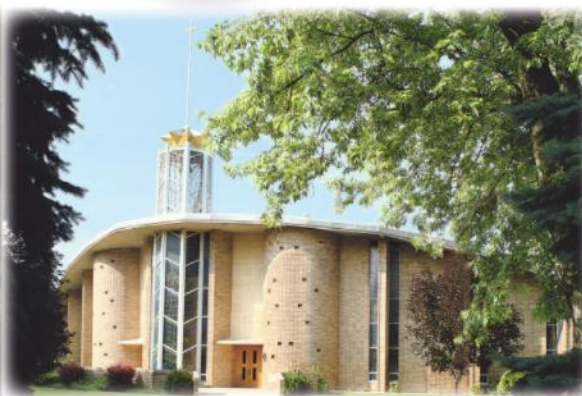




# St. Mary CHURCH



The Spirit  
drove Jesus  
out into the  
desert, and he  
remained in  
the desert  
for forty days,  
tempted by  
Satan.  
He was among  
wild beasts, and  
the angels  
ministered  
to him.

*Mark 1:12,13*

## 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 through 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](http://www.stmarypawpaw.com)

**E-MAIL:** [stmarypawpaw@bloomingdalecom.net](mailto: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) 479-3564

508 E. Paw Paw Street  
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079  
Website: [www.saintmarypawpaw.org](http://www.saintmarypawpaw.org)

### Director of Music

Connie Hitchcock (269) 624-6441

### Director of Religious Education

Jackie Marshall (ext. 223) (269) 657-4459

**E-Mail:** [drestmarypawpaw@bloomingdalecom.net](mailto: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](mailto:rgoy@att.net)

### Chairperson for Pastoral Council

Steve Starbuck (269) 657-4156

### Grand Knight for Knights of Columbus

William Van Ooy (269) 330-5126

### 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,**

A mother camel and her baby camel are talking one day. And the baby camel asks, **"Mom why have we got these huge three-toed feet?"** The mother camel replies, **"To enable us trek (to walk) across the soft sand of the desert without sinking."** **"And why have we got these long, heavy eyelashes?"** the mother camel replied **"To keep the sand out of our eyes on the trips through the desert"**. And again, the baby camel asks the mother camel, **"Mom, why have we got these big humps on our backs?"** The mother camel, now a little impatient with the baby camel, replies, **"They are there to help us store fat for our long treks across the desert, so that, we can go without water for long period of time."** **"OK, mom, I get it!" says the baby camel,** **"We have huge feet to stop us sinking, long eyelashes to keep the sand from our eyes and humps to store water. Then, Mom, why the heck are we here in the Toronto zoo?"**

Modern life sometimes makes us to feel like a camel in a zoo. And like camels in a zoo, **we need sometimes to go into the desert in order to discover truly who we are.** Therefore, Lent invites us to enter into this kind of desert experience.

A married couple had lived together for twenty-five years in what outwardly seemed like a reasonably good union. The husband was a good provider. The wife was a good housekeeper. They went to Church together every Sunday and prayed together every night before they retired. But they did have one problem that seemed challenging or unsolvable. They could not have a conversation that didn't end up in an argument. Finally, the wife decided she had enough, but because of her religious morality's principles, divorce was out of the question. She had a better idea, however. One night as the couple settled down for their nightly prayers, she said to her husband, **"We must put an end to this terrible situation we are in. We can't go on like this anymore. Since today is the first day of Lent, why don't we pray that things will change. So, Let's pray that the Lord will call one of us home to Him. Then I can go and live with my sister"**.

The desert was the birthplace of the people of God of the first covenant. The Hebrew people, who escaped from Egypt, as scattered tribes arrived the Promised Land as one nation under God. **It was in the desert that they became a people of God by covenant.** In the course of their history, when their love and faithfulness to God grew cold, the prophets would suggest, their return to the desert, to **rediscover their identity, their vocation and their mission as a way of reawakening their faith and strengthening their covenant relationship with God.** The great prophets Elijah and John the Baptist were people of the desert: they lived in the desert, ate desert food and adopted a simple desert lifestyle. **The desert is the university where God teaches His people.**

