

St. Mary of the Rosary, Chewelah

Mass: Saturday 4:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM
Sunday 4:30 PM (NOT 01/01/17)

Reconciliation: Sat. 2:30—3:30 PM and by appt.

Holy Ghost, Valley

St. Joseph, Jump Off Joe

Mass: Sunday 8:00 AM (at Holy Ghost)

Reconciliation: Tuesday 6:00—7:00 PM at HG

Sacred Heart, Springdale

Mass: Saturday, 6:00 PM

Reconciliation: 1st Fridays, 5:00—5:30 PM

Mass Intentions

January 3	Bob + and Pam Wester
January 4	Frank Femling +
January 5	James Parsons
January 6	Special Intention
January 7, 4:00 PM	Marietta Linke +

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday	5:30 PM at Holy Ghost in Valley followed by Adoration from 6:00—7:00 PM
Wednesday	1:00 PM at Providence St. Joseph Hospital
Thursday	12:15 PM at St. Mary of the Rosary
Friday	9:00 AM Mass at St. Mary followed by Adoration from 9:30—10:30 AM

NO First Friday Confessions in January

Friday, Jan. 6, is the first Friday of January. Fr. Jeff regrets he will be unable to hear confessions at Sacred Heart that evening due to a priest gathering in Spokane.

Skj Season Mass Schedule

The Ski Season Mass will run through January. From Jan. 8 thru Jan. 29, there will be a 4:30 PM Mass at St. Mary of the Rosary every Sunday afternoon to attract the skiers and snowboarders to Mass on their way down the mountain. No 4:30 PM Mass on January 1.

First Friday and First Saturday Devotions

9:00 AM Masses on Friday, Jan. 6 and Saturday, Jan. 7, both at St. Mary of the Rosary, will be available this week to those observing the monthly devotions.

Welcome!

We welcome Reed St. John into our family in faith. Reed made a Profession of Faith, was confirmed, and received First Holy Communion at the Christmas Midnight Mass. Welcome, Reed!

Holy Ghost Altar Society Meeting

The Altar Society of Holy Ghost will meet after the 8 AM Mass on Sunday, **January 1st**. Also, the monthly collection for the Valley Food Pantry will be taken up. Thank you for your generosity.

K of C. Breakfast

The first Knights of Columbus breakfast of the New Year will be Sunday, January 8, 2017, after the 10:00 Mass. Start the new year off right with a hearty breakfast that goes to support our youth!

SMR Parish Campus Renewal

Last spring, Fr. Jeff gave a presentation to outline a proposed plan for a Parish Campus Renewal campaign for St. Mary of the Rosary. On Sunday, January 8, following the 10:00 AM Mass (near the end of the K.C. breakfast), he will give an updated presentation in the hope of soliciting comment and feedback as well as obtain parishioner support, that we may then proceed to present the campaign proposal to Bishop Daly for his comment, blessing, and approval. All parishioners are invited to attend.

Annual Mardi Gras Dinner at St. Mary's

The annual Mardi Gras Dinner & Dessert Auction at St. Mary of the Rosary will be Jan. 28. Tickets will be available next weekend for \$20 each. The entrée will be your choice of prime rib or salmon. Baked potatoes, salad, and appetizers are also included. Coffee will be available, but as for wine or spirits, BYOB. The event begins with a social gathering at 5:00 PM and the meal will be served around 5:30. The night will conclude with Fr. Jeff auctioning off desserts. All parishioners and their friends are invited.

Food for the Poor

Our parishes are still collecting donations to provide a house and a well for an impoverished family in a third world country (probably Haiti). Through "Food for the Poor", this can be done for only \$3,885 (\$3,600 for the house and \$285 for the well). Thus far, we have raised a total of \$2,600, which is 66.9% of our goal. Please keep donating!

Advent Sock Drive

There is still another weekend (or two) left to donate warm socks for the homeless men and women at the House of Charity. New or gently used warm socks will be collected until early or mid-January, and around Epiphany they will be delivered to the House of Charity for distribution to those in need.

