

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 Fr. Greg.

Sacraments:

Reconciliation

Fr. Greg will be available to hear confessions on:
Mondays-4:45-5:30 p.m. at St. Charles and 6:00-6:45 p.m. at St. Mary's, Bloomington
Thursdays- 7:30-8:00 a.m. St. Mary's, Bloomington
Saturdays- 3:30-4:15p.m. at St. Charles, and 7:15-7:45 p.m. at St. Mary's Glenn Haven
Sundays- 6:45-7:15 a.m. St. John, Patch Grove and 45-9:15 a.m. at St. Mary's, Bloomington.

Baptism

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

Marriage

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage! Please call Fr. Greg 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 Fr. Greg 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!

St. Charles and St. Mary's School-Faith, Family and Academic Excellence

To register your child, please call Mrs. Kelly Copsey at 994-2435 for St. Mary School or Ms. Dianne Makovec at 725-5173 for St. Charles School.

St. Mary and St. Charles Schools admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin.

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

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

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 a.m.-noon

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

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

Our joint parish website can be found at
www.swwicatholicparishes.com.

January 1, 2023



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Catechism of the Catholic Church

971 "All generations will call me blessed": "The Church's devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship."⁵¹⁵ The Church rightly honors "the Blessed Virgin with special devotion. From the most ancient times the Blessed Virgin has been honored with the title of 'Mother of God,' to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs... This very special devotion...differs essentially from the adoration which is given to the incarnate Word and equally to the Father and the Holy Spirit, and greatly fosters this adoration."⁵¹⁶ The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and Marian prayer, such as the rosary, an "epitome of the whole Gospel," express this devotion to the Virgin Mary.⁵¹⁷

Rev. Gregory Ihm

P.O. Box 35, Bloomington, WI 53804

608-994-2526 608-725-5595

sunday7@tds.net (Julie M Jentz)

stchas@tds.net (Cheryl Junk)



Liturgy Schedule

Sat.	12/31	4:30 PM	Helen Badula	(Cassville)
		8:00 PM	Private Intention	(Glen Haven)
Sun.	1/1/23	7:30 AM	Pro Populo	(Patch Grove)
		9:30 AM	Connie Arbuckle and deceased family members of Roger & Lorraine Richter	(Bloomington)
Mon.	1/2	8:15 AM	Bud & Ethel Shaben	(Cassville)
		8:45-9:30 AM	Adoration	(Cassville)
Tues.	1/3	8:15 AM	Robert & Song Shaben	(Cassville)
Wed.	1/4	8:15 AM	Linda Parkins	(Bloomington)
Thurs.	1/5	8:15 AM	Suzanne Barr	(Bloomington)
		8:45-9:30 AM	Adoration	(Bloomington)
Fri.	1/6	8:15 AM	No Mass	
Sat.	1/7	4:30 PM	Pro Populo	(Cassville)
		8:00 PM	Larry Zimmer	(Glen Haven)
Sun.	1/8	7:30 AM	Marilyn Huser	(Patch Grove)
		9:30 AM	Jim & Ellie Hinderman family	(Bloomington)

Scripture for the week of January 2, 2023

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
 Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 4:14-22a
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20;
 Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



Octave Day of Christmas: Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Today is the Church's oldest celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is also designated as the World Day of Prayer for Peace. There can be no better way to start the New Year than to honor our Blessed Mother and pray with her for peace in our world. As we pray together today at God's invitation, let us

be mindful of how the Holy Mother of God cares for the Church and the world that her Son died to save.

Happy New Year!

The beginning of a new calendar year brings us a special joy and hope. It is a reminder that time is a gift of God, given to us from His eternity, for us to use to prepare for eternity. The passing of each year and each day is meant to be an exchange with God: He gives us time, and we give our days and years back to Him in service and love, bringing as much good as possible into the world and into the lives of others. The New Year is an opportunity to resolve, above all, to serve God faithfully: to believe more firmly, to hope more ardently, to love more generously. That is what makes a new year "happy," and that is what leads us to the happiness that never ends.



"O Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ, and our dear Mother! O all ye holy angels, who, by your adoration in our churches, make up for the little love which your God and our Saviour receives from men, obtain for us the grace to comprehend a little the love of Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament." - St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

Fr. Greg's Reflections
Newness in Christ



The year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two draws to a close and a New Year of our Lord begins filled with hope and expectation for what awaits us in Jesus Christ because all time and seasons belong to Him. We know by faith that no matter what is held in store for us, Jesus Christ will be present to us and will love us through it all. Let us strive to remain in Him by making room for Him to remain with us in our schedule, relationships, and leisure.

