

January 8, 2017 • The Epiphany of the Lord



# NATIVITY of MARY

313 E. WALL STREET • JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN 53545-3047

## Rectory

313 E. Wall Street

Janesville, WI 53545-3047

Phone .....(608) 752-7861

Emergency Only.....(608) 620-9910

Fax .....(608) 758-0720

Website.....www.nativitymary.org

Pastor ..... Rev. Robert Butz

Email: pastor@nativitymary.org

Dir. of Pastoral Outreach....Sr. Ruth Brings

Email: rbrings@nativitymary.org

Dir. of Liturgy .....Bob Craig

Email: liturgy@nativitymary.org

Coord. Religious Ed ...Kathy Hookham

Email: re@nativitymary.org

Business Manager.....Kathy Fisher

Email: kfisher@nativitymary.org

Parish Secretary .....Sharlet Collins

Email: psec@nativitymary.org

## St. Mary School

307 E. Wall Street

Janesville, WI 53545-3047

Phone .....(608) 754-5221

Principal..... Steven Castrogiovanni

Secretary .....Sue Vodak &

Sue Dickman

## Religious Education

Phone .....(608) 752-7861

## Prayer Network

Mary Ann Venable.....(608) 754-5284

Edna Thorp.....(608) 752-5559

## Janesville/Milton Mass Times

Nativity of Mary ..... Sat. 4:30 pm

Sun. 8:30 & 10:30 am

St. Patrick..... Sat. 4:00 pm

Sun. 7:30 & 10:00 am

*Spanish Mass* - Sun. 5:00 pm

St. John Vianney ..... Sat. 5:00 pm

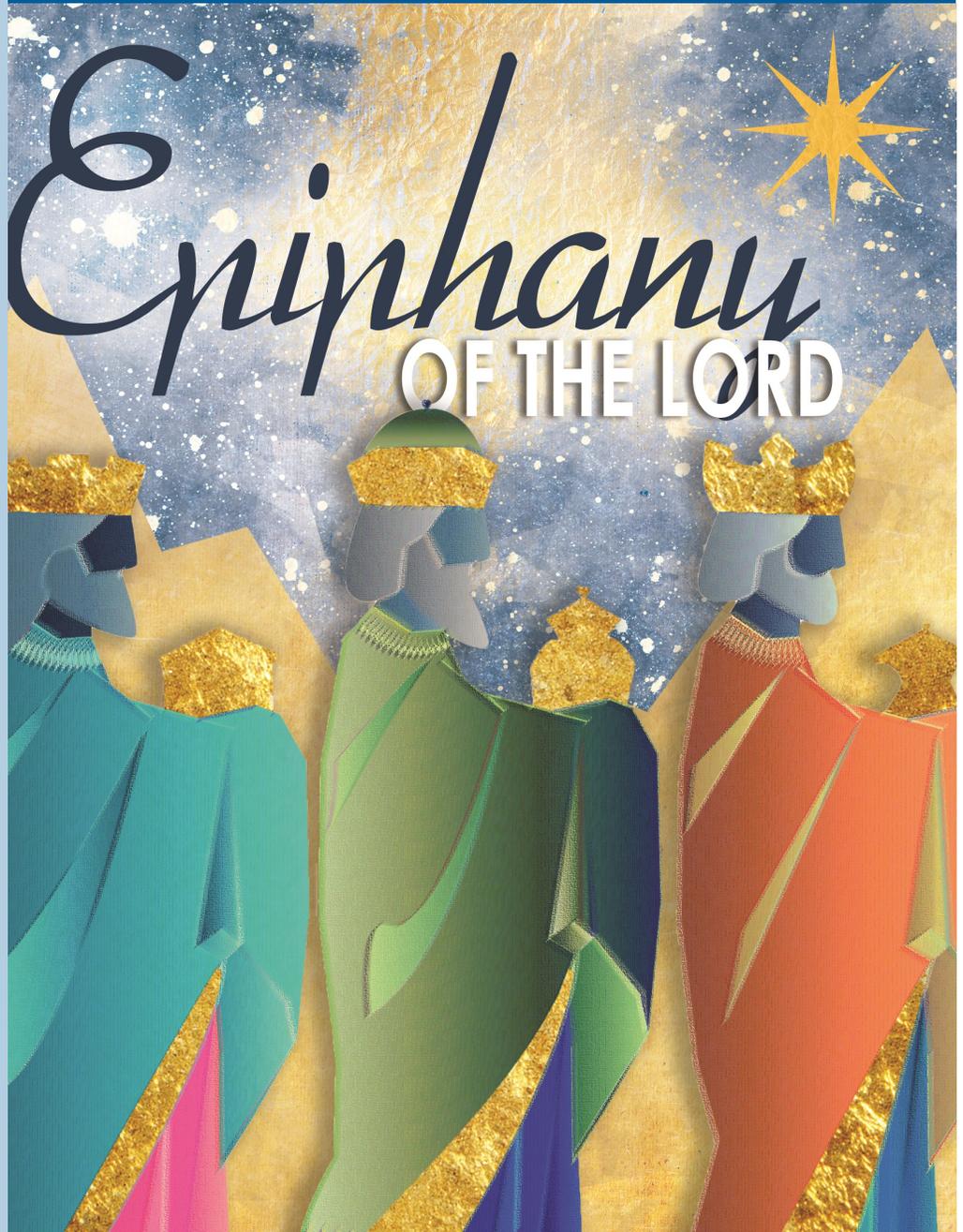
Sun. 8:15 & 9:45 am

St. William ..... Sat. 4:00 pm

Sun. 8:00 & 10:30 am

St. Mary - Milton ..... Sat. 4:00 pm

Sun. 9:00 am



*Nourished by the Eucharist and guided by the Holy Spirit, we proclaim the Gospel as good stewards, sharing God's love. -Mission Statement*

# NEWS & NOTES

## From the desk of Father Rob .....

Happy New Year! Every new year brings a fresh start, a new beginning. Many begin a new calendar year with resolutions. Some are determined to lose weight, or exercise more, start a new hobby, and so forth. Those things are not bad in themselves. However, recently I came upon an article that suggested that we lose the resolutions. The author pointed out a simple reason for that – we miss what is going on in the moment and overlook the gifts we have in the now. The alternative given was to change what we do today rather than making future resolutions. This was an interesting take. The author’s idea reminds me of what Matthew Kelly, a Catholic speaker and apologist, frequently says: “Our lives change when our habits change.” As we begin the new year together, perhaps we can examine what daily habits we need to eliminate (or add) to bring us closer to the Lord.