In today's gospel we read that after Jesus was baptized **"the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him"** (Mark 1:12-13). Where else but the desert, could we have such a meaningful encounter of the Holy Spirit as well as Satan, of the wild beasts as well as the holy angels? The desert was the school where Jesus came to distinguish, between the **voice of God which he should follow and the voice of Satan which is temptation.** How many voices do we hear from the moment we rise in the morning; till the moment we go to sleep at night? The countless voices in the daily newspaper, the soliciting voices on the radio and the television, the voices of those who live and work with us, not forgetting our own unceasing inner voices. In the desert we leave, most of these voices behind, to focus and to distinguish **between the guiding voice of God and the tempting voice of Satan.**

In the desert, we come to know ourselves, **our strengths and weaknesses, and our divine calling.** In the desert, Jesus encountered beasts and angels. **There are wild beasts and angels in every one of us.** Sometimes, because of our superficial self-knowledge, we fail to recognize the wild beasts in us and **give in to vain glory, or** we fail to recognize the angel in us and **give in to self-hatred.** But, in the silence and recollection of the desert, we come to terms with ourselves, and come to know who really, we are, and we are reconciled with the beasts and the angels in our lives, and then, we begin to experience peace again for the first time. **Therefore, Lent is the time for the desert experience.**

We all of us cannot afford to buy a camel and go to the desert for the experience. But we can all create a desert space in our overcrowded lives. **We can set aside a place and time to be alone daily with God,** a time to distance ourselves from the many noises and voices that bombard our lives every day, **a time to hear God's word,** a time to rediscover really who we are before God **and a time to say yes to God and no to Satan as Jesus did.**

**Thank God, our bishop has arranged a retreat for all our priests in DeWitt, Lansing from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> to have our desert experience. So Please pray for us and, welcome to Lent! My dear brothers and sisters. Have a nice weekend.**  
Sincerely, Fr Joseph.

**Sunday**

8:00 a.m.

**February 21—First Sunday of Lent**

†John Szewczyk

req. Bob &amp; Penny Chaloupka

11:00 a.m.

†Maury Coady req. Joyce Thomas

**Masses for the Week****Monday**

8:00 a.m.

**February 22—The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle**

†David Vogt

req. Mary Jane Vogt

**Tuesday**

8:00 a.m.

**February 23—St. Polycarp****No Mass****Wednesday**

8:00 a.m.

**February 24****No Mass****Thursday**

8:00 a.m.

**February 25****No Mass**

7:00 p.m.

Rosary

**Friday**

8:00 a.m.

**February 26**

†Tod Pfister

req. Martha (Sitar) Black

9:30 a.m.

†John Szewczyk

req. Field family

7:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross

**Saturday**

4:30 p.m.

**February 27—Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent**

†Mark Reckow

req. Kasson family

**Sunday**

8:00 a.m.

**February 28—Second Sunday of Lent**

†Michelle Jones

11:00 a.m.

*Pro Populo*

**Baptisms**—If you have a child you would like to receive the sacrament of baptism, please contact the parish office.

**No Catholic child** will be denied the opportunity of a Catholic education at Saint Mary School due to financial need. Contact the principal at 269-657-3750.

**The 2021 boxed envelope sets are now available** in the parish office during regular business hours. Please call 269-657-4459 to make arrangements.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Primo Sanchez Flores** and **Zenaida Mendoza**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace. Amen.

**Parish Support—February 14, 2021**

Envelopes (74)	\$2,567
Loose	\$ 51
Online Giving (20)	\$ 960
Total	\$3,722
Weekly Target	\$7,300
Amount over (under) Target	(\$1,739)
Collection Year-to-Date	\$212,989
Budgeted Year-to-Date	\$231,000
Amount over (under) Year-to-Date	(\$18,011)

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**Prayer Requests**

Herman Clauto, Anna Urquieta, Paula & Carl Leedy, Dorothy Dietz, for the homeless, peace in families & the world, David Marshall, Ryan, Chad, Theresa Andrie, Florence Ross, Kathy Arndt, Kenny, Brian Gottschall, Paul Juriga, James A., Mark A., Cade S., Cathy, Mike Johnston, Willie, Betty, Barb S., Janet Wartman, Jerry & Jane, Maria Pach, Mark Kovach, Ryan Yaran, Larry Carpenter, Shannon, Cathy, Gayle Wiggins, Dale & Dorothy Kemp, Dr. Greg, Alek, Dennis & Grace, Marie Stanek Wyszynski, Janet Hamay, Todd Sikkema, William Rios, Mary Nash, David Koppers, Tammy Hawes, Ellie D., Nicole Middaugh, Chris Nash, Theron Mosey and residents of Bronson Commons and White Oaks. Call the parish office if you are in need of prayer help.

