



Jefferson County Illinois CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

SAINT MARY
the IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
1550 Main Street
Mount Vernon, Illinois 62864



SAINT BARBARA
4281 North
Scheller Lane
Scheller, Illinois 62883

618~244~1559



DECEMBER 26, 2021

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASS

- Sat 5 PM at St. Mary [LIVE]
Sun 8 AM St. Barbara
10 AM at St. Mary [LIVE]

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

- Sun 10:45-11 AM @ St. Mary,
East Doors (School Side)
*(Please call ahead if you would like
to receive communion 244.1559)*

DAILY MASS

- Mon, Tues, Wed, & Fri. 8:30 am
[LIVE] @ St. Mary
Thursday 8:30 am @ SSM Hospital
Chapel

ADORATION

- Wednesday 9:15 am

RECONCILIATION

- Sat 4 to 4:30 PM @ St. Mary
Sun 7:30 AM @ St. Barbara
or by appointment

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**Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.**

— 1 John 3:2a

New Year Mass Time

**Friday, December 31 - New Year's Eve
5 PM - St. Mary**

[LIVE] = live-streamed on Facebook and
posted at www.stmarymtvernon.org

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Mass Intentions For The Week



Sat.	Dec. 25	9:00am	Rev. Bert Iffert
Sun.	Dec. 26	8:00am	Walter & Elizabeth Kitowski @ St. Barbara
		10:00am	Ray & Miriam Montgomery
Mon.,	Dec. 27	8:30am	Al & David Carpenter
Tues.,	Dec. 28	8:30am	Dale Runnels
Wed.,	Dec. 29	8:30am	Ron & Mary Clark
Thurs.,	Dec. 30	8:30am	Stanley & Verla Martinek
Fri.	Dec. 31	5:00pm	Red Hughey
Sat.	Jan. 1	5:00pm	St. Mary Parishioners
Sun.	Jan. 2	8:00am	Raymond & Florence Kabat @ St. Barbara
		10:00am	Don Yates

READINGS FOR THE WEEK ~ Dec. 27 - Jan. 2

Monday:	1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
Friday:	1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Saturday:	Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Sunday:	Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Holy Rosary

Join the Knights every Tuesday at 6 pm for recitation of the Holy Rosary in the church or online.

SUNDAY OFFERING

St. Barbara

Dec. 12, 2021	Amt.
Sunday Envelopes	1,655.00
Misc. Collections	404.00
Loose	510.00
Thank You!	\$ 2,569.00

St. Mary

Dec. 12, 2021	Amt.
Sunday Envelopes	11,018.00
Other Misc. Collections	2,541.00
Loose	569.01
Thank You!	\$ 14,128.01

These figures do not include donations made online.

Bishop John C. Iffert Scholarship Fund

Total Contributions to date 14,320.00

Prayer List

St. Mary Parish	Diana Hubler	Ray Shelton
Brian Barciszewski	Dottie Izard	Keri Sipe
Dennis Bathon	Keith Johnson	Jane Smith
Faye Bathon	Ruth Jones	Jill Snow
Deborah Bopp	Matyi Kays	Clint Swisher
Brenda Breeze	Pat Kelly	Madona Nabua
Stacy Brischetto	Alice Kreher	Syxiengmay
Aaron Brody	Marlene Krmpotich	Anne-Marie Turner
Deborah Buckman	Susan Kusmer	Susan Varney
Jim Butler	Don Lowery	Don Vonderheide
Melissa Camaione	John Marasco	Blake Wheeler
Donna Capps	Della Mauro	Bill White
Mary Carlyle	Betty McCowen	Jack Willis
Rose Ellen Clancy	Teresa Morgan	George Xanders
John Clancy	Emily Ward Nixon	Val Xanders
Judy Carroll	Marilyn Nowland	Residents of all Long Term Care Facilities
Richard Czerwinski	Carol Parks	
Kathy Dial	Tina Pasquinelli	
Diana Dickneite	Pearl Povolish	
Daniel Faught	Joseph Przygoda	
Shay Fox	James Rapp	
Skip Fox	Sharon Rapp	
Susan Fox	Fr. Joseph Rascher	
Darlene Franscavich	Louis Ray	
James Frey	Rich Reiter	
Jackie Gill	Adam Reyling	
Maxine Greenwood	Charlie Rightnowar	
Myles Harris	Sharon Rutherford	
Robert Heck	Butch Schelter	
Jack Heinrich	Branden Schrader	
Stacy Helm	Dale Schubert	
Becky Higgins	Judy Schurtz	

St. Barbara Parish

Bella Boyer
Edwin Gajewski
Stacy Helm
Jake Kraft
JR McCowen
Shirley Nadolski
Alice Pyszka
Kathy Williams
Dolores Ziarnek

Parish Office will be closed from Noon on December 23 - January 2.