St. Mary's Ladies Auxiliary

All women of the parish are invited to gather at the church hall every Wednesday morning from 9—11 AM beginning Jan. 4. Call Kellie at (509) 993-4150 if you have any questions.

Retrouvaille

You Can Help Your Marriage! Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue . . . or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages and is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication. For confidential information or to register for the February 10-12, 2017 Spokane weekend, call (509) 520-4118 or (800) 470-2230 or visit the website at www.Retrouvaille.org.

Courage; A Roman Catholic Apostolate

Do you have a loved one who is experiencing same sex attraction? Do you want to be loving to him/her but want to stay faithful to the Church's truth about sexuality and marriage? EnCourage is a confidential support group for Catholic parents, relatives or friends of those struggling with same sex attraction, sanctioned by the Spokane Diocese and led by Chaplain Fr. Kenny St. Hilaire. We'll meet to pray, listen, inform and support. For more information, please contact Tim at (509) 290-4844 or email: encourage_tk@gmail.com.

Catholic Men's Conference

Men, you are invited to attend the 7th annual Hearts on Fire Catholic Men's Conference, "Into the Breach", January 28, at St. Thomas More, 8 AM to 4:30 PM. Register at www.dioceseofspokane.org/mens.

Family Faith Formation:

Christmas Break

We are going to take a two-week Christmas break from Family Faith Formation. No Home Lesson packets or meetings, so enjoy your much deserved Christmas break! Our next Home Lesson packet will be for the week of Sunday, Jan. 8, and our next Large-Group Gathering will be Wednesday, Jan. 11, so we will see you then! God bless you all!

The Sinlessness of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Because today is the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God, we might reflect upon an important aspect of Mother Mary's character: her sinlessness. We just celebrated her Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8), which gives honor to the truth that she was conceived the normal human way, but was preserved from the first instant of her conception from all stain of Original Sin.

She also remained sinless her whole life. But did she actually need to be sinless so as to pass on a sinless human nature to Jesus, her Son, so that He, too, might be conceived without Original Sin?

Mary's sinlessness derives from the fact that she is the human vessel through which the Lord Himself became man. It was from her flesh that Christ received His human nature. Because Christ is God, it is fitting that He took His humanity from a sinless human nature, although strictly speaking, it was not actually necessary that His blessed mother be sinless for Him to receive from her a sinless human nature. God is all-powerful; God could have done it another way.

Nor was it absolutely necessary that Christ be born of a virgin. He could have come into the world via the normal route. The fact that Mary was a virgin and conceived Christ is not so much a statement about Mary as it is about the dignity of the Child Whom she carried in her womb.

Likewise (and ultimately) the Immaculate Conception is not so much a statement about the dignity of Mary as it is a statement about the dignity of her Son. It points out Who He is: God the Son incarnate.

The short, simple answer: no, it was not absolutely necessary for the Blessed Virgin Mary to be sinless in conceiving and bearing the sinless Son of God. That she was sinless, however, is for us another great cause for rejoicing at the awesome power and infinite mercy of Almighty God. God willed to preserve her from Original Sin and strengthen her with grace to remain sinless all life long, and that is a wondrous grace for which we do well to praise God.

God gives us similar grace: in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this Sacrament, we are cleansed of all sin, forgiven, reconciled with God, and empowered by sacramental grace to remain sinless moving forward; we need only to cooperate with that grace and freely allow God's grace to be at work in our own lives. And if (and invariably *when*) we should fail at this . . . not to worry! We always have recourse to God's grace right there in the great chapel of mercy, the confessional, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

Sacrament of Baptism: Parents contact Rev. Jeffrey Lewis for information.

Sacrament of Holy Matrimony: Couples contact Rev. Jeffrey Lewis at least four months prior to marriage.

Tri-Parish Office
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Parish Office Hours: Monday & Friday: 10:00—11:30 AM, 1:45—5:00 PM; Tuesday & Thursday, 10 AM-5 PM