



St. Mary's Catholic Church
406 E. Savidge St.
Spring Lake, MI 49456
www.stmarysl.org
616-842-1702

The parish directory is available online and can be accessed via our website. Please call the parish office for the code. www.stmarysl.org

Pastor

Rev. Dave Gross

frdgross@grpriests.org

Emergency Number: 616-604-4105

Business Manager

Maribeth Lawrence

mlawrence@stmarysl.org

Bookkeeper

Jennifer Grossman

bookkeeper@stmarysl.org

Parish Secretary

Barbara Wyant

parishoffice@stmarysl.org

Christian Service

Dorothy Raha

draha@stmarysl.org

Adult Faith Formation & RCIA

Dave Heinert

dheinert@stmarysl.org

K-6 Faith Formation

Cynthia Larson

clarson@slstm.org

7-12th & Confirmation Prep

Timothy Wheeler

youthminister@slstm.org

Music Director

Diane Murray

dmurray@stmarysl.org

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:30 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Daily Mass

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday 8:00 a.m. & Friday 9:00 a.m.

Holy Days: See Bulletin

Reconciliation

Wednesday 7:30-7:50 a.m.

**Wednesday 5:30-6:00 p.m. (September-May)

Saturday 3:30-4:10 p.m.

St. Mary's School

Principal

Katie Doyle

kdoyle@slstm.org

School Office

School Phone: 616-842-1282

School Fax: 616-842-8048

School Website: www.stmarysl.org

Administrative Assistant

Mary Peel

mpeel@slstm.org

School Secretary

Gera Peel

gpeel@slstm.org

Marketing & Development Director

Carol Payne

cpayne@slstm.org

Preschool Director

Kara Polega

kpolega@slstm.org

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**ORDINARY
TIME**

Worship in Our Parish

Mass Schedule

Monday, January 25
8:00 a.m. Holy Hour
Tuesday, January 26
9:00 a.m. S.I. Fr. Dave
by A Friend
Wednesday, January 27
8:00 a.m. +Holy Souls in Purgatory
by Rose Marie Knudsen
Thursday, January 28
9:00 a.m. +Marc Palermo
by Bill & Marcia Palermo
Friday January 29
9:00 a.m. For St. Mary's Parish
Family
Saturday, January 30
4:30 p.m. +Janet Conroy
by Margo Howard
Sunday, January 31
9:00 a.m. +Joyce Berns &
Jake Bouman
by Dick & Pauline Yount
11:00 a.m. +Anne Doublestein
by Dorothy Raha and
Pantry Volunteers

Liturgical Assignments

4:30 pm:

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Ushers:

**All positions are
volunteer only
due to
COVID-19**

Make sure to sign up for the Mass you plan on attending. We are limited to 25% capacity. Use the website to register, www.stmarysl.org or phone the parish office, 616-842-1702.

Our First Fruits to God

01/17/2021

Online Giving 2,970.00
Adult Envelopes..... \$9,588.00
Loose Collection \$71.00
Total Support..... \$12,629.00

Education Center Debt \$222,201.01

Mary, Light of Learning Campaign
Outstanding Pledges \$37,308.00

CSA 2020 Goal \$141,072.00
Pledged to Date..... \$124,051.00
Online Pledges..... \$21,525.00
Total Pledges \$145,576.00
Over Goal \$4,504.00
Participating Families 487

If you are 72 or older and need to take a required minimum distribution from an IRA, gifts to St. Mary's Church are qualified charitable distributions and can save you tax dollars. To find out more on how to take advantage of this tax provision, please speak with your tax consultant or investment advisor.

A Word From The Pastor

Current Events

Once again, I am faced with the difficult task of writing about events that will happen after I submit my article but before you read this bulletin. I pray that by the time you read this the presidential inauguration will have taken place without incident. Certainly, the buildup to this event has caused fear and anxiety for many. Regardless what transpired, or didn't, this past Wednesday, we must place our faith and trust in Jesus and not secular rulers. Just as when President Trump took office, four years from now things will not be as good as President Biden's strongest supporters suggest they will be, nor will they be as bad as his fiercest critics fear they will be. Ultimately, it is up to all of us to pray for our leaders and live our lives according to God's plan for us. This doesn't guarantee that there won't be hardships and even some suffering, but at the end of the day our true home in heaven will always be waiting for us!