The **Four Holy Habits** assist us in making room for Christ in our lives, go deeper in them this year:

1. Praying daily: the rosary, silent mental prayer, reading scripture, Eucharistic Adoration.
2. Keeping the Sabbath: attending Mass and resting on Sundays and visiting family or the sick.
3. Going to Confession each month: make it an appointment with God and put it in your calendar.
4. Offering it up: mortification kindles the fire of devotion in the believer's/lover's heart.

The National **Eucharistic Revival** is a movement by the United States Bishops to help the local Church encounter and know Jesus Christ truly alive and present in the Most Holy Eucharist. How can we participate in this movement on the local level?

- I would invite parishioners to commit to attending our weekly hours of Eucharistic Adoration (Cassville on Mondays and Bloomington on Thursdays) along with signing up for an hour of adoration in Fennimore at the Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel; if you can't do every week then take turns with some of your friends.
- Consider attending Mass during the week. Visiting the Church during the day to spend a few moments with Jesus in the Eucharist is a holy habit that has been encouraged by the Church for centuries.

I invite you to join me in doing the **Catechism in a Year** presented by Ascension Press, or grow in your knowledge and love of Christ by doing a bible study with a few friends (FORMED.org- has many to choose from). Join us at Family Faith Formation Nights on the second Wednesday of each month rotating between Cassville and Bloomington. We can't love what we don't know.

Serving others with the heart of Jesus Christ is the fruit of being found in Christ.

- We are looking for volunteers to help serve the homeless in our area through Family Promise. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering, please contact the parish offices.
- The Food Pantries in Cassville and Patch Grove are looking for people to volunteer.
- I'm always encouraged to see children bringing their parents to Mass each week. I think there are others who would like to come but are unable to because they have no one to pick them up. Please consider reaching out to those you know who might appreciate your help to attend Mass.
- There is a Mission Trip being hosted in Cassville this summer (Love Begins Here- Middle School ages), please pray for its success.

Happy New Year! Mary Mother of God, Pray for Us!



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS

Faith, Family and Academic Excellence

We hope that the new year brings everyone in our parishes happiness and joy from the love of Christ. We want to thank the parish members for supporting the school this year.

Classes resume on Tuesday, January 3.

SCRIP: Scrip is available at school and also at Economy Feed Mill or if you have a special order you may call Molly Breuer, the Scrip Coordinator, at 563-608-5734 .



St. Mary's Spaghetti Supper

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual Spaghetti Supper at St. Mary's School on the evening of Saturday, January 28, 2023.

Thank You's

Thank you to St. John's CCW for their very generous donation of \$1,500.00 toward St. John's heating expenses.

Thank you to Economy Feed Mill for their very generous donation of 24 bags of ice melt to keep the areas around St. Mary Church and School safe.



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - January 4

Though her liturgical designation is "religious," Elizabeth Seton, her feast-day prayer reminds us, was also "wife, mother, educator, foundress."

Born into a wealthy Episcopalian family, Elizabeth married William Seton, whose untimely death in Italy where the young family sought healing for William's tuberculosis, left her, at twenty-nine, a widow with five children. Inspired by the faith and charity of the Italian family with whom they stayed, Elizabeth embraced Catholicism despite her family's disowning her and ceasing financial support. This woman of many firsts (and several vocations!) opened the first free Catholic school, beginning the American Catholic educational system, and founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. The tuberculosis that claimed her husband also took her oldest and youngest daughters and, finally, at just forty-seven, Elizabeth herself. Another first: in 1975 she was canonized the first native-born American saint. Once asked to summarize her spirituality, she replied: "Faith lifts the staggering soul on one side, hope supports it on the other, experience says it must be, and love says let it be!" —Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



2022 HARVEST FUND

In this season of Christmas joy and thanksgiving, we are very grateful to everyone who has supported our St. Mary's Harvest Fund! We express our deepest appreciation to the individuals and families who have given donations totaling \$23,335.00 so far.

We hope all of our parish members will be able to share their bounty and blessings to help with the winter expenses for the parish. We asked that each single person donate at least \$150.00 and each family donate \$300.00. We deeply 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

Religious Education

The next Family Faith Formation classes will be at St. Mary's School on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023 in Bloomington with a meal at 6:30 p.m. and class at 7:00 p.m.

The Youth Group will meet on Wed., January 25, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's, Bloomington.

Resolve to Spread God's Mercy and Peace

Imagine: two New Year's celebrations in little over a month! In late November, Advent began the new liturgical year, and today the secular New Year 2023 begins. In today's Gospel, everyone who heard it was amazed by the story the shepherds told of the angels' message regarding the child. Mary herself continued to reflect on all these things in her heart. With religious persecutions raging, international and domestic conflicts seething, our family and friends suffering various difficulties, and COVID not yet entirely in the rear-view mirror, not to mention our own personal problems, how much our world needs Jesus as another New Year veiled in mystery begins! As we pray for God's mercy to enfold our world and embrace each of us in 2023, let our New Year's resolution be to live for others, as Mary did, a channel of God's mercy and an instrument of Christ's peace.

