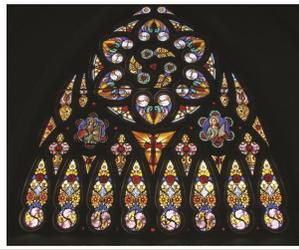


September 12, 2021 • Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



NATIVITY of MARY

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

Rectory

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St. Mary School

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Phone (608) 754-5221

Principal.....Kim Ehrhardt

SecretaryLisa Nemeth

Religious Education

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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

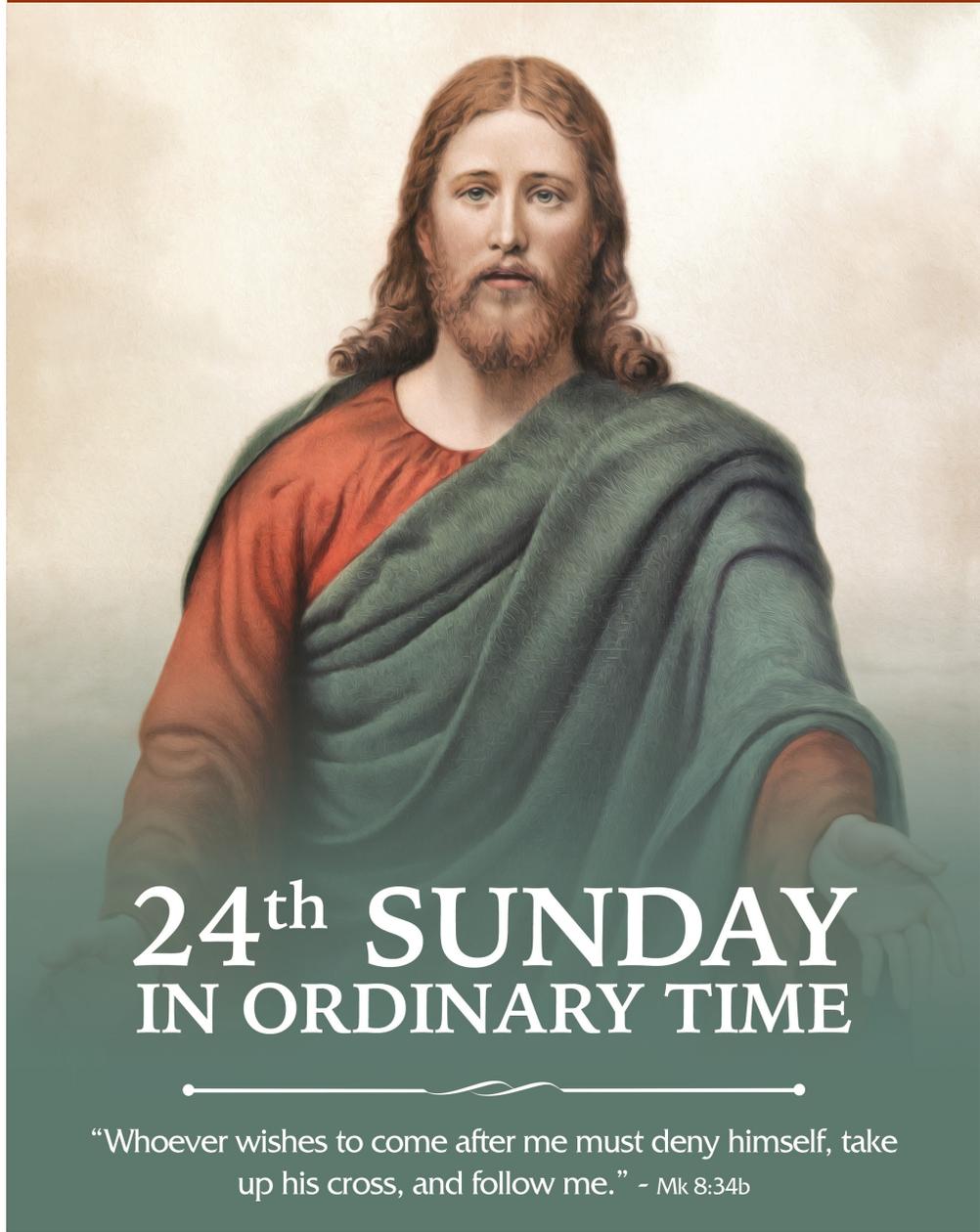
Sun. 8:15 & 10:00 am

St. WilliamSat. 4:00 pm

Sun. 8:00 & 10:30 am

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

Sun. 8:30 am



24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” - Mk 8:34b

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

With only two weeks until our Virtual Fall Festival and Sweepstakes Sunday on September 26th we are already encouraged by the very positive response from our sponsors and parishioners. To our hard working Festival committee and to all who have helped them over these past months and weeks of planning we express our sincere gratitude.

In anticipation of how our annual Festival allows us to reach out to the broader community, may we use this opportunity, once again, as a way to invite others to get to know the St. Mary's parish family.

There is more information on the Festival in this bulletin. Let us pray for its continued success as an important and fun tradition supporting our material and spiritual vitality.

-Msgr. Dan



"I walk before the Lord."

- Psalm 116



Our **Catholic Update** program, for parents and parish adults, will run from 6-6:30pm each Wednesday beginning September 15 in room 315 of our school. Catholic Update is a quick half hour on timely, relevant and often wondered about Catholic topics. There will be a brief 10 minute lesson, a handout or two, and then time for Q & As. Please join us in chatting and learning more about being Catholic, and helping us all to grow in love and faith!!