Voicemail will be checked on a regular basis.

VOCATIONS CORNER - December 2021

Dec. 26 - Today's Gospel tells of Jesus starting the work of His "vocation." He begins His teaching at the age of 12. Our vocation starts (maybe even earlier than age 12) as an indwelling, with the quiet whisper of God's pull on our heart. It's often personal and difficult to describe to others and often takes much prayer and discernment to see clearly. St. Francis de Sales reflected on this individual nature of our call, "We all have a vocation. We believe that God has placed us in this life to fill a special need that no one else can accomplish."

Special Collection:**Diocesan Christmas Collection**

The 44th Annual Diocesan Christmas Collection will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Parishes and agencies throughout the diocese will request monies from this collection during 2022 to assist those who are in need with food, clothing, shelter, utility payments, healthcare and medications, funeral and burial expenses, transportation and emergency assistance of all types. Please consider giving as you are able. Thank you so much.

Church Cleaning Volunteers

- **Dec. 29 - Help needed to clean the church at 9am. All help is needed and wanted.**
- **Jan. 7 - Debbie Young, Mary Chambliss, Mary Ann Harris, Lori Kabat, Kay McCulley.**
- **Jan. 14 - Cindy Sloan, John Sloan, Sen Dinh, Dottie Izard, Dorris Klotz, Anita & David Spotanski.**
- **Jan. 21 - Marien Leuty, Debbie Deters, Aletta Lawrence Pat Panarese, Jan Rose, Ronni Zawila.**

A Brief History of Christmas

About this time every year, we hear people taking jabs at the Christian faith, seizing on the old argument that Christmas is just a pagan holiday. All we did was steal it from the Germanic celebrations of Thor on the winter solstice. Oh, and that whole Christmas tree thing... that is just our pagan way of welcoming forest pixies into our home to have a mild and short winter. <<sigh>> Here are a few historical facts:

Throughout most of history, no one particularly paid much attention to birthdays. The important day to remember, if you were remembered at all, was your death day. This could of course be remembered as a sad day due to the loss of a loved one or a truly great person. It could also be a celebration in thanksgiving that a truly evil person was finally gone. Of course, post-Resurrection, it was also a day to celebrate a loved one's passing from this world into the Kingdom. The point here is that no one bothered to jot down the day and time Jesus was actually born. However, there are records that the Church of Jerusalem honored the birth of Jesus during the last week of Kislev (our December) as early as the late 2nd Century. The Roman Emperor Constantine celebrated the date that corresponds to our December 25th as the day of Jesus' birth and Pope Julius made it "official" around 340 AD. The date of the 25th was picked at that time, in part, due to the traditions of the Jerusalem church (who would know better?) and an attempt to avoid major Roman pagan holy days. It is not a modification of Saturnalia as some have argued. However, the tradition of acknowledging Jesus' birthday was never considered of too great an importance in the Christian world. After all, it is his death and Resurrection that saves us. The establishment of December 25th was more or less forgotten over the ages.

