

January 5, 2025

"Arise! Shine, for your light has come,
the glory of the LORD has dawned upon you."

Isaiah 60:1



St. Mary

321 East Joliet Street
Crown Point, Indiana 46307
219.663.0044

With Grateful Hearts



St. Mary's is a faith community of disciples
following Jesus Christ in the Roman Catholic Tradition.

At the crossroads
of a historic past and a promising future,
we are anchored in
Worship, Education, Service and Hospitality.
Inspired by Mary, our patron and model of discipleship,
we say "yes" to bringing Christ
into our lives and into the world.

PRAYING, SERVING, SHARING

Staff

Pastor	Rev. Peter J. Muha	frpeter@stmarycp.org	(219) 663-0044
Sacramental Assistant	Rev. Don Lewandowski, OSA		
Permanent Deacon	S. William Grimes	bgrimes@stmarycp.org	(219) 249-1038
Director of Music and Worship	Sheila Vaclavik	sheila@stmarycp.org	(219) 249-1110
Faith Formation Coordinator	Cathy Scolaro	cscolaro@stmarycp.org	(219) 966-2202
Parish Life Director	Suzie Hartman	shartman@stmarycp.org	(219) 966-2203
School Principal	Tom Ruiz	truiz@stmarycp.org	(219) 663-0676
School Vice Principal	Bea Kozlowski	bkozlowski@stmarycp.org	(219) 663-0676
Admin. of School Choice Program	Cheryl Crnokrak	ccrnokrak@stmarycp.org	(219) 966-2205
Business Manager	Tracey Kolodziej	tkolodziej@stmarycp.org	(219) 249-1218
Bookkeeper	Diane Gordon	dgordon@stmarycp.org	(219) 249-1318
Maintenance Supervisor	Paul Czystczon	paul@stmarycp.org	(219) 663-0676
Office Manager	Cheryl Grandys	cgrandys@stmarycp.org	(219) 249-1319
Safe Environment Coordinator	Alejandra Wooden	awooden@stmarycp.org	(219) 663-0676
Housekeeper	Terry Bottomlee		

Parish Leadership Team

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Colleen Lustina	colleenlustina@gmail.com	(219) 384-6343
Tom Ruiz	truiz@stmarycp.org	(219) 663-0676
Sheila Vaclavik	sheila@stmarycp.org	(219) 249-1110
Michael Wysocki	mikew1556@gmail.com	(708) 269-8151

Liturgical Ministry Coordinators

Altar Servers	Deacon Bill Grimes	bgrimes@stmarycp.org
E.M. of Holy Communion	Sheila Vaclavik	sheila@stmarycp.org
Greeters	Mardee Saad	(219) 308-3071
Lectors	Sheila Vaclavik	sheila@stmarycp.org
Sacristans	Diane Gordon	dgordon@stmarycp.org
Ushers	Deacon Bill Grimes	bgrimes@stmarycp.org

Service and Organization Coordinators

Altar & Rosary Society	Mardee Saad	(219) 308-3071
Art and Environment	Cindy Szymanski	cmatzakszymanski@gmail.com
Building and Grounds	Paul Czystczon	paul@stmarycp.org
Catholic Moms' Group	Suzie Hartman	shartman@stmarycp.org
Catholic Order of Foresters	Dave Huber	muskiedave@gmail.com
Circle of Prayer	Donna Daugherty	donnasaponedougherty@gmail.com
Engaged Couples' Weekends	Larry and Jill Gallas	ljgallas74@gmail.com
God's Groceries	Elaine Hein	echein@yahoo.com
God's Groceries	Debbie Duvall	debbieduvall@sbcglobal.net
Knights of Columbus	Dave Stephenson	kofc4620gk@gmail.com
Ministers of Care		moc@stmarycp.org
RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation)	Deacon Bill Grimes	bgrimes@stmarycp.org
Rosary Ministry at Colonial Home	Beth Wanatowicz	beth14444@gmail.com
The Rescue Project	Barb Bruno	bbruno@goodasgoldtraining.com

PRAYING, SERVING, SHARING

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Happy New Year and a blessed Holy Year to you all! Although I have been officially your pastor since November 23rd, now that I am in residence at the rectory here at St. Mary's I really feel that we have begun our new journey together. Thank you to everyone who was kind enough to send me Christmas greetings. It really makes me feel at home.

