



Kim Zember
shares her personal experience

January 29 & 30

7:00 PM
both nights

“For He Came That We Might Have Life and Have It Abundantly”

There is so much hurt and confusion when it comes to gender & sexuality in the world. Kim comes to us to share her personal experience with homosexuality and Life with Christ. She will share about her past and continued journey in hopes to create a safe place for others to do the same. She has written a candid and vulnerable book about her personal experience with sexuality called *Restless Heart*. Here is a preview of her story:

I started having homosexual desires in high school, and began acting on them when I was 17. For many years I hid it from my family and friends because I felt so much shame and guilt about it, which came from a deeply rooted feeling I had personally that I wasn't meant to live a homosexual lifestyle. I began living a double life, and it tormented me.

At that point, I realized that I was in a vicious cycle of relationships that were not fulfilling. Though almost everyone around me supported my lifestyle and told me it was "ok", I felt deeply convinced that I needed to make big changes if I wanted different results in my life.

I became so desperate that I finally decided to surrender everything about the way I had been living and asked for God's help. From that moment on the heaviness I had been living in for so many years began to lift. I desired to look at sexuality through a faith-based perspective. I also made a personal commitment to myself to not date anyone until I gained clarity. I began to have peace in my life, a peace that I had been searching for, and for the first time in my life I began to feel fulfilled in a way I had never before. I felt like I was beginning to learn who I really was, **my True identity**.

It was not easy to not date, but I had the support I needed to continue in my journey. In contrast to what most people would think, I actually found a great freedom in putting boundaries on my life. I found myself in time free from anxiety, depression, and duplicity that were overwhelmingly present in my past. I experienced living in an authenticity and freedom that I didn't know was possible.

I believe that being transparent about my life, both past and present, is a way for people to see how the Lord has and continues to love us so gently into His plans for our life! I feel that authenticity with one another in God's love and truth is so needed today more than ever.

I find true joy in sharing the love, freedom and restoration I found through my personal relationship with Jesus Christ, whether in my hometown of San Diego or my 'home away from home', Ethiopia. I love sharing the testimony of the radical transformation of my life through my love relationship with Jesus. For the first time in my life, I have found fulfillment in being 'single', with my eyes and heart set on my Lord and focused on the call He has on my life and the continued comfort and guidance from the Holy Spirit!

St. Mary's Catholic Church • January 14, 2024



Liturgy Schedule

Monday, January 15th

8:15 AM †Danny & Carol Martin, including Jeff & Dan

Tuesday, January 16th

8:15 AM †Marlene Bacon, including living & deceased family members

Wednesday, January 17th • St. Anthony, Abbott

7:00 PM †Richard Schneider, 5th anniversary, including living & deceased family members

Thursday, January 18th

8:15 AM †Mark A. Thelen, including deceased family members

Friday, January 19th

8:15 AM †Daniel R. Spitzley, including living & deceased family members

Saturday, January 20th

4:30 PM †Tim Belen, 1 year anniversary

Sunday, January 21st • The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 AM People of the Parish

10:00 AM †Joseph & Mary Rose Pohl, including living & deceased family members



The Sanctuary Lamp for this week is
in loving memory of
Mark A. Thelen

Mass Time Change on February 3rd

Due to the St. Mary School Dinner Raffle, the Mass on **February 3rd** is changed to **4:00 PM**.

Upcoming Spiritual Growth Opportunities

January

The Omega Project-Bible Study is held upstairs in the ARK every Monday night from 7 – 8:30 PM.

Readings for January 15 (session 11):

2 Samuel 5,6,7,11,12,16:5-22. & 19:41-44

1 Kings 1,3,5,6,7:13-51, 8:1-21, 9:1-9, 10, 11, & 12

Topic of Discussion: King David and the transition to Solomon

What's the Point(s)? Oh how the mighty will fall

Come and join us and bring a friend!

Save the Date for NEXT SATURDAY JANUARY 20!

