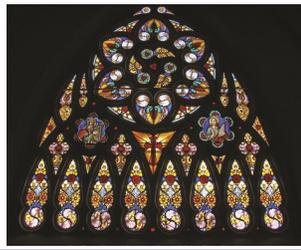




September 5, 2021 • Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



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...Colleen Szerlong
 Email: re@nativitymary.org
 Business ManagerSandra Lee
 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
 SecretaryLisa Nemeth

Religious Education

Phone(608) 752-7861
 Coordinator.....Colleen Szerlong

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. WilliamSat. 4:00 pm
 Sun. 8:00 & 10:30 am
 St. Mary - Milton.....Sat. 4:00 pm
 Sun. 8:30 am



23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:33b-34

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

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

Generosity and sacrifice are emblematic of commitment and dedication. This is nothing new to all of you, our faithful St. Mary's parishioners. Your unfailing financial support continues to maintain our parish in a very stable fiscal situation which will be highlighted in an update for all of you from our parish finance council in this month of September.

However, I wish to highlight, in a special way, an achievement that deserves special recognition. Due to our parishioner's outstanding support of the Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal for 2021 we have already surpassed our goal of \$56,225.00. You all may know better than I do of when we last accomplished this important result. The ACA is a most worthy investment on the part of our parish so that our school, religious education and other programs continue to receive the beneficial support of the various diocesan offices and resources. Thank you and congratulations to Bob Kennedy, chair of our 2021 ACA parish campaign.

There is always more to do. However, your suggestions, support, prayers and love for this historic parish of St. Mary's promises to take us into the future, not with just a material but also with a truly spiritual and joyful vitality. Thank you.

Please look forward to more good news as we celebrate our patroness, the Blessed Mother, this coming week on September 8, the feast of the Nativity of Mary. Happy Feast Day!



2021 Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal

Status as of August 20, 2021

Our parish goal for this year is \$56,225.00

We have currently received pledges from parishioners totaling \$56,309.00.

We have already paid in \$54,557.31.

We have roughly \$1,700.00 left to collect in pledges made, and we will have reached our parish goal for 2021! The number of contributors from the parish is 135 at this time.

A sincere "Thank You" to all who are helping us to meet this important financial obligation for St. Mary's.

Msgr. Dan

NEWS & NOTES

St. Mary School



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

As COVID-19 evolves, we are learning daily that variants of the virus pose an ongoing challenge, and appear more dangerous. Updated CDC guidelines now recommend that fully vaccinated people wear masks in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. Unfortunately, Rock County has transitioned from a moderate transmission area to a high transmission area because of increased transmission rates of the Delta variant.

All students in grades Kindergarten through eighth will be required to wear facemasks. This action also applies to parents, staff and visitors who are inside our buildings, working in offices and/or classrooms, and/or participating in sports activities indoors. St. Mary's will follow this protocol for the first three weeks of school, reviewing the mandate on September 22, 2021. At that point, the school will meet with the Rock County Health Department to assess the progress toward lowering the community's transmission rate and determine if it is prudent to adjust the requirement.

Thank you in advance for your continued patience, understanding, and cooperation as we do our part to lower community transmission numbers and remain committed to making this year safe and successful. I will continue to update you as new information becomes available.

Dr. Kim Ehrhardt, Principal



Rest in Peace

Dorothy Murphy was recently called to eternal life.

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

FOCUS ON FAITH

Please Pray For Our Parishioners

Ben, Michael and Randy, Bill, Valerie Boggs,
 Karen Bullis, Mary Casper, Noah Cotter,
 Sue Creek, Mary Lynn Fox, Gerri,
 LeeAnn Gilligan, Corbin Grieving, Hannah,
 Jackie H., Alice Jensen, Christine Ansier Katzer,
 Greg Kraft, Mary McGuire, Patricia Mosher,
 Pat & Mark, Richard Peck, Max Rammer,
 Fran Rivera, Heather Saalfeld,
 Madelynn Schieve, Colleen Schroeder,
 Andrew Stuehler, Tammy, Cory & Barb,
 Mary Tullis, Avalon Widner



Prayer Network

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.—John 14:1

Bring your cares to Jesus. Storm heaven with a string of prayers by calling Mary Ann 608-754-5284. Your prayer intention remains anonymous. No names are used as it is passed along, and taken to our Lord by the faithful, compassionate members of St. Mary's Prayer Network.

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Wednesday 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 608-752-7861 x 104 or email re@nativitymary.org.

