

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.

FIRST SUNDAY

OF Advent

Watch therefore: you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

Mark 13:35



Catechism of the Catholic Church

679 Christ is Lord of eternal life. Full right to pass definitive judgment on the works and hearts of men belongs to him as redeemer of the world. He "acquired" this right by his cross. The Father has given "all judgment to the Son".⁵⁸⁷ Yet the Son did not come to judge, but to save and to give the life he has in himself.⁵⁸⁸ By rejecting grace in this life, one already judges oneself, receives according to one's works, and can even condemn oneself for all eternity by rejecting the Spirit of love.⁵⁸⁹

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: swwicatholicparishes.com



Liturgy Schedule

Sat.	12/2	8:00-9:00 AM Adoration 4:30 PM Jill Uppena 8:00 PM Deceased members of the Paul White family	(Bloomington) (Cassville) (Glen Haven)
Sun.	12/3	8:00 AM Pro Populo 8:00 AM Monroe Adrian 10:00 AM Doris Lou McLimans	(Patch Grove) (Cassville) (Bloomington)
Mon.	12/4	8:15 AM No Mass	
Tues.	12/5	8:15 AM Rosemary Wiest	(Cassville)
Wed.	12/6	8:15 AM Special Intention for Marie Stoney 8:45 AM Adoration	(Cassville) (Cassville)
Thurs.	12/7	8:15 AM Fr. Laverne Meier	(Bloomington)

Holy Day Masses

Thurs.	12/7	6:00 PM Jeff Glass	(Cassville)
Fri.	12/8	8:15 AM Pro Populo 7:00 PM Joe Crubel	(Bloomington) (Bloomington)

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)

Scripture for the week of December 4, 2023

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

December 9 & 10 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



St. Charles Advent Breakfast

Plan to attend St. Charles Advent Breakfast and Raffle this Sunday, December 3, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The menu will be sausage, pancakes, scrambled eggs, cheesy hash brown casserole, and applesauce. There will also be a great raffle and Santa's Workshop.



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



First Sunday of Advent

“Watch!” The final word of today’s Gospel binds together our readings on this first Sunday of Advent. Isaiah watched for the Lord, anticipating that one day God would come down from the heavens and rescue the Chosen People. Paul exhorted the Corinthians to be watchful for the day when the Lord would return. Jesus himself compared the Second Coming to the head of the house returning at a time you least expect. May God’s word remind us to wait watchfully for the Lord.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Masses

On Friday, December 8 we will celebrate The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a **Holy Day of Obligation**.

Vigil Mass time on Thursday, December 7:

6:00 p.m. at St. Charles Church
 7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Andrew Church, Tennyson
Mass times on Friday, December 8:
 8:15 a.m. Mass at St. Mary Church, Bloomington
 8:15 a.m. Mass at St. Clement Church, Lancaster
 8:15 a.m. Mass at St. Andrew Church, Tennyson
 6:00 p.m. Mass at St. Clement Church, Lancaster
 7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Mary Church, Bloomington

Advent 2023—Longing for Peace

As we look back over 2023, many of us will remember the devastating acts of violence and the armed conflicts around the world that have inflicted much pain and suffering on innocent people. We begin Advent with the desire for peace to reign in our hearts and our world.

Advent should be a deeply spiritual time to open our life to Christ and the peace he desires to bring to us. **We need to PRAY for peace, and we need to follow the way of peace that Christ brings to us.**

Each week of Advent, we can focus on praying for peace. Going to Adoration, praying the Rosary and/or the Divine Mercy Chaplet is a very good way 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>.

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.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS

Faith, Family and Academic Excellence

We had ladies from the Grant County Historical Society visited St. Mary School on Thursday, November 16. The students in grades 1-3 helped string popcorn and cranberries. Grades 4 -5 helped string dried fruit and cinnamon sticks. The 6th - 8th grades made corn husk dolls. All of these items will be hanging on the trees at the Grant County History Museum in Lancaster.

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.



Breakfast with Santa Thank You's

A hearty THANK YOU to everyone who supported, helped with and attended St. Mary's Breakfast with Santa last Sunday! A special thank you to the crew who prepared the delicious breakfast and the many wonderful people who worked and helped organize the event. Thank you for your help which made it a successful day.



