



## ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7200 Lancaster Pike • Hockessin, DE 19707 • (302) 239-7100

### CELEBRATION OF MASS

Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM • Saturday: 8:30 AM, 5:00 PM • Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Live streamed Mass Sunday at 9:30 AM on  
St. Mary's website: [www.smachurch.com](http://www.smachurch.com)

#### PASTOR: VERY REV. JOSEPH J. PIEKARSKI, V.F.

Associate Pastor: Rev. John Enemuo

Weekend Assistant: Rev. James B. Smith

Deacons: John Giacci, Larry Brecht, Joseph Jackson,  
Joseph LoPorto, Larry Morris

#### PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Daniel DiGiacobbe, Business Manager	ext. 11
Annette Fad, Parish Secretary	ext. 33
Sandy Fiscella, Director of Religious Ed.	ext. 18
Flora Giacci, Receptionist	ext. 10
Deacon John Giacci, Director of Liturgy	ext. 32
Matthew Jewell, Director of Music	ext. 16
Cindy Krebs, Director of Preschool	ext. 34
Denise Troise, Bookkeeper	ext. 14

#### PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

PREP: Grades 1 through 8 • Confirmation: Grade 9  
Sandy Fiscella, DRE (302) 239-7100, ext. 18.

#### ST. MARY'S PRESCHOOL

Ages 2 through Pre-K.  
Cindy Krebs, 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

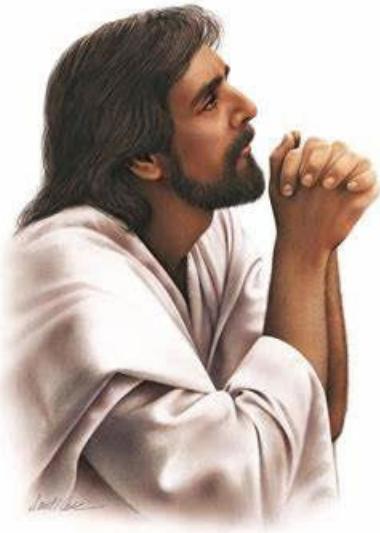
Contact the Parish Office, (302) 239-7100.

#### ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY

Contact Daniel DiGiacobbe (302) 239-7100, ext. 11.



*From Fr. Joe...*

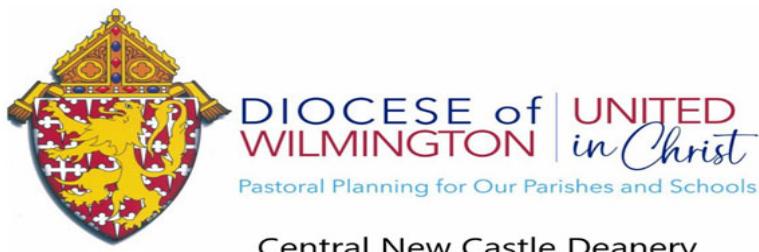


Today's Gospel completes a picture of Jesus' ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Jesus had the mission to establish the Kingdom of God in the last three years of His early life. That is why there is a sense of urgency and movement.

We also notice the importance of [prayer](#) in Jesus' daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed Himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found Him, Jesus told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in His prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God to continue His mission.

We also have a mission in the Kingdom of God as disciples of Christ. We bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for His guidance and direction in our lives. We have many important activities in our day. We make the time for these activities because they are important to us. Today, we see that Jesus also made time in His busy day for the activities that were important to Him and depended on prayer.

Even though there are many good and important activities that we must do each day, our busy lives cannot become an excuse for failing to pray. Following Jesus' example, we may find that we also need to be deliberate about making time in our day for prayer. What guidance have you received from God in prayer?