Last week we commemorated both Martin Luther King Day and the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision. As I mentioned at the end of Mass last Sunday, both of these events should lead us to pray for greater justice in our society. The sins of racism and abortion are intertwined in many ways. The obvious way is that Margaret Sanger, the

founder of Planned Parenthood, and others, initially advocated for legal abortion as a way of reducing the population of unwanted minorities. A less obvious connection comes from the scripture verse that tells us that we cannot love a God we cannot see while at the same time hating our brother who we can see. I would change this slightly to say that we cannot advocate for the right of every child to be born while then harboring any hatred or discrimination toward them once they are born if they are of a racial minority. These are two great evils that continue to plague our nation, so let us pray that they will come to a swift end as God changes minds and hearts!

Sunday of the Word of God

Last year Pope Francis declared the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time as Sunday of the Word of God. This weekend marks our second celebration of this special Sunday. As St. Jerome famously said, "Ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ." We as Catholics, if we truly desire a relationship with Jesus, have an obligation to get to know Him better by reading the bible. Obviously, this involves paying attention at Mass as the Scriptures are read, but there is so much more of the bible that we don't hear read at Mass. Beginning with the Gospels, I encourage everyone to pick up their bible and start reading, today! Even if

you have read it before, we believe that the bible is the living Word of God, so the way that it speaks to us will vary depending upon our circumstances when we read it. So, carve out some time each day to let the Lord speak to you. Perhaps you can use an app that will guide you through reading the entire bible in the course of a year. If you started to do this last year and gave up somewhere along the way, it is never too late to start again! May we all be grateful for the Scriptures which help us to know the mind and will of God.

May God bless you and those you love throughout the upcoming week!

Fr. Dave

This Week in Our Parish

At a Glance

Monday, January 25
8:00 a.m. Adoration & Holy Hour
Tuesday, January 26
Wednesday, January 27
7:30 a.m. Reconciliation
5:30 p.m. Reconciliation-
Thursday, January 28
9:00 a.m. Pantry
Friday, January 29
Saturday, January 30
3:30-4:10 p.m. Reconciliation
Sunday, January 31

St. Mary's Christian Service

St. Mary's Christian Service thanks St. Mary's School Student Council for their donation of \$156.00 from their December 'jean's day'.

This gift will be used to purchase canned pasta, mac & cheese, peanut butter, juice boxes, milk drink boxes and fresh fruit & veggies!

St. Mary's Central Food Pantry is an ongoing weekly ministry which appreciates and needs your support. This week our list includes sugar, jelly, baked beans, canned meats, soup, hamburger helper, canned tomatoes/sauce, applesauce, saltine crackers, ramen noodles, bar soap, deodorant, razor blades, feminine products, and laundry detergent. We are experiencing more requests for sugar-free foods. Your help with that would be appreciated. *Monetary, gifts and Scrip are welcomed and appreciated.* Please place donations in with your offertory or turn in to the parish so your gifts can be recorded on your contribution statement for tax purposes. **Please remember the families we serve in your prayers.** Thank You.

The pantry has room for **New Volunteers for Thursdays.** Please consider and call Dorothy at 616-842-2602.

St. Mary's Christian Service Outreach Programs span many areas. We would like to share with you an organization we support, **Family Promise of the Lakeshore.** The mission of Family Promise of the Lakeshore is to engage faith-based groups and the community at large to end homelessness, one family at a time. Family Promise has a unique approach to giving homeless families the opportunity to change their lives and those of their children. They work with 3-4 families at a time for a 3-month period. Twelve churches rotate one week at a time, three to four times a year. Life skills classes, case management guidance and advocacy are provided to families as they strive to reach their goals. *(continued on top of 2nd. column)*

Help is provided with job and housing searches. Children are transported to school. Tutoring and help with homework is offered by volunteers. All these opportunities take place at the Family Promise Day Center. St. Mary's does not have the facilities to be a "host church". In April of 2017, the Christian Service Board made the commitment to support this much needed organization with a donation of \$1,000 a year (quarterly). To learn more about Family Promise of the Lakeshore call 231-747-885 or visit <http://www.fp-lakeshore.org/>

Thank you, your Christian Service Board

St. Mary's Christian Service Ministry
Smiles and Blessings Dorothy E. Raha
draha@stmarysl.org | 616-842-2602



Scrip Scoop

Please remember to help support local businesses that participate in the Scrip program. The Cash and Carry box have the following local gift cards available for purchase: Chow Hound, Culver's, Frank's Meat Market, JW's, Orchard Market, Stan's Bar, Sweet Temptations, TED'S, and Village Baker. We can special order Citgo, Fields Fabrics and Mama Mia's gift cards.

