



April 19, 2020 • Sunday of Divine Mercy



# NATIVITY of MARY

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

## Rectory

**313 E. Wall Street  
Janesville, WI 53545-3047**

Website ..... [www.nativitymary.org](http://www.nativitymary.org)  
Phone ..... (608) 752-7861  
Father Rob Butz ..... (608) 620-9910  
Pastor ..... Rev. Robert Butz  
Email: [pastor@nativitymary.org](mailto:pastor@nativitymary.org)  
Dir. of Pastoral Outreach....Sr. Ruth Brings  
Email: [rbrings@nativitymary.org](mailto:rbrings@nativitymary.org)  
Dir. of Liturgy ..... Bob Craig  
Email: [liturgy@nativitymary.org](mailto:liturgy@nativitymary.org)  
Coord. Religious Ed....Kathy Hookham  
Email: [re@nativitymary.org](mailto:re@nativitymary.org)  
Business Manager ... Arwen Twitchett  
Email: [accounts@nativitymary.org](mailto:accounts@nativitymary.org)  
Parish Secretary.....Sharlet Collins  
Email: [psec@nativitymary.org](mailto:psec@nativitymary.org)

## St. Mary School

**307 E. Wall Street  
Janesville, WI 53545-3047**

Phone ..... (608) 754-5221  
Principal.....Kim Ehrhardt  
Secretary .....Sue Vodak &  
Sue Dickman

## Religious Education

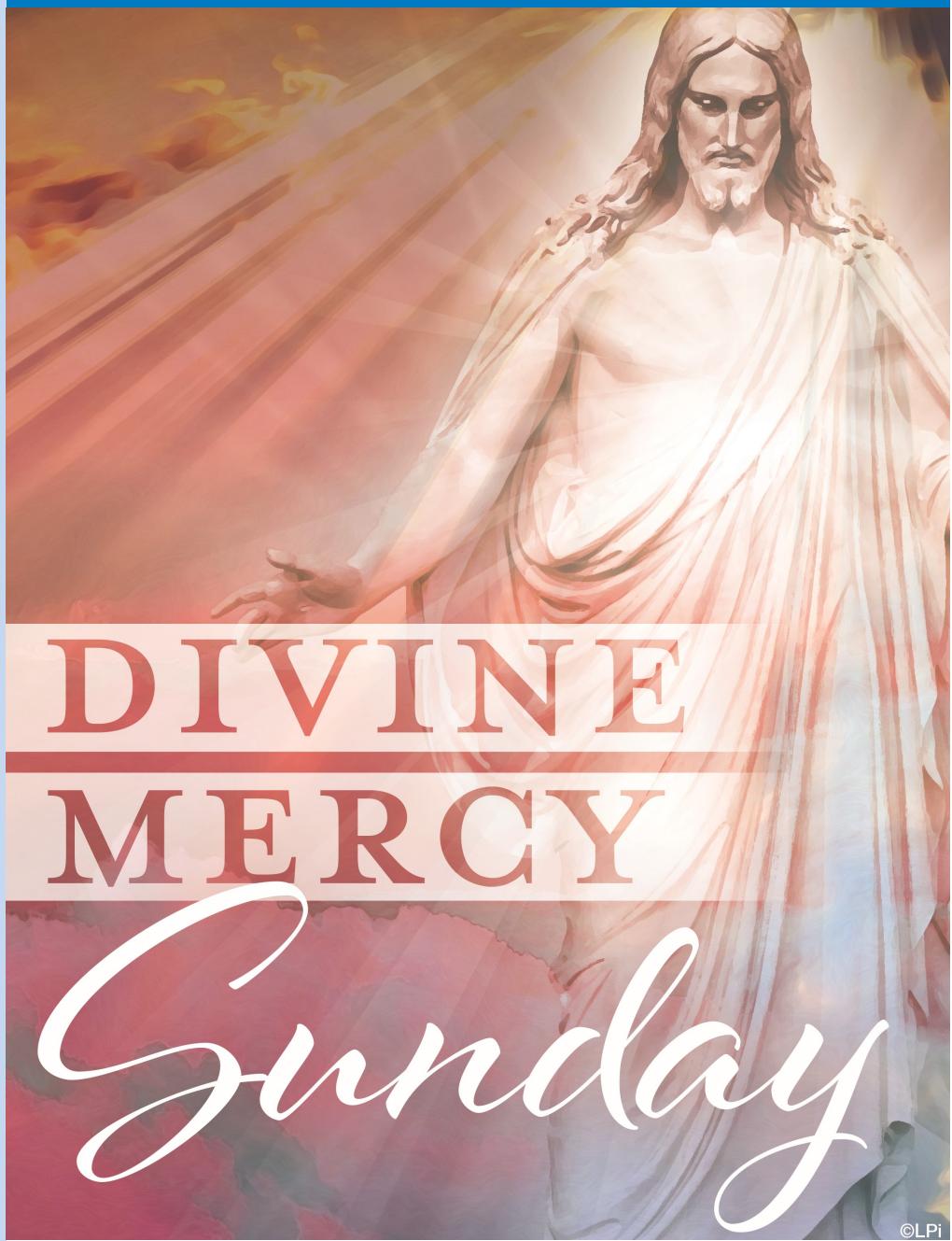
Phone .....(608) 752-7861  
Coordinator.....Kathy Hookham