Central New Castle Deanery

**United in Christ.....**The nine parishes in The Central New Castle Deanery are: Corpus Christi, St. Matthew, Holy Spirit, St. Peter New Castle, O.L. of Fatima, St. Paul Delaware City, St. Catherine of Siena, St. John the Beloved and St. Mary of the Assumption. The surveys collected from these parishes were reviewed by our Deanery Leadership Team. The goal of this Assessment Phase was to gather as many parishioner and constituent responses from the Ten Major Themes of the Diocesan Synod Process. The deanery provided a total of 1053 responses, of which St. Mary of the Assumption provided 319. The results of our parish were published in the bulletin before the holidays. We are now in the Discernment Phase where the deanery team identifies the three emerging themes from the feedback of the initial ten.

**1) Increase Youth Engagement. 2) Re-engage non-participating parishioners. 3) Increase a sense of community through small groups by invitation and marketing.**

In February, our team will meet to begin the work of achieving these goals. Thank you again to everyone who partook of this survey. Keep the pastoral planning process for our parishes and schools in your prayers.



## Mass Schedule

<u>Monday</u>	<u>February 5, 2024</u>
8:30 a.m.	Bernadette C. Gallagher
<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>February 6, 2024</u>
8:30 a.m.	Martha Christine Ballard
<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>February 7, 2024</u>
8:30 a.m.	Robert J. Flynn
<u>Thursday,</u>	<u>February 8, 2024</u>
8:30 a.m.	Matthew Joseph Dwyer
<u>Friday</u>	<u>February 9, 2024</u>
8:30 a.m.	Frank Malloy
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>February 10, 2024</u>
8:30 am	<b>Frank Campbell, Sr.</b> Tristan Karl Jones John McCormick John W. Filliben Louis Sciarini Living Intention of Fr. Etim
5:00 p.m. John P. Gallagher	
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>February 11, 2024</u>
7:30 a.m.	Luis John Flanagan
9:30 a.m.	Dolores Greene Parishioners
11:30 a.m.	Ed McKeown



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

+James J. Castello, husband of parishioner Frances Castello

**Please Note:**  
For parishioners who need Gluten Free Host please go to the priest at communion.

## Celebrating Wedding Anniversary Mass with Bishop William E. Koenig

Bishop William E. Koenig invites all couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, wedding anniversary, or any anniversary beyond 50th, to the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass being held on World Marriage Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 1:00 pm at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, DE. Reservations are required by February 2, 2024. Bishop Koenig will be available for photos with interested couples beginning at 12:00 pm and again after the Mass. If you would like to have a photo taken with Bishop Koenig, please arrive at 12:00 pm or plan to stay after Mass.

Questions may be referred to the Office for Marriage and Family Life at 302-295-0657 or by emailing [OMFL@cdow.org](mailto:OMFL@cdow.org). Registration can be completed by using the following link – [Wedding Anniversary Mass Registration-2024 \(wufoo.com\)](https://www.wufoo.com/forms/wedding-anniversary-mass-registration-2024/)

## The Delaware State Columbiettes

The Delaware State Columbiettes will be hosting a Quarter Auction at the Holy Cross Parish Hall on Sunday, February 25 beginning at 1 pm. Ticket prices are \$25 which includes a hot lunch from Mission BBQ All in paddles may be purchased for \$25. Quarter paddles are \$8, and items will range from \$.25 to \$1. Please contact Linda Darling at 302-233-2246 for more information and to reserve a ticket.



St. Mary of the Assumption Food Drive Souper Bowl MONETARY and FOOD collection is February 10th and 11th.

We will accept all monetary donations you are willing to provide. Unfortunately, many organizations prefer money rather than goods due to losing storage facilities. NON-perishable items will be accepted. Checks make payable to Coffee Run Knights of Columbus and can be delivered to church office or mailed to PO Box 595, Hockessin De 19707. CREDIT CARDS ONLINE at <https://uknight.org/CouncilSite/CouncilNews.asp?CNO=6768#18655> More information at [WWW.KOFC6768.ORG](http://WWW.KOFC6768.ORG) OR [WWW.SMAchurch.com](http://WWW.SMAchurch.com)



In the Gospel today, we find that Jesus would rise very early before dawn and go to a deserted place to pray and then he went out to preach and to heal.

