



SAINT MARY IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

1550 Main Street
Mount Vernon, IL 62864
618~244~1559

DECEMBER 10, 2023

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASS

Sat 5 PM at St. Mary

Sun 10:30 AM at St. Mary [LIVE]

DAILY MASS

Mon, Wed, & Fri. 8:30 am

Tues, 5:30 pm

[LIVE] @ St. Mary

Thurs. 8:30 am @ SSM Hospital
Chapel

ADORATION

Tuesday 4:30 pm (for Vocations)

Wednesday 9:15 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4 to 4:30 PM
or by appointment

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

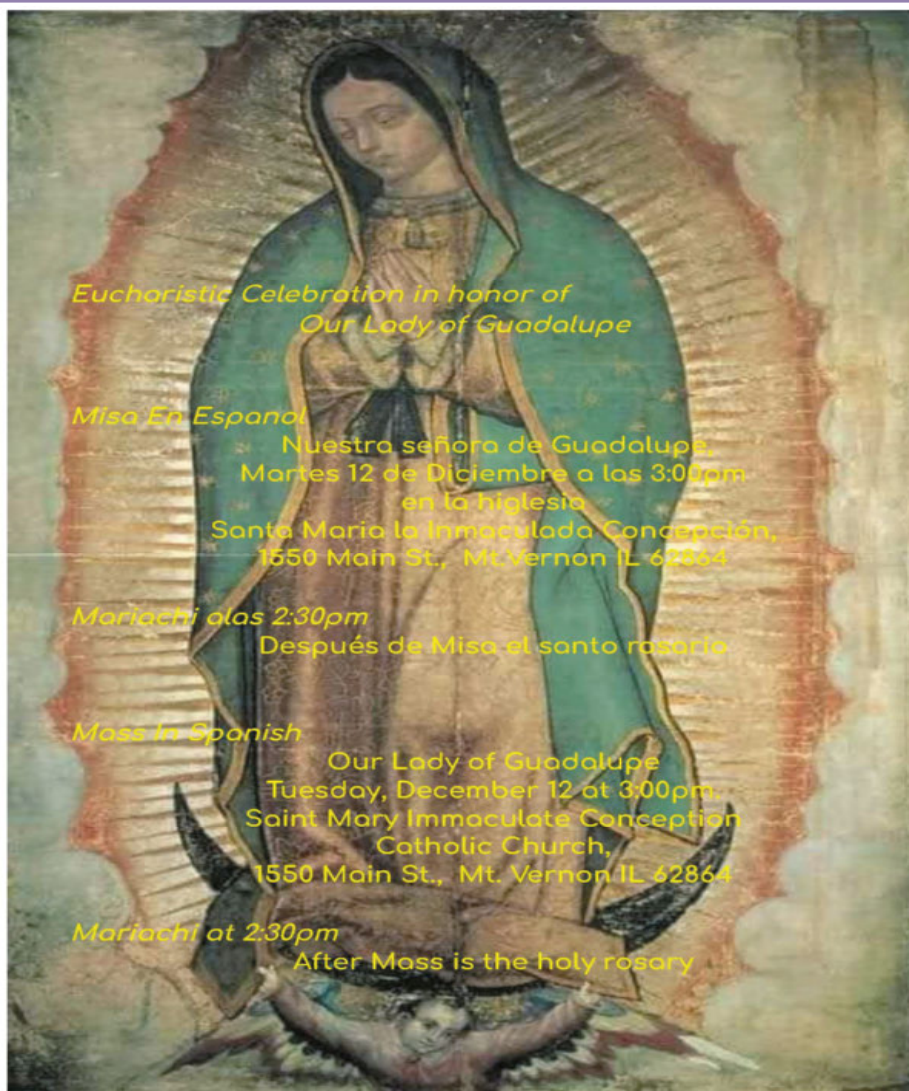
SUNDAY MASS

St. Mary Centralia

Sat 4 PM in Centralia

Sun 10:30 AM in Centralia

Adult Choir & Hand Bell Concert
Thursday, December 14 - 7 PM in the Church



School Band & Christmas Play/Choir
Wednesday, December 13 - 1 PM & 6PM

Fr. Steven Pautler Office Hours for the coming week:
Wednesday, December 13 - 9:30am - 3:00pm
Thursday, December 14 - 9:30am - 3:00pm