## Prayer Network

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

## Janesville/Milton Mass Times

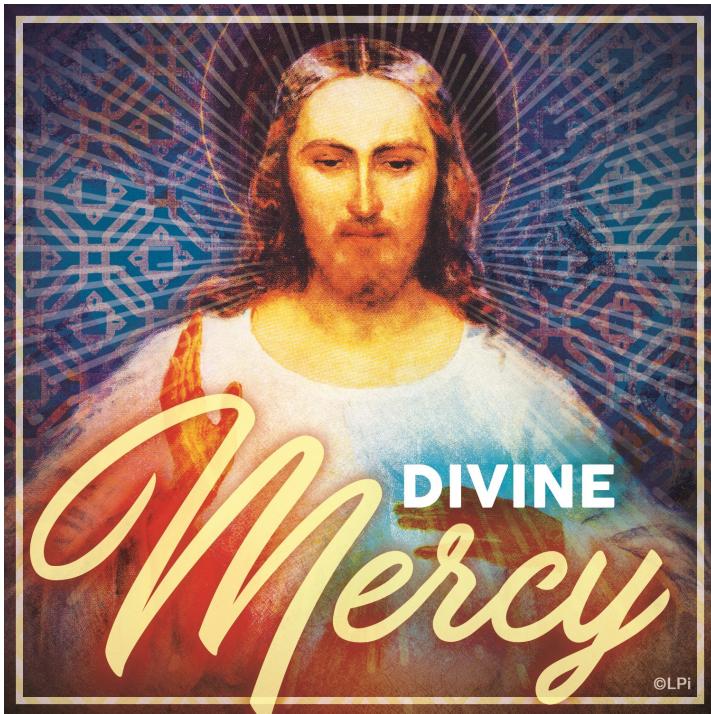
**Nativity of Mary** ..... Sat. 4:30 pm  
Sun. 8:30 & 10:30 am  
**St. Patrick**.....Sat. 7:30 am & 4:00 pm  
Sun. 9:00 am  
**Spanish Mass** - Sun. 12:00 pm  
**St. John Vianney** .....Sat. 8:15 am  
& 5:00 pm  
Sun. 8:15 & 10:00 am  
**St. William**.....Sat. 4:00 pm  
Sun. 8:00 & 10:30 am  
**St. Mary - Milton** .....Sat. 4:00 pm  
Sun. 8:30 am



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*We, the Catholic family of Nativity of Mary, are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Through worship, the sacraments, fellowship, evangelization and outreach, we will share the word of Christ in our community. -Mission Statement*

