The Faith Communities of Remsen - Marcus - Oyens
Fr. Bill McCarthy, Pastor
For the Weekend of December 8 & 9, 2018

Fr. Bill McCarthy
Use ONLY IN AN EMERGENCY 515-570-8704
Parish Offices:
Remsen
121 E 4th Street, PO Box 509
Phone 712-786-1437
Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM, Mon - Fri
Email smparish@midlands.net
Marcus
102 N Elm St, PO Box 366
Phone 712-376-2628
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs following Mass until 2PM

Permanent Deacons:
Jerry Bertrand, Marcus Holy Name 376-4891
Rick Roder, Remsen St. Mary’s 540-3100

Business Manager: (RSM)
Jo Tentinger tentingerj@rsmschools.org
Kathy Steffen (assist) steffenk@rsmschools.org
Sheila Cronin (assist) cronins@rsmschools.org

Bookkeeper/Secretary: (MHN)
Ginell Wetter bkmarcus@scdioce.se.org
   cell: 712-229-2250

Scrip: (Remsen)
Tonya Galles gallest@rsmschools.org

Development Director: Norine Harvey 786-1324
   harveyn@rsmschools.org

St. Mary’s Schools Principal: Jeff Burkey 786-1433
   burkeyj@rsmschools.org

Family Faith Formation: Rick Roder (RSM) 540-3100
   roderr@rsmschools.org

Faith Formation: Sherill Glassmaker (MHN) 229-0996
   sglassmaker@midlands.net

St. Mary’s Elementary: 786-1160
St. Mary’s Middle/High School: 786-1433

Grouping Website: www.mostholynam eofmary.org
Bulletin Email rectorybulletin@rsmschools.org
St. Mary’s School Website: www.rsmschools.org

Prayer Chain:
Remsen: Call One
Christy Pick 786-2655
Carla Ahlers 786-2612

Marcus: Call Both
Joan Cronin 376-2288
Jacque Bird 376-4677

Prayer to the Holy Family
O Jesus, look graciously upon our family, prostrate before thee. Once more we consecrate ourselves before thee, along with our trials and joys, that our home, like thine, may ever be a shrine of peace, purity, love, labor, and faith. Protect and bless all of us; absent, present, living and dead. Be merciful to those departed.

O Mary, loving mother of Jesus and our Mother, pray to Jesus for our family, for all the families of the world, to guard the cradle of the newborn, the schools of the young, and their vocations.

O Joseph, holy Guardian of Jesus and Mary, assist us by your prayers in all the necessities of life. Ask of Jesus that special grace, which he granted to thee, to watch over our home at the pillow of the sick and dying so that with Mary and thee, Heaven may find our family unbroken in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ. Amen

Baptism: Call parish office for arrangements - pre-baptism class required.
Marriage: Engaged couples are to begin preparations at least 10 months prior to their wedding. Reservations of weddings subject to use fee of $250 at St. Mary’s. Payment due upon scheduling the wedding date.
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Communal penance services during Lent and Advent seasons. Individual Reconciliation, one half hour prior to weekend Masses or by appointment.
Anointing of the Sick: Please contact the Parish Office.
Christmas Mass Times (Holy Day of Obligation)
Monday, December 24 - 4:00 PM - Remsen, St. Mary’s (Children’s Mass)
- 5:00 PM - Marcus, Holy Name (Fr. Murray)
Tuesday, December 25 - 8:00 AM - Oyens, St. Catherine’s
- 9:00 AM - Marcus, Holy Name (Fr. Murray)
- 10:00 AM - Remsen, St. Mary’s

New Year’s Mass Times (Holy Day of Obligation)
Monday, December 31 - 5:30 PM - Marcus, Holy Name (Fr. Murray)
- 7:00 PM - Remsen, St. Mary’s
Tuesday, January 1 - 9:00 AM - Remsen, St. Mary’s

Liturgical Ministry
Saturday, Dec 15, 4:00 PM Remsen, St. Mary’s
Lector: Rick Loutsch
Hosts: Luke Homan, Sue Klein, Linda Loutsch
Chalice: Al Loutsch, Maureen Pottebaum
Altar Servers: Carson & Parker Loutsch, Taylor Galles
Gift Bearers: Jim & Sue Klein

Sunday, Dec 16, 8:00 AM Remsen, St. Mary’s
Lector: Deb Pick
Hosts: Mike Tentinger, Marv Pottebaum, Arlie Pick
Chalice: Randy & Connie Ortmann
Altar Servers: Maci & Caleb Gravenish, Megan Wurth
Gift Bearers: Sharon Homan

Week Day Lectors/Servers Marcus Holy Name:
As Scheduled
Upcoming Events

**Sunday, December 9:** Family of Faith and Confirmation Classes at MHN 8:15-9:45; MHN Choir Practice 8:15-9:30 AM; MHN First Reconciliation following 10:00 AM Mass  
**Monday, December 10:** MHN CDA Meeting  
**Wednesday, December 12:** RSM 2 Hour Early Out; RSM 7-12 Christmas Concert 7:00 PM; RSM KC’s Euchre Tournament 7:00 PM at VFW Hall; MHN CYO Meeting  
**Thursday, December 13:** MHN Adoration 8-2  
**Friday, December 14:** MHN Adoration 8-4  
**Sunday, December 16:** Family of Faith Confirmation Class 8:15-9:45 AM; MHN Choir Practice 8:15-9:30 AM; Advent Reconciliation 1:30 PM at St. Mary’s in Alton and 3:00 PM at St. Mary’s in Remsen  
**Monday, December 17:** MHN Catechist Meeting and Teaching Session  
**Wednesday, December 19:** MHN Nativity Program Practice 3:30-5:15; MHN KC Meeting; RSM KC’s Pinochle Tournament 7:00 PM at VFW Hall