You might be wondering what my "plans" regarding St. Mary's are, or what my "agenda" might be. The truth is that I don't have anything pre-conceived. I promise you that my first and foremost priority will always be the glory of God (especially through the Mass) and the pastoral care of you, my dear flock. My third priority is our Catholic witness and outreach to our neighbors, especially those in need.

Bishop McClory's episcopal motto is: "To proclaim Jesus as Christ." And he intends to include the rest of that verse: "and ourselves as your servants." I want to humbly apply these words to my own ministry as well. Together, you and I are called to be missionary disciples. Our parish is meant to be a beacon of hope for the communities in which we live, and beyond. This is why the Church was founded by Jesus Christ.

In order to give flesh to these lofty ideals, you and I need to continue the conversation and process of discernment begun by Fr. Pat Kalich. We will also discuss the projects pursued under Fr. Kevin Huber's leadership. Our first goal as a faith community is to get back into the church and resume "normal" parish life. Like you, I am eager to celebrate the Mass once again in our even more beautiful worship space.

Once we're settled in, I would like to call back into service our Parish Pastoral Council. I also want to meet with the various organizations within the parish. I am very excited to work with you all. I have already begun regular meetings with our St. Mary School principal, Mr. Tom Ruiz as well as with our Faith Formation Director, Mrs. Cathy Sclaro. Indeed, all of the staff have been most helpful in my transition. Thank you to everyone for your warm welcome!

God bless you!

Fr. Peter Muha

PRAYING, SERVING, SHARING



All Masses held in Hammes Hall - Door D or F

January 11th - January 12th

Saturday/Baptism of the Lord

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:30 p.m. - †Marilyn Tomondi - Tomondi Family

Sunday/Baptism of the Lord

7:30 a.m. - Intentions of St. Mary Parishioners

9:30 a.m. - Living & Deceased Members of Knights of Columbus

11:30 a.m. - †Norma Rosenbower - Bill & Brent Rosenbower



**St. Mary Welcomes
Our New Parishioners**

Branden Zurawicz



**Liturgy of the Word
Scripture Readings for the Week of January 5, 2025**

Sunday/The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Monday

1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday

1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday

1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52

Thursday

1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72:1-2; 14 and 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22

Friday

1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16

Saturday

1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Jn 3:22-30

Sunday/Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30; Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Schedule of Adoration Times



St. John the Evangelist, St. John - 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., daily. Instructions: Park in the school parking lot there is a path through the cemetery to the chapel.

St. Matthias, Crown Point - Nocturnal Adoration is the 1st Thursday 6pm to 6am and adoration with the staff on 3rd Thursday at 9 a.m. To 11 a.m. and adoration and rosary on the 1st Saturday at 11:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Consolation, Merrillville - 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Thursdays in the OLC Chapel.

Elizabeth Seton, Valparaiso - First Friday 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa - M-F 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville 46410

St. Mary
Altar & Rosary Society
Meeting

Sunday, January 12th
10:30 am

In the School Gymnasium

All ladies of St. Mary Parish are invited to attend.

We will be stuffing envelopes for the basket raffle.

If your schedule permits, please join us in
Hammes Hall at 9:00 am before the 9:30 am
Mass to pray the rosary.

Contact Altar & Rosary Society President
Mardee LaMere Saad at 219-308-3071

PRAYING, SERVING, SHARING



We Share

Week of December 15th – December 21st

Adult	\$4,366.11
God's Groceries	\$150.00
Improvement Fund	\$971.00
Total.....	\$5,487.11

December 22, 2024

Adult	\$9,727.00
Children	\$13.25
Loose.....	\$6,052.00
Total.....	\$15,792.25

Renovation Fund	\$105.00
God's Groceries	\$960.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$35.00
Immaculate Conception	\$80.00
Christmas	\$760.00
Christmas Flowers	\$220.00

