



This weekend and next we will have blessings for a successful harvest as well as for our animals and pets in the area. I might have mentioned off the cuff last weekend about the more dangerous the animal the better, but I am truly fine with our benevolent and kind animals of the house and field being primarily present. These blessings though are quite important and primeval, going back thousands of years to the Old Testament, where after the harvest the Israelites would offer the first fruits to God in thanksgiving for the blessings on the land. It is a reminder of the debt of gratitude we owe for all He has done for us. Now that I have been here for a year, I am learning more about agrarian matters and looking deeper below the surface.

For example, Diana our director of operations brought in different ears of corn which due to rain not at the right time produced very different variations of the size and shape. It is a great reminder for me that even though I see a huge stalk of corn, what is occurring on the inside remains hidden until brought to the light. That is the same for all the souls in our parish as well as for our animal friends. There is a great deal of growth that occurs while we are sleeping and we give thanks to God for His help in this process as well. The goal of all these blessings is to help us all move more forward into the eternal life to come. As Psalm 67 reminds us all, "The earth has yielded its fruits, the Lord our God has blessed us."

In Christ,  
Fr. Hurley

**WEEKLY CALENDAR:**

- Tuesday, Sept. 28:* Women's Bible Study 9-11am at St. John's
- Wednesday, Sept. 29:* Rosary 4pm at Holy Family  
Finance Council 1pm at St. John's
- Friday, Oct. 1:* Eucharistic Adoration following 9am Mass till 9pm at Holy Family
- Sunday, Sept. 3:* Rosary 4pm at Holy Family  
Blessing of Animals 2-4 at St. Mary's



St. Mary's Altar & Rosary is taking orders for the 125th Christmas Ornaments and Vinyl Window Decals of the Church. These can be for your car, truck or windows at home. There will be samples and order sheets in the back of the church. Please Prepay, the cost is \$10 for the ornaments and \$5 for the window decals. Thank you!

Holy Family now has a lending library in the front vestibule of church. Please take advantage of the religious reading materials.



*Our pastorate would like to congratulate and welcome Isabelle James, daughter of Nathaniel & Katarina, who received the Sacrament of Baptism last weekend at Holy Family Church. May her gift of faith continue to grow through our prayers.*

**Photos Needed for St. Mary's 125th Anniversary Celebration**

**If you have any old or current photos of St. Mary's church, priests, sacraments, or activities and would like for them to be included in a video, please put in an envelope with your name on it and give to Sara Grady Kolodka. She will scan them and return them to you. If possible, please get them to Sara by the end of September.**

**LADIES' NIGHT OUT**

The Pregnancy Care Center is hosting their annual dinner and silent auction on Thursday, October 14 at the Event Center in Portland, IN. RSVP to 260-726-8636. Dinner is free to those attending.

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

- St. Mary's**  
Sunday Collection: \$305.00  
Needed Weekly: \$887.87
- St. John's**  
Sunday Collection: \$2,523.00  
Building Fund: \$35.00  
Pantry: \$10.00  
Hurricane Aid: \$242.00  
Needed Weekly: \$3,225.23
- Holy Family**  
Sunday Collection: \$3,285.00  
Sharing Cupboard: \$61.00  
Votive: \$22.00  
Needed Weekly: \$2,238.00

*St. James warns in today's second reading that those who hoard their wealth and live only for themselves will be condemned. But in the Gospel, Jesus assures us that all who give of themselves for His sake will be rewarded.*

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

- Sept. 27: [St. Vincent de Paul, priest] Zec 8: 1-8; Lk 9: 46-50*
- Sept. 28: [St. Wenceslaus, martyr; St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, martyrs] Zec 8: 20-23; Lk 9: 51-56*
- Sept. 29: [Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, archangels] Dn 7: 9-10, 13-14; Jn 1: 47-51*
- Sept. 30: [St. Jerome, priest & doctor of the Church] Neh 8: 1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Lk 10: 1-12*
- Oct. 1: [St. Therese of the Child Jesus, virgin & doctor of the Church] Sar 1: 15-22; Lk 10: 13-16*
- Oct. 2: [The Holy Guardian Angels] Bar 4: 5-12, 27-29; Mt 18: 1-5, 10*
- Oct. 3: [World Communion Day] [Respect Life Sunday] Gn 2: 18-24; Heb 2: 9-11; Mk 10: 2-16*

**AWAKEN YOUR FAITH WITH JOY + JESUS WOMEN'S PROGRAM**

Do you long for true joy in your daily routine? St. Paul Catholic Parish is excited to offer a program for ladies created and led by Chris + Katie from St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Carmel. The program begins September 29 and runs for 7 weeks held on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in McCarthy Hall. The program is free but we do ask that you register. To register, visit <https://awakenyourfaith.org/parish-programs/> or call 765-664-6345.

