

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7200 Lancaster Pike, Hockessin, DE 19707

Telephone: (302) 239-7100 Fax: (302) 239-8219

Web Site: www.smachurch.com

Office Hours: Weekdays 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
(Office closed for lunch from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM)

CELEBRATION OF MASS

Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 7:30 AM & 9:30 AM

Live streamed Mass Sunday at 9:30 AM on
St. Mary's website: www.smachurch.com

PASTOR: REV. CHARLES C. DILLINGHAM

Associate Pastor: Rev. David F. Murphy

Weekend Assistant: Rev. James B. Smith

Deacons: John Giacci, Larry Brecht

Joseph W. Jackson, Larry R. Morris



PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Janet Aluise, Receptionist	ext. 10
Daniel M. DiGiacobbe, Business Manager	ext. 11
Annette Fad, Parish Secretary	ext. 33
Sandy Fiscella, PREP Coordinator	ext. 18
Flora Giacci, Receptionist	ext. 10
Deacon John Giacci, Director of Liturgy	ext. 32
Pablo Gonzalez, Facility Manager	ext. 41
Matthew Jewell, Director of Music	ext. 16
Cindy Krebs, Director of Religious Ed.	ext. 17
Karen Rombach, Director of Preschool	ext. 34
Denise Troise, Bookkeeper	ext. 14

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

PREP: Grades 1 through 8

Confirmation: Grade 9

Mrs. Cindy Krebs, DRE (302) 239-7100, ext. 17.

ST. MARY'S PRESCHOOL

Ages 2 through Pre-K.

Mrs. Karen Rombach, Director (302) 239-7100, ext. 34.



RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30 PM or by appointment.

BAPTISM

During a Mass or Sunday afternoon
at 1:00 PM.

Baptisms are scheduled the second
and fourth Sundays of the month.
Baptism classes are every other month.
Please call Parish Secretary for details
(302) 239-7100 ext. 33.

MARRIAGE

Contact Parish Secretary before a wedding date is finalized.
The diocese requires one year of preparation.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

In an emergency, contact the Parish Office.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK

Each weekend, Extraordinary Ministers of
Holy Communion to the Sick bring Communion
to those unable to attend Mass on a regular basis.
Contact the Parish Secretary to arrange for this ministry.

ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY

For information, contact Parish Office (302) 239-7100.

December 13, 2020



St. Mary of the Assumption



Dear Parishioners,

As we begin the season of Advent we will be preparing our hearts to welcome our Newborn Savior. I pray that you will be able to spend some time in quiet prayer and reflection. Although we can be easily caught up in the busyness of Christmas preparations, we should not allow this to take away from our spiritual focus for this great celebration.

The Feast of Christmas offers convincing proof of God's infinite love for us. Seeing the infant Jesus in the humble circumstances of the manger reminds us that He became one of us and knows our joys and our struggles especially during the pandemic. He understands our fears, our worries and our anxieties about our health, our finances and our general well-being.

I urge you to make your observance of Christmas and the New Year a spiritual one. Take time to prepare yourself in the days of Advent by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation and by joining us at Mass either in person or via our 9:30am Sunday livestream.

I want to take this occasion to thank you for your generous support of St. Mary's during these difficult times. Please know that I am very much aware that some of you are continuing to experience a loss or a decrease in your income. Your sacrifices together with an overall reduction of expenses have allowed us to live within our modified income.

I would ask you to be as generous as possible to the upcoming Christmas collection. Traditionally, this has been a substantial part of our budgeted income. While I am aware that we will fall short of our normal collection, I am also aware that God continues to bless us in many ways. In recognition of His goodness, please consider a significant Christmas donation.

Fr. Murphy, Fr. Smith, the Deacons and I pray that Christ will be born anew in your minds and hearts on Christmas Day. May the Infant Jesus bring you His peace, joy and love.

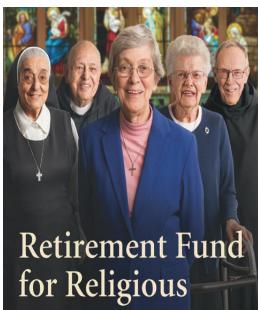
In your charity, please pray for all who have gone before us and all the deceased of St. Mary of the Assumption.