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I will go peaceably and firmly to the Catholic Church: for if Faith is so important to our salvation, I will seek it where true Faith first began, seek it among those who received it from God Himself.—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATES

PLEASE HELP US PAY OUR EXPENSES

St. Mary's Collections for the period ending December 23, 2022

Church Support.....	\$1,880.00
Offertory.....	\$290.00
Harvest Fund.....	\$820.00
3K Program Fees.....	\$322.52
St. Charles Reimbursement for Expenses.....	\$916.57
St. Mary, GH Reimbursement for Expenses.....	\$458.43
Christmas Flower Memorials	\$155.00
Gift.....	\$700.00

St. Mary's families are asked to generously contribute toward the support of parish expenses. It is suggested a family to give \$1,000.00 and a single person \$500.00 per year.

St. John's Collections for the week ending on December 23, 2022

Church Support.....	\$690.00
Offertory.....	\$137.00
Christmas Flower Donations.....	\$172.00
Gift.....	\$50.00

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

St. John's Ministry Schedule for January 8, 2023

7:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
 Lector: Carol Harris
 Communion: Roger McKinney
 Ushers: Gene Harris, Ray Breuer
 Servers: Katie Tolle, Avery Needham

St. Mary Ministry Schedule for January 8, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
 Lector: Marcia Hampton
 Communion: Marcia Hampton
 Sacristans: Marcia Hampton
 Gifts: Volunteers Needed
 Ushers: Tony Trento, Dan Bierman
 Server: Libby Vogt, Ava Hoepfer



Religious Education

The next Family Faith Formation classes will be at St. Mary's School on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023 in Bloomington with a meal at 6:30 p.m. and class at 7:00 p.m.

The Youth Group will meet on Wed., Jan. 25, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's, Bloomington.



St. Charles School

We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and that your New Year is blessed. We are very thankful for your prayers and support of our school.

The children have had a busy first semester, not only with their studies and faith life, but also in their service to the community. They have held some cookie baking days and donated the cookies to the food pantry here in town and to St. Patrick's in Dubuque, where they serve a meal to the poor each Wednesday. The children have assisted with the set-up and tear-down of several events, including the Fall Festival, Rummage Sale, and Advent Breakfast, and they also helped set up the Nativity scenes in the front of St. Charles Church and in the park. They changed over all the books in church for the new church year. St. Charles students are often seen serving at weekend and funeral Masses. Their time, while often unnoticed, is far-reaching and will hopefully lead to a lifetime of service for the Lord.


Please call the office 608-725-5595 for more information about enrolling your child(ren) at our school.

St. Charles Celebration Musical CD's

St. Charles Church Celebration Musical CD's are available for \$10. Sign up for one in church or contact the St. Charles Parish office at 725-5595 and leave a message.


THEOTOKOS SERIES

THE TITLE DOESN'T MAKE HER A GODDESS



The accusation that Catholics elevate Mary to a goddess by calling her "Mother of God" is absolutely untrue and ridiculous at the same time. The Church never has, does not now and never will teach that Mary is a "goddess" who gave Jesus His Divine Nature.

Were Jesus born of a "goddess", He would not have become Man, for a divine being would logically have divine, not human offspring. The Blessed Virgin Mary is a woman who gave God the Son a human nature, which makes her the Mother of God the Son according to the flesh.

 facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage



New Year's Prayer

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

Thank You's

Thank you Bill Smith for the donation of fuel for the heating of St. Mary's Church.

Reflection

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." LUKE 2:19

After Jesus, we look to Mary. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. She heard God's message, and immediately said "yes." Mary teaches us to live with joy and gratitude for the many blessings God has given us. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world. We do this through lives of gratitude and generosity

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATES

St. Mary's, Glen Haven for December 17, 2022:

Church Support.....\$768.00
 Offertory.....\$89.00
 Christmas Flowers.....\$42.00

St. Charles, Cassville for December 17, 2022

Church Support.....\$1,050.00
 Offertory.....\$212.00
 Christmas Flowers.....\$110.00
 Bless Our Priest Collection.....\$150.00

PLEASE HELP US PAY OUR EXPENSES

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

St. Charles' Ministry Schedule

4:30 p.m. Mass on January 7, 2023

Lector: Mary White
 Communion: Mary White
 Servers: Anna & Natalie Paar
 Ushers: White family