**Please pray for the poor and suffering, knowing that you are bringing the love and peace of Jesus to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.**

## Good News

from the  
Office of Communications



Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, learn about Retrouvaille, a program to heal marriages, when Deacon Craig and Judy Bickel are the guests. Catholic Forum will not air on Relevant Radio 640 this week due to their fund drive, but you can listen online anytime at [cdow.org/CatholicForum](http://cdow.org/CatholicForum), or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts. You can see videos of most interviews at YouTube.com/DioceseofWilm. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at [@CatholicForum](https://facebook.com/CatholicForum)

### THE PICTURE OF GOD'S HUMAN LIFE – Part 2

The Acts of the Apostles go on to record the earlier steps of the Church. The Church reproduces in its various detail the life of Our Lord Himself, and necessarily therefore is an inextricable weaving of sorrowful and triumphant things, one mingled with the other, one so depending on the other that you can never get away from its opposite. If you think in terms of joy and triumph, you are automatically plunged into sorrow. When in that sorrow, you are made to rise out of it into joy and victory and salvation and glory. That is typical Christianity. It is imperative that we drink it in at the source. In the Catechism and in the various storyettes that form our youthful fare, we learn a great deal of the Gospel narrative. But when we reach adult age we are better able to appreciate the narrative itself. It has a wealth of dignity that is missing from the Catechism or story. Indeed, there is no comparison between the two. Does it strike too modern a note to point to the difference between television and the radio?

The genius of the Gospel is that it can portray so vividly as almost to lend substance in our minds to what it tells us. There is no other document which is able to do that in the same way for us. Therefore, if we want to make Our Lord and His time live in us, we must use the means which will best bring that to pass. If we do not, our minds will not possess sufficient material to stoke our spiritual life. In the natural order it is essential that machines be adequately supplied with energy. If a furnace is not stoked, it will not produce energy. If we do not feed the body sufficiently, it too will fail. Everything that is starved weakens and then fails to accomplish its due purpose. It is starving the mind, and then the soul, to withhold the fullest knowledge of Our Lord's actions and words.

-from Mary Shall Reign by Frank Duff/The Legion of Mary

## 11 DAY PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE & THE GREEK ISLES

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For More Information, Please Contact

Loretta Young

Tel: (302) 658-4535

Email: [parishsecretary@stjosephfrenchst.org](mailto:parishsecretary@stjosephfrenchst.org)



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ALL ITEMS ARE DUE BY WEDNESDAY 2-14-2024



## Worship & Meditation

### Readings for the week of February 4, 2024

**Sunday:**

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (see 3a)/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

**Monday:**

1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/Mk 6:53-56

**Tuesday:**

1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11/Mk 7:1-13

**Wednesday:**

1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/Mk 7:14-23

**Thursday:**

1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40/Mk 7:24-30

**Friday:**

1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 7:31-37

**Saturday:**

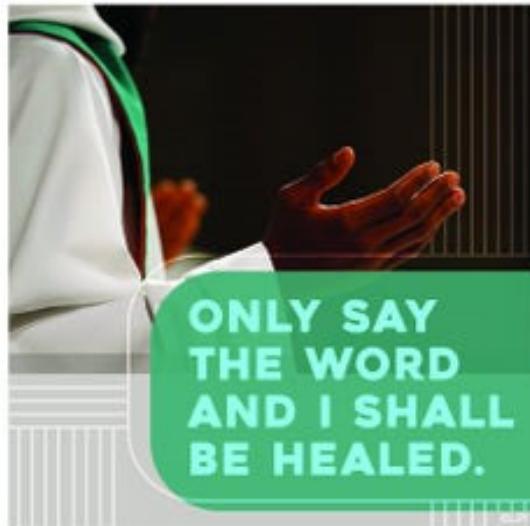
1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10

**Next Sunday:**

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 (7)/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45



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### Gospel Meditation

#### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Maybe I'm weird, but I like spending time in doctor's offices, confession lines in churches, auto repair shops, prison cells, and support groups of various kinds. It's refreshing to be with people who humbly admit something is wrong and forthrightly set out on a path toward a solution. When we ignore what is off kilter, we become alone and fragile. In places where people are honest and hopeful about brokenness, sturdy if subtle fellowship usually ensues.

