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St. Mary Church
1115 Pearl St.
Anderson, IN 46016
765-644-8467



St. Mary Church
820 W. Madison St.
Alexandria, IN 46001
765-724-2483

December 27, 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

27 December 2020

La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José

Off the Top of my Head. . .

“Christmas is over!”

This message was heard by a brother priest as his clock radio woke him on Christmas Morning several years ago. He was getting up to celebrate Christmas Mass. The radio was advertising an After-Christmas Sale. So it goes.

As the Church created the Christmas Season, we should have a say about when it begins and ends. To be clear, the Christmas Season began Thursday evening with the Christmas Eve Masses. This weekend, we continue the Christmas Season with the Feast of the Holy Family. Next Friday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Next weekend we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. (The traditional date for Epiphany is January 6, but here in this part of the U.S. we celebrate it on the Sunday after January 1st.) Christmas concludes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, this year on January 9-10. This final day of Christmas celebrates an event in the life of the adult Christ, not the baby Jesus. So Christmas is not just the birthday of Jesus but the celebration of God’s revelation of himself, in his Son, to world. That revelation took place not only in Bethlehem but also at the Jordan River.

So, Merry Christmas!

While we’re at it, let’s look at the major observances of the coming year. Even if the Covid pandemic continues to restrict our Mass attendance, we can and should observe these important feasts and seasons however we can.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. The Easter Triduum begins with Holy Thursday, April 1, continues with Good Friday, April 2, reaches its high point with the Easter Vigil, April 3, and concludes with Easter Sunday, April 4. The Season of Easter concludes with the Feast of Pentecost on May 23.

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, falls on a Sunday this year. The Solemnity of All Saints, November 1, falls on a Monday and thus there is no obligation to participate in Mass. Then we come full circle to the First Sunday of Advent, November 27-28, 2021.

Let’s pray for the opportunity during the coming year to (safely) fill our parish churches to join together and worship our loving God!

Fr. Tom Metzger
 December 27, 2020

Si recuerdo bien...

"¡Se acabó la Navidad!"

Este mensaje fue escuchado por un hermano sacerdote cuando su radio despertador lo despertó la mañana de Navidad. Hace años se estaba levantando para celebrar la misa de Navidad. La radio anunciaba unas rebajas después de navidad Así que fue.

Dado que la Iglesia creó la temporada navideña, deberíamos tener la opción sobre cuándo comienza y cuando termina. Para ser más claro, la temporada navideña comienza el jueves con la misa de nochebuena. Ese fin de semana, continuamos la temporada navideña con la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia. Para el viernes 1 de enero seguimos con la celebración de La Solemnidad de María, la Madre de Dios. El siguiente fin de semana se celebra la Fiesta de la Epifanía. (La fecha tradicional de la celebración de la Epifanía es el 6 de enero, pero aquí en esta parte de los EE.

UU. la celebramos el domingo siguiente

1 de Enero).

La Navidad concluye con la Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor, este año el 9 y el 10 de enero. Este último día de Navidad celebra un evento en la vida adulta de Cristo, no del niño Jesús. Entonces la Navidad no es solo celebrar el cumpleaños de Jesús, sino también la revelación de Dios mismo, en su Hijo, al mundo. Ese evento no solo tuvo lugar en Belén, sino también en el río Jordán.

Así que, ¡Feliz Navidad!

Ya que estamos en esto, echemos un vistazo a las principales celebraciones del próximo año. Incluso si la pandemia de Covid sigue restringiendo nuestra asistencia a Misa, necesitamos y debemos observar estas importantes fiestas y temporadas como podamos.

La Cuaresma comienza con el Miércoles de Ceniza el 17 de febrero. El Triduo Pascual con el Jueves Santo, 1 de abril. Continúa con el Viernes Santo, 2 de abril y sigue su punto culminante con la Vigilia Pascual, el 3 de abril, y concluye con el domingo de Pascua, 4 de abril. El tiempo de Pascua concluye con la fiesta de Pentecostés el 23 de mayo.

La solemnidad de la Asunción de la Santísima Virgen María, el 15 de agosto, el cual cae en domingo este año. La solemnidad de Todos los Santos, el 1 de noviembre, que este año es en lunes y por lo tanto no hay obligación de participar en Misa.

Finalmente, cerramos el círculo con el primer domingo de Adviento, del 27 al 28 de noviembre de 2021.

Oremos para que el próximo año tengamos la oportunidad de llenar nuestras parroquias (de manera segura) y unirnos a adorar a nuestro Dios amoroso.

Fr. Tom Metzger

27 de diciembre, 2020

Confessions—St. Mary Anderson-Saturday, 2:30-3:30 PM: St. Mary Alexandria-Saturday, 3:30-4:00 PM
St. Ambrose -Saturday, 4:00-5:00 PM

Pastor: Father Tom Metzger—fr.tmetzger@dol-in.org, Father Dave Hellmann—fr.dhellmann@dol-in.org,
Father Marty Sandhage—fr.msandhage@dol-in.org, Deacon Mike Burns

Business Manager: Harriett Russel -St. Ambrose and St. Mary Anderson

Parish Secretaries: Anita Myers & Jan Adams M-W-F

Madison King St. Mary Alexandria

Holy Cross School Principal: Tina Neal

St. Mary School Principal: Rachel Duckworth



St. Ambrose

YTD Giving \$ 413,163 YTD Expenses \$ 381,889

St. Mary

YTD Giving \$ 449,047 YTD Expenses \$ 437,767

Renovation Fund \$ 268,885 of \$330,000 Phase 1

St. Mary Alexandria

YTD Giving \$ 618,431 YTD Expenses \$ 483,571

visit our website - [www.https://stambrosetmary.org](https://stambrosetmary.org)