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. **Please contact the parish office at 994-2526 for more information about this paid position.**



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.



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 \$20,305.00 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 on Wed., 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 4th, 11th, & 18th from 4:00-5:00PM at St. Mary's School.

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

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATES

PLEASE HELP US PAY OUR EXPENSES

St. Mary's Collections for the period ending November 24, 2023

Church Support.....	\$865.00
Offertory.....	\$172.00
Harvest Fund.....	\$400.00
St. Charles Reimbursement for Expenses.....	\$916.57
St. Mary's, GH Reimbursement for Expenses.....	\$475.10
3K Fees.....	\$373.00
Rent of Parish Facilities.....	\$75.00
Pop Cans.....	\$144.00
International Combined Collection.....	\$300.00

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 November 24, 2023

Church Support.....	\$380.00
Offertory.....	\$185.00
Catholic Herald.....	\$20.00
Food Pantry donation.....	\$500.00

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

St. Mary Ministry Schedule for December 8, 2023

	<u>7:00 p.m. Holy Day Mass</u>
Lector:	Diana Herbers
Communion:	Ione Meoska
Gifts:	LeRoy & Marilynn Patterson
Ushers:	Volunteers Needed
Server:	Brooks Osterhaus, Gabe Kluesner

St. John's Ministry Schedule for December 10, 2023

	<u>8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass</u>
Lector:	Carol Harris
Communion:	Mike McCabe
Ushers:	Roger McKinney, Gene Harris
Servers:	Avery Needham, Katie Tolle

St. Mary Ministry Schedule for December 10, 2023

	<u>10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass</u>
Lector:	Marcia Hampton
Communion:	Dave Meoska
Sacristan:	Marcia Hampton
Gifts:	Mark & Erin Kluesner family
Ushers:	Eric Fuerstenberg, Mike Mumm
Server:	Leif & Gabe Kluesner

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



Special Mass & Advent Breakfast on December 3

There will be a special 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Charles Church this Sunday, December 3 and then you will be able to enjoy the delicious **Advent Breakfast from 9-11:00 a.m.**

Menu: Sausage, Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Cheesy Hash Brown Casserole, Applesauce
Dine-in: Adult- \$10, Children (6-11)- \$5, Children 5 and under- Free, Carry-out \$10
Raffle Drawing at 11:00 a.m.
Santa's workshop

Family Faith Formation Classes

The next class will be held at St. Mary School, Bloomington on Wed., December 13 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.

Royal Neighbors Cookie and Candy Walk

The Cassville Royal Neighbors will be hosting a **Cookie and Candy Walk** on Friday, December 8 (3 PM--6 PM) and Saturday, December 9 (9 AM--NOON) at the Cassville Municipal Building. A Silent Auction will also take place. The proceeds will go to the Grant County Cancer Coalition. The Royal Neighbors Organization will match funds up to \$1,000 with our local council. Come join us for a worthy cause and enjoy the outstanding layout of homemade cookies and candies.



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."

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



The Immaculate Conception

On December 8, we celebrate the patronal solemnity of the United States and the greatest of Mary's Advent festivals. On that day we remember Mary's conception in the womb of her mother (and nine months later, on September 8, we celebrate Mary's birth). In this liturgy, we affirm our belief that God prepared Mary to be the mother of the Son of God by allowing her a share, from the moment of her conception, in the salvation that would be won for all by Christ.

Five mothers make their presence felt on December 8. The first is Eve, the mother of all the living. The second is Mary's mother Ann, who conceived, brought to birth, and nurtured an "immaculate" daughter who would become the mother of the Word made Flesh. The third is Elizabeth, who conceived her son John "in her old age." The fourth, of course, is Mary herself. Finally, the letter to the Ephesians and the texts of the Mass for this feast remind us that the Church has been "chosen" to be a spiritual mother. We pray: "The image of the Virgin is found in your Church . . . Trace in our actions the lines of her love, in our hearts her readiness of faith."