**Thank You:** This past Christmas I received many cards and gifts from parishioners. All of you were kind in your words and well wishes. It takes time to respond to all my correspondence, so I will simply say thank you to all. Your prayers for me are always appreciated.

**Pilgrimage Opportunity for our Parish:** One way that brings a parish together and makes the Catholic faith come to life is a pilgrimage. What is a pilgrimage? It is a journey made to a place of great spiritual importance. The destination, like Rome or Jerusalem, may be in itself significant. But, it is the journey itself that defines pilgrimage. Pilgrims offer these journeys to God. They travel in a spirit of prayer and offering to God. The hardships of the journey are offered in union with Jesus’ sufferings. In times gone by, pilgrims in Europe would travel to Rome knowing that they could be robbed by bandits, become terribly sick along the way, or even die going to a place of pilgrimage or on their return. The danger of the journey and a pilgrim’s mortality were all too real of a reality.

Today, the danger of the journey is all but eliminated. We can travel by air and arrive in a place, like Rome, in 7 hours versus 7 weeks. But there are the challenges of travel – the delays at the airport, the haggling of a reservation at a hotel, dealing with language barriers, and so on. All of these are still given to God as part of a pilgrimage. So, with all that in mind, I want to introduce an opportunity for our parish. In August of 2017, I will be co-leading a group of pilgrims to Ireland. It will be a ten day pilgrimage as we will visit many holy sites and places of interest all over the Emerald Isle – from Knock to Killarney. Mass will be celebrated every day and we will pray devotions. The pilgrimage is August 16 through the 25<sup>th</sup>. There is more to tell, however if you want more information, just stop me after Mass or call me. There will be flyers available in the near future with more detailed information. Consider a pilgrimage! They are worth it!