Prayers Please

Please pray for the following people: Julie Benson, Hannah Harpenau, Eli Biezuns, Jameson Heidesch, Emily (Ehrig) Siders, Rose Marie Delaney, Kevin Ortmann, Linda Harris, Randy Schultz, Joe Dreckman, The Henke Family, Barb Brady, Rita Sand, Marty Wurth, Sr. Joan Stoffel, Rosemary Wibe, The Douvia/Kellen Families.

What a Better Way to Give a Christmas gift or ring in the New Year for a loved one than with a Mass intention said for them. St. Mary's and Holy Name are currently in need of more Mass intentions at this time. We have updated our policies. We now accept 12 Mass intentions at one time. To reserve a intention(s), you can drop your request in the collection basket, in an envelope separate marked Mass intention. Include your name, phone number and payment along with your loved one’s name and date(s). You can call Remsen’s rectory at 786-2228 or stop by the rectory offices during business hours. Current cost is $10 per intention.

Poinsettias for St. Mary’s Church, please call your local florist. This year the poinsettias will be red in color, pots wrapped in gold foil with a white ribbon.

Poinsettias for Holy Name's Church, please call your local florist. This year the poinsettias will be red in color, pots wrapped in gold foil with no preference on the ribbon.

RSM Family Eucharistic Adoration will be available on Thursday evenings during Advent. Dates will be December 13th and 20th from 6:00-8:00 PM. Please consider attending as couples and families. Have you scheduled Jesus into your Advent and Christmas plans?

RSM Alumni: Please send any updated family information such as births, addresses, anniversaries, career changes or accomplishments for the next issue of St. Mary’s Today. You can email your information to harvey@rsm.schools.org or call 786-1324.

MHN Choir will be having practices on Sunday, December 9th and 16th, from 8:15-9:30 AM in the choir loft. Parishioners high school age and older are encouraged and welcome to come sing with the choir.

MHN CDA Court 1897 will have their Christmas Party meeting Mon., Dec.10. Rosary will begin at 5:45 PM, followed by a potluck supper. Everyone please bring a dish to pass (meat will be furnished). There will be a very short meeting and then some Christmas fun. Please bring a $5-$8 Christmas ornament to exchange. Also if you like, bring socks for any age to donate to the Bishop Dudley House in Sioux Falls. The committee is Bev Nielsen, Kathy Johnson and Peg Wurth. Joan Cronin will have the Spiritual Enhancement.

The Everlasting Choir of St. Mary’s is looking for young and the old to join in and sing at small or large funerals. You do not need to be a member of St. Mary’s Parish to sing in the choir. There are no practices, just come and sing. If you would like to join or have any questions please call Dorie Kolker at 786-1457 or Sarah Ruba at 786-1002.

MHN CDA Meeting/Christmas Party will be Wednesday, December 19. Social hour will start at 5:30 PM with dinner to follow at 6:00 PM. RSVP is not required but strongly encouraged. Please call Al Hoefling at 389-2228 to RSVP.

MHN CYO bake sale and breakfast will be Sunday, December 23, following the 10:00 AM Mass until 1:00 PM. Free will donation, pick up some last minute goodies for Christmas celebrations and come join us for fellowship.

From the Desk of Fr. Bill

This past week was really busy with Holy Day Masses, funerals, confessions and appointments morning, noon and night but I should not be surprised; Advent is a very short season. If there is one thing I could emphasize it would be the benefits of making a great confession this time of the year. We all carry around extra baggage like guilt, sorrow, shame or fear that keeps us distant from God. Why not come to Church a little earlier on the weekend and go to confession or else attend the reconciliation liturgy on December 16 beginning at 3:00 PM at St. Mary’s Church in Remsen. Advent is an incredible time to draw close to God by staying away from those things that dominate our lives and partaking in sacraments that heal and relieve the burden that comes upon each of us in one way or another. A couple of updates: Bishop Nickless has given me permission to celebrate a Christmas Mass at Oyens. This Mass will take place at 8:00 AM. In terms of the Church Painting project, the contractor has moved up the date of his arrival to January 2, 2019. Thus the first weekend in January the Masses will begin in the St. Mary's high school gymnasium. The Sunday Mass times will remain the same with Saturday night at 4:00 PM, Sunday morning 8:00 AM in the St. Mary’s High School gym and 10:00 at Holy Name Church. This decision not to switch time is a result of dialogue with our snow removal people and the staffing and equipment. I realize not everyone will be happy with that Mass schedule, but at this time it is the best I can do. It is a reminder than we need to pray for more priests so that more Masses can be offered to the faithful people of Northwest Iowa. God bless! Fr. Bill
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