St. Mary's, Glen Haven

8:00 p.m. Mass on January 7, 2023

Lector: Theresa Zimmer
 Communion: Theresa Zimmer
 Servers: Luke Patterson, Timothy Breuer
 Ushers: Gerard & Zach Zimmer

Thank You to Our Bulletin Advertisers

The cost of printing the bulletins is defrayed through the local business and individuals who advertise in our 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.** **The cost is approximately \$6.00 per week for a small ad.**

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



Celebrate Life

The beginning of a new calendar year brings us a special joy and hope. It is a reminder that time is a gift of God, given to us from His eternity, for us to use to prepare for eternity. The passing of each year and each day is meant to be an exchange with God: He gives us time, and we give our days and years back to Him in service and love, bringing as much good as possible into the world and into the lives of others. The New Year is an opportunity to resolve, above all, to serve God faithfully: to believe more firmly, to hope more ardently, to love more generously. That is what makes a new year "happy," and that is what leads us to the happiness that never ends.

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.

Natural Family Planning

Register for in-person education courses or for a self-paced online course: <http://www.madisondiocese.org/classes-andregistration> Questions? Call 608-495-6117 or email: nfp@straphael.org

Project Rachel - Healing from Abortion

Are you or a loved one carrying the sorrow and regret from abortion? Whether recent or long ago ... God is waiting ... Healing is possible. **For confidential help**, call or email Mary: 608-821-3177 or visit www.madisondiocese.org/rachel.



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

We wish you all a blessed New Year! Make the best decision this year for your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on Jan. 20-22 virtual; Feb. 10-12 in Geneva, IL or April 21-23 in Brookfield, WI. 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 and Crisis Lifeline -Call, text or chat. Mention you are a farmer and they will provide help specific for farmers.



"Let us make the very best use of the precious moments and do all in our power for His dear sake and for His greater honor and glory." - St. Marianne Cope

MEETINGS

- *Jan. 5– St. Charles Parish Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- *Jan. 16 - St. Mary's Parish Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Bloomington
- *March 15-St. John's Parish Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.

EVENTS

- *January 10 -St. John's Food Pantry at 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- *January 11– Family Faith formation at Bloomington
- *January 25-Youth Group at Bloomington
- *January 28-St. Mary's Spaghetti Supper
- *January 29-February 4 -Catholic Schools Week
- *February 10-12– Frassati Fest at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells for students in 9-12th grades. This is a High School Youth Conference filled with fun, talks relating to teens, Mass, prayer and time at the waterpark.
- *February 14-St. John's Food Pantry at 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- *February 22– Ash Wednesday
- *March 3 - St. Mary's Fish Fry

KC Council 4416 News

The council meeting will be on Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church basement in Bloomington.

If a member wants raffle tickets before Jan. 1, please call Gordon Kremer at 608-778-7159.



Is your marriage tearing you apart? Does separation and divorce seem inevitable? There is hope. Madison Area Retrouvaille is a ministry for struggling marriages. Couples have rediscovered each other and their marriages through this program. A Retrouvaille program is scheduled January 27-29, in Green Lake, WI. Visit www.helpourmarriage.org for more information and/or for registration.

SQUARE DANCE at St. Anne Gym, Stoughton

Yee-Haw!! Callin' y'all married couples to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter **SQUARE DANCE** on Sat., January 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Ann's Gym (323 N Van Buren, Stoughton). Potluck dinner (no nut/peanuts please) followed by 2 hours of guided square dancing by an official Square Dance Caller. So grab a dish to pass, and get ready for a night of a do-sa-doin and swingin' your pardner! We will learn as we go, so if you're up to learning something new, enjoying a lot of laughs and getting your heart pumping, **this will be a night y'all will remember!**

There is no cost to attend but free-will donations accepted. Registration is requested but not required (Amy & Jim @ 608-215-5197 or awollangk17@gmail.com)



FORMED

FORMED brings together Catholic publishers into one web location, offering the opportunity to do Bible studies, learn about the Catholic

Faith, watch movies, read e-books and more on a computer, tablet, TV, or a smart phone! Our cluster of parishes has a subscription to FORMED that allows all parishioners access to this treasure chest of faith enrichment. To sign up for FORMED, go to <https://signup.formed.org/> **You will need to enter 53804 to find our subscription which is listed under Southwest Wisconsin Catholic Parishes.** Then enter your name and email address. That's it! You're in.



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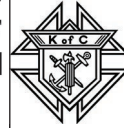
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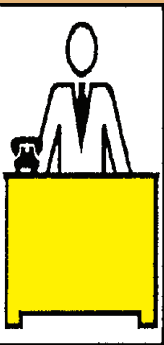
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