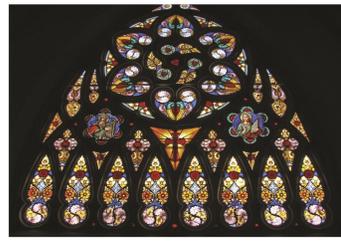


February 26, 2017 • Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



NATIVITY of MARY

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

Rectory

313 E. Wall Street

Janesville, WI 53545-3047

Phone(608) 752-7861

Father Rob Butz (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 LiturgyBob Craig

Email: liturgy@nativitymary.org

Coord. Religious Ed ...Kathy Hookham

Email: re@nativitymary.org

Business Manager.....Kathy Fisher

Email: kfisher@nativitymary.org

Parish SecretarySharlet Collins

Email: psec@nativitymary.org

St. Mary School

307 E. Wall Street

Janesville, WI 53545-3047

Phone(608) 754-5221

Principal..... Steven Castrogiovanni

SecretarySue 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



8th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

“Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?” —Mt 6:26

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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

Ash Wednesday is this week! It is hard to believe that we will be at that time of the year. The season of Lent starts this Wednesday. The regulations for Lent regarding fasting and abstinence from meat are in this week's bulletin. All are welcome to come to Mass at 8:15 with the school kids or 6:15 PM Mass. There will also be a service for the convenience of those who cannot come to Mass at those times during the noon hour. Check the bulletin for times.

Incense Alert: As we begin a new season, and a solemn one to boot, incense will be used during the 4:30 PM and 10:30 AM Masses on Sundays. The use of incense is a visible sign to the people of God of the special penitential nature of Lent and to signify the rising of our prayers to the Lord. For those who have allergies and are sensitive, the 8:30 AM Sunday Mass is always incense free. The use of incense will be from the 1st Sunday of Lent, and it will continue until Pentecost Sunday.

Liturgical Seasons & Changes: Our liturgical season is very much like the weather seasons. Each season is noticeable. Consider Lent like our winter. Like the trees that have no leaves, our churches are decorated very simply. The music during Lent is much simpler, and in some cases, there will not be any singing at all, such as the Our Father. The theme of the hymns represent penitence and fasting. Like winter, all these little changes are not permanent. We know that winter will not be forever. Spring will come, as it did last week! Life will return. The barrenness of the trees will give way to new growth, just as the color will change from violet to white and the Alleluia will return. The focus of the hymns will shift at Easter from penitence to joy and resurrection. The truth is – we need Lent in order to reach Easter. The joy of Easter cannot be fully appreciated unless we all go through the penitence and starkness of Lent. As Jesus said in the Gospel, we need to die with Him so that we may rise again with Him.

Finally, please pray for our candidates and catechumens. They have been introduced to the Catholic faith for the last several months. During this time, the RCIA process is not just simply classes. They should undergo a conversion of not only the mind, but also that what they have received in the mind are to be lived out in charity. They will publicly declare to the people of God their conversion to Christ in mind and action and their ongoing desire to live that faith by preparing for the reception of the sacraments.

Have a blessed week and a happy Mardi Gras!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

March 1st Religion classes at 5:45 and 7:15 are asked to attend Ash Wednesday services at 6:15 in place of class. All students can return home with their family after Mass or attend Soup for the Soul in the church hall.

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Mary School



Our annual **Salad Luncheon** will be held Friday March 10th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The cost of the luncheon is \$10.00, children 10 and under are \$5.00 and take-out is available for \$8.00. This is a great event that all are welcome to attend.

Our school is collecting aluminum pop tabs to donate to **Ronald McDonald House Charities**. If you have some pop tabs you would like to donate please bring them by the school office during school hours.

Tickets are now on sale for our Middle school musical **"The Nifty Fifties."** There are 2 shows, Tuesday, March 21st and Wednesday, March 22nd. Both shows begin at 7PM. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors. Children 3 and under are free.

Penitential Disciplines of Lent

The Christian faithful, during Lent, are clearly conscious of the need to turn the mind towards those realities which really count, which require Gospel commitment and integrity of life which, through self-denial of those things which are superfluous, are translated into good works and solidarity with the poor and the needy.

(Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy, #125)

In addition to choosing their own penitential practices, Catholics are also asked to observe the practices of fasting and abstinence during the 40 days of Lent. The Lenten Fast and Abstinence Regulations are as follows:

Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. (The obligation of fasting ceases with the celebration of one's 59th birthday.)

On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other smaller meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.

FOCUS ON FAITH

Please Pray For Our Parishioners:

Barbara Allen, Bill, Bill Bever, Dena, Alice Figi, Linda Fredell, LeeAnn Gilligan, Gerri, Jackie H., Barbara Holcer, Paul Holznecht, Alice Jensen, Ellen Kotche, John (Floyd) McNally, 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 St. Mary School 3rd grade class.

Any questions regarding our Traveling Chalice program may be directed to: Colleen at 868-6386 OR irishcatholic56@gmail.com.

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Tuesday evening from 5:00 - 6:00 pm and Saturday morning 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

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." - Mt 6:31, 32b-33a

"Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?" No, indeed we can't. But evidence does suggest that worrying can subtract time from our life span! Clearly, we are not meant to worry. It's not healthy and it's not useful. But for many of us, it's quite difficult not to be anxious and concerned about matters that are important to us. So what is the secret to letting go of this unnecessary anxiety?

Jesus gives us an answer in today's Gospel. "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides." In other words, our focus should be on being faithful followers of God. When we put our trust in the providence of the One who "clothes the grass of the field," and stop trying to rely on our own (meager) powers, then things will be taken care of: "Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all."