St Mary's Marriage Ministry is hosting Holy Happy Hour 2024: The evening begins with Holy Hour in the Church at 6 PM, with your spouse and Jesus. Then we move to the hall for Happy Hour(s), with local brewers and cider/winemakers generously offering free tastings! Drinks and appetizers will also be available. See the St Mary's Marriage Ministry Facebook page for more details!

Renowned Catholic Speaker coming to St. Mary's!

Kim Zember from Overcome Ministries will be here **January 29th & 30th**. See front cover of the bulletin.

Long-Term Substitute Teacher Needed-St. Mary School

"St. Mary Catholic School will come to know God, to love God and to serve God and His people."

St. Mary Catholic School has an open position for a long-term substitute teacher in a second-grade classroom for 12 weeks, beginning in January and ending in April. The ideal candidate will be a devout Catholic and will have experience working in an educational setting. The preferred candidate will possess a degree or college background in education. The long-term substitute will take on the duties of the teacher, by preparing and presenting lessons, communicating with parents and staff, record keeping and all other duties associated with teaching. Interested candidates should send resume and cover letter to Helen Hengesbach principal@stmaryschool.us. If you have any further questions please email or call (989)587-3702.

Christmas Thank You

Thank you so much for all of the many Christmas cards, prayers, Mass enrollments, money, gifts, and notes that I received from so many of you over the Christmas season! I am deeply grateful (especially for your prayers!) and feel blessed to be serving as a priest at St. Mary's. Thank you again so much for your generosity and know of my continued prayers for all of you.

In Christ,
Fr Peter

We Need Your Help!

For the past several years we have offered Eucharistic Adoration on almost every Friday. This ministry relies on many volunteers. **We need at least one person, preferably two to be with Jesus each hour.** Once Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament, is exposed in the Monstrance, He must not be left unattended. We are asking for one hour a month or in other words 12 hours a year. Make a New Year's resolution to spend more time with Jesus in this special way!

These are the time slots that need to be filled:



First Fridays of each month

1-2 PM 4-5 PM

Third Fridays of each month

12-1 PM 1-2 PM

3-4 PM 4-5 PM

Fourth Fridays of each month

12-1 PM 1-2 PM

4-5 PM

Please call the parish office 989.587.4201 to volunteer!

If you sign up for Adoration and are not able to make your scheduled time you can find your own sub or you can contact the parish office and we will open up the time slot on our sign up genius.



Weekend Ministry Schedule

January 20th • The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 PM Mass

Rosary	Dan Witgen
Readers	Glenn Simon, Phil Smith
EMC	Phil & Jamie Smith, Dan Witgen
Servers	Kate Schafer, Jackson Smith, Franklin Smith
Ushers	Luke Pohl, Ryan Hengesbach, 2 volunteers

January 21st • The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Mass

Rosary	Neal Miller
Readers	Brian Witgen, Kristi Thelen
EMC	Julie Bengel, Chad Hengesbach, Karen Schafer
Servers	Gabriel Lyons, Will Pung, Monica Pung
Ushers	Tim Bengal, Joe Bengel, Darrell Hengesbach, Bill Hengesbach

10:00 AM Mass

Rosary	Austin Fox
Readers	Ryan Pung, Gary Schafer
EMC	Ron Arens, Charlene Keilen, Ryan Pung
Servers	Luke Nurenberg, Brady Thelen, Owen Thelen
Ushers	Brett Thelen, Lee Schrauben, Jason Fox, Cameron Trierweiler

Week at a Glance

Monday, January 15th

5:45 AM	Eucharistic Adoration
5:30 PM	Reconciliation
6:00 PM	Holy Hour
7:15 PM	The Well/Hall

Tuesday, January 16th

7:00 PM	Lost Sheep Holy Hour
7:00 PM	Baptism Class/School Library
7:30 PM	AA (Office Basement)

Wednesday, January 17th

5:45 AM	Eucharistic Adoration (Until 6:45 AM)
5:30 PM	Reconciliation
7:30 PM	RCIA/parish office library

Thursday, January 18th

5:45 AM	Eucharistic Adoration (Until 6:45 AM)
7:00 PM	Choir Practice

Friday, January 19th

9:00 AM	Eucharistic Adoration (Until 6:00 PM)
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Saturday, January 20th

8:15 AM	Marian Devotions
3:00 PM	Reconciliation
6:00 PM	Marriage Ministry Holy Hour/Church then moving to the Hall

Kindergarten Registration for the 2024/2025 School Year

We have started the registration process for the next school year for kindergarten.