## NEWS & NOTES



*“Where, if not in the Divine Mercy, can the world find refuge and the light of hope?”*

— Pope John Paul II,  
Beatification of St. Faustina,  
April 18, 1993

## MONEY MATTERS

### Money Counts for 2019-2020

	Received	Budgeted	Variance
<b>Week 40</b>			
04-05-2020	14,842.50	14,688.37	154.13
<b>YTD</b>	<b>\$475,493.02</b>	<b>477,899.27</b>	<b>-2,406.25</b>
<b>Week 41</b>			
04-12-2020	10,998.50	11,399.14	-400.64
<b>YTD</b>	<b>\$486,491.52</b>	<b>489,298.41</b>	<b>-2,806.89</b>

## NEWS & NOTES

### St. Mary School



God Bless our students  
and our teachers!

*SCRIP* can still be purchased from the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Thank you for your financial support.

As masses will not be held for the next few weeks, St. Mary's Parish asks that you please try to continue giving your normal tithe contributions, so that the day to day operations of the church and school can continue uninterrupted. St. Mary Parish offers a variety of ways for you to make donations to the church during this uncertain time:

**Weekly envelopes:** You can mail in your weekly envelope (inside a regular envelope addressed to Nativity of Mary, 313 E. Wall St., Janesville WI 53545). Or mail us a check with your envelope number written on it. All donations will be credited to your account for tax purposes.

**You can make donations with your credit card.** Visit our website at [www.nativitymary.org](http://www.nativitymary.org) and click on the orange donate icon halfway down the page. This redirects you to our offertory giving site where you can make a one time or recurring donation.

**You can also sign up for automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account.** An automatic withdrawal from your account can be done regularly at the beginning of the month, the middle of the month or donate semi-monthly and have the payment drawn twice a month. Automatic withdrawal transactions can be arranged by filling out a form and sending it to the church office or calling Arwen Twitchett at 752-7861 extension 11.

Whatever way you choose to support your parish financially, we thank you.



# FOCUS ON FAITH

## Please Pray For Our Parishioners

Bill, Sandra Barrette, Judy Bever, Valerie Boggs, Karen Bullis, Noah Cotter, LeeAnn Gilligan, Gerri, Jackie H., Alice Jensen, Paula Kimler, Pat & Mark, Penny Patterson, Max Rammer, Heather Saalfeld, Madelynn Schieve, Colleen Schroeder, Andrew Stuehler, Edna Thorp, Lola Williams, Avalon Widner, Lucille Willegal



Due to the pandemic  
Fr. Rob and Sr. Ruth will not be making pastoral visits to the hospital, nursing homes, or to those who are homebound except for people who are end of life or are very seriously ill.  
If you, a family member, or someone you know fits this description, please contact the parish office at 608-752-7861.

# SCRIPTURE

## Sunday of Divine Mercy

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." (Jn 20:19-31)

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The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John's Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke's Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn't recognize Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion.

From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked.

Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen.

Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen. brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen.

## 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 Jan Bier at 752-4387 for more information.

## Knights of Columbus

Contact Ed Gilligan 449-6468 for more information.

## Adult Catholic Spirit Club

Contact Dolores Dilley 752-2587.

## Bulletin Deadline

Mondays at 9:00 AM. Please contact Sharlet Collins at the Rectory, 752-7861 or email psec@nativitymary.org.

**Readings for Sunday, April 19, 2020**

**Sunday of Divine Mercy**

Acts 2:42-47 / 1 Pt 1:3-9 / Jn 20:19-31



**Readings for Next Sunday, April 26, 2020**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14, 22-33 / 1 Pt 1:17-21 / Lk 24:13-35

## GIVE YOURSELF COMPLETELY

The early days of the first Christian community were not easy by any measurement. Jesus had been executed, and his disciples had to be discreet so as not to meet a similar fate. Jesus was now risen, but the truth of his resurrection was not accepted by all. However, the depiction of that early community in Acts 2:42-47 would lead someone to believe it was the opposite situation. We are told of community life where people lean on each other and share great joy. They ate and prayed together, and many wonders and signs were occurring to lift the community and bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ. They were disciples living out their faith, and it was their strong sense of stewardship that made

all this possible in the face of threatening Roman and Jewish powers.

