

St. Mary & St. Charles St. Mary & St. John Parishes

We Welcome You

We welcome you to our parishes. If you would like to become a member of one of our parishes, please contact the parish office (994-2526) Bloomington or (725-5595) Cassville to register. For those who are interested in becoming Catholic or returning to the Catholic faith, please contact the parish office.

Sacraments:

Pastorate Daily Mass Times

8:15 a.m.-St. Charles Church (Tues, Wed)
8:15 a.m.-St. Mary Church, Bloomington (Thurs, Fri)
8:15 a.m.-St. Clement Church (Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri)
8:15 a.m.-St. Andrew Church (Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri)

Reconciliation

Saturdays-

8:00-9:00 a.m. at St. Mary Church, Bloomington
8:00-9:00 a.m. at St. Clement Church, Lancaster
3:45-4:15p.m. at St. Charles Church, Cassville
4:00-4:45 p.m. at St. Clement Church, Lancaster
7:15-7:45 p.m. at St. Mary Church, Glen Haven

Baptism

May God bless our new parents! Please contact the parish office to schedule the baptism of your child and to attend a baptismal preparation session.

Marriage

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage! Please call the parish office at least six months before the wedding. One of the parties must be a practicing Catholic.

Anointing of the Sick

If someone is seriously ill, hospitalized, or is dying, please contact the Bloomington parish office immediately. Please call the parish office if there is someone who would like to be included in the Mass prayers.

Vocations

Please contact a parish office if you or someone you know would like to learn more about becoming a priest, brother, sister, deacon, or lay church minister. Please pray for more vocations to the priesthood and all religious ministries!

Our Catholic School-Faith, Family and Academic Excellence

To register your child, please call Mrs. Kelly Copey at 608-994-2435 for St. Mary School or Mrs. Cheryl Junk at 608-725-5173 for St. Charles Montessori Education Program. St. Mary and St. Charles admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin.

Bulletin Notices - Please submit bulletin notices to the parish office (sunday7@tds.net) by Monday.

St. Charles Parish Office Hours (608) 725-5595

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 a.m.-noon
stchas@tds.net (Cheryl Junk)

St. Mary's Parish Office Hours (608) 994-2526

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

SECOND SUNDAY

OF Advent

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low.

Isaiah 40:3-4



December 10, 2023

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1431 Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart, an end of sin, a turning away from evil, with repugnance toward the evil actions we have committed. At the same time it entails the desire and resolution to change one's life, with hope in God's mercy and trust in the help of his grace. This conversion of heart is accompanied by a salutary pain and sadness which the Fathers called *animi cruciatus* (affliction of spirit) and *compunctio cordis* (repentance of heart).

Rev. Stephen Brunner

frsteve@saintclementparish.com

Rev. Mark Miller

frmark@saintclementparish.com

Rev. Sudhakar Reddy Devarapu

frsud@saintclementparish.com

608-723-4990

Our parish website: swcatholicparishes.com



Liturgy Schedule

Sat.	12/9	8:00-9:00 AM Adoration 4:30 PM Carrie Hochhausen 8:00 PM Pro Populo	(Bloomington) (Cassville) (Glen Haven)
Sun.	12/10	8:00 AM Fred & Ruth Zenz 10:00 AM Jim & Shirley Wegmuller	(Patch Grove) (Bloomington)
Mon.	12/11	8:15 AM Pastorate #1 Catholic School students, staff and families	(Bloomington)
Tues.	12/12	8:15 AM Nicholas (Jack) Valentine & deceased Valentine family members	(Cassville)
Wed.	12/13	8:15 AM James Adrian 8:45 AM Adoration	(Cassville) (Cassville)
Thurs.	12/14	8:15 AM Loren "Butch" Hampton	(Bloomington)
Fri.	12/15	8:15 AM Marilyn, Bernard and Frank Meister	(Bloomington)
Sat.	12/16	8:00-9:00 AM Adoration 4:30 PM Pete & Eileen Brinkman and deceased family members 8:00 PM Marie Stelpflug	(Bloomington) (Cassville) (Glen Haven)
Sun.	12/17	8:00 AM Pro Populo 10:00 AM Gene & Lucille and Gary Vogt	(Patch Grove)



Second Sunday of Advent

"Make straight his paths," Isaiah cried out, prophesying that the Lord would come to rescue and comfort the people of God. Centuries later, Mark quotes this call at the very beginning of his Gospel, presenting John the Baptist as the prophet who took this to heart, preparing the way for the Lord. Now two millennia later, during this season when we prepare for the Lord's coming into our lives and into our hearts, how can we "make straight his paths"? May we heed this call as we prepare for the Lord by devoting ourselves to making our lives and world holy in preparation for his coming.

