



SAINT MARY IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

DECEMBER 17, 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

Advent Reconciliation Service

Monday, December 18

6:30 - 8 PM

4 priests available

Christmas Mass Times



Christmas Eve -

3:30 pm & 12 Midnight

Christmas Day - 8:30 am



Fr. Steven Pautler Office Hours for the coming week:

Wednesday, December 20 - 9:30am - 3:00pm

Thursday, December 21 - 9:30am - 3:00pm

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions For The Week



Sat.	Dec. 16	5:00pm	†Larry Rawls & †Norma Farley
Sun.	Dec. 17	10:30am	St. Mary Parishioners & †Mary Margaret Hilmes
Mon.	Dec. 18	8:30am	†Paul Sobczak
Tues.	Dec. 19	5:30pm	†Darlene Franscavitch
Wed.	Dec. 20	8:30am	†Frank Kuenz
Thurs.	Dec. 21	8:30am	Mass of Thanksgiving @ SSM Hospital Chapel
Fri.	Dec. 22	8:30am	†Jeff & †Daniel Spotanski
Sat.	Dec. 23	5:00pm	†Richard Herzing
Sun.	Dec. 24	10:30am	St. Mary Parishioners

Christmas Eve Masses

3:30pm Children of St. Mary

12:00am St. Mary Parishioners

Christmas Day Mass

Mon. Dec. 25 8:30am Special Intention

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	

Readings for the week of December 17, 2023

Sunday:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday:	Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/ Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/ Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Friday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/ Lk 1:46-56
Saturday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14/ Lk 1:57-66
Next Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

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

Church Cleaning Volunteers

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!

Ministry List

Sat, Dec. 23, 2023 - 5 PM

Reader- Beth Schrader
E1-Ronan Kuberski; E2-Karen Williams; E3-Chris Johnson;
E4-Lois Herzing; E5-Cindy Sloan; E6-Janice Eischens
H1-Pat Butler; H2-Bobby Herzing; H3-???; H4-Randy Schell;
H5-???; H6-Anna Binu. Of: ???
Server: Maverick and Hannah

Sun, Dec. 24, 2023 - 10:30 AM

Readers: R1-David Skorch; R2-Laura Skorch
E1-Ed Zawila; E2-Heather Rawls; E3-Ronni Zawila;
E4-Nick Schrementi; E5-Greg Sims; E6-Patrick Barrett
H1-Kim Bridwell ; H2-Steven Rapp; H3-Marty Simmons;
H4-Mark Simmons; H5-Susan Hughey; H6-Donnie Mays;
H7-Pat Butler; H8-Jeff Harrison. Office: Maggie
Servers: Volunteers



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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ORTHODONTICS



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.

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)

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.



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

The Great O's December 17, 2023

One of the most beautiful hymns for Advent is "O come, O come Emmanuel", first published in 1851. Its verses are paraphrases of seven invocations of the Messiah under titles found in the Biblical book of Isaiah. They are appointed as accompaniments for the Song of the Virgin Mary used in evening prayers on the last seven days of the season, beginning today, December 17. Tradition traces them back to the sixth century. Since each verse begins with the invocation "O", they have been known for centuries as the "great O's". In the form we know best from the hymn, they are:

O Sapientia, appointed for December 17

The first Great O is "O come, thou Wisdom [in Latin, 'sapientia'] from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of wisdom show, and teach us in her ways to go." In this Great O, Christ is the "Wisdom from on high" in whom alone everything makes sense, and we ask him to show us the path we are to follow.

O Adonai, appointed for December 18

The second Great O is "O come, O come, thou Lord of might [in Latin, transliterated from the Hebrew, 'Adonai'], who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the Law, in majesty, and cloud, and awe." God first revealed that the way to joy begins in the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. Submission to God does not mean loss of self, but its finding.

O Radix Jesse appointed for December 19

The third Great O is "O come thou Rod of Jesse's stem [in Latin, 'radix Jesse'], from every foe deliver them that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory over the grave." When the Messiah is described as the "Rod of Jesse's stem," we are given the confidence that the longed-for deliverance has been God's plan from the beginning. The power of evil, then, is always on the outside trying to get in, and will ultimately fail.

O Clavis David appointed for December 20

The fourth Great O is "O come, thou Key of David [in Latin, 'clavis David'], come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery." The title "Key of David" speaks of a sure and certain deliverance from a world of unreserved wickedness from which, otherwise, there is no appeal. Ultimately the path that is opened is the one that, opened widely, leads to the heavenly home which is promised to the faithful.