Consider the image we see of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark. "...they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by a demon. The whole town was gathered at the door." The entire human community is afflicted in various ways, and so it gradually forms a strange new community around Jesus. The healer from Nazareth is like a sun of health around which orbits a throng of humanity absorbing his healing rays. These blessed souls can't fix themselves and become healthy, and they know it. But they have found in him the living source of all imaginable healing.

It's the Church, isn't it? A sin-sick community gathered and healed is what happens at the beginning of every Mass. We shuffle in through the door from everywhere and announce that we are not okay, and we can't fix it. In doing so, we are drawn into the orbit of the healing power of Christ — and into a renewed community with the whole human family. It's nothing to fear or rush. Maybe we can even learn to enjoy more how good it is to be in such a happy place.

— Father John Muir

## Weekly Prayer

### Sunday's Readings

#### First Reading:

I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. (Jb 7:4)

#### Psalm:

Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted. (Ps 147)  
Or: Alleluia.

#### Second Reading:

If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast,  
for an obligation has been imposed on me,  
and woe to me if I do not preach it! (1 Cor 9:16)

#### Gospel:

He cured many who were sick with various diseases,  
and he drove out many demons. (Mk 1:34)

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### Live The Liturgy

#### Inspiration of the Week

Jesus went from town to town, synagogue to synagogue, following the need. He follows it still, to this very day. Your life is the town he is visiting, your heart the synagogue where he preaches. Remember that for this purpose he has come.

### Observances for the week of February 4, 2024

**Sunday:** 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Monday:** St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

**Tuesday:** St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

**Thursday:** St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

**Saturday:** St. Scholastica, Virgin

**Next Sunday:** 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
World Marriage Day

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9:30 a.m. Mass Live-streamed**  
<http://www.youtube.com/c/smachurch>



## Calendar

### Monday February 5, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
9:15 a.m. Exposition, Adoration, Benediction (C)  
6:00 p.m. Monday Evening PREP  
6:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Cardinal Assembly  
Gibbons Business Meeting (CF)  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 803 Monthly meeting (M)

### Tuesday February 6, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
10:00 a.m. Divine Will Prayer Group (CF)  
7:00 p.m. SVDP Monthly meeting (M)

### Wednesday February 7, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
12:30 p.m. Sages Monthly Luncheon (H)

### Thursday February 8, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 803 meeting (H)  
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Planning meeting (J)

### Friday February 9, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
9:00 a.m. Legion of Mary (CF)  
9:15 a.m. Mother's Prayer group (CP)  
11:30 a.m. CDOW Tribunal meeting (J)  
6:00 p.m. Pre-school PTO Family Fun Night (H)

### Saturday February 10, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
3:30 p.m. Confessions (CP)  
5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass (C)  
6:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Beef & Beer night (H)

### Sunday February 11, 2024

Knights of Columbus Souper-bowl Drive (H)  
7:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
9:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
Children's Liturgy of the Word (CF)  
OCIA Breaking Open the Word (J)  
11:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
12:30 p.m. Legion of Mary Junior Praesidium (CF)  
1:00 p.m. Scheduled baptisms ©

#### Parish Rooms:

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

**Submit bulletin articles 2 weeks ahead to time.**

### Need a Ride???

Fellow Parishioners!!! Do you occasionally need a ride to Church for Mass or perhaps elsewhere? As one of the service organizations of our parish, The Knights of Columbus may be able to help. Contact, John Ryan, Community Director for the council. You may contact him at, 302-507-7915.

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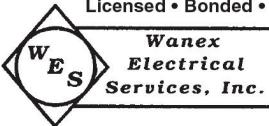
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