Going to Adoration, praying the Rosary and/or the Divine Mercy Chaplet are very good ways to spend time growing closer to Jesus. We can also read or listen to the daily scriptures at www.usccb.org/bible/readings/ or sign up to receive daily Advent reflections from Bishop Barron at <https://dailycatholicgospel.com/adventreflections>.

Scripture for the week of December 11, 2023

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26
 Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
 Wed.: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac,3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a,10-13
 Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

December 16 & 17 Weekend Mass Schedule

Fr. Steve - Saturday 5:00 p.m. at Lancaster & Sunday 8:00 a.m. at Lancaster
Fr. Mark - Sat. 8:00 p.m. at Glen Haven and Sunday 8:00 a.m. at Patch Grove & 10:00 a.m. at Bloomington
Fr. Sudhakar - Saturday 4:30 p.m. at Cassville and Sunday 8:00 a.m. at Potosi & 10:00 a.m. at Tennyson



Bless Our Priests Collection

This weekend please take advantage of the opportunity to offer support to the retired priests of our diocese by helping provide for their retirement needs. Your donation will help serve those who have faithfully served us!



Pastorate Christmas Mass Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent on December 24

9:00 a.m. at St. Mary Church, Bloomington
 9:00 a.m. at St. Clement Church, Lancaster
 9:00 a.m. St. Andrew Church, Tennyson
Christmas Eve Masses on December 24
 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary Church, Bloomington
 4:00 p.m. at St. Charles Church, Cassville
 4:00 p.m. at St. Clement Church, Lancaster
 8:00 p.m. at St. Mary Help of Christians Church, Glen Haven
 8:00 p.m. Mass at St. Andrew Church, Tennyson
Christmas Day Masses on December 25
 9:00 a.m. at St. Clement Church, Lancaster
 9:00 a.m. at St. John Church, Patch Grove
 9:00 a.m. at St. Thomas Church, Potosi

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Christmas Reflection

by Bishop Donald Hying

Sunday, December 10, 2023

St. Mary Church, Bloomington, WI

6:00-7:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

7:00-8:00 p.m. Bishop's Reflection

8:00 -9:00 p.m. Reception and time for fellowship in the church hall

We are excited that Bishop Hying will be visiting our Pastorate on Sunday, December 10. Please plan to attend this wonderful event to help us prepare for the Coming of Christ at Christmas.

Bishop Hying Celebrating Mass on Monday, December 11 at St. Mary's

Everyone is invited to attend the 8:15 a.m. School Mass at St. Mary's, Bloomington on Monday, December 11. Bishop Hying will celebrate Mass and then visit the students and staff at the four Catholic School in our Pastorate.

Advent -A Time for Confession

During the Season of Advent, everyone is encouraged to participate in the merciful Sacrament of Reconciliation to prepare for Christmas.

Private Confession Times on Dec. 9 & 16

8:00-9:00 a.m. at St. Mary Church, Bloomington
 8:00-9:00 a.m. at St. Clement Church, Lancaster
 8:00-9:00 a.m. at St. Andrew Church, Tennyson
 3:45-4:15p.m. at St. Charles Church, Cassville
 4:00-4:45 p.m. at St. Clement Church, Lancaster
 7:15-7:45 p.m. at St. Mary Help of Christians Church, Glen Haven

Other Times for Private Confession

St. Clement Church, Lancaster on Wednesday, December 20 from 6-8:00 p.m.

Fr. Steve, Fr. Mark and Fr. Sudhakar won't be available to hear confessions on Saturday, December 23.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS

Faith, Family and Academic Excellence

Parent/teacher conferences are next week.

Everyone is invited to attend St. Mary's School Christmas Program on Monday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. the rehearsal will be on Friday, Dec. 15 at 12:30 p.m.

The Home and School Association is sponsoring a Calendar Raffle for the month of January. Please contact the school office at 608-994-2435 if you are interested in purchasing a chance to win. **All money must be turned in by December 22.**

Every year at this time we have what is called "Christmas Club" where people can donate money for gifts for the St. Mary Parish staff. If interested you may leave a donation at the parish office or at school.

