

NATIVITY of MARY

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

Rectory

313 E. Wall Street
 Janesville, WI 53545-3047
 Website www.nativitymary.org
 Phone (608) 752-7861
 Pastor Msgr. Daniel Ganshert
 Email: daniel.ganshert@straphael.org
 Dir. of Pastoral Outreach....Sr. Ruth Brings
 Email: rbrings@nativitymary.org
 Dir. of Liturgy Bob Craig
 Email: liturgy@nativitymary.org
 Coord. Religious Ed.....Jan Bier
 Email: re@nativitymary.org
 Business Manager ... Arwen Twitchett
 Email: accounts@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.....Kim Ehrhardt
 SecretarySue Vodak & Lisa Nemeth

Religious Education

Phone.....(608) 752-7861
 Coordinator.....Jan Bier

Prayer Network

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

Janesville/Milton Mass Times

Nativity of MarySat. 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 VianneySat. 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 - MiltonSat. 4:00 pm
 Sun. 8:30 am



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

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

©LPI

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

From the desk of Msgr. Dan

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for the celebration of Christmas here at St. Mary's. All of our parish staff, liturgical ministers, musicians, vocalists, school staff, teachers, catechists, those who transformed our beautiful church into the perfect setting for Christmas with the manger, trees, plants and decorations. You allowed the spiritual joy of this holy season to fill our hearts and minds as we gave praise to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, born for us.

On a personal note. I wish to thank all of you for your thoughtful kindness. Your season's greetings, gracious words, cards and gifts at Christmas were so very much appreciated. Thank you.

May this new year, 2021, bring the blessings of health and happiness to you and your families.

Msgr. Dan

St. Mary's Job Opportunity

Applications are now being accepted at Nativity of Mary Parish for the following position:

Facilities Maintenance and Custodian

Please request an application form by calling our Parish Office at 608-752-7861.



Brayden James Michaels
Son of Cody & Alyson
December 18, 2020



Rest in Peace

George Wellnitz and Harold Robb were recently called to eternal life.

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

NEWS & NOTES

St. Mary School



Happy New Year!



SCRIP cards can be purchased in the school office, or online at ShopWithScrip.com

Parish Office—We have recently moved our parish offices from the Rectory to the Nativity House, which is the building directly behind the parking lot of the church (entrance is on the right). Going forward, please continue to use the slot at the Rectory door (old location on Wall Street) to drop off your envelopes and such, if necessary.

In light of the pandemic, we're keeping contact to a minimum, so calling the office to schedule a Mass, or to make an appointment for other church business is appreciated. We look forward to welcoming you freely into our new space once the community spread has minimized. We believe the new offices will better serve you, our parish family.

Our phone number is still the same, so dial 608-752-7861 to speak with a member of our staff. We are here for you! Stay safe and thank you for supporting St. Mary's.

MONEY MATTERS

Money Counts for 2020-2021

	Received	Budgeted	Variance
Week 25			
12-20-2020	\$16,097.64	18,137.35	-2,039.71
2 YTD	\$252,244.07	284,604.63	-32,360.56

FOCUS ON FAITH

Please Pray For Our Parishioners

Bill, Valerie Boggs, Karen Bullis, Noah Cotter, Sue Creek, Gerri, LeeAnn Gilligan, Corbin Grieving, Jackie H., Alice Jensen, Paula Kimler, Ken Kunkle, Rosemary Ludwig, Pat & Mark, Patricia Mosher, Richard Peck, Max Rammer, Harold Robb, Heather Saalfeld, Madelynn Schieve, Colleen Schroeder, Andrew Stuehler, Tammy, Cory & Barb, Edna Thorp, Mary Tullis, Avalon Widner



A word about home visits: Due to the pandemic Msgr. Ganshert 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.

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. Contact Colleen Szerlong at 868-6386 or irishcatholic56@gmail.com.

Catholic Women's Club

Contact Jan Bier at 752-4387 for more information.

Knights of Columbus

Contact Jim Mullen at 608-201-9860 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.

SCRIPTURE

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. (Mt 2:10-11)

"Where is that thing?" mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. "I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!" Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, "Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear." The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

"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." The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God's tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God's salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God's healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!



Readings for Sunday, January 3, 2021

Epiphany of the Lord

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

Readings for Next Sunday, January 10, 2021

Baptism of the Lord

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MEN'S RETREAT

Men's Silent Preached Retreat
Theme: "Living in a Time of Plentiful Redemption"
Presented by the Redemptorist Retreat Team
Redemptorist Retreat Center
1800 N Timber Trail Lane in Oconomowoc, WI 53066
www.redemptoristretreat.org / 262-567-6900

The Redemptorist Retreat Center is happy to welcome members of Nativity of Mary Parish on the weekend of February 5-7, 2021. We will explore how we can provide hope even during days of worry and concern because of what is going on around us.

Come and enjoy a time of well-deserved rest and quiet at the beautiful Redemptorist Retreat Center in Oconomowoc Wisconsin. Join men from our community for renewal, reflection, fellowship, peace, and quiet time with our Lord. The Silent Retreat consists of conferences, daily Mass, Reconciliation, Devotion to Mary, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Carpooling is available leaving from Nativity of Mary, Janesville, upper parking lot @ 4:30 pm on Friday, Feb. 5th.