Students five years of age on or before September 1, 2024, are eligible for kindergarten enrollment. Students who will turn 5 in September, may be considered depending on enrollment numbers.

Kindergarten registration for parish families with a child who will turn 5 on or before September 1, 2024 opened Friday, December 1st.

Please call the school office, 587-3702, to register a student.

If you are undecided about the school your child will be attending, we invite you to call and learn about all the great things St. Mary School has to offer.

Prayer Corner

This week we pray for the people who are on the list for our prayer network, those listed in our bulletin and those included in The Book of Intentions located near Our Lady of Westphalia.

If you would like your name or a loved one's name added to our bulletin for prayer please call the parish office at 989.587.4201

Brooke Badgero	Mary Lou Lehman	Hilda Schmitz
Gladys Bengel	Dan Martin	Nancy Schueller
Joe Bengel	Ed Martin	Nick Schrauben
Bill Bengel	Luke Martin	Jane Scollon
Brad Bierstetel	Quincey Martin	Jeffrey Sillman
Jillian Chapman	Bill Mattila	John Sillman
Helen Cook	Rachel Mauren	Rosalie Simon
Brian Davis	Hunter Meyers	Jeanne Sleight
Brent Drake	Viola Meyers	Brody Smith
Bob Droste	Don Miller	Carolee Smith
Millie Droste	Sharon Miller	Gerry Smith
Sister Joanne Fedewa	Justin Norton	Sandy C. Smith
Elinor Feldpausch	Rose Nurenberg	Leroy Spitzley
Mabel Feldpausch	Brad O'Dell	Ruth Spitzley
Marie Feldpausch	Gemma Paintner	Christian Teachworth
Sue Fox	MaKenzie Patrick	Dave Thelen
Mary Theresa Gross	Bev Platte	Delbert Thelen
Lisa Grove	Mark Platte	Janet Thelen
Pam Haan	Nancy Platte	Jason Thelen
Ray Hart	Josie Pohl	Luke G. Thelen
Mary Hengesbach	Mary Pohl	Philip Thelen
Mark Hengesbach	Darin Pung	Suzanne Thelen
Fr. Dennis Howard	Frank Rademacher	Tom Thelen
Kevin Howard	Ofelia Ramereiz	Dane Van Ells
Michelle Huhn	Jim Ricci	David Walker
Leone Hufnagel	Sharon Rock	Sarah Weber
Lisa Koenigsknecht	Jess Sanchez	Doug Werner
Rose Kolp	Adeline Schafer	Tony Wirth
Jude Kramer	Aurelius Schafer	David Witgen
Kendall Kramer	Stanley Schafer	
Barb Kurkowski	Steve Schmitz	



Healing Prayer Ministry

The healing prayer team will be available after the 10:00 AM Mass on Sundays and after the 7:00 PM Mass on Wednesdays on the following dates:

**January 17,
February 11 & 21,
March 10 & 20,
April 14 & 24,
May 5 & 22.**

If you would like to make an appointment, please call Vicki Noeker at 989.587.4211.

Prayer Network members will pray for your intentions:

If you or a loved one are in need of prayer please call the prayer network: 989.587.4132 • 989.587.6624 • 517.285.3783 or email btrierweiler@gmail.com

Baptism Preparations



Please pick up your Baptism Packet at the Parish Office! The packet includes guidelines for choosing Godparents along with schedules and forms for the day of Baptism. Do not delay as some of these forms are time sensitive!