+*Nicholas J. DiBenedetto*, father of parishioner Patty Foley
+*Elizabeth Farinella*, mother of parishioner Pamela Bounds



Blessings for a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year.
Father Dillingham
Pastor

Third Sunday of Advent



Retirement Fund
for Religious

The second collection for this weekend is for The Retirement Fund for Religious

**St. Mary of the Assumption
2020 Mass Schedule
Christmas-December 25
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God-January 1**



Christmas Eve December 24th

2:00 pm
4:00 pm **Church only**
(Live Streamed)
7:00 pm
10:00 pm

Christmas Day December 25th

7:30 am
9:30 am (Live Streamed)

New Year's Eve December 31st

5:00 pm

New Year's Day Friday, January 1st

9:30 am (Live Streamed)

Delaware Division of Public Health limits us to 30% of our seating capacity with a maximum of 161 people.



Men's Cornerstone 8 POSTPONED

It is unfortunate that we announce Cornerstone 8 scheduled for February 5-6, 2020 has been postponed due to the pandemic. The Planning Team believes that we cannot safely conduct a retreat that requires round table discussions and group meals. As a result, we are postponing Cornerstone 8 likely until February 2022. Note that the Alumni are still looking to recruit Men of the parish for the retreat, and we will have more details on the parish website when we reschedule it.

We do hope to have a Men's Day of Reflection & Prayer in place of Cornerstone 8 in February 2021. Please watch the bulletin for more details.

Cornerstone Planning Team



Jesus, I love You. O my God. I cannot receive You in Holy Communion. Come, nevertheless, and visit me with Your grace. Come spiritually into my heart. Purify it. Sanctify it. Render it like unto Your own.

Amen.

December 13, 2020

Did you Know?

Temptation

Many try to fly away from temptations only to fall more deeply into them; for you cannot win a battle by mere flight. It is only by patience and humility that you will be strengthened against the enemy. Those who shun them outwardly and do not pull them out by the roots will make no progress; for temptations will soon return to harass them and they will be in a worse state. It is only gradually—with patience and endurance and with God's grace—that you will overcome temptations sooner than by your own efforts and anxieties . . . Gold is tried by fire and the upright person by temptation. Often we do not know what we can do until temptation shows us what we are . . . This is how temptation is: first we have a thought, followed by strong imaginings, then the pleasure and evil emotions, and finally consent. This is how the enemy gains full admittance, because he was not resisted at the outset. The slower we are to resist, the weaker we daily become and the stronger the enemy is against us.

Thomas à Kempis

Submitted by the Legion of Mary

Listen to The Legion of Mary Immaculate Concepcion Praesidium weekly broadcast of their Internet radio programs every Friday at 3 p.m., in cooperation with Oremus Communications (OC). Simply visit www.oremuscomms.com and click on "Listen Live". The Divine Mercy Chaplet is the main focus of the broadcast but every week various topics and prayers are included in the hour broadcast. Also if you missed any broadcast, you can still access them in the archives file using www.oremuscomms.com/archives-lom

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn7uDEUrHNg4xPmdf8IBW2Q>



In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.



**We are INSPIRED to continue
Our 54-day Rosary Novena
to pray for our Church and Nation**

So join us through February 23, 2021 daily at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Standard time on our Legion of Mary Wilmington Curia YouTube Channel (link below)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn7uDEUrHNg4xPmdf8IBW2Q>

Then click on the "LIVE" image to view for the day"

For more information, call Jane Aniceto 302-898-1058

Sponsored by the Legion of Mary

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER – Give your relationship the gift of quality time during the pandemic! Join us from the comfort of your home via Zoom for eight sessions presented on Sunday and Wednesday evenings from January 20 to February 14. Make Valentine's Day 2021 extra special as you learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!! For more information visit our website at www.wwme-delmar.org or to register for the weekend, please call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-220-9833.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Psalm — My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

Third Sunday of Advent



Looking for help delivering meals every 10th Friday. It takes about 1 1/2 to deliver. Meals are picked up at the Mid County Senior Center.

More information can be found on our website www.smachurch.com & by calling Kathy diGirolamo 302-234-9513.



**Knights of Columbus
St. Mary of the Assumption
Coffee Run Council 6768 AND
Parish Pro-Life Committee**

**Purchase Super 50/50 Tickets,
Support Knights of Columbus Charities,
Parish Pro-Life Committee**

If you have already purchased your annual Super 50-50 Raffle tickets and returned the stubs, the Knights of Columbus Coffee Run Council and the Parish Pro-Life Committee thank you!

If not, we hope you will do so soon. The drawing for 50 winners will be held **January 16, 2021**. If you have misplaced your ticket strips, more are available.

Please consider that the Knights and the Pro-Life Committee are aiming to maintain charitable endeavors in the face of reduced fundraising due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Raffle really helps. The tickets remain a good Christmas stocking stuffer for young and old alike.