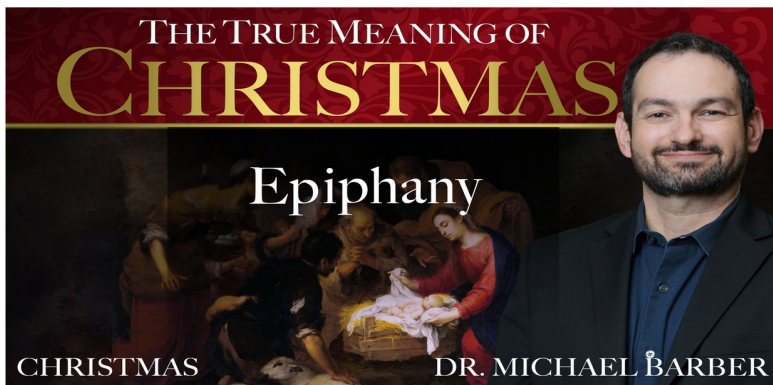
For online giving by WeShare, visit:
stmarycrownpoint.churchgiving.com
 for more information

Contribution envelopes can also be mailed to:
 St. Mary's Church 321 E. Joliet Street
 Crown Point, IN 46307

Thank you for your support!

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Epiphany | The True Meaning of Christmas

What is Epiphany? Join Dr. Michael Barber to find out.

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An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and ignacius press



CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Partners in Christ's Mission

2024 CSA Goal for St. Mary: \$77,151

Amount Pledged: \$84,409

Pledges Paid: \$83,324

Thank you for your generosity!



God's Groceries Food Distribution

Saturday, January 18, 2024
 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Your generosity is making it possible for us to continue living God's Mission here at Saint Mary's - including our God's Groceries Food Pantry that served more than 540 people last month.

PRAYING, SERVING, SHARING

Notes from Sheila  We Three Kings

Often times when I sit down to write an article, I choose a song for a particular Sunday and expound on its meaning, its scriptural references, or its place in the musical tradition of the Church. In thinking about the Epiphany, the first song that comes to my mind is “We Three Kings.” I have sometimes played it as an opening hymn because I feel it sets the tone for the liturgy. But actually, I have found it works better as an offertory hymn because we have more time to sing about all three gifts of the wisemen—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. It is always my hope to have the opportunity to sing the entire song for two reasons: 1) We really only sing this song once a year at Mass. 2) It seems somewhat incomplete to sing about just one or two of the three gifts as each gift is significant. But I can never predict if we can complete the singing of this beloved Christmas hymn; and even if we do not have the opportunity to sing the whole song, we know the story presented in the verses. We know what the wisemen bring, and we know that the gold signifies the kingship of Jesus, the frankincense represents the identity of Jesus as the Son of God, and the myrrh foretells of his death.

The three kings are a staple of every nativity scene. We see them bearing their gifts, and in some cases they are pictured on camels. We know they come from the East, the *Orient*. Sometimes we are asked their names, and in my search for verification, I found that the names Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar do not appear in the Bible, but are rather passed on by tradition. Nor does the Bible mention that there are three kings but because the three gifts are mentioned, three wisemen are associated with them. Many questions have been asked about these men bearing gifts to Jesus. Were they really kings? Exactly which countries were their native land? When did they visit Jesus? What did Mary and Joseph do with their gifts?

Even if many questions surround the story, we love the song “We Three Kings” and generally for the same reason we love some of our other liturgical hymns. First is its place in our worship history. I can remember singing this song on the Epiphany decades ago and every year since. Second, it helps us to visualize the story being told. Finally, is the music itself. “We Three Kings” alternates between “regal, minor-sounding Aeolian mode verses, in which the Three Wise Men announce what gifts they’re presenting to the son of God, and a major chorus joyfully proclaiming the beauty of the star guiding their way to the manger” (Pentreath, Rosie. “What Are the Lyrics to ‘We Three Kings of Orient Are’ and Who Wrote the Popular Carol?” *Classic FM December 4, 2024*. <https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/occasions/christmas/we-three-kings-lyrics-composer-origins/>).

In some of the Advent songs we just sang last month, the same pattern occurs: We begin in a minor key which generally evokes a sense of sadness and then transition to a more gleeful major key. Honestly, I believe that this pattern represents our life, our sometimes, our spiritual journey. How often we find ourselves lost, searching, waiting, uncertain, or weary from the journey. We find ourselves in that minor key of life, but in the end we know that not only is God coming, he is here; he is close at hand. He is the light that guides us always. Just as he guided the wisemen to Himself, he guides us to Himself. And for that we can sing joyfully---in our major key!

PRAYING, SERVING, SHARING



Top Ten Reasons to Send Your Child to St. Mary's School in Crown Point

No. 10: Cool uniforms. Uniforms provide a sense of order and discipline. Fashion-wise, they also level the socioeconomic playing field for families. They also eliminate the need to stand in front of the closet wondering what to wear each day.