Catholic Women's Club

Contact Jan Bier at 774-5916 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

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 35:4-7a / Jas 2:1-5 / Mk 7:31-37

From the time we are born into this world until we die, our human radar picks up signals about how to respond to life. What we picked up on when we were very young carries an even greater power. The messages we receive and process tell us what we are "supposed" to do with our feelings, how to understand and cope with disappointment, anxiety, failure, death, illness, and what to expect out of life. As life unfolds for us, these radar messages kick in and resonate in us at very deep levels. Sometimes what we have learned is helpful and sometimes it is not. The stories we have been told, especially when we are young, about how life is best lived and how to negotiate its pain carry a heavy weight.

Life can be challenging and frightening. Sometimes, it really hurts to be a human being. It also can be quite unpredictable and, at times, unfair. We face our vulnerability and brokenness of all kinds: physical, emotional, and spiritual. It doesn't take much for life to quickly fall apart. What we knew to be familiar and true is gone and something we relied upon, physically, emotionally, or spiritually, can be taken away. It is hard to confront our limitations and sit with our incompleteness. Often, life hurts us so much that we find ourselves sitting in a pool of sadness, not sure what we are supposed to do. It is particularly hard when the signals we have inherited tell us that we need to be successful in what we do, and we have to avoid life's unfairness. We can feel like a failure, wondering what precisely we did to deserve this fate, or ruminate about what we did not do correctly. But it's really not about us. We are part of a bigger picture and a much more fascinating story!

If we cease doing battle with life's incompleteness and see ourselves, as God does, on a journey toward wholeness and completeness we can better accept our disappointments and stand firm. The prophets told us, and Jesus reassured us: Be strong! Fear not! Sometimes we have to update our stories and replace them with newer, more accurate ones. When we make God's story our own and tune our radar into His voice, what we hear is all about restoration, healing, and rejuvenation! This is true even when we think we have hit rock bottom and can go no further. There is always hope. Remember the words of Julian of Norwich: God made us, God loves us, and God keeps us. Now, listen to God when He says, "be opened!" Be healed and allow your stories to change.



Readings for Sunday, September 5, 2021

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 35:4-7a / Jas 2:1-5 / Mk 7:31-37

Readings for Next Sunday, September 12, 2021

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 50:4c-9a / Jas 2:14-18 / Mk 8:27-35

WHAT'S HAPPENING



It's nearly here!

**Sunday, September 26
Nativity of Mary
Virtual Fall Fest and Sweepstakes 2021**

**Thank you to all who have so
generously sponsored our Fall Fest!**

Sweepstakes tickets were mailed to parish members this week. Be sure to return yours for a chance to win. You can mail them back, deposit them in the rectory slot on Wall Street, or drop them in the offering basket when you attend Mass. The deadline to turn them in is September 19.

We sincerely appreciate your contribution!



MARCH FOR LIFE—WISCONSIN

Join pro-life Wisconsinites for the first-ever March for Life Wisconsin on Saturday, October 2, 2021! We will gather at noon at the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison to hear from pro-life leaders. The March will follow and will conclude in prayer at 3:00 p.m. outside of Planned Parenthood. Buses from various Wisconsin cities are available for easy travel to and from Madison. For more information, visit: ProLifeWI.org/marchforlife



Religious Ed. Registrations

Religious Education Classes Start Soon!

Our RE classes begin the week of September 15. We are now in the process of taking registrations. If you have a child who attends public school or is homeschooled, please make sure they are registered for religious education. You may register online via our parish website, nativitymary.org, or we have two opportunities for in person registration. On September 5, you can register between 9:30-10:15 in the Parish Hall. In person registration will also take place on September 8 at the school, from 5:45-7pm, along with our RE Parent meeting and Orientation. Lastly, there are registration forms in the back of the church which you can pick up and return to the Parish Office at your convenience.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

GIFTS Men's Shelter NEWS

GIFTS Thrift Store GRAND OPENING

GIFTS Thrift Store, 1141 Black Bridge Rd in Janesville, will host its grand opening from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday, October 16. The celebration will feature special sales on merchandise plus the opportunity to meet staff and volunteers. Shoppers will also learn more about what items are acceptable to donate and volunteer opportunities.

Proceeds benefit GIFTS homeless men's shelter that provides meals, daily devotional services and education that allows program participants to rebuild their life skills, and address addiction issues and prepare to re-enter the workforce.

To discover volunteer opportunities at the GIFTS Thrift Store now, please visit giftsshelter.org and fill out a volunteer application. The resale shop is open Monday through Saturday.