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions For The Week



Sat.	Dec. 9	5:00pm	St. Mary Parishioners
Sun.	Dec. 10	10:30am	†Davina Overbey, †Artie Highfill, & †Marge Masters
Mon.	Dec. 11	8:30am	†Alpha Gentles
Tues.	Dec. 12	3:00pm	†Ruben Perez, Sr. (<i>Spanish Mass</i>)
		5:30pm	St. Mary Parishioners
Wed.	Dec. 13	8:30am	†Frank Kuenz
Thurs.	Dec. 14	8:30am	†John Franschavitch <i>@ SSM Hospital Chapel</i>
Fri.	Dec. 15	8:30am	†David Tennyson
Sat.	Dec. 16	5:00pm	Larry Rawls & †Norma Farley
Sun.	Dec. 17	10:30am	St. Mary Parishioners & †Mary Margaret Hilmes

Readings for the week of December 10, 2023

Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/ 2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/ Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/ Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/ Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/ Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/ Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Church Cleaning Volunteers

- December 15** - Marien Leuty, Debbie Deters, Aletta Lawrence, Pat Panarese, Jan Rose, Paul Schuette & Ronni Zawila.
- December 22** - Cindy Montgomery, Mary Chambliss, Rose Rankin, Jim & Karen Rozycki, Rich Schafer & Mary Wayer.
- December 29** - Help needed to clean the church at 9am. - All help is appreciated!

Family Ornament

Beginning Dec. 11, each family is invited to bring an ornament and place it on the Christmas tree in the Gathering Space. If you wish, write your name & year on it!

Prayer List

St. Mary Parish

Jules Allali	Robert Heck	Paula Powers
Alan Anderson, Jr.	Jack Heinrich	Elizabeth Rapp
Delores Anderson	Stacy Helm	James Rapp
Brian Barciszewski	Becky Higgins	Sharon Rapp
Dennis Bathon	Braxley Hodson	Sharon Rutherford
Faye Bathon	Diana Hubler	Butch Schelter
James Richard Bell	Jeanette Ingram	Dale Schubert
Deborah Bopp	Dottie Izard	Judy Schurtz
Brenda Breeze	Dorothy Jenkins	Keri Sipe
Stacy Brischetto	Keith Johnson	Bill Smith
Deborah Buckman	Linda Johnson	Jane Smith
Melissa Camaione	Ruth Jones	Sean Stewart
Mary Carlyle	Thomas Jones	Clint Swisher
Judy Carroll	Russell Jukes	Madona Nabua
Rose Ellen Clancy	Matyi Kays	Syxiengmay
Donald Collier	Pat Kelly	Ruth Timm
Mike Collins	Alice Kreher	Anne-Marie Turner
Richard Czerwinski	Marlene Krmpotich	Susan Varney
Michelle DeBoer	Mark Leahy	Don Vonderheide
Carrie Fox	John Marasco	Pat Ward
Shay Fox	Margaret Marasco	Blake Wheeler
Skip Fox	Della Mauro	Bill White
Susan Fox	Gerald Miller	Kevin Witges
James Frey	Mark Miller	
Jackie Gill	Sharon Miller	Residents of all Long
Myles Harris	Mike Moehn	Term Care Facilities
Gary Hart	Carol Parks	
	Tina Pasquinelli	

Holy Rosary

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

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy dates:
December 17th

Ministry List

Sat, Dec. 16, 2023

R1-Sara Allen; R2-Reid Sipe
E1-Lois Herzing; E2-Karen Williams; E3-Chris Johnson;
E4- Skip Fox; E5-Cindy Sloan; E6-Ryan Schmidt
H1-Steve Shields; H2-Valerie Shields; H3-Anna Binu; H4-???;
H5-Vickie Bledsoe; H6-Brad and Angel Forsberg. Of: ???
Servers: Ella and Sarah

Sun, Dec. 17, 2023

R1-Ron Kirsch; R2-Paul Lynch
E1-Cindy Sloan; E2-John Sloan; E4-Ed Zawila;
E5-Ronni Zawila; E5-Kendra Clark; E6-Pam Smith;
H1-Jeannie Baker; H2-Kim Bridwell; H3-Jeff Harrison;
H4- Butch Baker; H5-Dottie Izard; H6-Christina Kiefer;
H7-Pat Yates; H8-Dorris Klotz. Office: ???
Servers: Michael, Kayden



