



Our Lady of the Lake & St. Ann

P A R I S H C O L L A B O R A T I V E

DECEMBER 24, 2023 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

PASTOR: FR. RAJ J. NATHAN, MSFS

Our Lady of the Lake Parish Community

24832 US Highway 12 East
Edwardsburg, MI 49112

Website: www.ourladyedwardsburg.org

Rectory and Parish Office:
269-699-5870

*Reaching up to God,
reaching out to one another,
through prayer, service and friendship.*

Mass Times at Our Lady:

Saturday 4:30 pm

Sunday 8:00 am and 11:00 am

Daily Masses:

9:30 am - Mon - Wed - Fri

6:30 pm - Tuesday

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 - 4:00 pm

30 minutes before weekday Mass

St. Ann Parish Community

421 N. Broadway St.

PO Box 247

Cassopolis, MI 49031

Website: www.stanncass.com

Parish Office: 269-445-3000

Mass Times at St. Ann:

Sunday and Tuesday 9:30 am

Adoration and Confession: Tues. 9 am

Rosary: Tues. 10 am



**"FOR TODAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN
BORN FOR YOU WHO IS CHRIST AND LORD." — LK 2:11**

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

Welcome Visitors & New Parishioners

Bulletin Deadline for both Parishes: 9 am on Monday | submit to cantos2@comcast.net

FR. RAJ SHARES

***“Glory to God in the highest
and peace to the people of good will.”***

Dear Loving Parishioners,

We are approaching Christmas Day, the day we have long awaited and prepared for. Christmas is a milestone in the history of our salvation. So, it is wonderful to know that *“God is With Us,” The Emmanuel.*

Through this feast God has proved the depth of His love by fulfilling His promise. The Word of God is no longer just the message spoken by prophets. It is now a human person. The Word has become flesh through the Blessed Virgin Mary. The central message of today’s celebration is the Incarnation, God became Man, and the fullness of God’s divine revelation in Christ.

Let the celebration of Christmas rekindle in us our own deep desire for God: to hear, see and touch Him. Let us also begin to see Jesus in the poor and

hear the cries of their needs.

I personally wish you all a Merry Christmas and may the infant Jesus be born in your homes, in your hearts and may you radiate this Jesus in your living.

Be assured of my prayers for all of your intentions when I celebrate Masses this Christmas time.

And taking into consideration the people traveling in the night and due to winter, I, together with the parish council, decided to cancel the Tuesday evening Mass at Our Lady beginning December 26. It will resume after the winter months. Thank you for your kind understanding.

Wishing you all Merry Christmas,
I remain

Fr. Raj, MSFS



PLEASE NOTE: CHRISTMAS WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

4th Sunday of Advent– Dec. 23/24

Sat. 4:30 pm @ Our Lady

Sun. 8:00 am @ Our Lady

Sun. 9:30 am @ St. Ann

(There will be no Sunday 11:00 am Mass at Our Lady)

Christmas Masses– December 24/25

Sun. 4:00 pm @ Our Lady

Sun. 10:00 pm @ Our Lady

Mon. 8:00 am @ Our Lady



Sun. 4:00 pm @ St. Ann
(caroling begins at 3:40 pm)

Mon. 9:30 am @ St. Ann

END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS



Please remember how important end-of-year contributions are to the health of our parish budgets. Consistent contributions throughout the year allow us to meet our ongoing commitments. In order for your contribution to be deducted on your 2023 tax return, checks must be dated in 2023 and reach the parish office by Dec. 31, 2023. If the donation is mailed, it must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2023.

WEEKEND FOOD BAGS FOR CASSOPOLIS STUDENTS

St. Ann Parish is happy to collaborate with other area churches to assist with the Pack-A-Backpack Program for students in our area. We will assist 50 students by providing food for several weekends. You can help by making a donation to the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation, Sam Adams Backpack program at <https://www.mgcf.org> or by volunteering to pack the food bags on Tuesday, January 9th at 10:00 am. St. Ann is happy to be a part of supplying area children in need with these nourishing bags of food.