**Kindergarten Information Night** - Do you have a child entering kindergarten this fall? This is such an exciting and important time for your child! Kindergarten Information Night is Thursday, March 11, 2021, from 6-7:30 pm. Space is limited, so please call 657-3750 to reserve your spot!

**40 Cans for 40 Days** - The Knights of Columbus Council #3798 are once again sponsoring a Lenten food drive. Please consider donating one non-perishable food item for each day of Lent. All food items will be donated to Eleanor's Pantry to help feed the hungry in our community. Cash donations are also greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support!

**Readings for the Week of February 21, 2021**

<b>Sunday</b>	Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle</b> 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6; Mt 16:13-19
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr</b> Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15
<b>Wednesday</b>	Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
<b>Thursday</b>	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
<b>Friday</b>	Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26
<b>Saturday</b>	Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
<b>Sunday</b>	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116: 10, 15, 16-17, 18-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

**St. Mary's Parish** is sponsoring **Caring Network's Parish Playpen** again during the month of **February!** The agency is part of Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo serving pregnant women and children in need within nine counties of Southwestern Michigan! Please consider bringing items and placing them in the playpen in the Narthex. If you are celebrating mass from home and still want to contribute to the playpen, online donations can be made at <https://ccdok.org/donations/>. Please contact Jennifer Dobbins at 215-237-6271 or [jennifer.l.dobbins@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.l.dobbins@gmail.com) with any questions. Visit <http://ccdok.org> to learn more about Caring Network!

**PRAY for Life** from February 17 to March 28. Join the Kalamazoo 40 Days for Life campaign – prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. Sign up to peacefully pray in front of Planned Parenthood, 4201 W. Michigan Ave., on the public sidewalk. **JOIN online** - [40days.com/KALAMAZOO](http://40days.com/KALAMAZOO). **JOIN by email** - [40daysKALAMAZOO@gmail.com](mailto:40daysKALAMAZOO@gmail.com) or **CONTACT Coordinator:** Terri Starbuck 269-657-0878, [0908Starbuck@gmail.com](mailto:0908Starbuck@gmail.com)

**Knightly News—The 2021 K of C Fish Fry has been canceled.** The Knights struggled with this decision for the past two months. Many ideas were brought forward, but none that would allow us to do it safely. It is a large fund raiser for us, but your safety and the safety of our workers comes first. See you next year!

Again this Lenten season, Past Grand Knight Bill Zolp will be collecting canned goods for the people in need of help in having enough food for their family. It is bad enough trying to keep warm these days, let alone worrying about where the next meal is coming from. Bring a can of food for each day of Lent, or if you would rather, write a check. Make it out to Bill Zolp and/or Eleanor's Pantry. Canned goods can be placed in the box in the front entry to the church.

As always, remember to check on the elderly in your area. See if they need help any in this cold weather. PGK Blaine Douglas

**The Diocese of Kalamazoo is blessed with many senior priests.** Although retired they continue to serve through prayer, assisting in parishes with Masses and confessions, visiting nursing homes and countless other ways. The special collection on March 7th will support our diocesan priests' retirement fund. Please prayerfully consider your gift.

**Diocesan At-Home Lenten Retreat** - Lent is a gift from the Catholic Church to spend some intentional time with our Lord Jesus Christ. Join all the faithful in the Diocese of Kalamazoo in an At-Home Lenten Retreat meant to give you an opportunity to walk personally with Jesus. The retreat will allow us to encounter our Savior through the Gospels, beginning with the First Sunday of Lent and continuing for each Sunday during Lent, and all through the convenience of being sent directly to your phone or email. Registration sign-up can be found at [www.diokzoo.org/lenten-retreat](http://www.diokzoo.org/lenten-retreat). For more information, please visit this website or contact Tim at [tmcnamara@diokzoo.org](mailto:tmcnamara@diokzoo.org).

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Psalm 42

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