BL-52963

ST. MARY SCHOOL TO BENEFIT ST. MARY TEACHERS

St. Mary School 1416 Main St, Mt Vernon, IL

Saturday, Jan 6, 2024

Doors @ 6pm

Bingo @ 7pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: GLO-BINGO.COM/EVENTS

(\$2/TICKET NON-REFUNDABLE FEE)

OR TEXT ALAINA 618-231-0855

OR IN PERSON AT SCHOOL OFFICE AND CUSUMANO & SONS

VIP TABLE PACKAGES-CONTACT ALAINA

\$25 in Advance - \$30 at the Door

MUST BE 18 OR OLDER TO ATTEND

Includes 6 bingo cards for 10 games, Glow Hat & Dauber (\$5 per additional 6 cards)

CASH BAR - FOOD SALES - 50/50 - BOOZE COOLER RAFFLE

CASH AND VENMO ACCEPTED AT EVENT

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Do you want to be more active in your Catholic faith?

If you want a great experience, sign up for the **Men's Cursillo** this coming **February 15 – 18, 2024** (Thursday evening – late Sunday afternoon) at the Our Lady of Snows Shrine / Kings House Retreat Center. Do so, before January 26, 2024. It is a great journey to grow in piety, study and action.

Questions: Contact – Deacon Mark Kabat, Ron Kirsch, or Dan Hoffman.

Belleville Diocesan Cursillo website:
www.bellevillecursillo.org

WE CAN Food Boxes

These donations go directly to the local pantry for people here in Mt. Vernon. The Rescue Mission is greatly appreciative of all our donations, and are still in desperate need of non-perishable foods. If you wish to donate, please bring your donation to church and place in one of the "We Can" boxes at the entrances.

Abuse Hotline Numbers

To report an allegation of abuse, please call the hotline: 800-640-3044. Department of Children and Family Services hotline number is: 1-800-252 ABUSE (800-252-2873)



CCW ANNUAL COOKIE WALK & BREAKFAST

DECEMBER 17

After the 10:30 am Mass

If you would like to donate cookies you may drop them off on
Saturday from 3pm – 5pm in the fellowship room

What Are We Waiting For?

December 10, 2023

There was a time, a couple of generations ago maybe, when it was customary for stores to hold off until after Thanksgiving Day to put up their Christmas decorations. Now Hobby Lobby and Walmart and no doubt plenty of other stores have wreaths and decorations and colored lights and artificial trees and so forth on display as early as September. Maybe even earlier! Some shoppers may grimace at seeing Christmas angels on display about the time the public swimming pools shut down for the summer. Maybe other shoppers will think it is kind of fun. When children see it all, they become uncontainably excited—even in September! There is a kind of genuine and good excitement to it all, but it is a surface kind of excitement. It's about externals, and it's about stores making money.

Well, okay, that can be part of Advent, but if that's all there is, it's kind of like saying that a wedding is an event for which people get to dress up in really cool clothes. That is very true! But it's only the beginning. When we understand Advent thoroughly, we know that it is a multi-layered season of waiting with great excitement for something that soaks one's whole life every day. So what is it that we are waiting for?

Each of the four Sundays of Advent gives us a distinct theme. The first Sunday has the theme of Jesus' Second Coming; in a parable, Jesus teaches his hearers, "You do not know when the master of the house will come... Stay awake." The second Sunday presents John the Baptist calling for repentance; the coming of the kingdom of God is imminent and his hearers are on the tiptoe of expectation about being properly prepared. On the third Sunday John the Baptist ratchets up the anticipation by pronouncing, "among you stands one whom you do not know"; the long-awaited and eagerly-anticipated Messiah is already HERE but has not yet revealed himself; but he will soon! And the fourth Sunday gives us the Annunciation in which the archangel Gabriel visits a young virgin with the amazing call to become the mother of the Messiah.

Here are the layers of Advent, different yet interconnected like the layers in a parfait. From the cosmic consummation of all creation, to the immediacy of God's nearness to change everything in one's daily life, to the intimate and unique vocation of a teenage peasant girl. In it all, we discern the presence and action of God coming near to transform every living thing. Like a parfait. When the parfait you order is delivered to your table, you can see the layers clearly. At the bottom is a scoop of ice cream; next is a layer of chopped nuts; on top of that is a dollop of caramel; then maybe some granola; then another layer of ice cream; then a layer of chopped strawberries; and finally a crown of whipped cream. But as soon as you put your spoon into it, the ingredients get mixed up and blend their flavors. So it happens in the themes of Advent: the Second Coming is a cosmic event that changes the life of every individual who has ever lived; and the Annunciation, made privately to a young girl, transforms the entire universe. All of it is cosmic; all of it is applicable to every individual life. And all of it is about the coming of God in power and in love, to rescue and set right.