SCRIP: SCRIP has many cards in stock for your gift giving needs. Many local businesses provide SCRIP gift certificates for this fundraiser for our school. Scrip is available at school and also at Economy Feed Mill or if you have a special order you may call Molly Breuer at 563-608-5734.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

We are asking the members of St. Mary's and St. John's churches to help decorate our churches for Christmas by purchasing poinsettias in memory of their loved ones. **The prices for the flowers are \$16.00 for a small poinsettia, \$29.00 for a medium poinsettia, and \$40.00 for a large poinsettia.** Parishioners also have the option of making a donation to help offset the cost of decorating the churches.

Memorials may be dropped off at the parish office or put in the weekend collection by December 17. Please indicate on the envelope what size plant, which church it is being given to, the name of the person(s) and your name.



Help Needed With Snow Removal

Winter weather has arrived. We are in need of someone(s) to keep St. Mary's Church steps and sidewalks clear of snow and ice this winter. We will pay \$20/hr and the parish has two snow blowers available. Please contact the parish office at 608-994-2526 for more information about this position.



The Words of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego

"Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear that sickness, nor any other sickness or anguish. Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything."



2023 HARVEST FUND

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to St. Mary's Harvest Fund! We are very gratefully to the families who have given donations totaling \$20,455.00 so far. We hope all of our parish members will be able to share their bounty and blessings to help with fall and winter expenses for the parish. We appreciate all contributions large or small and thank the many generous parishioners for their continued support.

Goal:
\$50,000
\$45,000
\$40,000
\$35,000
\$30,000
\$25,000
\$20,000
\$15,000
\$10,000
\$5,000
\$0



Family Faith Formation

The next class will be held at St. Mary School, Bloomington this Wednesday, December 13 at 6:45 p.m.



NEW Women + Wine & The Word Advent Study

We will be gathering for a new Advent study from Blessed Is She during December. We will meet on the 11th, & 18th from 4:00-5:00PM at St. Mary's School.

Women from ALL the parishes in our Pastorate are welcome to attend.

Catholic Herald

Each week the *Catholic Herald* gives its readers a Catholic perspective on national and international news with articles from Catholic News Service. The *Catholic Herald* also keeps readers up to date locally with coverage of events happening around the diocese. If you do not subscribe but wish to receive the *Catholic Herald* print or e-Edition in your home, contact your parish office. The cost is \$20.00 per year.

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATES

PLEASE HELP US PAY OUR EXPENSES

St. Mary's Collections for the period ending December 1, 2023

Church Support.....	\$670.00
Offertory.....	\$112.25
Harvest Fund.....	\$150.00
Memorial Candles.....	\$200.00
Diocesan Service Tax.....	\$80.00
3K Fees.....	\$544.00
School Tuition.....	\$56.67
Gift.....	\$5.00

St. Mary's families are asked to generously contribute toward the support of parish expenses. Single members are asked to contribute \$500.00 and family are asked to contribute 1,000.00. Families are also asked to contribute \$300.00 for the Harvest Funds and single members are asked to donate \$150.00

St. John's Collections for the week ending on December 1, 2023

Church Support.....	\$235.00
Offertory.....	\$195.00

St. John's families are asked to generously contribution toward the support of parish expenses.

St. John's Ministry Schedule for December 17, 2023

	8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
Lector:	Bob McLimans
Communion:	Roger McKinney
Ushers:	Ray Breuer, Charlie Martin
Servers:	Matthew & Ty Tolle

St. Mary Ministry Schedule for December 17, 2023

	10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
Lector:	Chris Bishell
Communion:	Chris Bishell
Sacristan:	Chris Bishell
Gifts:	Jeff Myhre family
Ushers:	Ken Kluesner, Joe Mergen
Server:	Brooks Osterhaus, Jovie Kruger

St. Mary Parish Council

President: Melanie Mergen
Members: Rose Bierman, Janet Patterson, RJ Osterhaus, Len Pritchett, Bill Mezera, Gary Mumm, Paul Wegmann

St. John Parish Council

Members: Cindy Morgan, Leo Breuer, Ray Breuer, McKenzie Stagman, Kayla Needham



Advent Breakfast Thank You's

Thank you to all who supported our school by attending the breakfast and purchasing raffle tickets! Marge Tennesen won Top Prize of \$100. Thank you to all who worked at the breakfast and to all who donated raffle and Santa's Workshop items. Thank You to Chair Person's: Bobbi Jo Riedl, Holly Fishnick, Angela Adams and Judy Adrian. A special thank you to the following businesses for their donations: Rosemeyer Management Group, Janet's Flowers, Okey Market, Hair by Holly & Cassville Roots, Royal Bank, and Oak Haven Distillery, and S-N-T Transfer.