Next Baptism Class:
This Tuesday, January 16th
at 7:00 PM in the school library.
Call the parish office to register
989.587.4201.

Weekly Contribution Totals

December 31, 2023

Total Amount Received.....\$34,819.15

Weekend Collection \$28,941.79

Number of Envelopes..... 106

Holy Days \$2,096.00

Year End \$3,781.36

EFT, MARS and We Share totals were included in the December 24th collection totals.

Weekly Amount Needed \$25,000.00

Special Parish & Diocesan Donations:

Cemetery..... \$200.00

January 7, 2024

Total Amount Received.....\$38,942.65

Weekend Collection \$11,296.50

Number of Envelopes..... 99

Holy Days \$342.00

EFT & MARS \$16,874.15

Transactions 150

We Share..... \$10,430.00

Transactions 79

Weekly Amount Needed \$25,000.00

Special Parish & Diocesan Donations:

Building Maintenance Fund \$450.00

Worldwide Evangelization..... \$55.00

Scripture Readings for the Week of January 14th

Monday 1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23;
Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28;
Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday **Memorial of Saint Anthony, Abbot**
1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10;
Mk 3:1-6

Thursday 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13;
Mk 3:7-12

Friday 1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11;
Mk 3:13-19

Saturday **Memorial of Saint Fabian, Pope and Martyr and
Saint Sebastian, Martyr**
2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Ps 80:2-3, 5-7;
Mk 3:20-21

Sunday **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9;
1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20



Monday, Jan. 15
6:30-8:30pm
MHT Activity Center

Register for
this free
event



How to Create a Tech-Ready Home

- Understand how young, developing brains are impacted by today's technologies
- Learn from experts - tips, tricks, & solutions
- Receive resources to ensure your family is prepared, balanced, and protected online

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated from Thursday, January 18 - Thursday, January 25, 2024, the Octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. This week brings together Christian denominations from around the world to pray that Jesus' desire that his followers be one come true (John 17:21-23). This year's theme is "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). **An Ecumenical Prayer Service, co-officiated by Bishop Earl Boyea of the Catholic Diocese of Lansing and Bishop David Bard of the United Methodist Church of Michigan, will take place at St. Therese Church on Friday, January 19, at 6:30PM.** A reception will follow in Fr. Murray Hall. St. Therese Church is located at 102 W. Randolph Street, Lansing. For more information, please contact Fr. John Fain at 517.487.3749. Please come and pray with your fellow Christians!

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We appreciate your support.

Catholic Life Every Day



St. Mary's Catholic Church

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Tel: 989.587.4201
office@stmarychurch.net
www.stmarychurch.net

Mailing Address:
PO Box 267
Westphalia, MI 48894

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday:
9:00 AM—4:00 PM

Wednesday & Friday:
9:00 AM—3:00 PM

Closed for lunch: 12:30-1:00 PM

Rev. Fr. Eric Weber, Pastor
father@stmarychurch.net

Father Peter Lawrence,
Associate Pastor (RCIA)
pjlawrence@stmarychurch.net

Parish Office Staff

Julie Trierweiler, Business Manager
jltrierweiler@stmarychurch.net

Beth Markel, Office Manager
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Barb Spitzley, Secretary, Baptism, RCIA
baspitzley@stmarychurch.net

Vicki Noeker, Evangelization &
Discipleship Coordinator
vsnoeker@stmarychurch.net

Austin Fox, Director of Religious Ed. &
Youth Minister
afox@stmarychurch.net

Brian Flynn, Music Director
bdflynn@stmarychurch.net

St. Mary School Office
Tel: 989.587.3702

Helen Hengesbach, Principal
principal@stmaryschool.us

Holly Feldpausch
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Amy Cook
ascook@stmaryschool.us

Laura Fedewa
lefedewa@stmaryschool.us

Bulletin Article Submissions:
Please send your bulletin article as
an attachment to:
office@stmarychurch.net
by Monday morning - 9:00 AM.