Check in Friday 6:15 pm – 7:15pm (No evening meal is served on Friday)

Orientation 7:30 pm

Mass 8:00 pm

Concludes after Mass and lunch about 1:00 p.m. on Sunday

Offering: \$220.00 includes private room with bath, meals, and materials. To register call Santo Carfora @ 756-1815 or contact the retreat center at the above contact information.

There are other retreats throughout the year. If this weekend doesn't work for you plan on attending another one: Feb. 19-21, Feb. 26-28, March 5-7, March 12-14 & April 30th -May-2nd.

Therefore, if anyone is in
Christ, he is a new
creation. The old has
passed away; behold, the
new has come.

—2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)

May God's peace be upon
you and remain with you
throughout the year.

PARISH CALENDARS—Our parish calendars for the year 2021 have arrived! The theme is "Devotions to our Lady". It has been a challenging year, but we have so many reasons to look forward with great hope and prayer to our Blessed Mother for her protection and intercession to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Thank you to the McDonald Law Office for generously donating the calendars once again this year. If you would like a calendar please call the parish office at 608-752-7861 extension 100, and arrange for curbside pickup.

Pregnancy Helpline and Resource Center

21 S Jackson St in Janesville 608-755-9739 or visit us at www.pregnancy-helpline.org. Your donations meet the immediate needs of our clients.

Our current wish list:

Diapers—size newborn, 3, 4, 5, and 6

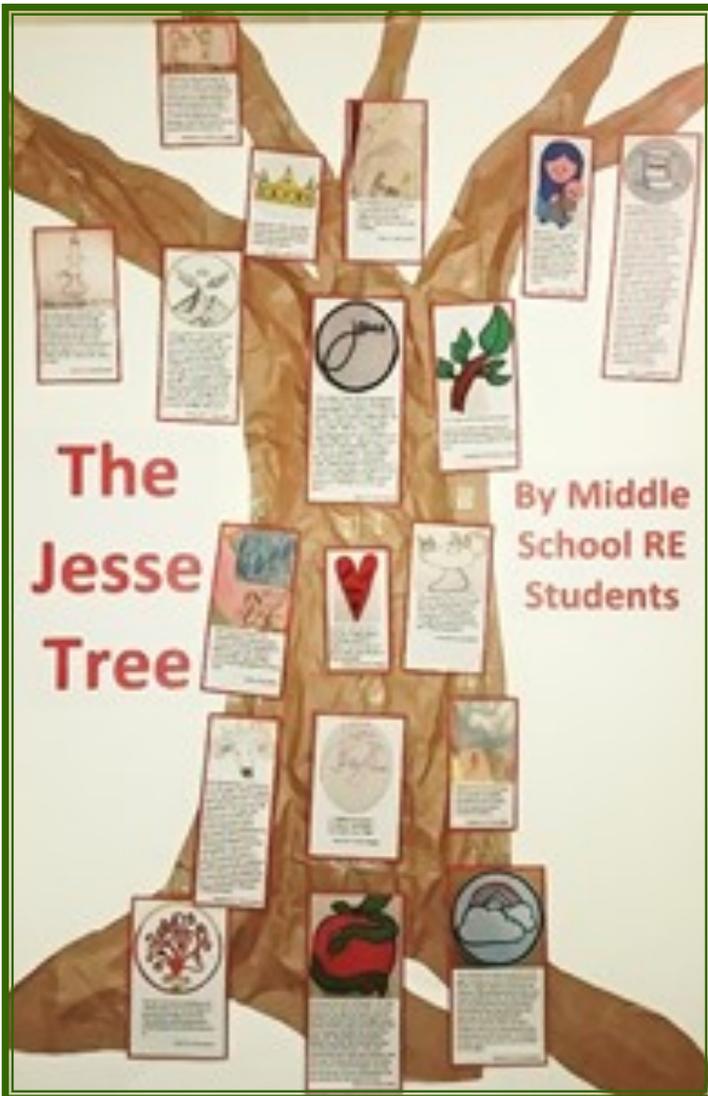
Toddler socks

Size 12-24 months onesies

Pack -n- play sheets

New girls' winter clothing sizes 0-12 months

WHAT'S HAPPENING



← This past Advent, the middle school Religious Education students learned about the Jesse Tree, the tradition that traces the genealogy of Jesus back to the “root of Jesse.” Every week, they read a specific bible passage, wrote a summary, and designed an ornament to hang on the Jesse Tree. Their finished product was displayed in the elevator entrance of church.

A few reminders from your Catholic cemetery:

Every baptized Catholic is eligible to be buried in the sacred ground of a Catholic cemetery.

If cremation is to be chosen, it should happen *after* the funeral Mass, if at all possible.

Cremated remains should be treated with the same respect shown to the bodies of our deceased loved ones, and should be interred in a Catholic cemetery, not kept in a private residence, scattered, or made into jewelry.