O Oriens appointed for December 21

The fifth Great O is "O come, thou Day-spring [in Latin, 'oriens'] from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight." The word "Day-spring" suggests the dawn coming to shed light all over a world that had been engulfed in darkness. This light is not a limited illumination like a torch or campfire; the light of Oriens covers the entire world. The plea of this Great O is that Jesus, the Light of the world, will rescue us forever from the threat and enticements of the seductions and deceptions that clutch at us.

O Rex gentium appointed for December 22

The sixth Great O is "O come, Desire of nations [in Latin, 'rex gentium', or 'King of the nations'], bind in one the hearts of all mankind; bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace." Jesus is the One for whom all the world longs. Even though many either cannot articulate that desire as being truly for Jesus, or would reject him as being the One they think they truly desire, do not all people and nations really long for justice, for peace, for safety and security, for beauty, and for all that is good? These are the qualities whose only source is Jesus; apart from him, they cannot endure or even exist.

O Emmanuel appointed for December 23

The seventh and final Great O is "O come, O come, Emmanuel [Hebrew for "God with us"], and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear." The title "Emmanuel" tells us that we are asking for what we already have. It is a fitting conclusion to the list of the Great Os, for "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life... Light has come into the world... Those who do what is true come to the light" (John 3:16, 19, 21). Emmanuel: one who is both longed for and already here, the Answer to our deepest and every need.

Peace, David Baumann

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.


AA Meetings
Friday at NOON
KC House ~ 1408 Harrison St
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or 618-214-5262

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Steven Pautler, Pastor spautler@stmarycentralia.org
Fr. Benny George, Associate Pastor frbenny@stmarymtvernon.org
Deacon Mark Kabat deaconmark@stmarymtvernon.org
Deacon Steve Eischens, DRE deaconsteve@stmarymtvernon.org
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

Youth Group - Sun., Dec. 17th - 5 PM

The Lights at Cedarhurst

Prior to event, contact a Youth Group Leader for reservations.
Meet at the Museum at 5pm, we will follow this with pizza at Joe's Pizza.

SUNDAY OFFERING

St. Mary

December 10, 2023

Amt.

Sunday Envelopes 9,208.00
Misc. Envelopes 819.00
Immaculate Conception 831.00
Religious Retirement 520.00
Loose 564.50

Thank You! \$ 11,942.50

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 10, 2023

\$182,612.48

Outstanding Pledges as of December 10, 2023

\$4,278.16

Current total to be doubled is: **\$186,890.64**

A Journey with a Plan.

Little Johnny was all excited during the days of December. He helped his dad with the lights, his mom with the Christmas tree and the Nativity set below the tree. He even had his special ornaments for the tree. After all the works done he was pretty happy. Each day he will go to the tree to see the new items of gifts under the Christmas tree. His mom even asked about what gift he wanted for Christmas.

On the day of Christmas he was the first to get ready for the Church. He wanted to open the gifts once they return from the church. After all the celebrations at the Church they came home and gathered around the tree and started to open the gifts one by one. After all the gifts were open finding something missing Johnny started to cry. His mom came to him asking what happened. Did he not get what he wanted? Johnny replied "there is no gift for Jesus! It is his birthday."

We are preparing for Christmas. This is the third week and we just completed two weeks. A lot of preparations have taken place. Trees and lights lit up the homes and surroundings. Gifts are packed. Busy shopping done. Are we ready for Christmas?

Advent speaks about the coming. It is the coming of the Lord. It is a new season not only for the Church but also for the world. A new season for every person to look forward and say Jesus is coming, we need to renew our lives. The liturgy we celebrated on the first week was with the Advent wreath, the Scripture clearly spoke to us to be vigilant and be prepared. It has to be like the servants who stayed awake for the Master.

The second and third weeks help us to remember John the Baptist. He came proclaiming to be prepared. "Make straight the way of the Lord. Prepare the way for the Lord." This was the only Message with him for the world. He wanted to make sure that the people are vigilant and prepared for the Lord who is coming. He said, "The one who is coming is mightier than me I am not the Christ. I am the voice."

With our preparation we can never miss the reality. We are preparing for the Messiah to come. Christmas is all about Jesus. He is the Savior. He is the Lord. Like Johnny we have to be focused. It is "The Birthday of Jesus." Our preparations are for Him. Let us keep Jesus in the midst of all our preparations, all our celebrations, all our activities. Christmas is because of Jesus who came to save us: Merry Christmas.

Thanks to you all for coming together to celebrate as one family around Jesus with His Mother Mary and father Joseph: the Holy Family of Bethlehem.

Fr. Benny