Family Faith Formation Classes

The next class will be held at St. Mary School, Bloomington this Wednesday, December 13 at 6:45 p.m.



Christmas Flower Memorials

St. Charles Cassville Parish members and St. Mary's Help of Christian, Glen Haven: If you would like to request Christmas Memorial Flowers, please put the person you want listed for the memorial and your donation (any amount), in an envelope and drop it off or put it in the offertory collection. You may also mail it to P.O. Box 166, Cassville, WI, 53806.

St. Charles Catholic Montessori Early Education Program

If you have questions or if you would like to register your child, please contact Cassie Okey at cassie.okey@stcharlescassville.org.

Mass Intentions

Please contact Cheryl at the St. Charles Parish office at 608-725-5595 to schedule Masses at St. Charles or St. Mary Help of Christians Church the rest of 2023 and for 2024.

WANT TO KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS?

FEED THE HUNGRY, CLOTHE THE NAKED, FORGIVE THE GUILTY, WELCOME THE STRANGER AND THE UNWANTED CHILD, CARE FOR THE ILL, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, AND GO TO MASS.

uCatholic

St. Charles Parish Council

President: Denny Uppena
Members: Judy Adrian, Suzanne Brinkman, Agnes Hughes, Isaac Okey, Gina Kartman, Cliff Tennesen, Joe Uppena

St. Mary Help of Christians Parish Council

President: Joe Breuer
Members: Ed Breuer, Sue Kuenster, Tracy Walz, John Smith, Doug White



Reflection

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - MARK 1:3
We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?



Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12)

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, first appeared to Cuauhtlatzin (Juan Diego) on December 9, 1531 while he was on his way to a Eucharistic celebration in Tlatelolco, Mexico. The Virgin addressed him by his indigenous name, asking him to go to the palace of Archbishop Zumárraga to request that a shrine be erected there at the site of the apparition, in Tepeyac, so as to share her love and compassion for all believers. Juan Diego did so, but the archbishop did not believe him, demanding proof of his story and of the Lady's identity. He returned to Our Lady daily, and on December 12, he conveyed to her the archbishop's request for proof. She showed him Castilian roses blooming there through the stony ground despite the winter's cold. He picked the flowers and carried them in his *tilma* (mantle) to the archbishop. When he unfolded his *tilma* to present the roses, Mary's image was imprinted on the mantle! Her blue sash and the flower over her womb were traditional Aztec symbols of pregnancy and new life. But her features were those of a *mestiza*, indicating mixed Aztec-European heritage. Thus Our Lady of Guadalupe remains the enduring icon of unity-in-diversity, the fruit of our one baptism into Jesus, her Son. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

"Let Mary never be far from your lips and from your heart. Following her, you will never lose your way. Praying to her, you will never sink into despair. Contemplating her, you will never go wrong." - St. Bernadine of Siena

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATES

PLEASE HELP US PAY OUR EXPENSES

St. Charles, Cassville for November 25, 2023

Church Support.....	\$1,160.00
Offertory.....	\$196.00
Diocesan Tax.....	\$40.00
Flowers.....	\$90.00

St. Charles suggested giving is \$1,400.00 a year for a married couple and \$700.00 a year for a single household.

St. Mary's, Glen Haven for December 2, 2023

Church Support.....	\$910.00
Offertory.....	\$59.00

St. Charles' Ministry Schedule

4:30 p.m. Mass on December 16, 2023

Lector: Gordon Kremer
Communion: Scott Knox
Servers: Anna & Natalia Paar
Ushers: Rick & Cheryl Junk, Jim Koopman

St. Mary's, Glen Haven

8:00 p.m. Mass on December 16, 2023

Lector: Barb Breuer
Communion: Barb Breuer
Servers: Leah & Rachel Patterson
Ushers: Mike Breuer, Ken Breuer



Celebrate Life

“The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus' message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as "good news" to the people of every age and culture. At the dawn of salvation, it is the Birth of a Child which is proclaimed as joyful news: "I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11). The source of this "great joy" is the Birth of the Saviour; but Christmas also reveals the full meaning of every human birth, and the joy which accompanies the Birth of the Messiah is thus seen to be the foundation and fulfilment of joy at every child born into the world (cf. Jn 16:21)” (St. John Paul II, “The Gospel of Life,” n.1)

Life Begins at Conception!