Happy Epiphany!

# SCHOOL NEWS

## St. Mary School



### SCRIP REMINDER

**SCRIP** puts your regular shopping dollars to work supporting your parish and school with over fifty retailers ..... grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, department stores, hardware stores, movie theaters, spas and more!

**SCRIP** cards are always available in the school office and after Mass twice per month. Next, the weekend of January 7th/8th and 21st/22nd.

### Would You Like A Pastoral Visit?

**REMINDER:** If you, a family member or someone you know is confined or hospitalized and would benefit from a pastoral visit, please contact your parish office and let them know. Staff does not always know of hospital admissions for a variety of reasons and often has no way of knowing of other situations in which a parish contact would be beneficial.



### Confession, Penance, Reconciliation

*Please note new time!*

**Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00 PM**  
**Saturdays from 9:30-10:30**

# MONEY MATTERS

## Money Counts for 2016-2017

|                | Received     | Budgeted   | Variance   |
|----------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Week 25</b> |              |            |            |
| 12-18-2016     | \$14,340.45  | 13,056.11  | 1,284.34   |
| <b>YTD</b>     | \$306,153.01 | 323,263.77 | -17,110.76 |

# FOCUS ON FAITH

## Please Pray For Our Parishioners:

Barbara Allen, Bill, Bill Bever, Dena, Alice Figi,  
 Linda Fredell, Jackie H., Barbara Holcer,  
 Paul Holznecht, Gerri, Ellen Kotche,  
 John (Floyd) McNally, Ted Nagel, Shirley R.,  
 Madelynn Schieve, Colleen Schroeder,  
 Kelly Dooley Trewartha, Peter Weirich,  
 Lola William, Avalon Widner, Lucille Willegal



## Traveling Chalice Full Year of Prayer Planned

This week the Traveling Chalice will be hosted by  
 the sixth grade Religious Education class.

Any questions regarding our Traveling Chalice program may be  
 directed to: Colleen at 868-6386 OR  
[iirishcatholic56@gmail.com](mailto:iirishcatholic56@gmail.com).

## Sacraments

**Reconciliation:** Tuesday evening from 5:00 - 7:00 pm  
 throughout the *Year of Mercy* and Saturday from 9:30-10:30 am

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please call us at 752-7861 when a loved  
 one has a serious illness.

**Weddings:** Please contact the rectory six months in  
 advance. One party must be a parish member in good  
 standing.

**Infant Baptism:** Registered members of the parish are  
 welcome to arrange for their baby's baptism by signing up  
 for the necessary preparation program for parents.

## RCIA

Please call anytime if you would like to discuss Catholicism  
 and see how joining the Church may offer you a deeper  
 relationship with Jesus Christ.

## Catholic Women's Club

Contact Jennifer McBride at 741-8909 or Beth Konkol at  
 754-1304 for more information.

## Knights of Columbus

Meetings held 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm.  
 Contact Greg Kraft at 754-5615 for more information.

## Bulletin Deadline

Mondays at 12:00 noon. Please contact the Rectory at  
 752-7861.

# SCRIPTURE

## The Epiphany of the Lord

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the  
 house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They  
 prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they  
 opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold,  
 frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

\*\*\*\*\*

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded  
 them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child  
 was." In our day and age, the star of Christmas has become a  
 kind of decorative symbol that adorns manger scenes and  
 Christmas trees. It suggests something good and bright and  
 holy, a visual indicator that the "Light of the world" has  
 appeared. But today, on the feast of the Epiphany, we recall  
 that originally, this star was not just a pretty symbolic  
 ornament. This star was a sign from God that intervened in  
 the operations of the physical universe. The Magi understood  
 that this star was sent from God to indicate where his Son  
 would be born.

Of course it should not surprise us in this season of all seasons  
 that God should choose to order the universe according to his  
 purposes. Jesus has just been born of a virgin! God has just  
 taken on human flesh. These events in themselves are  
 extraordinary divine interventions--miracles that defy the  
 standard operation of things. Why shouldn't God choose to  
 send a luminous star where he wants it, when he wants it?  
 Why shouldn't he reveal his plan through the things that he  
 created in the first place?

