

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



“Glory to God in the highest and on earth
peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:14

December 24, 2023



Liturgy Schedule

Sat.	12/23	8:00-9:00 AM	No Adoration	(Bloomington)
		4:30 PM	Pro Populo	(Cassville)
		8:00 PM	Frank VanBogaert	(Glen Haven)
Sun.	12/24	8:00 AM	No Mass	(Patch Grove)
		9:00 AM	Sharon Davis and Byron & Barbara Davis	(Bloomington)
		4:00 PM	Deceased parish members	(Bloomington)
		4:00 PM	Helen Badula	(Cassville)
		8:00 PM	Greg Adrian and Paul Blum	(Glen Haven)
Mon.	12/25	9:00 AM	Pro Populo	(Patch Grove)
Tues.	12/26	8:15 AM	No Mass	(Cassville)
Wed.	12/27	8:15 AM	Carrie Hochhausen	(Cassville)
		8:45 AM	Adoration	(Cassville)
Thurs.	12/28	8:15 AM	Elva Barr	(Bloomington)
Fri.	12/29	8:15 AM	Jen Hermsen	(Bloomington)
Sat.	12/30	8:00-9:00 AM	Adoration	(Bloomington)
		4:30 PM	Sr. Eva Maria Lorscheter and Matt Lorscheter	(Cassville)
		8:00 PM	Special Intention	(Glen Haven)
Sun.	12/31	8:00 AM	Pro Populo	(Patch Grove)
		10:00 AM	Sally Budworth	(Bloomington)



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Every so often the Fourth Sunday of Advent consists only of the Fourth Sunday of Advent. This is one of those years. For three weeks we have been encouraged to use this season to prepare for Jesus' coming and now within twenty-four hours the Church will be celebrating Christmas and the birth of our Lord.

It is tempting to overlook the Fourth Sunday this year. It may seem insignificant and in fact it is easily overshadowed by Christmas. Actually, it is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to prepare a home in our hearts for the Lord by hearing his word and receiving the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Wishing Everyone a Blessed Christmas!

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we feel truly grateful to have been welcomed so graciously into these communities in Pastorate 1.

Fr. Steve

Fr. Mark

Fr. Sudhakar



Welcome "Home" for Christmas!

Welcome "home" to our parishes. Lots of people come home for Christmas, "home" meaning church as well as to their families. Whether you are with us every week at Mass or you are here with us for the first time, we are so happy we could be together today to see the goodness of the Lord at our Advent and Christmas celebrations. **The goal of our liturgies is to instill hope in the lives of our parishioners, impart a desire in each one present to know more about our precious Savior, to truly know that the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus is present in the Holy Eucharist and ultimately to inspire each of us to draw closer to the Holy Trinity every day of our lives.**

Welcome "home" everyone. May our faith grow stronger as we live out this great mystery of our dear Savior's birth each day of our lives. May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph help and guide our seven parishes in Pastorate 1 to become a new parish so we may welcome all the people in our area "home" to the Catholic faith.

Scripture for the week of December 25, 2023

Monday: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
 Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
 Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Pastorate Christmas Mass Schedule

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

Dec. 30 & 31 Weekend Mass Schedule
Fr. Steve - Saturday 5:00 p.m. at Lancaster & Sunday 9:00 a.m. at Lancaster
Fr. Mark - Sat. 8:00 p.m. at Glen Haven and Sunday 8:00 a.m. at Patch Grove and 10:00 a.m. at Bloomington
Fr. Sudhakar - Saturday 4:30 p.m. at Cassville and Sunday 8:00 a.m. at Potosi and 10:00 a.m. Tennyson
 *This schedule may change due to weather or illness.



The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Masses

January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. This is the most ancient Marian feast in which we honor Mary as the "Bearer of the Eternal Word."

It comes one week after Christmas, and is the Octave (or eighth day) of Christmas. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Peace.

Let's honor Mary by praying for peace in the world as we start the new year. **Mass will be celebrated on Jan. 1 at**

9:00 a.m. at St. Mary Church, Bloomington
 9:00 a.m. at St. Clement Church, Lancaster
 9:00 a.m. at St. Andrew Church, Tennyson

Where are we in the process of Into the Deep? December 2023

Dear Parishioners of Pastorate #1:

Thank you to all of our pastoral council members who met with me in November. We have determined which members would like to participate in the Transition Team in order to make the Into the Deep Initiative more successful. They are:

- Gary Mumm (St. Mary's)
- Cindy Morgan (St. John's)
- Cliff Tennyson (St. Charles)
- Shirley Straka (Ss. Andrew and Thomas)
- Jeff Vorwald (Ss. Andrew and Thomas)
- Bill Manthe (St. Clement)
- Carol Bass (St. Clement)
- Ed Breuer (St. Mary Help of Christians)

We will be meeting this month to start the discussion of the naming of our new pastorate. I look forward to letting you know when that is and further details as they come about.