No. 9: Three letters: C-Y-O. Our sports league rules include the requirement that every student who joins the team will play. Fun rivalries provide contexts for learning sportsmanship and teamwork. Is there anything more beautiful than witnessing players and coaches of both teams gather before a game to play?

No. 8: Affordability. Don't assume that you cannot afford a Catholic education for your children. Thanks to a major change in legislation recently, 97% of families now qualify for full participation in the Indiana School Choice Scholarship Program.

No. 7: Discipline. St. Mary's students benefit from a structured environment, where the emphasis is placed on treating one another with respect and kindness.

No. 6: Automatic backup. Parents are the first and primary teachers of their children, but they need support. Catholic schools can provide independent affirmation of the moral values and cardinal virtues you try to instill in your children at home. As a matter of fact, many families become closer to the faith due to their children's involvement at school.

No. 5: Sense of Community. St. Mary's families enjoy the old-fashioned feeling of belonging, in a community where people get to know one another. St. Mary's folks look out for one another, and that extends to the parish community and beyond.

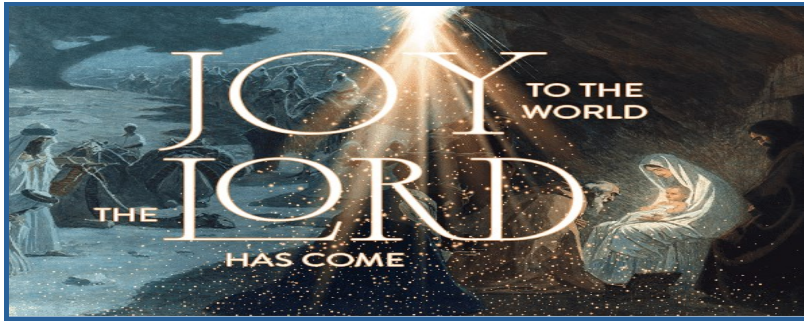
No. 4: Dedicated teachers and staff. Where else will you find such talented individuals entrusted with the academic and moral formation of your children? St. Mary's faculty and staff will be among the most influential persons in your child's life.

No. 3: Excellent academics and high school preparation. St. Mary's students graduate better prepared for high school than most. We don't like to brag, but St. Mary's students outperform their peers on standardized tests and more importantly, in their high school classes. Our preparation is unparalleled.

No. 2: Mass and faith milestones. St. Mary's students are blessed to celebrate Mass at school with their teachers and classmates, as well as during all the Holy Seasons throughout the Church year. And don't forget about the Sacraments- Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation -all grace-filled bonding moments that a child may experience with his or her classmates that bring them closer to Jesus Christ.

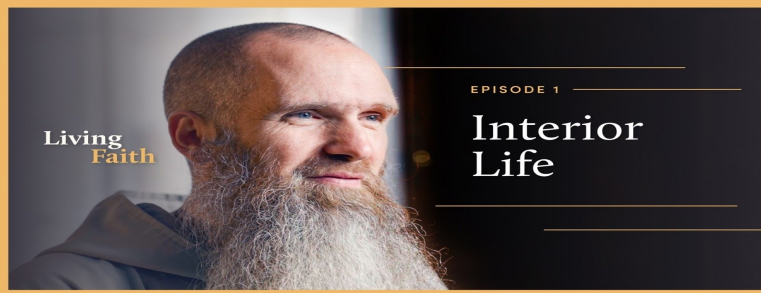
No. 1: Planting seeds. A Catholic education does not guarantee a virtuous life. What Catholic education does is plant a seed of the Catholic faith - a well-formed conscience which leads individuals to the full embrace of the Church and the road to salvation that it illuminates.

PRAYING, SERVING, SHARING



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Interior Life

We all worship something, whether we know it or not. We are called to put God first, and that means giving him our time in prayer. The focus of this episode is developing a consistent prayer life.