**CELEBRATE THE LORD'S DAY MASSES:**

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**September 26, 2021**

**26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Monday, Sept. 27**

10:00a.m...Jerry Trant

**Tuesday, Sept. 28**

:00a.m...No Mass

**Wednesday, Sept. 29 at St. John's**

12:00noon...Dave & Peg Wilson

**Thursday, Sept. 30 at St. Mary's**

5:30p.m...Welfare of Dave & Peg Wilson

**Friday, Oct. 1 at Holy Family**

9:00a.m...Evan Stanley

**Saturday, Oct. 2**

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

6:30p.m...Anna Cimino at St. John's

**Sunday, Oct. 3**

9:00a.m...Ilah Place at St. John's

11:00a.m...James & Rosemary Matney at Holy Family

**PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR SEPTEMBER:**

**An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle:**

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place this Friday, October 1, following 9am Mass until 9pm at Holy Family Church. All are invited to focus on God and be strengthened.



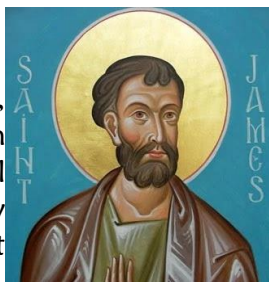
## LIFECHAIN NEXT SUNDAY

Hartford City Life Chain will meet Sunday, October 3, 2021. Sign-in will begin at 2 PM and the Life Chain will finish at 3:30. We will be signing in at Dave's Car Corner at 1225 N. Walnut Street in Hartford City. All are invited to participate, rain or shine, in support of an end to abortion. Feel free to bring a lawn chair.

## GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:

NM 11:25-29; PS 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14; JAS 5:1-6; MK 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

In our readings this week, Eldad, Medad, and the man driving out demons were all doing the work of God. They had been entrusted with a gift and used it to glorify the Lord.



Joshua and John should have responded in joy and appreciation for another's gifts and talents.

We often look at another's strengths as our weakness whether it be in parish life, in the workforce, or even in our own families.

Jesus is calling us to cut out those sinful thoughts and attitudes from our lives. The next time we witness someone being a good steward of God's gifts — rejoice! And continue to examine how you are using your gifts and talents to ensure you are being a good steward of what God has entrusted to you.

We do not want to end up like the rich in our Second Reading from St. James. They stored up their riches to the point where they withheld wages from their workers! They clenched tightly to the pleasures and luxuries that the world offers and put it in front of both God and their neighbor. They misused the gifts God bestowed on them.

We must keep this in perspective as we journey on our path as Christian stewards. We do not live for this life, but for the next.

He has given us time every day, countless talents, and numerous treasures. Are we using them for His glory?

This week when we witness other people in our lives using the gifts God has given to them, instead of becoming jealous or critical, say a prayer of thanksgiving and take time to reflect on what God has gifted you and how you can offer it to Him for His glory.

## PASTORATE VISION PLAN

Our Pastor and a team of parishioners are looking toward the future plans of our parish. You can access our online survey via our parish website [www.stmaryjohn.org](http://www.stmaryjohn.org) The survey asks questions about all aspects of parish life, so we can plan for the unique needs of our parish. Please take 10 to 15 minutes to prayerfully fill out the survey. We encourage you to participate electronically, but paper copies are available in the gathering area after Mass. You can return the paper copy in the offertory collection next week.



## BLESSING OF ANIMALS

Next Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are planning a blessing of animals in celebration of St. Francis of Assisi feast day which is October 4. Any type of animal is welcome, but must be leashed or contained. This will take place in the vacant lot just east of St. Mary's from 2-4pm. All pets are invited...along with their owners.

## OCTOBER MONTH OF THE ROSARY— PRAY THE ROSARY

Let us pray for our parishes and one another as we grow stronger together and for the common good of one United Heart to Jesus.

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

St. Mary's will pray the rosary each Saturday prior to Mass beginning at 4:40pm.

Throughout the month of October arrive one half hour early to Mass at St. John's to join in prayer of the Holy Rosary, both on Saturday and Sunday. If you are willing to lead, just call Diana with the date(s).

## THIS WEEK ON FORMED:

Read about St. Matthew and St. Padre Pio this week on FORMED.



## 26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### 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; 4-4:30pm each Saturday  
St. John, 8-8:45am each Sunday prior to Mass  
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

Office e-mail: [DHolsten@parish.dol-in.org](mailto:DHolsten@parish.dol-in.org)  
Fr. Hurley's email: [fr.khurley@dol-in.org](mailto:fr.khurley@dol-in.org)  
Website: [www.stmaryjohn.org](http://www.stmaryjohn.org)

### 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