Any questions, call Dave Ellis, Thrift Business Manager at 608-563-2116.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

- ◆ Fall into love all over again!
- ◆ Remember why you fell in love and get the tools you need to keep your marriage on the right path.
- ◆ Sign up today to attend an in person Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on Sept. 17-19 in Geneva, IL or Oct. 15-17 in Madison, WI. There are virtual experiences on Sept. 13 thru Oct. 4; Nov. 13-14 and Dec. 4-5.
- ◆ Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: alifetimeoflove.org or call (888) 574-5653.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

SEPTEMBER 17th at 7:00 PM
NATIVITY OF MARY CHURCH

Adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to join us on Friday, September 17, at Nativity of Mary Church for Venite Adoremus, a young-adult holy hour. The evening kicks off at 7 PM with Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, and a short talk by Fr. Andrew Showers. Following the holy hour, we'll gather for fellowship, food, drinks, and music.

This event is hosted by the Janesville Catholic Churches. For more information, visit [facebook.com/CatholicsOnTheRock](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicsOnTheRock) or contact Kris at kkranenburg@sjv.org

Taize' Prayer



This last (over) year and a half has been difficult in so many ways, as the pandemic has forced temporarily suspending or radically altering so many treasured events and activities.

There were hopeful signs earlier this summer, that we might be able to resume Taize' Prayer here at St. Mary in September. However, the rise in Covid cases due to the Delta variant, and concerns about breakthrough infections even among those who have been vaccinated--resulting in the return of mask and social distancing requirements in many indoor locations--have prompted a decision to delay resuming Taize' Prayer at St. Mary's.

This decision was necessary, to insure that when the time is right, we can enjoy a wholehearted and completely safe return to this wonderful prayer. We will keep you updated through the bulletin in the weeks ahead, as we move through the latest protocols, and we ask your patience and prayers as we anticipate a joyous reunion of our faithful Taize' Prayer participants. Thank you for understanding.



Are you thinking of becoming Catholic?
Have a spouse or loved one considering the Church?
Are you a Catholic who never received Confirmation?

Join us for an informational meeting at St. John Vianney Church (1250 East Racine St in Janesville) on September 21st at 6:30 PM in Marian Hall.

Classes begin September 28. For more details, contact Colleen Szerlong at re@nativitymary.org or 608-752-7861, extension 104.

Mass Intentions

♥ = Living

Monday, September 6

No Mass

Tuesday, September 7

12:10 PM

Wednesday, September 8

8:15 AM Bonnie Boos McKeown

Thursday, September 9

8:15 AM

Friday, September 10

8:15 AM

Saturday, September 11

4:30 PM Elmer & Dorothy Ambrose

Sunday, September 12

8:30 AM John Donagan

10:30 AM Parishioners of Nativity of Mary

Adoration

Friday, following 8:15 AM Mass

Reconciliation

Wednesday 5:00-6:00 PM

Saturday 9:30-10:30 AM

NEWS & NOTES

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 608-752-7861, extension 100.

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.

Interested in discovering God's call for your life?

QUO VADIS—Men's Discernment Group

Join Fr. Greg for prayer, talks, discussion, food and fun!

Holy Name Heights (702 S High Point Rd in Madison)
Second Friday of the month (with some exceptions)
From 6:30-9:00 pm

- 2021: September 10, October 8, November 12 and December 10.
- 2022: No January date, February 11, March 11, April 15 (Good Friday) and May 13.
- Break for summer and begin again September 2022.

For more information, contact Reverend Gregory Ihm at 608-821-3095. or Lorie Ballweg 608-821-3089.

Come and Be Loved—

High School Ladies Discernment Evenings

Join religious sisters, consecrated women and married women for evening prayer, talks, discussion, pizza and adoration.

Holy Name Heights (702 S High Point Rd in Madison)
Fourth Friday of the month, from 6:30-9:00 pm

- 2021: (August 27), September 24, October 22
- (Exception to Friday rule)
Wednesday, December 1— Dinner with Bishop Hying and Religious Sisters, 6:00 pm
- 2022: January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, and May 27

For more information, call Ms. Theresa Klinkhammer at 715-315-1821 (theresa.klinkhammer@gmail.com),
Or Lorie Ballweg 608-821-3089
lorie.ballweg@madisondiocese.org

Current guidelines for Mass attendance:

Wearing a mask in church is strongly encouraged.

Whether or not you are fully vaccinated, wearing a face mask while indoors, in public spaces, will help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community. This is the current recommendation from both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Rock County Health Department.

Those who are at greater risk of illness should stay at home and join us for Mass from there; weekend Masses are livestreamed on our Facebook page, or look for the a video recording on our website, at www.nativitymary.org.

As always, if you or a family member are not feeling well, please stay home and rest. Together, we can help one another to stay healthy.

"Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

Transportation to Vaccine Appointments:

The Rock County Public Health Department and the United Way 211 have partnered to offer resources to help people get a ride to their vaccination appointments. Rock County residents can call 211 Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm and ask about transportation resources.



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

Pray the Rosary— Gather with the Knights of Columbus, following 8:30 am Mass, the first Sunday each month, to pray the rosary together.