Part of the secret here, of course, is coming to accept God's will for us, even when it doesn't perfectly match what we may have been envisioning. There is a kind of surrender involved that puts God's plan first. Instead of getting worked up that things aren't going our way, this kind of reliance upon God enables us to relax and accept the way things are going. The great spiritual writer, Jean-Pierre de Caussade, put it well in his work, Abandonment to Divine Providence, when he said, "To escape the distress caused by regret for the past or fear about the future, this is the rule to follow: leave the past to the infinite mercy of God, the future to His good Providence, give the present wholly to His love by being faithful to His grace." God takes care of the birds, the flowers, even the grass! He will also take care of us.



**Readings for Sunday, February 26, 2016
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Is 49:14-15 / 1 Cor 4:1-5 / Mt 6:24-34

**Readings for Next Sunday, March 5, 2016
First Sunday of Lent**
Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7 / Rom 5:12-19 / Mt 4:1-11

MONEY MATTERS

Money Counts for 2017-2018

	Received	Budgeted	Variance
Week 34			
2-19-2017	\$9,577.60	9,822.23	-244.63
YTD	\$434,126.91	467,984.17	-33,857.26

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Rescript Granting a Dispensation from the Law of Abstinence on the Memorial of Saint Patrick

Protocol No.: 003-2017

Seeing that the prescripts of canons 1251 and 1253 of the Code of Canon Law, in keeping with the immemorial practice of the Church, require the faithful who have completed their fourteenth year to abstain from eating meat on every Friday of the year in the manner determined more precisely by the conference of bishops;

Bearing in mind that the norms on fasting and abstinence promulgated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for the dioceses of the United States require all the faithful to abstain from eating meat on the Fridays of Lent, even while the same norms permit the faithful to substitute some other act of penance in place of abstinence from meat on Fridays outside of Lent;

Noting, however, that the memorial of Saint Patrick falls on a Friday of Lent this year; and

Exhorting the faithful to exercise due moderation and temperance in festivities and celebrations of the memorial of Saint Patrick, in keeping with the solemnity and honor that is due to so great a saint and his tireless efforts to inspire holiness in the Christian faithful;

Wishing nevertheless to foster a joyful and reverent devotion to that great saint and, moreover, to honor the patrimony of the Irish people to whom he first preached the good news of salvation;

Now I, the undersigned Bishop of Madison, having conferred with my venerable brother bishops of the dioceses of the Province of Wisconsin, hereby

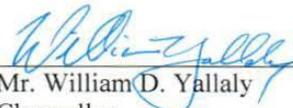
Dispense

The faithful who reside in the Diocese of Madison, as well as anyone actually present in the Diocese of Madison, from the observance of the law of abstinence on Friday, March 17, 2017;

And I urge them to perform some salutary work of penance or charity that day so that they might unite themselves more perfectly with the suffering and death of our Lord.

Given this 7th day of February, in the year of our Lord, 2017


+Most Reverend Robert C. Morlino
Bishop of Madison


Mr. William D. Yallaly
Chancellor

WHAT'S HAPPENING

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL



DIOCESE OF
MADISON

Prayer of the Faithful

May we come together in our work of enabling those throughout our diocese to know, to love, and To serve the Lord through generously giving to this year's Annual Catholic Appeal, and may we all join together and proclaim, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." We pray to the Lord.

Diocese of Madison Annual Catholic Appeal 2017 "We will Serve the Lord"

The theme for the 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal of the Diocese of Madison concentrates serving the Lord. We ask that God grant us a renewed sense of responsibility to truly Serve Him in our parishes, our diocese and the Church throughout the world. We ask that His grace make us even more generous in supporting those needs.

Each pledge to the Annual Catholic Appeal supports diocesan ministries, education and services and assures a strong future for the Diocese of Madison and the people that it serves.

This year each of us is asked to consider making a pledge, payable over five months. Your gift will help enable the diocese to reach its goal and provide grant opportunities for Catholic schools, religious education programs and assisting distressed parishes in need.

If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.



Thank you

to everyone who so charitably supported the G.I.F.T.S. Men's Shelter in their recent stay at our parish. Many give of their time and talent to help with this effort. Your support of this important ministry is appreciated!

Lenten Bible Study

Adults and teens are invited to join a bible study from 6:30 TO 8 pm during Lent on Wednesdays March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29 and April 5. We will meet in the Chapel. We will study Edward Sri's *A Biblical Walk Through The Mass*. Contact Mary MacPherson to order the book and workbook mmacpherson@stwilliam.net.

PREPARE

A Five-Week Lenten Seminar

Prepare your heart for Easter by joining us for a Lenten study program. Classes examine seven holy habits you can foster to deepen your Lenten experience and advance your Catholic spirituality. Come to one class or come to them all. Bring a friend or family member. All are welcome! Tuesdays at 6:30 PM on March 7, 14, 21 28 and April 4 at St. John Vianney Church, Marian Hall. Questions? Contact Kris: kriskranenburg@yahoo.com



**SOUP
FOR THE
SOUL**

Fast, pray, receive ashes and join us for bread and soup on Wednesday, March 1st

Sponsored by Nativity of Mary's Religious Education Committee

A long standing tradition of our parish is coming back!! Yes indeed, this Ash Wednesday, soup and bread will be offered after BOTH our 12:10 pm Ash Service and our 6:15 pm Ash Wednesday Mass. Come join us in our Parish Hall after you receive your ashes. On this day of fasting, enjoy a light meal of bread and soup along with good fellowship to begin our Lenten season.

Please let us know you'll be coming by adding your name to the list at the front entrance of the church. We're also seeking volunteers for each meal; look for a sign-up sheet in the church vestibule.