Today, we find the Church in a new turmoil. Increasing secularism, abuse scandals, and a lack of true fidelity place us once again in a time that is not easy. A friend of mine likes to say that any challenge of sin we encounter in the Church has its origin in a lack or misunderstanding of the stewardship way of life. We create our burdens by not using our gifts wisely and by turning inward selfishly.

Could we use the story in Acts of the early Church to help us today? If we begin with the decision to give of ourselves completely to God and His people, will we become agents of change? There is only one way to find out.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO DISCERN A VOCATION?

The word vocation comes from the Latin word *vocare*, meaning "to call." A vocation is a calling or invitation from God to serve in a particular way. For Catholics, that calling might be as a priest, sister, or married person. Vocation is the way we respond to the invitation to share in God's grace and witness to God's love in the world.

Discerning a vocation is the process in which we pray for God's guidance. We listen for God's message that is often quiet and unassuming in a world filled with noise and distractions. We look at our gifts and talents, seek the advice of others, examine our motives, and listen to see what God is asking of us. The goal of discernment is to follow what the Lord wills, not what we think is the best idea. Many men enter a seminary to discern if that is their vocation, only to discover that their calling is to marriage. Others have resisted the idea for long periods of time, until finally they could resist no more. Some great saints have described that dilemma. Vocation is a human process of divine origin, and each of us must strive constantly to hear the call of God in our lives.



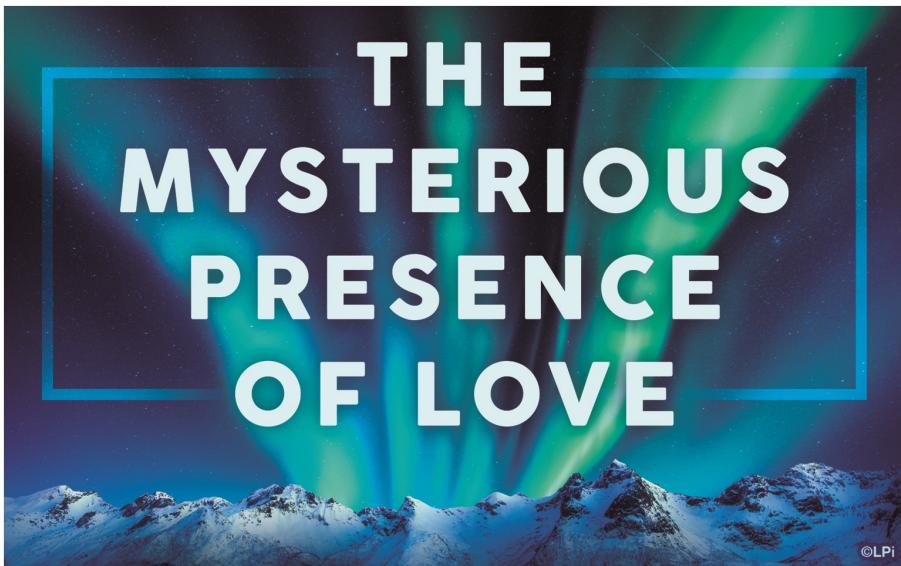
## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

A person was going through a very dark time, questioning the meaning of life, not feeling very purposeful or worthwhile, and feeling disconnected and unappreciated. Suddenly, they gazed up at the night sky, found themselves in awe of all the stars and constellations, and exclaimed, "I am here on purpose and I am loved!" Having been brought by God to this moment of intense connection and awareness, his life changed from that moment on.