Further information may be obtained by calling John Baldo at (302) 239-6541. Extra tickets are available from the Parish Receptionist when the Office is open or from John Baldo.

Rather than mailing your signed Raffle stubs along with the appropriate monetary amount, you may place the Raffle envelope in the Collection Basket at Mass if you choose.

Thank you!

FAITH ENVIRONMENT/SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Did you know that in 2003 in response to the United States Conference of Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children, the Diocese developed a safe environment program entitled For the Sake of Gods' Children? The Bishop, all priests, deacons, seminarians, religious brothers and sisters and all lay employees and volunteers participate in the program to assure that a comprehensive safe environment exists in our parishes, schools and institutions.

For more information go to www.cdow.org and click on For the Sake of God's Children.

Annual "Bottles for Babies"

This annual fund raiser benefits Birthright of Delaware, which provides for pregnant mothers who are in need of housing, medical care, clothing, etc. before and after their babies are born. Birthright of Delaware, and we, are very grateful for your continued generosity to them via those who have returned their Baby Bottles filled with your \$\$ donations. If you have not returned your bottle, or were unable to obtain a bottle to fill, please send donations directly to Birthright of Delaware. Make checks payable to them and state that you are a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, please. All contributions are appreciated!

Please send to:
**Birthright of Delaware
1311 N. Scott Street
Wilmington, DE 19806**
Thank you for your wonderful support!

- Parish Pro-Life Committee

TRUSTEES

The Trustee Election will take place on January 3, 2021 in the Chapel at 10:30 a.m.

December 13, 2020

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish Ministry Contact list for phone numbers please call our parish office

Adult Faith Formation, **Joan Fortugno**
Athletic Association, **Mike Pietlock**
Bulletin, Annette Fad
Church Camp, **Cindy Krebs**
Cornerstone, **Mike McDonnell**
Divine Will Prayer Group, **Linda Riofski**
Emmanuel Dining Rooms S.E., **Bunny Stike**
Emmanuel Dining Rooms East, **Mary Ellen Long**
Sojourners, House of Joseph, **Suzanne Barba**
Finance Council, **Bill Foley**
GIFT, **Eileen Gaus**
Holy Spirit Prayer Group, **Rich Deegan**
Knights of Columbus, **Mike Bailey**
Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary, **Judy Safranski**
Knights of Columbus Ride Program, **Steve Haller**
Ladies' Guild, **Janet Kook & Rosemarie Morris**
Lazarus Ministry, **Rita Willis**
Legion of Mary, **Jane Aniceto**
Mary Mother of Hope, **Kate Morris**
Meals on Wheels, **Kathy di Girolamo**
Men's Faith Sharing, **Frank DeGennaro**
Men's Small Group, **Jim Robinson**
Mother's Prayer Group, **Sandra Cleary**
Pastoral Council, **Bill Raiford**
Prayer Line, **Parish Office**
Pro-Life Committee, **Ann Courtney**
RCIA, **Deacon John Giacci**
Refresh Group, **Deacon Larry Brecht, Mike Bailey**
St. Patrick's Cemetery, **Dan DiGiacobbe**
Safety Committee, **Bernie McKay**
Sages (50+ Group), **Nick Mastrocinque**
Scouts (Boy & Cub), **Greg Weaver**
St. Vincent de Paul Society, **Mercedes Diaz**
Visitors for Christ, **Mary Lloyd**
WilCYA, **Elise Maloney**
Women's Faith Sharing, **Mary Tigani**
Youth Athletic Dance Coordinator, **Heather Green**

Weekly Scheduled Events

Monday December 14, 2020
8:30 am Mass (C)

Tuesday December 15, 2020
8:30 am Mass (C)

Wednesday December 16, 2020
8:30 am Mass (C)

Thursday December 17, 2020
8:30 am Mass (C)

Friday December 18, 2020
8:30 am Mass (C)

Saturday December 19, 2020
3:30 pm Reconciliation (CP)
5:00pm Mass (C)

Sunday December 20, 2020
7:30am Mass (C)
9:30am Mass (C)

(CF) = Coffee Run, (J) = St. Johns,
(M) = St. Mary, (CP) = Chapel, (C) = Church,
(GS) = Gathering Space, (H) = Hall

**Please submit all bulletin articles
(2) weeks in advance to
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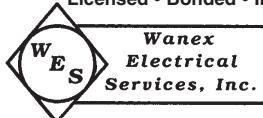
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