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An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and IGNATIUS PRESS

DIOCESE OF GARY

Rachel's Vineyard

**Healing the pain of abortion –
one weekend at a time.**
Northwest Indiana Retreats for 2025

**April 4-6
September 26-28**
Confidential contact
219-552-2944 or nwinrv@outlook.com
www.helpafterabortion.net

Celebrating Children

Dear Parents of our young parishioners,
Our parish enthusiastically welcomes your growing family to fully celebrate with us.
May we suggest:

- **Relax.** God put the wiggle in children; Don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house.
- **Sit towards the front or aisle** where it is easier for little ones to see & hear.
- **Quietly explain** the parts of the Mass.
- **Sing** the hymns, **pray** the prayers and **say** the responses.
Children learn from your actions
- If you must leave Mass with your child, feel free to do so, but **please come back**. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me" Mt 19:14

Note to all Parishioners:
The presence of children is a gift to our Church. Like all of us, they are members of the Body of Christ and a reminder of the growth and future of our Church. Please welcome our children and their parents, and give them a big smile of encouragement!

Diocese of Gary
dcgary.org

MARRIAGE DATE NIGHT

Friday, February 7, 2025
Don Quijote Restaurant
119 E Lincolnway | Valparaiso, IN

5:30 p.m. *Cash Bar*
6:30 p.m. *Dinner*
7:30 p.m. *Speaker*
\$120 per couple

Guest speakers:
Sofia and James Bilder
Topic:
"Pilgrim Hearts"

Learn more and register at dcgary.org

PRAYING, SERVING, SHARING

INDIANA YOUTH RALLY & MASS FOR LIFE

JANUARY 22, 2025

9:00 AM: YOUTH RALLY FOR LIFE

11:30 AM: MASS FOR LIFE

INDIANA CONVENTION CENTER - HALL J



SPONSORED BY THE DIOCESES IN INDIANA

The fight for the right to life and the dignity of all people continues!
This is not a time to become complacent. Be the voice for the voiceless.

The Diocese of Gary Office of ProLife Activities and the Lake County Right to Life invite you to come with us on the March for Life in Indianapolis on Wednesday, January 22.

Transportation: Premium Coach Bus

Cost: \$35 per person with lunch

Leaves Holy Martyrs/Our Lady of Consolation parish, Merrillville

(8303 Taft St., south parking lot) at 6:30 AM CST

11:30 AM EST Mass at the Indiana Convention Center

1:45 PM EST March begins at Georgia and Illinois St.

2:30 PM EST Rally at Statehouse

3:00 PM EST Leave for Merrillville, box lunch included for the way home

Space is limited. Registration and prepayment is required.

All participants will need to fill out a waiver form. It will be emailed to you in January. Parents and legal guardians of children, infants through high school students, will need to complete a waiver for their children.

For those wishing to attend the Youth Rally in the morning, please find more information on the March for Life Indianapolis website by going here:



REGISTER HERE

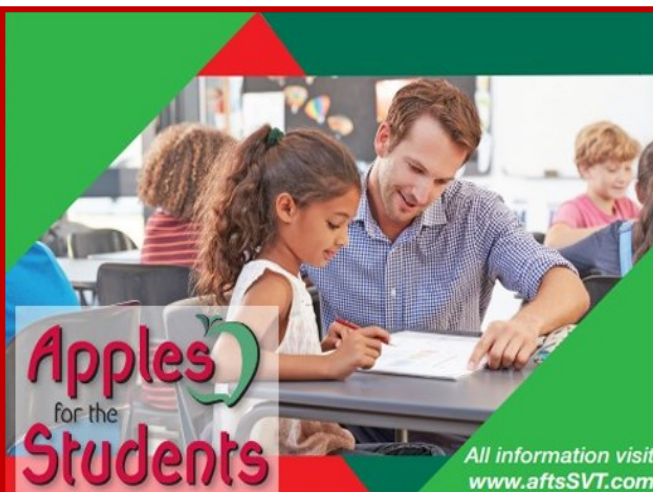


holy moments

This week's Challenge!

Smile generously at someone in the hallway!

"Treat every person you ever meet like the second coming of Jesus in disguise."



Apples
for the
Students

All information visit
www.aftsSVT.com

You can help our school earn
FREE classroom equipment!

Courtesy Of



- Shop at Strack & Van Til Food Market and save receipts
- Receipts must be dated between September 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025
- Please drop off your receipts in our collection box at school by April 8, 2025.

PRAYING, SERVING, SHARING

Save
the Date

ST. MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SCHOOL'S
Celebration of Gifts PRESENTS:

Aloha!