PRAYER AROUND THE ADVENT WREATH

(Fourth Week of
Advent)

*O Wisdom, Holy Word of God,
Jesus Christ, all things are in
your hands,
Come and show us the way to
salvation!*

Stewardship Around the Parish

We thank the many parishioners who have assisted in many ways to help St. Ann and Our Lady share God's message of love and mercy to others. During this Advent Season, volunteers stuffed and mailed the Christmas letters, put up the Social Hall tree at Our Lady, held a collaborative Christmas party and filled/ delivered "Sunshine Bags" that contained activities and "goodies" to share with our parishioners who cannot make it to Mass. We thank the anonymous donor who purchased a 100-year ornament for each of these recipients and the Religious Education students for making all of the beautiful cards. When we all work together, we can accomplish many great things and bring God's love to all! May everyone feel the love of Christ this holy season!



Filling the Sunshine Bags



'TIS THE SEASON TO MAKE MEMORIES 300 ORNAMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

We hope everyone will support the Jubilee Committee and purchase a couple of 100-Year Christmas Ornaments that are designed to highlight our 100 years as a parish. Ornaments are \$10 each.

This ornament would make a perfect gift for:

- adult children and grandchildren who were baptized, confirmed, or married at Our Lady of the Lake.
- former parishioner-friends who have moved away from Edwardsville.
- anyone who has been part of Our Lady's history in any way.
- ***You can also purchase a 100-Year ornament and put your name on it to display on the Social Hall Christmas tree.***

These keepsake ornaments will be available for purchase after all Masses now through the Christmas Day Masses.



Collaborative Christmas Party

The Christmas Party was a wonderful event for people from both parishes to gather for fellowship and fun! The potluck meal was delicious and plentiful. Santa and Mrs. Claus closed the event with their jolly smiles and Christmas Joy. Thank you to all the student and adult volunteers, especially the Hospitality Committee and Steve and Lori Richards with the Confirmation students ... we couldn't have put it together without you.



DAUGHTERS OF ST. ANN MEETING JANUARY 4TH AT 10:00 AM

The Daughters of St. Ann will have a short meeting in the fellowship hall on January 4th. All women of the parish are welcome to attend. We will be sharing the success of the December Bake Sale and putting on the finishing touches for the potluck breakfast. The group welcomes your involvement.





A SPECIAL GIFT FOR YOU

The parishes are offering a special book to all of our parishioners and visitors.

Beautiful Eucharist is a stunning collection of life-changing reflections about Jesus truly present in the Eucharist and wonderfully present in our lives. This book is an invitation to encounter the life-giving presence of Jesus in the Eucharist so you can be a life-giving presence in the world.

Please be sure to pick up your gift after the Christmas Masses. Thank you to the Daughters and WOOL who made this gift possible!

STAY CONNECTED



Please check these sites for up-to-date information.

Facebook:

St. Ann Parish -
St. Ann Church
Cassopolis MI



Our Lady of the Lake -
Our Lady of the Lake Parish
Community



Flocknote:

(Emails or texts to your phones)

Join by visiting your parish website:

Websites:

www.stanncass.com
www.ourladyedwardsburg.org



100 - YEAR \$100,000 CAMPAIGN

With an older building, and major equipment coming to the end of its lifespan, we are looking at major expenditures for repair and replacement at Our Lady. Funds collected in the Building Fund envelopes are used strictly for the upkeep of the building and its equipment. The current balance in our Building Fund account is not large enough to cover the number of items and/or repairs presently needed. This has made it necessary for us to increase awareness with a specific campaign to raise funds to cover the cost of these major repairs. If we do not raise the funds needed for the necessary repairs, we will have to take money out of our General Fund.

In your monthly envelope packet at Our Lady or at the entrances of the church, you will notice a 100-Year \$100,000 campaign envelope. If you were to place \$100 a month in the envelope for the next 6 months, that would come to \$600 toward the maintenance costs of our church. If you were to donate \$50 a month, it then becomes a \$300 gift or \$25 a month becomes \$150. Whatever amount, big or small, you can give each month will help us to cover the cost of these much-needed repairs.