St. Mary's Church Gift Shop
Open by appointment. Please call
Cindy Miller 989.640.5533 or
Cindy Fedewa 989.640.5332

Rose Kolp turns 99 on January 20th. Help her celebrate by sending a card to:

Portland Assisted Living & Memory Care
Attn: Rose Kolp
223 Charlotte Hwy
Portland, MI 48875
Happy Birthday Rose!



Knights of Columbus Vocations Breakfast **February 11th-Parish Hall** **8:00-11:30 AM**

Come support St. Mary's and Vocations in our Diocese. The Knights of Columbus will be cooking great food and also selling sausage from Ox Meats.

Knights of Columbus Scholarship Opportunity

Westphalia Knights of Columbus is offering a total of three \$700 scholarships for its members and member's children of Westphalia Council 2890, planning on attending or who are attending an accredited college, university, technical or trade school for the year 2024-25. Further eligibility requirements can be found on the application form. Applications can be obtained at P-W Counselor's Office or by emailing: kofc2890scholarships@gmail.com. Completed applications must be postmarked by March 10th.

PW Fish Sale

PW Junior Pirate Football Program annual fish sale is back. All proceeds go towards safety equipment for the players. Information and order forms will be in the back of church. Sale information also available on team website: <https://pwjuniorfootball.com> Order fish now and it will be here before Lent. All orders must be turned in by midnight on January 26th.

Family Bowling this Sunday, January 14th at the Westphalia Lanes

Time: 12:00-5:00 PM

Cost: \$5.00 for one game, hot dog, chips and a pop

Thank you

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Fr. Eric, Fr. Peter, family, neighbors, friends and parishioners for your visits, prayers, gifts and thoughtful Christmas cards. Your kindness and generosity are a true blessing for us. — Stanley and Rose Schafer

I would like to thank everyone for remembering me this Christmas. I greatly appreciate all the Christmas cards I received. May God bless you all for your kindness.
Janice Fedewa

Thank you for the prayers, Christmas cards and cookies. You are so thoughtful!
Viola & Jayne Meyers

Thank you to all who took the time to remember me and send me a Christmas card. Your thoughtfulness makes my heart full and you will be remembered in my prayers.
Therese A. Thelen

The Weber family would like to thank all of our family, friends, and parish community for the tremendous outpouring of love and support shown to us throughout Ginny's illness and death. It's hard to put into words how much your support truly helped us get through such a difficult time. Whether it was gifts, food, a phone call/text, an offer to help on the farm, a visit or your prayers. ALL will be remembered for your heroic acts of kindness. A special thank you to Fr. Weber for the beautiful funeral Mass and visits to Ginny during her illness, to Brian and Kylie for the wonderful music, to Lehman Funeral Home for all their help, to Alice & Chris for the delicious meal, to Amy & Stacy and their kids that prayed the rosary outside of Church before the funeral, and to all those who helped in any way. We are truly grateful and blessed to live in such a faith-filled and supportive community. In lieu of thank you cards, a donation will be made to St. Mary's, Sr. Myra Scholarship Fund and to the Westphalia Fire Department. Much love, Duane Weber and family



St. Mary School Dinner & Raffle News

Many hands make light work! The St. Mary School Dinner & Raffle event takes place Saturday February 3rd. Last year, a handful of generous parishioners answered the call and came to the gym the morning after the event, to help get the gym back in order for school the next day. This was a tremendous help so we are asking anyone to **please consider coming to the gym on Sunday February 4th after the 8am or 10am Mass to offer a helping hand. 10 minutes or 1 hour, anything helps.** Thank you in advance.

2024 Committee Members

Bill & Sara Badgero	Gregg & Kristin Trierweiler
Dean & Andrea Weber	Ben & Kelly Sedlecky
Keith & Nicole Thelen	Kyle & Katie Pung
Ryan & Ana Pung	Brian & April Witgen

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