If we are always preoccupied with the challenges, obligations, and stuff of daily life, we can easily miss the wonderful opportunities when the resurrected Christ is knocking at our door. If we open ourselves to the fullness of experience, we will find ourselves listening and embracing all that is around us, being caught up in the magnificence of creation's grandeur and knowing in our heart and soul that God is and I am.

While that sounds like a simple, tell-me-something-I don't-know kind of revelation, it is life changing when it takes root in the depth of a person's soul. Stumbling upon this awesome



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truth and internalizing it doesn't require an assent of the mind. It beckons for a claim on our soul. We find ourselves knowing something profound that cannot be explained or reasoned, but purely is. When we are caught up in an experience and encounter the truth, it doesn't matter how all of the pieces got put together. Truth is simply truth. The "my Lord and my God" responses we utter are not evoked because all of the pieces of faith and life make reasonable sense. The "my Lord and my God" affirmations come when we are lifted up out of our preoccupations and

silliness and are in the presence of mystery and mercy. God is mystery, one who is beyond our grasp but at the same time within our reach, knowable yet unknowable. And when in the presence of mystery, there comes an intense experience of mercy. We know deep within the essence of ourselves — and in the very life of creation — this beating, unconditionally accepting, life-sustaining, profound, mysterious yet familiar presence of love. We have found our peace. "Peace be with you." Breathe in and breathe out. Peace.

*Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." - Jn 20:26-27*

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

## SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Local businesses and sponsors that advertise on bulletins need you now more than ever before. Please encourage and remind others to show their support during this time.

## STAY CONNECTED

Go to [www.nativitymary.org](http://www.nativitymary.org) for parish information, bulletins, uplifting stories, current news and other relevant Catholic content. Check in frequently to view the video series "A Moment with the Bishop". Here, Bishop Hying takes a few minutes with us, nearly every day, to reflect on the gospel, scripture, the sacraments and more, delivering worthwhile messages about our Catholic faith directly to parishioners of the Madison diocese.

A link to our Facebook page, as well as one to St. Mary School's website can be found here, too.

**Fr. Rob prays the Rosary every day at 3:00 pm, with the exception of Friday, when he prays the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00 pm. Both are livestreamed on Facebook.**

**Mass is livestreamed on Facebook Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:15 am and on Sunday at 8:30 am. Watch recorded videos of the Mass at our website as well.**

### Other Live Stream and Televised Masses:

**WISC-TV / Channel 3000 Sunday 6:00 AM**

**TVW and Direct TV 14 Sunday 7:00 AM**

**EWTN Live Weekdays at 7:00 AM**

(replays during the day)

<https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live>

**Word on Fire Daily Mass**

<https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>

**Basilica of the Sacred Heart / Notre Dame University**

<https://campusministry.nd.edu/mass-worship/basilica-of-the-sacred-heart/watch-mass/>

### An Act of Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present  
in the Most Holy Sacrament.*

*I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,*

*come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.*

*Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.*

**O Mary, you  
shine continuously  
on our journey as a  
sign of salvation  
and hope.**

**We entrust  
ourselves to you,  
Health of the Sick.**

**At the foot of the  
Cross you  
participated in  
Jesus' pain, with  
steadfast faith.**

**You, Salvation of  
the Roman People,  
know what we  
need.**

**We are certain that you will provide, so that,  
as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting  
might return after this moment of trial.**

**Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform  
ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus  
tells us:**

**He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and  
bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to  
the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.**

**We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy  
Mother of God.**

**Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the  
test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious  
and blessed Virgin.**



**All public Masses and parish activities  
have been canceled until further notice.**

**"Flocknote"** - We're in the process of introducing a new method of communication. In cooperation with the Diocese of Madison and other local Catholic parishes, we'll be implementing "Flocknote" to email parishioners and ministry members with pertinent parish information.

To help us reach **you**, please take a moment and send your current email address to Sharlet at [psec@nativitymary.org](mailto:psec@nativitymary.org). Please indicate the name associated with the email; one for each adult in your household that would like to receive communication.