NEWS & NOTES

St. Mary School



The current CDC COVID-19 recommendations for schools include the following:

- Students should be in school five days a week.
- Students and staff should be prepared to wear masks indoors — regardless of vaccination status.
- Physical distancing of 3-feet should be maintained indoors whenever possible.
- For added protection, schools should layer prevention strategies including hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning protocols, respiratory etiquette and screening testing.
- Students and staff should stay home when sick.

As COVID-19 evolves, we are learning daily that variants of the virus pose an ongoing challenges 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 as a result of increased transmission rates of the Delta variant.

After thoughtful consideration, all students in grades Kindergarten through eight 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.

Please be advised that this action is less restrictive than last year and does not apply when students are outdoors, alone in an office or classroom. Increased efforts will be made to use the Nativity House porch for outdoor instruction and a careful review of the master schedule to provide frequent mask breaks. As in the past, medical exemptions will be honored.

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

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 Dille 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-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Christ." (Mk 8:29)

We need to get our bearings straight and properly lay life's cornerstone. Otherwise, the rest of our journey will be skewed, and our judgment clouded. We can recall Jesus' famous rebuke of Peter, "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Even he, as one of Jesus' closest friends struggles with understanding things and grasping the big picture. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) a renowned and learned French Jesuit priest often has these words attributed to him: "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." Whether they were actually from his lips, they certainly mimic his thought. These wise words orient us and capture the essence of who we really are.

Many people consider spirituality an option. It is no wonder that they come to this conclusion when they predominantly define themselves using human terms and concepts. Immersed in this world view, they struggle finding any semblance of God because God does not work according to human expectations! This is especially true when suffering and death enter life's picture. If we are only human beings having a spiritual experience, then we wrongly expect our spirituality to serve us as we desire. The human expectation is that my spiritual life is something that is useful in avoiding pain, hardship, and death, not something that gives the courage to live through it!

So, when we protest and get upset with God because our journey is becoming difficult, painful, treacherous, disappointing, and even pointing us toward death, Jesus rebukes us as he did Peter and gently reminds us how to see. It is God who inspires and opens hearts to see truth and beauty. In God, the true meaning of things is understood, and we receive a depth of insight and understanding that is not found following purely human paths. It is not our task to understand God, as God is beyond human understanding. Ours is the joyful privilege of simply resting in God's presence simply because God is God and we are who we are. As spiritual beings having an exciting and adventurous human experience, it is in our DNA to do so. Through prayer we can let go and let be. This is how we lose our lives but then save them.



Readings for Sunday, September 12, 2021

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Readings for Next Sunday, September 19, 2021

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 2:12, 17-20 / Jas 3:16-4:3 / Mk 9:30-37

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!**

The Sweepstakes drawing will be held at 12:30 pm, LIVE on Facebook. Tune in for a showcase of friendly faces, our very own musical talent, and a reflection of St. Mary's Church throughout the years.

Sweepstakes tickets must be returned by the conclusion of each Mass, the weekend of September 18/19th. The Knights of Columbus will be there, grilling brats and hot dogs that weekend, so don't miss your free drive-thru meal!

We sincerely appreciate your contribution!



Dan Schutte Concert
(In person and via livestream)
Sinsinawa Mound Center, Sinsinawa, WI
Friday, October 15, 7 p.m.

After many months of being closed to the public we are happy to announce that Dan Schutte will once again grace us with his presence in the Queen of the Rosary Chapel at Sinsinawa Mound!

You've been singing Dan's beloved melodies for years. Now the composer of "Here I Am, Lord," "City of God" and "Sing a New Song" wants to share his love of God with you. Dan weaves stories, prayer and reflection with song, inviting all into a deeper relationship with God. Dan has been composing music for worship for over 50 years and continues to inspire with uplifting new compositions for liturgy and personal spirituality, exhibiting an enduring ability to reach into people's hearts and draw them into prayer. **This concert will be available both in person and via livestream.**

For more information go to www.sinsinawa.org/moundcenter/events



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



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 13

No Mass

Tuesday, September 14

12:10 PM Hartzell Kas

Wednesday, September 15

8:15 AM Robert Zweck

Thursday, September 16

8:15 AM Doris Gates

Friday, September 17

8:15 AM Geraldine Johnson

Saturday, September 18

4:30 PM Dennis Venable

Sunday, September 19

8:30 AM Parishioners of Nativity of Mary

10:30 AM Johanna Cash

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.

Afghan Refugee Assistance

Funds collected will be used locally, including the Ft. McCoy Army Installation in Wisconsin, where a great many of those displaced are currently being sheltered, guided, and cared for.

To donate, visit the Diocese of Madison website at <https://madisondiocese.org/donate>, and select "Afghan Refugee Assistance". Or, mark your donation "Afghan Refugee Assistance" and leave it here with us at St. Mary's. We will be forwarding these donations to the Diocese.

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. (Deuteronomy 10:18-19)

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.

*"The cross is steady,
while the world is turning."*

- St. Bruno of Cologne

MONEY MATTERS

Money Counts for 2021-2022

	Total	Budget	Variance
Week 2/3			
7-11 & 18	17,357.81	11,635.00	5,722.81
YTD	\$30,492.50	23,270.00	7,222.50
Week 4			
7-25-2021	5,548.00	11,635.00	-6,087.00
YTD	\$36,040.50	34,905.00	1,135.50
Week 5			
8-1-2021	7,634.00	11,635.00	-4,001.00
6 YTD	\$43,674.50	46,540.00	-2,865.50