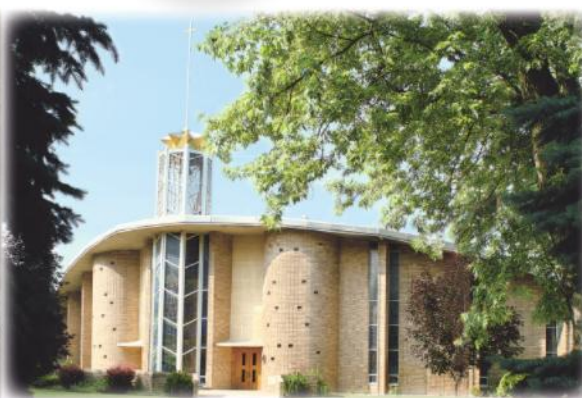




"It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: "A voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"

Matthew 3:3

St. Mary CHURCH



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Parish Mission Statement

To enrich and inspire the spiritual growth of our parish community through the Word, worship and service to all God's people.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil – 4:30 p.m.

Sunday – 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Weekdays - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 8:00 a.m.

Religious Education Classes are Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to noon

Eucharistic Adoration: 1st Friday of the Month after morning Mass.

Benediction at 1:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena

Every Tuesday morning after 8:00 a.m. Mass

Rosary - Thursdays - 7:00 p.m.

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

Fr. Joseph Xavier, MSFS (ext. 222) frjosephx@bloomingdalecom.net

Deacon Duane Poage dcnduane@gmail.com

In Case of Emergency only call (cell) (269) 352-4740

PARISH OFFICE (269) 657-4459 Fax (269) 657-4260

500 E. Paw Paw Street

Paw Paw, Michigan 49079

HOURS: Monday & Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Lunch 12 to 1:00 p.m.

WEBSITE: www.stmarypawpaw.com

E-MAIL: stmarypawpaw@bloomingdalecom.net

PARISH STAFF

Lisa Gardner, Finance Manager (ext. 224) lgardner52@aol.com

Denise Hicks, Secretary/Bulletin (ext. 221)

ST. MARY SCHOOL (269) 657-3750 Fax (269) 657-4260

508 E. Paw Paw Street

Paw Paw, Michigan 49079

Website: www.saintmarypawpaw.org

Director of Music

Connie Hitchcock

(269) 624-6441

Director of Religious Education

Jackie Marshall (ext. 223)

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E-Mail: drestmarypawpaw@bloomingdalecom.net

Homebound Ministry

Angie Douglas

(269) 668-6215

Chairperson for Parish Finance Council

Richard Goy

(269) 624-7173

E-Mail: rgoy@att.net

Chairperson for Pastoral Council

Phil Hover

(269) 615-6137

Grand Knight for Knights of Columbus

William Zolp

(269) 657-2208

Faithful Navigator for Knights of Columbus

Rick Garcia

(269) 657-1133

Cemetery Sexton

Ashley Conner

(269) 808-3202

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Baptism

Fourth Sunday of the month. Call parish office to make arrangements.

Matrimony

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance.

Call the office for an appointment with Fr. Joseph.

Penance

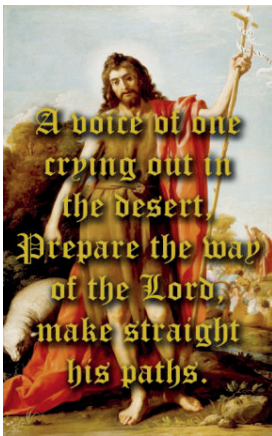
Saturday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. or by request

Anointing of the Sick

Please inform us of parishioners who are seriously ill at home or in the hospital, in case of emergency or accident, call Fr. Joseph.

Holy Orders and Consecrated Religious Life

Everyone has a vocation. If God is calling you to the priesthood or religious life, contact Fr. Joseph for assistance.