Donations can also be made through online giving by visiting our website at <https://ourladyedwardsburg.org/donations-1> and clicking on the Online Giving Button.

We thank our parishioners and visitors for your ongoing support. We have raised 40% of our goal thus far.



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS AND NEW YEAR'S TOAST

St. Ann Parish will honor all those born in December during Mass on December 31. A special blessing at the end of Mass will also be offered. After Mass plan to stay for birthday cake and enjoy visiting with friends. We will also have a New Year's celebration toast.

Come join the fun!

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Monday, January 1, 9:30 am

Start the New Year by giving

Praise to God!

(Because the holy day falls on a Monday this year, it is not a day of obligation.)

NO TUESDAY EVENING MASS

Beginning Tuesday, December 26, the Tuesday evening Mass at Our Lady will be cancelled during the winter months. There is still 9:30 am Mass at St. Ann. Tuesday evening Mass will resume after the Easter celebration, on April 2nd.

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE MASS SCHEDULE

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23

4:30 pm | Stan Wiczorek

Sunday, December 24

8:00 am | Nancy Michaels

11:00 am | NO MASS

Christmas Masses

Sunday, December 24

4:00 pm | Richard & Arlene DeSchepper

10:00 pm | Doug Weber

Monday, December 25

8:00 am | Christmas Flower Memorial

Tuesday, December 26

6:30 pm | NO Mass

Wednesday, December 27

9:30 am | Special Intention

Friday, December 29

9:30 am | Adeline (Chickie) Frole

Saturday, December 30

4:30 pm | Albert & Carolyn Ronnebaum

Sunday, December 31

8:00 am |

11:00 am | Bob Harvey



OUR LADY PRAYER LIST

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Tim & Janice Ackerson, Marilyn Cobb, Ryan Clark, Dale Deditch, Lenni DeCraene, Dorothy Derringer, Maryann Dobransky, Ed Drone, Bob & Eva Jenkins, Bobbie Klimek, Theresa Miller, Frank Napowocki, Vickie Quinlan, Debra Swiental, Ryan Vogel, *and all those in our prayer intention book!*

OUR LADY FINANCES

Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Budgeted Weekly Amount

.....\$6,400.00

Collection for December 10

.....\$8,521.25

Budgeted Weekly YTD

.....\$153,600.00

Total Actual Year To Date

.....\$144,891.12

<https://ourladyedwardsburg.org/donations-1>

100-Year \$100,000 Campaign

.....\$40,097.66

This Week at Our Lady

4TH WEEK OF ADVENT / CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 23

3:30 pm Confession

Sunday, December 24

No Coffee and Donuts



December 25–December 29

Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

9:00 am Adoration/Confession

Friday, December 29

9:00 am Adoration/Confession

Saturday, December 30

3:30 pm Confession

Sunday, December 31

Donuts, Coffee and Conversation



COMMUNION UNDER BOTH SPECIES

Beginning this weekend and continuing

through the Christmas Season, we plan to offer the Body and Blood of Christ at Masses. Parishioners will have the opportunity once again to receive the very special gift of partaking of the Precious Blood from the Chalice. We thank the Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers for stepping forward so that this can happen.



ST. ANN MASS SCHEDULE

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24

9:30 am | James Parker

Christmas Masses

Sunday, December 24

4:00 pm | Christmas Flower Memorial

Monday, December 25

9:30 am | For the Parish

Tuesday, December 26

9:30 am | For the Parish

Sunday, December 31

9:30 am | Nathaniel Foster

This Week at St. Ann



December 25–December 29

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

9:00 am Adoration/Confession

10:00 am Rosary

Sunday, December 31

Birthday/New Year Celebration

ST. ANN PRAYER LIST PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Mary Fenech, Mary Fosdick, Frank & Vickie Kalina, Gene Karnes, Michael Lasiewicz, Carla Novotny, John Palmer, Vance Stratton, Betty Van Lue, Margaret (Peggy) Wilds *and all those in our prayer intention book!*

ST. ANN FINANCES

Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Budgeted Weekly Amount

.....\$2,330.00

Collection for December 10

.....\$1,476.00

Budgeted Weekly YTD

.....\$55,920.00

Total Actual Year To Date

.....\$53,151.00

Give online at: stannccass.com



ST. ANN BREAKFAST ON SUNDAY, JAN. 7

Everyone is welcome to enjoy fellowship with a potluck breakfast immediately following the 9:30 am Mass on January 7 at St. Ann. What a wonderful way to wrap up the Christmas season with the parish community. Please sign up at the information table to assist the Daughters of St. Ann in their planning.