In this Advent time, we are called, as Mary was, to make room for Christ in our hearts. What will it take, what will be the cost for us to become, as Mary became, real "bearers of the Word?" Let us be open to the intercession of Mary on our behalf, that we may become more and more like her beloved Son. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

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. Charles, Cassville for November 18, 2023

Church Support.....\$1,520.00
 Offertory.....\$167.00
 Bless Our Priests Collection.....\$35.00
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 November 25, 2023

Church Support.....\$70.00
 Offertory.....\$44.00

St. Charles' Ministry Schedule

6:00 p.m. Holy Day Vigil Mass on December 7, 2023

Lector: Judy Adrian
 Communion: Mary White
 Servers: Beckett Uppena, Declan Fishnick
 Ushers: Rick & Cheryl Junk, Tom Vondrum

4:30 p.m. Mass on December 9, 2023

Lector: Denny Uppena
 Communion: Kris Mumm
 Servers: Ryan & Gwen Riedl
 Ushers: Gene Adrian, Marge Tennesen, Isaac Okey

St. Mary's, Glen Haven

8:00 p.m. Mass on December 9, 2023

Lector: Renee Schwantes
 Communion: Tracy Walz
 Servers: Mezera's
 Ushers: Tim Walz, Dave Schwantes



Celebrate Life

The Second Vatican Council reflects upon the relationship between the coming of Christ and our activity to prepare for it. In the Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, we read, "Far from diminishing our concern to develop this earth, the expectancy of a new earth should spur us on, for it is here that the body of a new human family grows, foreshadowing in some way the age which is to come.... When we have spread on earth the fruits of our nature and our enterprise -- human dignity, brotherly communion and freedom -- according to the command of the Lord and in his Spirit, we will find them once again, cleansed this time from the stain of sin, illuminated and transfigured, when Christ presents to his Father an eternal and universal kingdom...." (#39). In other words, the spirit of Advent should naturally bolster our pro-life efforts, and the progress we make in promoting human dignity becomes the "building blocks" for the eternal kingdom.

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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning."

Don't wait – Strengthen, renew, and rekindle your marriage sacrament by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences on Jan 26-28 in Brookfield, WI; Feb. 9-11 in Geneva, IL; March 9-10 in Wisconsin. 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

- *December 3– St. Mary's Parish Council meeting at 11:30 a.m. in Bloomington
- *January 16, 2024-Knights of Columbus #4416 meeting at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary Church, Bloomington

EVENTS

- *December 3– St. Charles Advent Breakfast
- *December 3– Solemn Choral Vespers and Benediction at 4:00 p.m. at Holy Name Oratory, Madison
- *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.

FREE Dinner & Movie on December 3 for everyone in our Pastorate

St. Clement Parish and the Knights of Columbus are hosting a FREE dinner from 6-7:00 p.m. in the St. Clement Dining Hall, Lancaster. They will be serving roast bee sandwiches, chips, dessert, and beverage. At 7:15 p.m. all are invited to see "It's a wonderful Life" at the Grantland Theater in Lancaster. Please bring money for popcorn and soda. **Come and attend one or both events.**

Catholic Heart Summer Mission Trip

****We would like to know who is interested in attending ASAP****

Location: Nashville, TN

Dates: June 23-29, 2023

Cost: \$495 plus bus cost (\$100 down payment)

Who can attend: Students entering grade 9 through age 19

Catholic Heart Work Camp's mission:

To share the love of Christ as we serve the neglected, brokenhearted and the marginalized in any way needed. Equally, to inspire participants to live as disciples of Christ through serving others as a way of life; and to foster the catholic faith of each participant through the sacraments, prayer, and involvement in social service. For more information, please visit <https://heartworkcamp.com/>

Students of our pastorate are invited to join the group from Cuba City who annually attends this mission trip. Many students from Cassville have attended over the years and have truly enjoyed the trip. It's an amazing experience of service work, worship, and fun!

Cassville students have funds available for this trip from prior/current fundraising efforts. Students of other parishes are encouraged to contact the parish office about possible scholarships and to fundraise to defray the cost of the trip.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Cheryl Junk 608-725-5595.

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.**