally celebrated with the community during Mass. May God continue to bless you and your new little one.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are available by appointment as well as:

St. Mary, 5-5:30pm each Thursday

St. John, 3-4:00pm each Saturday

Holy Family, 12noon-1pm each Sunday; 8:30-8:55am each Friday.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage. Please contact the parish office to begin the preparation at least six months in advance.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Generally, Fr. Hurley 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 K-12) are available on Sunday morning. Contact the parish office for details.

St. Mary, Dunkirk

St. John the Evangelist, Hartford City

Holy Family, Gas City

A Pastorate of

The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Pastor, Fr. Kevin Hurley

PARISH OFFICES

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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

Holy Family, Gas City

325 E North A St, Gas City, IN 46933

Parish Office: 765-674-2605

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