YOUR GENEROSITY AND KINDNESS ARE OVERWHELMING!

Thank you to the parishioners of Our Lady and St. Ann who donated gifts/ gift cards/blankets etc. to help the many families in the communities to have a very Merry Christmas. The recipients of the Edwardsburg Food Pantry and the 6 Cassopolis families truly appreciate what they have received.

**You Have Really Been Christ
to Those in Need!**

ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving provides the opportunity to give anytime and anywhere with just the click of a button. More importantly, it allows us to set aside a first portion of God's gift of treasure, instead of offering what is left over after other expenses are paid.

Why use Online Giving?

For Parishioners:

- Allows us to prioritize our sacrificial gifts.
- Eliminates the need to write weekly checks and remember envelopes.
- Lets us acquire those "frequent flyer miles" or other credits on our credit card accounts for church contributions.
- Eliminates worry of making up missed offering donations.

For Our Parishes:

- Creates constant cash flow, allowing more accurate budgeting.
- Reduces staff time required to process weekly offerings.
- Improves efficiency of accounting.

Give at:

Our Lady: <https://ourladyedwardsburg.org/donations-1>

St. Ann: stanncass.com

1 CORINTHIANS 13, CHRISTMAS VERSION

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce up with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend myriad holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But giving the gift of love will endure.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Author Unknown

MISSION EL SITIO 2023 BY FR. BOB (PADRE) PART 2

In my last article I shared with you my reflection on the events our delegation participated in with the community in El Sitio as they remembered the 40th anniversary of the massacre at Capapayo where many relatives and friends were victims of this terrible event.



In this article I want to thank the many generous parishioners of Saint Catherine in Portage, Saint Basil in South Haven, Our Lady of the Lake in Edwardsburg, and Saint Ann in Cassopolis. Your prayers, your donations of supplies, and financial generosity allowed our delegation to continue to carry out our 23-year mission to support health care and education. Among our many activities we were able to do the following:

Some of our delegates spent three mornings visiting each home in the village. They delivered small boxes of first aid supplies. A census was taken of each family, especially making sure there were no serious health needs and making sure all the young elementary students were going to school.

A couple of mornings we offered fluoride treatments for the children and teens, offered vision testing, and offered glasses for reading.

Many of the elderly were able to receive a professional massage from one of our delegates.

Each day the children were entertained with arts and craft projects: tie-dyeing T-shirts to keep, drawing and doing puzzles, writing letters to students at St. Basil Elementary School, making bracelets with beads and yarn, and playing soccer. They spent an entire afternoon on the soccer field doing team games and challenges that ended in a huge water balloon fight.

The delegation had meetings with the teachers of the school, the community leadership committee, the health care committee, and the leadership of a new program for the community hosted at the library.

We again hosted and paid for a community dinner on the outdoor basketball court where we served 250 meals. The highlight was a small group of children who sang "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" in perfect English.

In the next bulletin I will give a financial report, and share my reflections on the amazing delegates who represented our parishes in such a wonderful way.

PARISH DIRECTORIES

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

Parish Office Hours

Mon. Tues. Wed. & Fri.
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
ourladyedwardsburg.org
269-699-5870

STAFF CONTACTS

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Ellis Anderson
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ST. ANN PARISH COMMUNITY

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Facilities Maintenance Manager

Marc Breden
breden3olol@gmail.com

Finance Officer

Barbara Klump
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Music Minister Volunteer

Mike Petersen



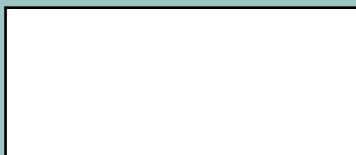
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