



ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 20, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. Dec. 20 – Dr. Edwin Essien+ 11:00am
Mon. Dec. 21 – Special Intention for Renee Smith 8:00am
Tues. Dec. 22 – Jan Nunenmacher+ 8:00am
Thurs. Dec. 24 – Rose Jabour+ 4:00pm
Thurs. Dec. 24 – James L. Green, Jr.+ 6:00pm
Fri. Dec. 25 – Mesie Pope+ 9:00am
Sat. Dec. 26 – Chief George Saxon+ 5:00pm

PRAY FOR OUR PARISH MEMBERS

Mike/Lee McLaughlin and Family
 Michael/Bebe Kitchen and Family
 William/Susan Koon and Family
 Deacon Robert/Barbara Illanne and Family
 Deacon Tomasz Powroznik and Family

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS

Bridgette Pope Adams, Adrienne Ankerson, Tommy Ankerson, Fred Anglin, C.L. Ates, Deatra Bigelow, Judith Bono, Abby Bosarge, Sandra Briggs, Terry Carsten, Carol Coggin, Betty Cox, Michael Colburn, Kristin Dale, Lisa Danley, Dorothy Dersch, Betty Devera, John Devera Jr., John Deveau, Elaine Edison, Dotsie Fountain, Hillary Frey, Walter Grady, Dudley Grantham, Horst Grasz, Ionne Guillotte, Mark Guillotte, Jackie Howard, Huynh Family, Rebecca Joiner, Steve Jones, Eugene Keaney, Norma Baker LaMar, Gary Loudenslager, Ronald Leter, Walter Lewis, Jerome Littleton, Walter Maderski, Greg Mansfield, Shirley Martell, Alisha Martin, Garry May, Frankie May, Marie McNemar, Robert McNemar, Ruth Melancon, Pyrrha Meyers, Rob Myers, Mary Moir, Billy Mosley, Jackie Muller, Harrington Murphy, Susal Parol, Louise Peden, Eileen Pelusi, Andy Pineta, Ronnie Raggio, Matt Roberts, Rucks Robinson, Jordan Salisbury, Norman Samuels, Robert Sellers, Edna Storey, Lane Todd, Timmy Tue, Sheila Vannoy, Cathy Ward, Kenny Wible, Kyson Zitzelberg.

St. Mary Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil – 5:00pm
 Sunday – 11:00am (Facebook Live)
 Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. – 8:00am
 Wed. - Adoration and Confession – 5:00pm
 Mass – 6:00pm
Masks are still required.

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – Thurs. Dec. 24
 Masses at 2:00pm, 4:00pm and 6:00pm
Christmas Day – Fri. Dec. 25
 Mass 9:00am

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Eve Vigil – Thurs. Dec. 31
 Mass 5:00pm
New Year's Day – Fri. Jan 1
 Mass 8:00am

CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays in December – 5:00pm – 6:00pm
 After the Saturday 5:00pm Vigil Mass.

The Bishop will continue to dispense the faithful from the obligation to participate in Holy Mass, and anyone who is ill is asked to stay home in charity to others.

BIBLE STUDY

Jeff Cavins/Edward Sri: Jesus: The Way, the Truth and the Life. For a great Lenten experience, join online Thursday, February 4 at 10:00am. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, this encounter with Christ will empower you to know and love Him in an ever-deeper and more intimate way. To register please contact wanda.biblestudies@gmail.com

Jeff Cavins: The Bible Timeline

Easy to understand Bible study by Jeff Cavins and Ascension Press. You're guaranteed to see the Bible like never before, better understand Mass and why you are Catholic. Attend as many as you can or register to receive recordings.
wanda.biblestudies@gmail.com.

MEMORIAL POINSETTIA

If you would like to remember your loved ones with a Christmas Memorial Poinsettia, complete the envelope that is located on the tables in the vestibules and place it in the collection baskets no later than December 20. The flowers will be part of our Christmas church decorations.



ADDRESS CHANGES

A few of the Advent letters that went to all parishioners came back with an invalid address. Please call or email the church office if you have any updates. Thank you!

228-497-2364 or stmarygautier@yahoo.com

CCD CLASSES

Classes are held in the Activity Center at 9:45am – 10:45am. Refreshments are served before classes begin.

There will be no class on December 27th and January 3rd due to the Christmas holidays.

Children's Sunday School



CHRISTMAS DECORATING

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Wednesday, December 23 at 9:00am and Thursday, December 24 at 9:00am. Please come join us. All volunteers are welcome!

If you would like to donate an ornament for our St. Mary Christmas Tree this year, please drop it in the box in the north vestibule before Dec. 23. We will not be able to return them, but would like to save them for the coming years.

Background of the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, Latin for let it be done, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation.

Loyola Sunday Connection

WINTER SOLSTICE – MONDAY, DECEMBER 21 - Fire and light are traditional symbols of celebrations held on the darkest day of the year. The winter solstice is the day of the year with the fewest hours of daylight, and it marks the start of astronomical winter. After the winter solstice, days start becoming longer and nights shorter as spring approaches.