Dear friends in Christ,

Today is the second Sunday of Advent. As a family of God's people, we continue to move in the hope of receiving the fulfillment of God's promise through our ancestors in faith. Hence, this Sunday the church reminds us that while we are sustained by the great hope of the Lord's coming, we have to pay attention to the voice of the one crying out in the wilderness: **"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight."** One thing common to all

the readings of this Sunday is that they are all anchored on the prophecy of Isaiah **about the Messiah.**

In the first reading, prophet Isaiah, clearly described the qualities and marks of the **promised king.** First, he shall be filled with the spirit of God. He shall be a man of integrity. He shall judge with equity and righteousness. He will not only fear God, but shall respect his people. What a great hope the prophet brings us this season! Isaiah reminds us that the future is bright in Christ our Messiah. He promises that he shall be different from other kings, and that his reign shall bring us freedom from evil and oppression. It shall bring us peace with God, and with one another. It shall strengthen our unity in spite of our diversities. The prophet writes: **"The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them... They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain..."**

Indeed, if we welcome Christ sincerely, this will not sound ideal as many think it does. Our world would be a place where we do not have to live in fear of one another, and where the strong will no longer oppress the weak.

In today's gospel, the fact of the appearance of John the Baptist is also a message of hope that the coming of the Messiah is near. However, brings a very important message to us: **"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near!"** Also, he employed the prophecy of Isaiah who exalts us to: **"prepare the way of the Lord and make his path straight!"** Repentance, reconciliation, and holiness of heart are the prerequisites for justifying our hope at the end of this season.

Therefore, let us rid ourselves of everything that will hinder us from receiving Christ this season. In light of this, the church encourages us to take advantage of the sacrament of reconciliation in order to prepare ourselves to receive **our Lord and King.** Have a nice week-end.

Sincerely, Fr Joseph.

St. Mary School News—Everyone's invited to Saint Mary's School Christmas Program on December 11th at 6:30PM in the Church. Come and listen to the season's melodies.

The Knights of Columbus are selling Calendar Lottery Tickets and all proceeds go to our school! Based on the Michigan Daily 3 Evening Drawing, 366 chances to win \$25 to \$250. They make excellent holiday gifts. Tickets are \$25 and are available at the school office 269-657-3750.

Sunday	December 8—Second Sunday of Advent
8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
11:00 a.m.	†Neal Piecyk req. Mom & Dad
2:00 p.m.	†Theresa Cabras req. family

Monday	Mass Intentions for the Week
8:00 a.m.	December 9—Immaculate Conception
9:00 a.m.	†Joe Barletta req. family
	<i>Pro Populo</i>

Tuesday	December 10
8:00 a.m.	†Harold & Dorothy Hande req. family

Wednesday	December 11—St. Damasus I
8:00 a.m.	†Harold & Dorothy Hande req. family
11:30 a.m.	†Barb Stermer req. Lonna Menzor & family
12Noon	Senior Luncheon

Thursday	December 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe
7:00 p.m.	Rosary

Friday	December 13—St. Lucy
8:00 a.m.	†Joseph Arbanas req. Phillip & Mary Arbanas
7:00 p.m.	Adoration—Gaudium Christi West

Saturday	December 14—Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent
4:30 p.m.	†Margaret Cherney req. Maryann Duffy

Sunday	December 15—Third Sunday of Advent
8:00 a.m.	†Victor Pakula req. Scott & Carol Nugteren
11:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
12Noon	Baptisms
4:00 p.m.	Christmas Play & Reception

READERS & EMHC—DECEMBER 14/15		
4:30 P.M.	8:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.
READER	READER	READER
C. Bombich	D. Rajzer	D/C Kessen
EMHC	EMHC	EMHC
Y. Lean	J. Dobbins	F. Wallace
B. Beeching	M. Gibbs	M. Vokoun
D. Poage	D. Poage	D. Poage
R. Beeching	A. Killeen	L. Borys
J. Brien	K. Killeen	E. Huver
J. Clauto	J. Podkol	D. Kessen
M. Dick	S. Starbuck	P. Lynch

ALTAR SERVERS—DECEMBER 14/15		
Volunteer	A. Goscenski	A. Pantoja
Volunteer	G. Newhouse	E. Roy
Volunteer	H. Newhouse	Volunteer/New

The next baptism class will be on **January 15th at 7PM** in the school. **Baptisms will be on February 23rd** after the 11:00AM Mass. Please call the office to register.

