



## Fourth Sunday of Advent / Solemnity of Christmas

12/23/2023 - 12/31/2023

Welcome to Mater Dei Parish!



We wish you a merry Christmas!

We wish you a merry Christmas!

We wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!!



### MATER DEI MASS SCHEDULE

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

MON – FRI: 9:00 AM & 4:00 PM @

ST. MARY'S

MON & FRI: 5:30 PM @ ST. EDWARD'S

FRIDAY: 11:00 AM @ ST. JAMES

SATURDAY: 9:00 AM @ ST. MARY'S



#### "SUNDAY" MASSES

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM @ ST. MARY'S

SUNDAY: 8:30 AM @ ST. EDWARD'S

9:30 AM & 11:00 AM @ ST. MARY'S

10:30 AM @ ST. JAMES



### PRAYER ON CHRISTMAS MORNING

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good wishes with every greeting. May Christmas morning make us happy to be Your children, and Christmas evening bring us grateful thoughts and forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Amen



Thank You for Your Generosity to our Mater Dei Parish Churches

December 17, 2023

Envelopes: \$ 4,307.00

Loose: \$ 2,284.00

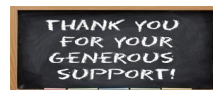
eCatholic: \$ 538.00

TOTAL: \$ 7,129.00

Fuel: \$ 2,237.00

Weekly Budget Expenses: \$10,756.00

Deficit / Surplus: \$ -3,627.00



2023/2024 Fuel Bill: \$63,180.00

Total Fuel Collections: \$12,936.50

Remaining Fuel Bill: \$50,243.50

80% of the Christmas collection remains in our parish to offset our expenses.

There will be a second collection on Christmas to support the many projects planned for our parish churches. Thank you for your generosity!

### The Sundays of the Christmas Season



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023:

Feast of the Holy Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

Epiphany of the Lord

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024

Solemnity of Mary,  
the Holy Mother of God

THIS FEAST DAY IS NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS YEAR BECAUSE IT FALLS ON A MONDAY. HOWEVER, YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND HOLY MASS AND KEEP THE DAY HOLY, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE *HOLY MOTHER OF GOD* IS THE NAMESAKE OF MATER DEI PARISH.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>

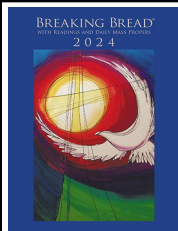
9:00 AM: ST. MARY'S

4:00 PM: ST. MARY'S

5:30 PM: ST. EDWARD'S

MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024

Baptism of the Lord is observed.



### BREAKING BREAD MISSALS

Please do not remove the *Breaking Bread* books from our churches. The parish has a limited number of copies and cannot order more. They are intended for use by our

parishioners during weekend Masses.

If you are looking for the Holy Mass readings, please call the Parish Office in Derby Line at (802) 624-4970 and we will gladly provide you with a copy of *The Word Among Us* which contains both daily and weekend readings.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**Happy Birthday, Jesus!**



With deepest sympathy...

Please pray for the repose of the soul of: † Gertrude Lefevre and for her grieving family.

## Welcome to the Mater Dei Parish Family



**OLIVER GREGORY GRANT**

son of

**JOHN & AIMEE GRANT**

received the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Mary's on December 5, 2023 and became the newest member of Mater Dei Parish.

*Heavenly Father, surround this child with Your love and protect him from evil. Fill Oliver with the Holy Spirit and receive him into the family of Your church, that he may walk with us in the way of Christ and grow in the knowledge of Your love.*

If you have a child you would like to have baptized, please call Sherry at St. Mary's Rectory in Newport at (802) 487-9881 to begin making preparations.

### SCAM ALERT

IF YOU RECEIVE A TEXT OR EMAIL MESSAGE FROM ANYONE CLAIMING TO BE FR. RIJO ASKING FOR AMAZON GIFT CARDS OR ANY OTHER GIFT CARDS, DO NOT REPLY TO THE MESSAGE OR PURCHASE ANY CARDS. **IT IS A SCAM.** LEGITIMATE REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS WOULD COME FROM OUR PARISH OR AN ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, NOT FROM FR. RIJO PERSONALLY.



**SEVERAL PARISHIONERS HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED THESE TEXT MESSAGES FROM VARIOUS PHONE NUMBERS.**

IF YOU ARE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT A MESSAGE OR TEXT FROM "FR. RIJO", CONFIRM WITH HIM THAT HE IS THE ACTUAL SENDER BEFORE RESPONDING TO THE REQUEST.

TO REPORT A SUSPECTED SCAM, TEXT TO 7726 OR CALL (888) 388-1222.

### Homebound & Nursing Home Residents

Please don't forget about our homebound parishioners and nursing home residents in your prayers, especially during the holidays.

### CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION

There is **No** Catholic Faith Formation at St. James on **December 26th.**



*St. Mary's Tabernacle Light burns this week for Melissa Bartovic.*

## VOCATIONIST'S CORNER

*A Sincere Thank You from our Vocationist Priests*



Fr. Rijo, Fr. Tom, and Fr. Jim would like to thank their wonderful parishioners for all the cards, food and gifts given to them for Christmas. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated. We are truly blessed!



### Christmas Flower Donations

It is not too late to make a donation for Christmas flowers to help decorate our beautiful churches for this special season of love.

Please consider making a gift to remember or honor a loved one during the Christmas season. Place your contribution in a flower or special collection envelope marked Christmas Flowers and place it in the collection basket during Mass.

Thank you for your generosity to our parish.

### ATTENTION ST. EDWARD'S & ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION FAMILIES

If you did not receive your family packets at Catholic Faith Formation on December 17<sup>th</sup>, please pick them up in St. Mary's Rectory Entryway. See you on January 21st!



### 2024 CHURCH ENVELOPES & CALENDARS ARE HERE!

Mater Dei's 2024 church envelopes & calendars are available at all our parish churches.

If you do not find your envelopes where you usually attend Holy Mass, please add your name to the list next to the boxes of envelopes. We will track them down for you and bring them to you.

Thank you for your continued financial support of Mater Dei Parish!

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The parish office will be closed on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord with our families.

The office staff wishes everyone a joyful and blessed Christmas.



*St. Edward's Tabernacle Light burns this week in loving memory of: † Michael Randall, Sr.*