May God bless you,
 Fr. Steve



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS

Faith, Family and Academic Excellence

The students performed a heart-warming performance about the "true meaning" of Christmas on Dec. 18. The students in grades 5-8 completed a Bible study that goes along with the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. They also remembered the Old Testament stories that lead up to the birth of Jesus with a Jesse Tree.

The staff and students at St. Mary's School wish everyone a Blessed and Joyful Christmas and New Year.

St. Mary's annual School Supper will take place on Saturday, January 27.

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.

Thank You's

Thank you to Mary Alice Crubel for the very generous donation to St. Mary's School Alumni Fund in memory of Milo and Dan Crubel.

Thank you to the crew who set up the crèche and all who helped to decorate the churches for Advent and prepare for the Christmas season by cleaning and decorating. Thank you to all who gave donations toward the Christmas flowers and decorations.

Thank you the wonderful bakers in our parishes who have provided delicious cookies and bars for the Family Faith Formation program and other parish events.

Thank you to generous individuals who have blessed our parishes with financial gifts and Harvest Fund contributions during the Advent season.

THE GREATEST GIFT...
Jesus



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.



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 \$22,730.00 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. Charles School, Cassville on Wednesday, January 10 at 6:45 p.m.

St. John's Food Pantry Thank You's

Thank you to many families and organizations for their generous donations to St. John's Food Pantry. Through this generous support, approximately 160 families are helped at the Food Pantry each month.

Fr. Paul Fagan's News Letter

Fr. Paul Fagan's annual newsletter is available at the back of each church.

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATES

PLEASE HELP US PAY OUR EXPENSES

St. Mary's Collections for the period ending December 14, 2023

Church Support.....	\$3,690.00
Offertory.....	\$170.00
Harvest Fund.....	\$925.00
Memorial Candles.....	\$150.00
DST.....	\$150.00
Christmas Flower Memorials and Donations.....	\$461.00
3K Program Fees.....	\$208.03

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 to the Harvest Fund.

St. John's Collections for the week ending on December 14, 2023

Church Support.....	\$480.00
Offertory.....	\$292.50
Christmas Flower Memorials.....	\$144.00

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

St. John's Ministry Schedule for December 31, 2023

8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass

Lector: Carol Harris
Communion: Roger McKinney
Ushers: Charlie Martin, Gene Harris
Servers: Ty & Matthew Tolle

St. Mary Ministry Schedule for December 31, 2023

10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass

Lector: Marcia Hampton
Communion: Marcia Hampton
Sacristan: Marcia Hampton
Gifts: Mark & Erin Kluesner family
Ushers: Eric Fuerstenberg, Ken Kluesner
Server: Leif & Gabe Kluesner

St. Mary Ministry Schedule for January 1, 2024

9:00 a.m. Mass

Lector: Pat Casey
Communion: Pat Casey
Sacristan: Pat Casey
Gifts: Volunteers needed
Servers: Volunteers needed

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

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



Thank You's

Thank you to all who helped to decorate the churches for Advent and prepare for the Christmas season.

Family Faith Formation Classes

The next class will be held at St. Charles School, Cassville on Wednesday, January 10 at 6:45 p.m.

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.

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.



Christmas Time

The feasts that make up Christmas Time all illuminate in their own way the fundamental mystery of the Incarnation that stands at the heart of this sacred season. Each celebration sheds its own distinct light on our conviction that, in the birth of Jesus, earth and heaven have been wedded together for the sake of our salvation. The feasts of the Holy Family, Mary the Mother of God, Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord all have their own particular histories. But they have been joined together in a single seasonal flow that invites us to trace the unfolding meanings of the Incarnation from myriad perspectives. As we follow the successive meanings of Jesus' birth, his participation in family life, the meaning of Mary's motherhood, the significance of the Magi's visit, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, we are invited to explore in deeper and deeper fashion the staggering truth that Jesus has shared completely in our human experience, has truly become one with us, fully human while remaining fully divine. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

*One silent night in Bethlehem,
God filled the earth with hope
so real, joy so pure, and love so true-
our hearts still rejoice today.*

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



Thank You's

We are deeply grateful to Catholic financial Life for the generous donation toward choir music.

Fr. Paul Fagan's News Letter

Fr. Paul Fagan's annual newsletter is available at the back of each church.



News of Great Joy

I am not going to wish you a Merry Christmas. I have no problem with merriness, and I certainly hope you have your share of it today. May the frosting on your cookies be extra thick. May the lights of your tree be particularly twinkly. May the crackling of your fire be especially pleasant, and the places around your table filled by smiling loved ones. No, there is nothing wrong with being merry, especially on such a day.

But the angels did not bring news of great merriment. They brought news of great joy, and though our world often confuses the two, they are not the same thing.