Parish Support–December 1, 2019

Envelopes (174)	\$5,979
Loose	\$ 464
Online Giving (11)	\$ 455
Total	\$6,898
Weekly Target	\$7,300
Amount over (under) Target	(\$402)
Envelopes issued	349
Registered households	697
Collection Year-to-Date	\$146,845
Budgeted Year-to-Date	\$160,000
Amount over (under) Year-to-Date	(\$13,755)

Prayer Requests

Ryan Yaran, Janet Mosey, Kristin K., Lena Grzebyk, Catherine, Eric Fuhrmann, Sam Schaafsma, Atwater family, Shannon, Judi Wilhelmi, Edi Borrello, Cathy, Micah Thayer, Gayle Wiggins, Dale & Dorothy Kemp, Dr. Greg, Alek, Don Manser, Maryann Carpenter, Dennis & Grace, Marie Stanek Wyszynski, Gina Borrello, Barb Wloch, Janet Hamay, Jean Markovich, Todd Sikkema, William Rios, Virginia Stimac, Mary Nash, David Koppers, Tammy Hawes, Ellie D., Nicole Middaugh, Chris Nash, Florence Hunt, Theron Mosey
Pray for those residing at Bronson Commons and White Oaks. Please call the office if you are in special need of prayer help.

No Catholic child will be denied the opportunity of a Catholic education at Saint Mary School due to financial need. Contact the Pastor at 269-657-4459.



Monthly Energizer, December 14, 6-8 p.m., St. Mary, Paw Paw, The Energizer consists of food and fellowship, praise and worship music, a 25 minute presentation about a topic from our Catholic faith for youth and adults and closes with prayer. This is free with a free will donation being accepted. Please join us, bring family and friends, as we get energized about our faith!

Scripture Readings for the Week of December 8, 2019

Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12
Monday	Immaculate Conception of Mary Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday	Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2,3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday	Saint Damasus I Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Friday	Memorial of Saint Lucy Is 48:17-19; Ps:1:1-2, 3,4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Memorial of Saint John of the Cross Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Christmas will be here soon. We need voices for our Christmas Eve 4PM and 6PM liturgies. Practices for the Christmas Eve 4:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. Liturgies are the weekends of December 8 and December 22. If you are singing for the 4:00 P.M. Liturgy, please come at 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. If you are singing for the 6:00 P.M. Liturgy, please come at 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Connie Hitchcock 624-6441 or Diane Martin 657-7580. Thank You.

Gaudium Christi West, Friday, December 13, 7-8:30 p.m., St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw, Gaudium Christi West is open to all and begins with Mass followed by Adoration with the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is a time for you, in the quiet of your heart to listen & speak with the God who loves you.

Giving Tree Project—This is the final week of the Giving Tree project...which means that it is the last weekend to get involved by taking a tag from one of the trees at the church entrances. Gifts for the Giving Tree need to be brought back to the church by Sunday December 15. Thank you for your generous support!

Bring your Baby Jesus to Mass: In honor of “Bambinelli Sunday” Father Joseph will have a special blessing of Baby Jesus on Dec 14/15th after all the Masses. Bring Baby Jesus from your Nativity Set and start a new family tradition.



Church Cleaning Team & Decorating Sign Up—Interested in helping with Church cleaning (12/21-9 to noon) and decorating (12/22 after 11AM Mass), signup sheets are at the main entrance. Please volunteer today!

Support aging religious. Today's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay.

Knightly News—One day a brother Knight was sitting around talking to Moses about how he had nothing to do. Moses look at him and said “Son get off your padded back side and look to see where you can help others.” He got up and started looking and was amazed at how much help was needed. As the years passed by he found he could fit things into his schedule and added more and more volunteer work. I would like to tell you about one of his favorite volunteer jobs - the BLOOD DRIVE. He will tell you about the other people that help him in setting up and taking down materials needed for the day of the Blood Drive. He will tell you how rewarding it is to be there to help, but I think the two main reasons are; he loves to beat the set goals for the drive and the free cookies. In case you have not guessed, this brother Knight is Frank Wunderlich. Now on to the main part of the story!! Frank wants you to know that this coming week at the K of C hall on Wed., December 11th will be his **** years of working the blood drive. He would really like to set a record of pints collected, so those that can—come out and give blood.
PGK Blaine Douglas

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