

**CELEBRATE THE LORD'S DAY MASSES:**

Saturday: 5:00pm at St. John's  
Sunday: 8:30am at St. John's  
10:30am at St. Mary's



**LITURGY SCHEDULE  
DECEMBER 16  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Monday, December 17**

0:00 a.m...No Mass (St. John's)

**Tuesday, December 18**

5:30 p.m...Living & Deceased of Fields Family  
(St. John's)

**Wednesday, December 19**

12:00noon...Jayson Bullard (St. John's)

**Thursday, December 20**

5:30 p.m...Justin Watson (St. Mary's)

**Friday, December 21**

10:00 a.m...Rosemary Helm (Bridgewater Centre)

**Saturday, December 22**

5:00 p.m...Harry Schuhmacher (St. John's)

**Sunday, December 23**

8:30 a.m...Living & Deceased of Bowen, Schott & Sills Families (St. John's)

10:30 a.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's and St. John's  
(St. Mary's)

**PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS  
FOR DECEMBER:**

**Evangelization – In the Service of the  
Transmission of Faith**

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**



**JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS**

**Christmas Eve: 5pm at St. John the Evangelist Church,  
Hartford City**

**8pm at St. Mary Church, Dunkirk**

**Christmas Day: 8:30am at St. John the Evangelist  
Church, Hartford City**

**ALL ARE WELCOMED**

**Help Needed at St. Mary's** - immediately following Mass on December 23, help is needed to decorate the Church for Christmas. Trees and decorations need to be carried over from the house along with the manger from the shed. Any and all help is appreciated.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

Dec. 17: Gn 49: 2, 8-10; Mt 1: 1-17

Dec. 18: Jer 23: 5-8; Mt 1: 18-25

Dec. 19: Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1: 5-25

Dec. 20: Is 7: 10-14; Lk 1: 26-38

Dec. 21: [St. Peter Canisius, priest & doctor of the Church] Sg 2: 8-14; Zep 3: 14-18a; Lk 1: 39-45

Dec. 22: 1 Sm 1: 24-28; Lk 1: 46-56

Dec. 23: [Fourth Sunday of Advent] Mi 5: 1-4a; Heb 10: 5-10; Lk 1: 39-45

**To see about a ride to Church call the Church office at 348-3889 or contact a Knight.**

**SERVERS FOR ST. JOHN'S DEC. 22 & 23**

Sat., 5p.m...Kelli Rinker & Mason Merkel

Sun., 8:30...Lance Manley & Anya Aulbach

**PRAY THE ROSARY**

Let us pray the rosary as we move through Advent that we will focus on preparing our hearts as we await the coming of Jesus, both as a celebration of his birth at Christmas and His second coming.

**COMMUNITY CHOIR PRESENTS:**

**CHRISTMAS PRESENCE**

Performances at 3pm and 6pm

Sunday, December 16

Zion Lutheran Church

All invited, free will offering accepted  
Come enjoy this annual performance as we embark on the final week of Advent anticipating Jesus at Christmas.

**ST. JOHN'S ADVENT TREE HELPS LOCAL KIDS**  
The start of Advent brings back our annual Advent tree. This has become a tradition at St. John's on which the county schools and students have come to rely. The schools have a new head nurse who was very happy to give us an updated list of needed items. The parishioners of St. John's are very generously answering the call to help those in need and so once again, Thank you! As always take as many tags from the tree as you wish. Return them with the unwrapped items by Christmas eve. After Advent the collection will be delivered to the head nurse's office who will distribute them to the various school buildings throughout the county. If you have any questions, please call Tina Johnson 499-0585.

**THIS WEEK:**

Wednesday 19, K of C 6:30pm at The Pickle

**If you need to put someone on the prayer chain, please contact Janice Jackson at 348-1521. Thank you**

**Update from Sister Rita on Matthew Booher:**

Matthew has now been living in Fort Wayne for 3 months. He is surrounded by a team of professional people who are helping him create and live into a more positive life style, one he had little if any experience of in his growing up years. He is deeply grateful to us here at St John's for welcoming him and showing him what it means to worship and live as a follower of Jesus in a Catholic faith community. If any of you would like to send him a Christmas card, his address is: 6243 St Joe Rd Apt 303B, Fort Wayne IN 46835. (Remember, he cannot read cursive, only print!)

**GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:**

**ZEP 3:14-18A; IS 12:2-6; PHIL 4:4-7; LK3:10-18**

We have arrived at Gaudete Sunday (*Gaudete* is the



Latin word for "rejoice") this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures take on a joyful tone as we

continue our preparations for the feast of our Savior's birth

Our Second Reading gives us cause for joy as St Paul reminds us, "The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all..." Then he gives us a prescription for maintaining this peace: "In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Paul's instructions for obtaining peace come as an early Christmas gift. They remind us that we can and should go to God with all our needs and present them to Him *along with our thanks*. This guidance calls to mind a vital aspect of a stewardship way of life: gratitude to God in response to His great love and countless gifts to us.

The Gospel passage, from Luke, shows us how to *live out* this thanks, making our lives a "Christmas gift" to Christ in joyful response to His love for us. When the crowds hear John the Baptist's message that their Savior is coming, they ask him what they should do to prepare. He responds, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do the same." He tells tax collectors to stop collecting more than is prescribed and soldiers, to be satisfied with their wages. In other words, he tells them to be good and generous stewards of all God's gifts to them!

As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ's extravagant love. Let's avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let's look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him.

## THE "O ANTIPHONS" OF ADVENT

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the *Magnificat* canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

### December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High,  
guiding creation with power and love:  
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

### December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel,  
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:  
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

### December 19

O Root of Jesse's stem,  
sign of God's love for all his people:  
come to save us without delay!

### December 20

O Key of David,  
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:  
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

### December 21

O Radiant Dawn,  
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:  
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and  
in the shadow of death.

### December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:  
come and save man, whom you formed from the  
dust!

### December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:  
come to save us, Lord our God!

—From *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

The Knights will hold their December meeting a week early, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm at the Pickle Lounge. This meeting is for members only. Come enjoy food and fellowship with your fellow Knights.

### SAVE THE DATE:

February 2, 4:30-7pm

Knights will host a fish fry in the parish hall.

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

### St. Mary's

Collection: \$1,065.00

Needed Weekly: \$887.87

### St. John's

Sunday Collection: \$2,856.25

Building Fund: \$125.00

Food Pantry: \$10.00

Flowers: \$96.00

Needed Weekly: \$3,225.23

**Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."**

## "WALKING TOGETHER IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST"

**Almost! As of December 7, 68 pledges for St. John's total \$43,405 toward a goal of \$44,717 and for St. Mary's 25 households have been returned with pledges totaling \$13,430 of a goal of \$13,697.**

Thank you for your continued stewardship and prayers as we "Walk Together in the Light of Christ."

**DJN**

**NEW TO YOU CLOSED FOR WINTER MONTHS...**It will reopen the first of April. If you have drop-offs during this time, please get them to school. Do not leave items on the doorstep.

We wish to thank all involved with the thrift shop as we provide this ministry through our church. Special thanks to Claire Aulbach and Renee Gillis for all their efforts to make the shop run smoothly.

If you would be willing to help run the shop, we are looking for new leadership of this ministry (individually or as a team). Contact Fr. Dave or the office if this is of interest to you.

**"You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts."**

*--Roman rite*



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact the parish office about preparation. The sacrament is normally celebrated with the community during Mass.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are available by appointment as well as:  
St. Mary, the first Thursday 6:00-6:30pm  
St. John, the first Saturday 1:00-1:30pm and third Saturday after 5:00pm Mass.

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Contact the parish office to begin the preparation at least six months in advance.

### SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Generally, Fr. Dave is available after Mass for anointing, or you may contact the parish office to arrange a time.

### RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Sessions for children and youth (grades pre3-12) are available on Sunday morning. Contact the parish office for details.

## The Clustered Parishes Of

**St. Mary, Dunkirk**

**St. John the Evangelist,  
Hartford City**

Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

**Pastor, Fr. David J. Newton**

### PARISH OFFICES

e-mail: [stmaryjohn@att.net](mailto:stmaryjohn@att.net)

#### St. Mary, Dunkirk

P.O. Box 286, Dunkirk, IN 47336

Office: 765-768-6157

Church Basement: 765-768-1283

#### St. John the Evangelist, Hartford City

209 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348

Rectory and Office: 765-348-3123

Secretary's Office: 765-348-3889

Fax: 765-348-4399

### PARISH REGISTRATION

Visitors are always welcome. Residents are invited to join the community by calling the parish office.

### RCIA

People interested in knowing about the Catholic faith and way of life meet each week. Contact the parish office for information.