At 18 days a baby’s heart begins to beat and by the 43rd day after conception a baby’s brain is coordinating movements. All of a baby’s organs are functioning at 8 weeks and a baby can smile, suck his/her thumb and make a fist by 12 weeks.

Help is Available

If you need support for an unplanned pregnancy, please contact the Clarity Clinic of SW Wisconsin at 608-348-5787 or email at clientservices@claritywi.com or the Women’s Care Center in Madison, WI at 608-241-8100. For more information on pro-life issues, visit www.WisconsinRightToLife.org.



Thanks You’s

A HUGE thank you to everyone from our parishes who donated diapers to Clarity Clinic to help families with little ones. Thank you to all who gave donations to help the clinic through the Baby Bottle fundraiser.

St. Catherine Ministry: We are here to support families through miscarriage

St. Catherine Ministry is here to accompany anyone who has received the sad news of a miscarriage. From providing miscarriage kits to referring for burial sites to crying with you, we want to help because we have been there, too. It’s as simple as contacting St. Catherine Ministry director Laura Karlen at ljkarlen@hotmail.com or 608-445-2064.



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Is your marriage prepared to be blessed by the Lord? We invite you to prepare to have the best marriage ever by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on Jan 26-28 in Brookfield, WI; Feb. 9-11 in Geneva, IL; March 9-10 in Wisconsin or April 27-28 in Mundelein, IL. For more info go to: alife-timeoflove.org or call (888) 574-5653.

The National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline-

Call, text or chat 988 to reach a trained counselor. These trained counselors will listen, understand how problems are affecting a person, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary. **There is help specifically for farmers.**



MEETINGS

*January 16, 2024-Knights of Columbus #4416 meeting at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary Church, Bloomington

EVENTS

- *December 10-Bishop Donald Hying at St. Mary Church, Bloomington for an evening program
- *December 12- St. John’s Food Pantry 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- *December 17—Diocesan Choir and Chamber Orchestra performance *A Service of Lessons and Carols*, Madison
- *December 18-St. Mary’s Christmas Program
- *January 9, 2024- St. John’s Food Pantry 12:00-1:00 p.m.

News from Songambe Hospital, Tanzania

Supplies have been purchased with the money raised this fall for Songambe Hospital in Tanzania. Fr. Paul reports that two car loads of towels, fabric, etc. were purchased at the closest large city. So far, staff at the hospital have sewn over 90 bed covers (bottom sheets) and sheets from bolts of fabric purchased. “Thanks and prayers” from Fr. Paul.

Catholic Question & Answer

Question: The Bible says that Jesus condemned gambling, but I notice that so many parishes have them at festivals and other events. What’s correct?

Answer: Although Jesus speaks of our relationship with material wealth and the very human struggle with greed, the gospels do not include any specific instructions related to gambling. At the same time, the Church is very sensitive to the needs of those who might struggle with an addiction to gambling, and pastoral care should always be offered to those who struggle with this reality in their life.

While it is true that many parish or school communities include gambling or games of chance in festivals and fundraisers (e.g. bingo, roulette, ring tossing, dunking booths, etc.), there is nothing inherently wrong these sorts of events, given they are played fairly and within the limits of reason are not morally objectionable. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us: “Games of chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others” (no. 2413).

Cassville AA and Al-Anon Meetings

The AA meetings are every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building in Cassville.

All of us must be saints in this world. Holiness is a duty for you and me. So let’s be saints and so give glory to the Father. -St Teresa of Calcutta

Thank You to Our Bulletin Advertisers!

The cost of printing our bulletins is defrayed through the local business and individuals who advertise in the bulletin. Please thank these generous sponsors and mention that you saw their ad in our bulletin. It is always good to let them know that their advertising works. **Please contact a parish office if you would like to advertise in the bulletin.**