Joy is harder to achieve than merriness, but it's easier to keep because it is far, far more durable. Joy can withstand the roughness of this earthly life in a way that merriness never could. Merriness cannot live in the hearts of people whose plans have been upended, whose futures have been rearranged and whose very lives are in danger. But joy certainly can.

Merriness doesn't follow from a long and uncertain journey, with no reassurances except the steadfast belief that you are doing the will of God. But joy does.

Merriness does not shiver in a stable or hang on a cross. But joy can, and it has.

May you have a truly joyful Christmas.

"You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing..." — Isaiah 9:2

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

(Practicing) Catholic-Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATES

PLEASE HELP US PAY OUR EXPENSES

St. Charles, Cassville for December 9, 2023

Church Support.....	\$1,800.00
Offertory.....	\$173.00
Bless Our Priests Collection.....	\$75.00
Flowers.....	\$70.00

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 9, 2023

Church Support.....	\$70.00
Offertory.....	\$86.00
Donation from Catholic Financial Life.....	\$130.00

St. Charles' Ministry Schedule
4:30 p.m. Mass on December 30, 2023

Lector: Judy Adrian
Communion: Judy Adrian
Sacristan: Bev Klauer
Servers: Anna & Natalia Paar
Ushers: Warren White family

St. Mary's, Glen Haven
8:00 p.m. Mass on December 30, 2023

Lector: Ed Breuer
Communion: Tracy Walz
Servers: Mezera's
Ushers: Tim Walz, Ken Breuer



Celebrate Life

"God, the Lord of life, has entrusted to men the noble mission of safeguarding life, and men must carry it out in a manner worthy of themselves. Life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception: abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes." Second Vatican Council, Church in the Modern World, #51

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.

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.

Madison Retrouvaille Program

Is your marriage tearing you apart? We invite you to find help through Retrouvaille, (ret-tro-vi), where husbands and wives are helped to re-discover each other. Couples discover they are not alone. There is hope and grace.

The upcoming Retrouvaille program is January 26 – 28, 2024 at the Green Lake Conference Center. Follow up sessions will be in Madison. Call 608-249-2377 or check our website at www.helpourmarriage.org. Your confidentiality is always respected.



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Don't give each other things this Christmas, give each other the gift of great communication, a deep love and a marriage filled with God by going on a 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. Visit our website at: alifetimeoflove.org or call (888) 574-5653

Cassville AA and Al-Anon Meetings

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



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 9-St. Mary Parish Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Bloomington

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

EVENTS

*January 9, 2024- St. John's Food Pantry 12:00-1:00 p.m.

*January 27-St. Mary's School Supper

*January 28-February 3 -Catholic Schools Week

*February 13- St. John's Food Pantry 12:00-1:00 p.m.

*March 8-St. Mary's Fish Fry in Bloomington

Weather Related Mass Cancellations

Fr. Steve, Fr. Mark and Fr. Sudhakar are committed to having Mass at all of our parishes this winter. However, if there are times that it is too dangerous for them to travel due to snow or ice, Mass may have to be canceled. If this happens we will have the announcement on the local radio stations, website and social media.

"JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST" STUDY GROUP!

All parishioners of PASTORATE 1! We are offering a 7-Session "Jesus and the Eucharist" study group beginning in January. Our world is hurting, families are hurting, our hearts, too, many feel broken. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength, Jesus Christ, who saved us through His passion, death and resurrection. Jesus Christ invites us to be healed and return to the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist, where He gives Himself to us.

Please join us for this study at S.S. ANDREW-THOMAS SCHOOL starting at 6:30 P.M. on the following dates: **Monday, January 8 & 22; Monday, February 5 & 19; and Monday, March 4, 18 & 25.** Please email Kathy Bartels at samman@chorus.net or call 608 778-0855 to join the study group or if you have any questions.



Saint Stephen (first century) December 26

"A man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5): thus Luke introduces Stephen, first of seven deacons chosen by the community for its ministry of charity, first to lay down his life in witness to Christ. As the church's first martyr, Stephen's life and death mirror the preaching and passion of Jesus, "the faithful witness" (Greek, martyr) (Revelation 1:5).

Like Jesus, Stephen works "great signs and wonders among the people" (Acts 6:8). Like Jesus, when falsely accused, Stephen's face radiates angelic serenity (Acts 6:15), though his tongue, like Jesus', is a two-edged sword. As the dying Jesus forgave his executioners, even making excuses for them, then commended his spirit into his Father's hands (Luke 23:34, 46), so Stephen intercedes for his murderers and begs Jesus to receive his spirit (Acts 7:60, 59). How fruitful both passions! The penitent thief inherits Paradise; Saul, who consented to Stephen's killing, is transformed into the fearless preacher Paul. Thus Stephen challenges us to bear witness not in words only, but by Christ-like forgiveness toward all.

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The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year, but rather that we should have a new soul. — G. K. Chesterton