AVALON MANOR | MERRILLVILLE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

6:00PM - MIDNIGHT

Schedule of Events

6PM - CHAMPAGNE TOAST

7PM - PLATED DINNER WITH PREMIUM OPEN BAR

8PM - LIVE AUCTION

9PM - LIVE MUSIC & DANCING WITH THE ROBBY
CELESTIN PROJECT

10PM - SILENT AUCTION CONCLUDES

RAFFLES, DRAWINGS AND NUT CARDS FOR PURCHASE

TICKETS \$100 PER PERSON

ATTIRE: BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFORMATION:
CELEBRATIONOFGIFTS@GMAIL.COM

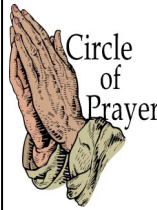
219.663.0676

Come,
Pray
the Rosary

All interested are invited to pray the Rosary and the Chaplet of Mercy with a Small Christian Community group every Monday at 1:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Chapel.

- Please note change of location -

We pray intentions for the sick, dying, deceased, poor orphaned, the world and any intentions in your heart. Please feel free to join us whenever you can.



In need of prayer? Are you a family member or a friend in need of prayers for sickness, a family matter, a job situation or some other personal reason? The Saint Mary Circle of Prayer will gladly pray for your intentions. Just call the Parish Office at 219-663-0044 with your request.

DIOCESAN

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Greg Pope is the representative for our parish community and is a 17-year seasoned expert at Diocesan, the publisher of our bulletin. Advertising in our printed and digital bulletins is an excellent opportunity for your business and also helps to eliminate the printing costs of the bulletin to your parish.

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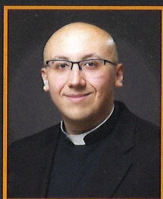


PRAYING, SERVING, SHARING

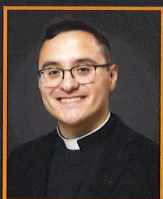
To Pray with the Vocations Cross,
please contact:

Brianna Pierce
219-742-6111

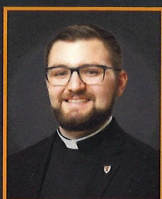
PRAY FOR OUR
2024 - 2025 SEMINARIANS



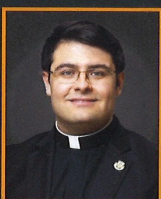
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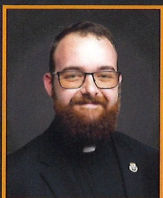
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*To visit the Sick is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy.
Many of those who are sick are forgotten.*

Ministers of Care visit the faithful in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and private homes to provide a listening presence, prayer and the Eucharist.

Being a Minister of Care means actively participating within the community of believers who live and pray, believing that suffering and death have meaning in Jesus.

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer or know of someone who may need one of our Ministers to reach out and visit?
If so please email mocesmarjcp.org or call the Parish Office at 219.663.0044



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O Holy Night - Christmas with the Annie Moses Band

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An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  ignatius press



Bringing Home the Word +

The Epiphany of the Lord (C)
January 5, 2025

Your Light Has Come!

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Many traditional religions have in some way ascribed divinity to light—they claim either that light emanates from a god or that light itself is divine. This is probably because light is a primal necessity, essential for life. We find such thinking in today's readings.

"Your light has come" (Isaiah 60:1), says today's Old Testament reading. This is Isaiah's glorious message for the people of Jerusalem. The city had been destroyed; the people were scattered; the future looked bleak. This message must have filled the people with hope. Not only does light bring them hope, but the

light actually streams from their God. It is the Lord who shines, bestowing his radiance upon them. This light is filled with promise.

The story of the Magi is not meant primarily for children who delight in moving figurines of the three kings a bit closer to the stable every day. This is an adult story about inner darkness and enlightenment. The strangers, ignorant of ancient Israel's traditions, were able to read the signs of the times. Because of their openness, they found the Light of the World. The learned men of Jerusalem were well schooled in the ancient promises, for they knew where to send the strangers. However, they felt threatened by these signs. They closed their minds and hearts to any omens that might imperil their positions of privilege. They had a chance to benefit from this new light, but they turned their backs on it. †

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 60:1–6

Nations shall walk by your light, / kings by the radiance of your dawning.

Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6

[T]he Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 2:1–12

And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.



The story of the Magi is an adult story about inner darkness and enlightenment.