Jump ahead to the beginning of the 8th Century (~723), St. Boniface, with the military support of Charles the Hammer, was re-evangelizing the Germanic tribes of western Europe. Many of these tribes had been converted to Christianity. However, as soon as a strong Church presence was gone, they would return to their pagan religions. St. Boniface was sent by Pope St. Gregory II to bring them back. The story is, as reported in letters from St. Boniface to the Pope, St. Boniface and his entourage entered the region of Geismar during the solstice celebration at the "Thunder Oak." The people had gathered to offer a child sacrifice at the tree in order to awaken Thor and to drive away the growing darkness of winter. St. Boniface stopped the sacrifice and with some help from his escort chopped down the huge oak tree. Behind the oak was an evergreen. Perhaps filled with the Holy Spirit, legend has it St. Boniface gave an impromptu sermon on the difference between the pagan gods who were like the oak that deserts them in times of darkness and dies away in hardship, but the True God, Jesus the Christ, was like the evergreen who stayed faithful and lived on throughout darkness and would never desert his people. He then used the wood taken from the oak tree to build a small church on the site. He celebrated Mass on the location of the church on December 25th and declared it a celebration of the birth of Jesus both historically and spiritually for the people in that community. In his letter to Pope Gregory, St. Boniface explained that he wanted to choose a date *after* the winter solstice (December 21st or 22nd) so that they would know the sun was returning as a part of nature, not due to their prayers and offerings and the fact that the 25th had a historical link to Jesus' birth made it seem logical. The Pope agreed and re-established teaching that December 25th would be accepted as the day to celebrate Jesus' birthday in the Roman Catholic Church. Oh... and that whole "Martin Luther started the evergreen as a Christmas tree" thing? Well, St. Boniface linked the evergreen to the birth of Jesus and the everlasting God. Martin Luther did start the tradition of decorating and even bringing the tree into homes. The bottom line is that December 25th has never been celebrated as the birth of Jesus because it is a pagan holiday, and there are at least two instances when it was recognized specifically because it did not match any major pagan holy days. (Taken from notes from Dr. Alvis, Early Church History, 2007 St. Meinrad Seminary)

If you don't like that story, then listen to Fr. Denis Robinson, rector of St .Meinrad Seminary: God calls all people to salvation. Every culture has had the truth of creation revealed to them and they have been prepared, however they have not had the fullness of revelation nor the opportunity to know Jesus. So, it should not surprise us that our celebrations throughout the year have been arranged in such a way to grow and mold their incomplete knowledge of truth to the complete love of God through the Gospel. Your choice.

Peace, and Merry Christmas, Deacon Steve

St. Barbara News

Mass Schedule and Intentions:

Sun. Dec. 26—8:00 AM—Walter & Elizabeth Kitowski Ziarnek Family

Sun. Jan. 2, 2022— 8:00 AM— Raymond & Florence Kabat Kujawa Family Avery Kitowski & John Kowalski

Sun. Jan. 9— 8:00 AM— Raymond Nadolski
& Debbie Schubert

Gift Bearers:

Ushers:

Bob Kabat & John Kerry

Family Members Doug Kitowski & Jerry Kitowski

Lectors:

Sun. December 26 - John Kabat

Sun. January 2 - Charlie Massie

Sun. January 9— Steve Wagner

+++++

Altar Servers:

Sun. December 26— Lilly Winka & Morgan Winka

Sun. January 2- Steven Bunk and Hazel & Paisley Lamczyk

Sun. January 9—Brendan & Reese Klingler



December
Rosary
Leader :

Frannie
Pyszka

January Rosary
Leader :

Clarissa Ziarnek

- Thank you to Yvette Peterson & Jeff Zmudzinski for selling tickets at the Holiday Bake Sale on Dec. 12. There were 14 items and the bake sale made \$337. The next bake sale will be the Valentine's Bake Sale on Sunday, Feb. 13—No January bake sale.
- There are 2022 Religious Calendars in the back of church.
- There a "Adopt a Seminarian" cards on the back table if you would like to sponsor a seminarian— check it out!

Birthday Calendar:

Dec. 26—Steph Anderson

Dec. 29—Brian Klingler

Dec. 31—Kendall Kiselewski

Jan. 1—Aaron Skidmore

Jan. 2—Lisa Wisniewski

Jan. 3—Steve Winka

Jan. 3—Eric Lamczyk

Jan. 4—Mary Faye Wilson

Jan. 8—JR McCowen

Jan. 9—Walt Pelker

Jan. 12—Danny Czerwinski

Jan. 12—Wade Massie

Jan. 12—April Emery

Why isn't January 1, 2022, the Solemnity of Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation? Since January 1 falls on a Saturday this year, the obligation is dispensed. There will be No Mass at St. Barbara.
* St. Mary's is having a New Years Eve Mass at 5pm on Friday, Dec. 31

Wedding Anniversary Wishes:

January 2—Jon & Logan Stanhouse

Mass Intentions: If you would like to schedule a Mass Intention for a Sunday, please put an envelope in the basket with the date you want and \$10 for a Mass, or call Christy at 279-1322 or text 435-7196 to get open Mass dates. We are now scheduling in February 2022.