And even seeing artificial Christmas trees on display on September points in the right direction. There is a unique power in that display, a lot more power than seeing new gardening tools on display in February or the latest swimsuits in May. Even as a season that comes every year, Advent is life-changing. It is about God being present now, it is about God coming, it is about God changing and redeeming everything. It is ever-predictable, ever-new, and ever-surprising.

Peace, David Baumann



AA Meetings

Friday at NOON

KC House ~ 1408 Harrison St

For more info. call Dave at 618-214-0724

or 618-214-5262

Join us on **Sunday, December 17th from 6:30-8:00 PM** in the church for "An Evening of Hope," a one-night Advent mission presented by Michael and Michelle Mette. Michael Mette is a Catholic performing artist and leader of MJM7 Catholic Family Band, whom we have hosted in the past. Michael and his wife Michelle have over 20 years experience in ministry and have traveled all across the United States with their family spreading the Gospel message. This one-night presentation is a fun, informative, and prayerful reminder of the Hope that God promises this season. Bring a friend! You won't want to miss this unique event. The event is free, donations are accepted.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Brett Heinzman, Principal, St. Mary School bheinzman@stmarymtvernon.org
Susan Kusmer, Parish Secretary, St. Mary skusmer@stmarymtvernon.org

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.stmarymtvernon.org

Bereavement Support Groups

All of us have experienced grief after the death of a loved one. Grief is not something that can be cured but it is a journey that we can grow through. St. Mary the Immaculate Conception Parish is here to support you along that journey. Bereavement support groups are offered on the second Thursday of the month at 10:30 AM and at 5:30 PM. No matter where you are in your grief journey, we hope you will join us for fellowship and support.

SUNDAY OFFERING

St. Mary

December 3, 2023

Amt.

Sunday Envelopes 121,109.00

Misc. Envelopes 2,563.00

Loose 626.25

Thank You! \$ 15,298.25

These figures do include donations made online.

Bishop John C. Iffert Scholarship Fund

Total to date \$ 6,653.00

Building Fund Donations

Donations thru December 3, 2023

\$155,572.48

Outstanding Pledges as of November 26, 2023

\$34,028.16

Current total to be doubled is: **\$189,600.64**

Advent Reconciliation Service

Monday, December 18

6:30 - 8 PM

4 priests available

MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

Most Reverend Michael McGovern

Dear Friends in Christ,

Advent is a rich season of preparation for the celebration of the Lord's birth as well as a period of anticipation of the Second Coming of Christ at the end of history. Both the daily Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer & Evening Prayer) contain prayers, readings and antiphons that give us much to reflect upon.

When I was a seminarian preparing for the priesthood, I enjoyed Advent because I had more time for prayer and could absorb the themes of hope, expectation and promise that are key elements of the season. As a priest and now as a bishop, I find I have to try harder to dedicate time for quiet prayer lest Advent end up as a blur before Christmas.

If you also struggle with entering into Advent, permit me to suggest praying the Rosary frequently or even daily during the Advent Season.

Reflecting on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary (The Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Presentation and Finding in the Temple) can deepen our union with Jesus and Mary. As we meditate on these mysteries, we are impressed by the fidelity of God who made a promise to the people of Israel and fulfilled that promise so magnificently that the whole human race receives hope for salvation.

As this column goes to print, I anticipate creating a podcast that listeners can join with me in praying the Rosary frequently during Advent. Look for more information about the podcast on our diocesan website (www.diobelle.org) or the Bishop McGovern Facebook page.

If you own a rosary, I encourage you to keep your beads close at hand to facilitate prayer. Place a rosary on your nightstand, in the car, at the kitchen table, in your purse or pocket. Even if you can pray a decade or two on any given day, it will help Advent to take shape in your spiritual life. If you have an Advent wreath in your home, and can safely light a candle, you might pray the rosary at home in the glow of the Advent wreath.

May the weeks of Advent 2023 be rich in prayer for all of our readers. May the Virgin Mary place each of you close to Jesus, her Son.

A blessed Advent! Bishop Michael McGovern