A Word from Pope Francis

Where did it originate, this spirit of healthy restlessness that led [the Magi] to set out on their journey? It was born of *desire*.... With no exaggeration, we can say that we are what we desire. For it is our desires that enlarge our gaze and drive our lives forward...beyond the fear of becoming involved and serving others and the common good.

HOMILY, ROME, JANUARY 6, 2022



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What truth, or "epiphany," that is waiting to be revealed frightens me?
- What can I do this year to draw closer to others and to God?

Living in the Light of God

Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

Each day is an epiphany. We live in the light of God, who created us. We are redeemed in the light of Jesus, who poured out his life for the sake of sinful humanity. We are empowered to be the light of God for others by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Each day is an opportunity to open our hearts to let the light of God shine through us. Our light shines brightly when we choose to celebrate life and to share goodness, compassion, peace, and love with others.

Epiphany means living in the light of God and bringing the light of God to all the dark places in our families, communities, nation, and world. Epiphany challenges every Christian to be the light of love to unloving people, the light of forgiveness in unforgiving



situations, the light of kindness in a climate of incivility, and the light of understanding in the face of invincible ignorance. We are the glory of God in the world. We are the epiphanies who can make a difference in people's lives.

Ponder: Where do I need to let my light shine?

Prayer: Lord, your light gives us strength and shows us the way to God. Remove my blindness that I may see the light of goodness, peace, and love within myself and others.

Practice: Today, I will have a positive attitude and look for the good in others. †

From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas* by Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney, Liguori Publications (819407). Visit Liguori.org for other books in the series.

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "Advent Longing: Day-by-Day Reflections for Personal Growth"
by Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Inside the Christmas story are smaller narratives, each one rich. One is the story of the three Wise Men at the beginning of chapter 2 of the Gospel of Matthew, where we read of the powerful contrast that exists between the reaction of the Wise Men and King Herod to the birth of Jesus. What's the lesson for us? Can we bless new life that threatens us? Like the Wise Men, can we lay our gifts at the feet of the young and move toward anonymity and eventual death, content that the world is in good hands, even if they aren't our own? The Wise Men did that for Jesus.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, so that the dark corners of the world may awaken to your light and love, we pray: Be born in us, be born in our world.


The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 6–11

Monday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 3:22–4:6 / Mt 4:12–17, 23–25
Tuesday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 4:7–10 / Mk 6:34–44
Wednesday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 4:11–18 / Mk 6:45–52

Thursday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 4:19–5:4 / Lk 4:14–22a
Friday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 5:5–13 / Lk 5:12–16
Saturday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 5:14–21 / Jn 3:22–30

Bringing Home
the Word 
January 5, 2025

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PRAYING, SERVING, SHARING

Marriage

Congratulations, and thank you for allowing us to journey with you! Your wedding is as important to us as it is to you. We will work with you to make the celebration of the sacrament of Marriage a holy and life-giving part of your life and life of our parish family. Members of the parish can call the Parish Office at (219) 663-0044. Anticipate approximately nine months to complete the prescribed marriage preparation.

Communion Calls

Saint Mary's has a team of ministers who regularly visit those members of our family who are homebound and in nursing care. Visits can be arranged by calling the Parish Office.

Baptism

We welcome you and your child! We want to do whatever we can to help make the Sacrament of Baptism a Graced moment for your family and Saint Mary Parish. To indicate a commitment to raise their children in the Catholic faith, parents are asked to participate in baptismal preparation, be registered parishioners for three months and have regular Mass attendance. Baptism of infant children is ordinarily scheduled on the first and third Sundays of the month after the 11:30 am Mass, beginning at approximately 12:45 pm.

Please fill out our online form below for more information or to begin the preparation process for your child's Baptism. We'll be in touch with you by phone! If you do not hear from the office within 3 business days please reach out by calling 219-663-0044.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The sacrament of Reconciliation is offered every Saturday: 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Assisted Hearing

Our amplification system includes assisted hearing devices for the benefit of those whose hearing is limited. Each device includes a receiver that is linked electronically to the microphones in church. Some of these devices have in-the-ear pods that are inserted in your ear. Other devices have over-the-ear headsets. If anyone wishes to borrow one of these devices for use during Mass, give a call to the Parish Office at 663-0044. Or you can speak with one of the ushers before Mass.

If you find the device helpful, you can ask to borrow one when you come to Mass (or if you prefer, you can arrange to purchase one for yourself).



For general parish information, visit us online at stmarycp.org.