The beauty of today's feast is found, in part, in the fact that the  
 Magi were able to recognize this sign from God. They waited  
 for it, they saw it, and they rejoiced in it: "They were  
 overjoyed at seeing the star." We too should be overjoyed in  
 this season of God's special revelation to us. We may need the  
 eyes to recognize it, but truly we have waited for a Savior, we  
 have seen his appearance at Christmas, and now it is time to  
 celebrate! God is at work in our physical world. He has come  
 here, now to save us. This is cause for rejoicing!

## Readings for Sunday, January 8, 2016

### The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 / Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Mt 2:1-12

## Readings for Next Sunday, January 15, 2016

### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 49:3, 5-6 / 1 Cor 1:1-3 / Jn 1:29-34



## Rest in Peace

*Catherine Negus* was recently called to eternal life.

Please remember her, and all who mourn the loss of a  
 loved one, in your prayers.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING



Thank you to **ALL** the parishioners who donated so generously toward our Christmas decorations. Those who gave in memory or in honor of a loved one are listed below.

**FROM:**

Mrs. Dolores Dilley

Mrs. Ann McKee

Mrs. Shirley Ruben  
Mrs. Joan Wanninger

Mrs. Ellen Yaucher

**FOR:**

Gerald Dilley  
Barbara & Leroy Drost  
Joe McKee  
Tommy Alm  
Dave Alm  
Betty McKee  
Clyde R. Ruben  
Dave Wanninger  
Dorothy & Harold Fuss  
John & Marie Wanninger  
Robert Yaucher, Sr.

## Euchre Tournament

Hosted by Knights of Columbus 9230

January 14th, 2017

St. William's Parish Hall, 1822 Ravine Street in Janesville

Entry Fee \$10 / Cash Prizes and 50/50 Raffle

Registration starts at 5:30 PM - Cards start at 6:00 PM

Beverages & sandwiches available for purchase.

Everybody is welcome - Singles, couples, it doesn't matter

For more information, contact Bill Slatter (608) 774-6023.



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

The Knights of Columbus will be having our regular monthly meeting this Thursday (1/12) Please try to attend.

The entries from "The True Meaning of Christmas" art projects from St. Mary's and St. Patrick's schools, grades 1--4 are on display in the basement meeting area of St. Mary's. Please come and see this great art.

The combined councils will be hosting our breakfast next Sunday (1/15) after the 8:30 AM Mass at St. Mary's. Please come and enjoy an egg, pancake and sausage meal for \$5 with your fellow parishioners.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING



### A growing threat around the world and around the block.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. It is estimated that 21 million people are held in bondage today. Some are forced into labor. Others are sold for sex. None are able to leave their situation. Victims are held against their will through force (violence, rape and confinement), fraud (false promises of employment, wages, work), or coercion (threats of physical harm to the victim or a loved one).

The tendency is to think that it doesn't happen here. The sad truth is that Wisconsin is one of the worst states in the nation for perpetuating human trafficking. In fact, Milwaukee has been identified as a key city where pimps are trained to traffic children and adults, primarily women.

#### Trafficking in Wisconsin can include:

- Sex trafficking of immigrants and U. S. citizens.
- Domestic minor sex trafficking of teens and runaways.
- Forced labor in agriculture, restaurants, and tourism
- House slavery (domestic servitude)

Hearing the concerns of our Holy Father, our parish desires to bring awareness of the evil of human trafficking. Over the next few weeks we will provide additional information in the bulletin. On Thursday, February 16, we will host a presentation on the topic and what our community can do to help. Please plan on joining us.