Your Catholic cemetery has many options. Pre-planning allows you to learn about all the options and make an informed decision. If you don't pre-plan, someone else will make those decisions for you.

Remember to let your family know your wishes! When your time comes, they will appreciate knowing what you wanted.

Call the office at Mount Olivet Cemetery (608-754-3472) to make an appointment with one of our expert Family Service Councilors.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

- ◆ Has Covid got you down? Worried about getting sick? Join us for a virtual WWME experience from the comfort of your home.
- ◆ Are you looking for a way to create a great start in your relationship for the New Year?
- ◆ The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a positive and personal experience offering married couples an opportunity to learn a technique of loving communication that can be used for all of your marriage.
- ◆ Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter experiences on Jan. 12 to Feb 2, in a series of two sessions per week for three weeks of roughly 2 hours each or an experience during Lent, February 18 - March 31 once per week.
- ◆ Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: alifetimeoflove.org or call (888) 574-5653.



The Wisconsin Right to Life Rock County Chapter billboard ad will be on Milton Avenue, Janesville (facing Culver's drive-up window side). The billboard will be up starting on 1/11/21 (weather allowing) and will remain up until 3/7/21.

It's a photo of a cute baby with the statement: "One chance at life. Let me live it" along with "123givelife.com" which connects to phone number of local pregnancy helpline.

To donate for this project, please send your donation to Wisconsin Right to Life, PO Box 1386, Janesville, WI 53547-1386.

Mass Intentions

♥ = Living

Monday, January 4

No Mass

Tuesday, January 5

12:10 PM

Wednesday, January 6

8:15 AM

Thursday, January 7

8:15 AM

Friday, January 8

9:15 AM

Saturday, January 9

4:30 PM Hartzell Kas

Sunday, January 10

8:30 AM Parishioners of Nativity of Mary

10:30 AM

Mass Intentions

Mass intentions are issued based on the universal law of the Church. Mass intentions are scheduled on a first-come-first-served basis. The suggested offering is \$10 per intention. Please call your parish secretary, Sharlet, at 608-449-7736.

A request may be made for:

- a person who is living
- a person who is deceased
- members of a family
- an intention fitting to the Eucharistic celebration; vocations, dedication to life, persecuted Christians, world peace, etc.

Current reminders about attending Mass

If you will be attending Mass, please note the following guidelines from Rock County and the Diocese of Madison:

Those parishioners at risk (over 65 or anyone with a health condition) are strongly encouraged to stay home.

Attendance will be first come, first seated. Our maximum occupancy, observing social distancing, is 100 people.

Wearing a face covering at all times is required in the church & school, including during Mass.

As always, if you or a family member are not feeling well, please stay home and rest.

Together we can do our part to help everyone in our community stay healthy!

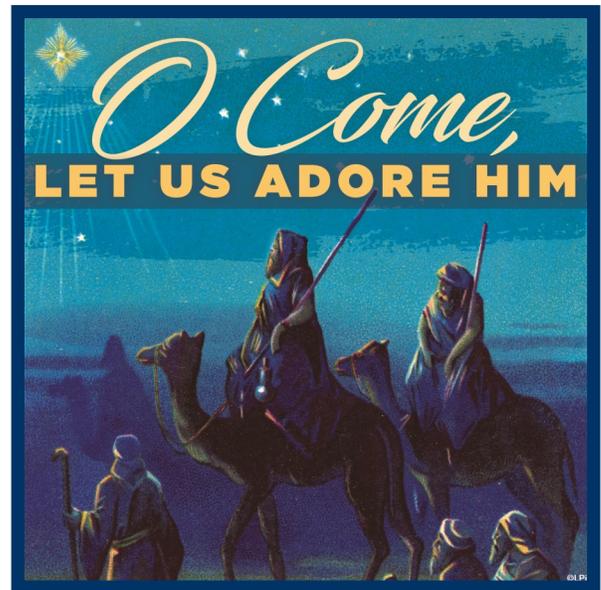
***If you're too busy to pray,
you're too busy.***

Wearing Masks in the Communion Line

Parishioners, please continue to wear your masks while in the communion line at Mass. The Vicar General of the Diocese of Madison advises, "A communicant should only remove one's mask in preparation to receive Holy Communion as the person immediately in front of the communicant is receiving Holy Communion. So, the communicant should keep one's mask on in the communion line prior to that point in time. The communicant should shortly thereafter resume the wearing of the mask after receiving Holy Communion."

Also, please remember to maintain a distance of 6 feet between you and the person in front of you in line.

Thank you for your cooperation. We wish to keep all of our parishioners and guests safe.



"Flocknote" - In cooperation with the Diocese of Madison, we began using "Flocknote" earlier this year, to email parishioners 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. Please indicate the name associated with the email; one for each adult in your household that would like to receive communication.



Thursday, January 7 (ZOOM)

6-7 pm Catechumenate

7-8 pm Inquirer/Catechumenate

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Explore Catholicism and discover a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, by joining the Church. Contact Colleen Szerlong at 868-6386 or irishcatholic56@gmail.com.