Sunday Collection Counters:

Dec. 26 - Marcia Kabat & Susie Doty

Jan. 2- Sharmin Wagner &Christy VanDeever

Jan. 9—Alan Estes & Brian Klingler

*If you are interested in counting the Sunday collections after Mass, we could use more volunteers. Please contact Marcia.

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***Please pick up your Box of 2022 Donation Envelopes from the back of the Church.**



The PSR Class did a great job on their performance on Christmas Eve! Thank you to Tiffany Kluck for organizing it and all of the teachers and helpers who helped at practice.
No PSR Class on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

Dubois K of C—**All you can eat-** Pancake, Sausage & Egg Breakfast, Next Sunday, Jan. 2, 7am-noon. \$10.00/person. Kids 10 & under \$6, Kids under 3 free.
Proceeds go to the scholarship fund.

\$257 was collected toward the Christmas flowers.
Thank you to those who donated.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Nick Junker, Pastor frnick@stmarymtvernon.org

Fr. Joel Seipp, Associate Pastor
frjoel@stmarymtvernon.org

Deacon Mark Kabat deaconmark@stmarymtvernon.org

Deacon Steve Eischens, DRE deaconsteve@stmarymtvernon.org

Brett Heinzman, Principal, St. Mary School

Susan Kusmer, Parish Secretary, St. Mary & St. Barbara
skusmer@stmaryvtvernon.org

Christy VanDeveer, Bulletin, St. Barbara
dcevandeveer@frontiernet.net or 279-1322

**St. Mary Parish Office Hours:
9am - 3pm, Monday-Friday
(618) 244-1559**

St. Mary School: (618) 242-5353

St. Mary School Fax: (618) 242-5365

St. Mary Website: www.saintmary.org

St. Mary Website: www.stmaryinternationals.org

2022 St. Mary Church & School Raffle Tickets available to purchase!

Your Golden Ticket awaits for your chance at a new car, SUV, truck, motorcycle, or \$25,000 CASH! The 2022 St Mary Raffle tickets are now available to purchase in the school or church office. Raffle tickets make great stocking stuffers. Don't forget, the person who sells the winning ticket will receive a cash prize of \$250! In addition to the 13 cash prizes, there are also 10 early bird drawings. The first drawing will take place Wednesday, January 12. The first two early bird drawings will be for \$200 and the next eight early bird drawings will be for \$100. The early bird drawing winner has their ticket thrown back into the hopper. It pays to turn your tickets in early for multiple chances to win.

The St. Mary Raffle will follow the same format as last year. The event will take place Saturday, March 19, and will be an “adult’s only” event with no dinner.

CALL-AHEAD FOR SUNDAY COMMUNION OUTSIDE OF MASS!

IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE COMMUNION
OUTSIDE OF MASS ON SUNDAYS FOLLOWING
THE 10:00 AM MASS, PLEASE CALL THE
PARISH OFFICE, 618.244.1559, AND LEAVE
YOUR NAME AND A CALL-BACK NUMBER.

**Communion is usually distributed at
10:45 AM on the east side of Church.**

Soup Kitchen Schedule Coordinator Needed!

To make the Soup Kitchen schedule twice a year!
If you are available to assist with this project, please
contact the parish office as soon as possible, at 618-
244-1559.

Thanks to all for supporting our local soup kitchen!

Online Giving Change

Our website company has changed the manner in which it does business and the company with whom the business is transacted. With this change, anyone who has previously given may find that they are not registered on the new system.

You should have received an email from ParishSoft. If you haven't, please check your "junk" mail. Several donors have found that some of their contributions have not been processed. Please check your online giving to verify that your donations have been processed correctly.

Questions? Call Sue at: 618.244.1559.

How to contribute to the Deacon Formation Scholarship Fund

Make checks payable to: Ministry Formation Fund

Indicate on the check either: PARF Account 100-1 or Deacon Formation
Scholarship Fund



Thank you so much for your generosity!

Mail to: Diocese of Belleville, Office of Finance,

222 South Third Street, Belleville IL 62220