*"It is not possible to remain indifferent before the knowledge that human beings are bought and sold like goods! I think of the adoption of children for the extraction of their organs, of women deceived and obliged to prostitute themselves, of workers exploited and denied rights or a voice and so on. And this is human trafficking."*

-Pope Francis

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

The **ADULT CATHOLIC SPIRIT CLUB** will meet at noon on Wednesday, 11 January 2017, at St. John Vianney's Marian Hall. A potluck dinner will be served and you are asked to bring a dish to share, along with your own table service. We have a very interesting program to begin in 2017 ..... Mark Finnegan will speak to us about VET'S Roll. Learn what it takes to put together this annual 4-day bus trip to Washington, DC for current veterans of WWII and Korea. Programs will now start at 12:45 pm instead of the usual 1pm time. Blood pressure screenings are available from 11:30am to 12 noon. For more information, call Ginny at 608-752-4442. **REMINDER:** Weather alert...if Janesville schools close due to inclement weather, our potluck and program will be canceled for that month.

## Men's Silent Preached Retreat

*Theme: "With the Lord there is Mercy & Plentiful Redemption"*

February 3rd (Fri.) – February 5th (Sun.) 2017

Redemptorist Retreat Center

1800 N Timber Trail Lane

Oconomowoc, WI

We discover together in faith that God's redemption rests upon four simple words, which tell the Gospel narrative: God entered our broken world (**Crib**), gave of Himself completely to the point of death (**Cross**), became our nourishment (**Sacrament**), and our source of hope (**Mary**). This is the Good News of salvation, and the signs of God's love for us.

Consider spending a weekend at the beautiful Redemptorist Retreat Center in Oconomowoc, WI. Join men from our parish for renewal, reflection, fellowship, peace and quiet time with our Lord.

*Mark your calendar for February 3rd - February 5th.*

Carpooling is available leaving from St. Mary's upper parking lot @ 4:30 pm on Friday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Check in Friday 6:15 pm – 7:15pm

Orientation 7:30 pm

Mass 8:00 pm

Concludes after Mass and lunch about 1:00 pm on Sunday

Donation: \$200.00 includes room, board and materials.

\*Pick up brochures and check out the retreat poster in the church vestibule.

To register call Santo Carfora @ 756-1815 or contact the retreat center - (262) 567-6900 or [www.redemptoristretreat.org](http://www.redemptoristretreat.org)

P.S. If this weekend won't work for you, you may register for any of the following weekends: Feb. 17-19, Feb. 24-26, March 3-5, March 10-12, & May 5-7.

## Taize' Prayer



Taize' Prayer began in the little community of Taize', France during the 1940s following the destruction of World War II. A group of religious men sought to create an ecumenical form of prayer that would foster reconciliation and peace among all people.

Today, Taize' Prayer is celebrated throughout the world, bringing Christians of all traditions together to sing, to hear God's words in Scripture, and to listen in silence for God's voice in their hearts.

In that spirit, we gather at St. Mary's as we have since February 1998, to offer this prayer. You are invited to experience Taize' Prayer here on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. You will find it an opportunity to take a few moments from the busyness of your life and simply be in God's presence.

The bustle of Christmas is over, and now we can pause and savor the delights of the season and look ahead to a new year. Perhaps this is the time to make a difference in your prayer life. If you have thought about participating in Taize' Prayer but just haven't made a commitment to do so, resolve that 2017 will be the year that you say "yes" to that invitation. Join us for Taize' Prayer on **Monday, January 9 at 7:00 PM**. As always, our time together will be a chance to un-crowd our hearts and minds and refresh our spirits. Come and bask in the light of candles and the warmth of friendship, raise your voices in simple and prayerful songs, attend to God's message in Scripture, and listen in silence for God's voice in your heart.

| <u>Dates in 2017 for Taize' Prayer</u><br><u>(second Monday of every month):</u> |              |
|--|--------------|
| January 9  | July 10      |
| February 13  | August 14    |
| March 13   | September 11 |
| April 10   | October 9    |
| May 8  | November 13  |
| June 12  | December 11  |

## Healing After Abortion

**No matter how much time as passed, Project Rachel & Rachel's Vineyard retreats offer compassionate and individual care for anyone hurting from abortion. Upcoming healing retreats are March 10 - 12 and November 10 - 12, 2017.**

**Contact Mary (608) 221-9593, [meadmt@sbcgloabl.net](mailto:meadmt@sbcgloabl.net) or visit [www.madisondiocese.org/rachel](http://www.madisondiocese.org/rachel)**