On Line Giving— visit us at the following:

St. Ambrose—<https://osvhub.com/st-ambrose-church-anderson/funds>

St. Mary Anderson—<https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/13>

St. Mary Alexandria—<https://membership.faithdirect.net/enroll/choosegifts/>

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	28-Dec.	8:00 AM 8:00 AM	St. Ambrose St. Mary And.	Deceased of George Mehling Family Clarice and Michael Weis
Tuesday	29-Dec.	8:00 AM	St. Ambrose	John Sokol
Wednesday	30-Dec.	8:00 AM 8:00 AM 11:30 AM	St. Ambrose St. Mary Alex. St. Vincent Hosp.	Thomas and MaryAnn Chezem Jerry Clabaugh Betty Shaffer
Thursday	31-Dec.	4:30 PM 5:30 PM	St. Mary Alex. St. Ambrose	World Peace Grant Lierman
Friday	1-Jan.	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	St. Mary Alex. St. Mary And.	James King Stephanie Farran
Saturday	2-Jan.	4:00: PM 4:30 PM 5:30 PM	St. Mary And. St. Mary Alex. St. Ambrose	Edward O'Donnell David Libler Betty Brownfield
Sunday	3-Jan.	7:30 AM 8:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:30 AM	St. Mary And. St. Mary Alex. St. Ambrose St. Mary And.	Jeanne Papai Jenny and Larry Chapel Deceased of George Mehling Family Pro populo

Secretary Position Available for St. Mary Alexandria

We are looking to fill a position for clerical support to the church and school of St. Mary in Alexandria. The hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The duties included are those related to church and school operations. If interested please contact Rachel Duckworth at rduckworth@stmaryalex.net or call St. Mary School in Alexandria at 765-724-4459.

Knights of Columbus

There will be a chicken fry on January 9th, and a tenderloin dinner on January 16th. Due to Covid meals will be carry-out only until further notice. All meals are at the Columbian Hall from 5:00-7:30 and are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

A Prayer For Hope After A Hard Year.

God, Thank you for helping us to make it through this difficult year. Thank you that you've carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters, through the flames of trials, and through the pain of hard losses. We are constantly aware of how much we need you, your grace, your strength, your power working through even the toughest days.

Help us to keep our focus first on you this season. Please forgive us for giving too much time and attention to other things, for looking to other people before coming to you first. Help us to reflect again, on what Christmas is really all about. Thank you that you came to give new life, peace, hope, and joy. Thank you that your power is made perfect in our weakness.

Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful Presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you that you surround us with favor as with a shield, and we are safe in your care.

We choose to press in close to you today, and keep you first in our hearts and lives. Without you we would surely fail, but with you, there is great hope. Thank you for your healing power, thank you for bringing us into this new season up ahead. We look forward to all that You still have in store. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Classes are beginning for Sacrament Preparation!

Children 2nd grade or older may prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

Children age 13 or older may prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We also offer preparation classes for children age 7 and above, who have not been baptized.

Please email Christine at cvincent-rodas@parish.dol-in.org or call the parish office for more information or to

Register your child(ren) today.

Religious Education Materials Have Arrived

This year due to COVID, Religious Education classes are homebased. Materials are available for students grades K-9th as well as parent guides. Each lesson follows the Gospel reading of the weekend. Please email Christine at cvincent-rodas@parish.dol-in.org or call the parish office for more information or to register.

¡Empiezan las clases de preparación para los sacramentos de primero comunión y confirmación!

Los niños de segundo grado o mayores pueden prepararse para recibir los sacramentos de la reconciliación y la sagrada comunión.

Los niños de 13 años o más pueden prepararse para recibir el sacramento de la confirmación.

También ofrecemos clases de preparación para niños de 7 años o más, que no han sido bautizados.

Para obtener más información mande un mensaje por texto a 765-602-5312 con su nombre, los nombres de sus hijos y para cual sacramentos quiere inscribirse. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a Christine a cvincent-rodas@parish.dol-in.org o llame a la oficina parroquial para obtener más información o para inscribirse a su(s) hijo(s). ¡Gracias!

Han llegado los materiales de educación religiosa

Este año debido a COVID, las clases de educación religiosa se imparten en el hogar. Los materiales están disponibles para los estudiantes de los grados K-9, así como guías para los padres. Cada lección sigue la lectura del Evangelio del fin de semana. Para obtener más información o para registrarse mande un texto a 765-602-5312 o envíe un correo electrónico a Christine a cvincent-rodas@parish.dol-in.org. También pueden pasar a la oficina parroquial en el anexo de la escuela en Santa María en viernes a recibir sus materiales. ¡Gracias!

Scholarship Grant Organization

Would you like to donate to your parish school's SGO (Scholarship Grant Organization) in order to assist in a student's Catholic education? You will also earn an Indiana State Tax Credit of 50% of your donation! To make an on-line donation visit <http://www.i4qed.org> and click "Donate Now", or you may pick up an application at the back of the church or school office.



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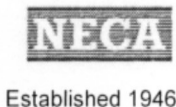
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James O. Anderson

Attorney at Law

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