Dining Concepts is going out of business. Gift certificates purchased through Shop with Scrip can continue to be used at various restaurants in Michigan through December 31, 2021. We currently have a few Dining Concepts gift cards available in the cash and carry box. They make great gifts! There are several restaurants to choose from!!!

For more information about the Scrip program, please visit our website, or call the Scrip office.

Scrip is on sale in the parish office M-F 8am-4:30pm (closed for lunch 12:30-1pm).

Jennifer Grossman
St. Mary's Scrip Coordinator
616-842-1702, ext. 260 scrip@slstm.org
www.stmarysl.org/scrip

Pray For Peace
In Our World



Scripture Readings 01.31.21

Dt 18:15-20 Ps 95: 1-2, 6-9
1Cor 7:32-35 Mk 1:21-28

Sanctity of Life



Every Life is Worth Living! This ministry promotes the sacredness and inherent dignity of all human life from conception to natural death.

Prayer for Pregnant Mothers

O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.

Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion.

Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life.

Amen

To find out more about the Life Ministries contact Mary Bilski, 616-846-5751 or mjbilski@att.net.

Evangelization Clip

Jesus' message is "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Our nation is divided. **Only Truths found in Scripture can guide our nation to unity.** Teachings of the Catholic Church are based on these Truths. News channels, political parties, and politicians—and even some ecclesial communities—cannot be relied upon for God's Truth. Hebrew and Christian Scripture contain many passages concerning Peaceful and Productive society (like the Commandments in Exodus), Dignity of Marriage (see Genesis 2), and Respect for Life. January is Respect Life Month. Passages from the USCCB website concerning Respect Life include Jeremiah 1:4-5, "The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.'" Abortion is contrary to God's plan and divisive to our society. Believe. Pass it on.

Faith Formation K-6

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:14-20

Jesus calls the fishermen, Simon and Andrew, James and John, to be his disciples.

Today's Gospel is one of my favorites to read and think about and how it relates to my life. In this Gospel we see and hear Jesus invite, call these ordinary men to be His disciples. Do you think God still calls people to Him to be disciples? The answer is yes. Jesus still calls ordinary people to be His witnesses; He calls them to invite others into His kingdom. Jesus has a mission for each and every one of us in order to fulfill the mission here on earth. Jesus chooses this ordinary fisherman not for what they were but He chooses them for what they were capable of becoming when they were willing to listen to His guidance and follow. .. to cooperate with His power.

Jesus calls ordinary people, like us to help build His kingdom, to help others hear the Good News of the Gospel. The call to being Jesus's disciple starts with learning about Jesus. We become students of Jesus and then we serve Him. It takes time, this is not immediate. Many people think that they are not capable and have nothing to offer in serving. We all do!! Today I challenge you to ask if you believe Jesus wants to use you in some way to share the message of the Gospel?

Family Time:

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear that Jesus' first disciples suddenly changed their plans when Jesus called them to follow him.

- Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Mark 1:14-20.
- ***What did Jesus say to the fishermen?*** ("Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.") ***What actions show that Simon, Andrew, James, and John changed their plans to follow Jesus?*** (They immediately abandoned their fishing nets; James and John left their father sitting in the boat.) ***What was the top priority in their lives?*** (following Jesus, being Jesus' disciple, the Kingdom of God)
- ***Jesus also invites us to make living as his disciple the most important thing in our lives. What actions would show that following Jesus is the top priority in our lives?*** (going to Mass, praying daily, reading the Bible, working for justice, or being a peacemaker.)
- Conclude in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit's help to make living as Jesus' disciples the first priority of our lives. Pray together the psalm for this Sunday, Psalm 25.

Cynthia Larson

Director of Elementary Faith Formation K-6
616-842-2840/clarson@slstm.org

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www.btfe.com

St. Mary's School Box Tops for Education ID# 165270

Adult Faith Formation

Bible study: We are **currently on break** till further notice. Hoping that Covid cases stabilize in the area. Please pray and fast for the health of the people on the lakeshore.

Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom: If you are interested in a Bible study by **Ascension Press**, then please follow the link to sign up: www.stmarysl.org/parish-news. This class started, **November 8, Sunday at 6:30 pm. THIS COURSE IS CURRENTLY REMOTE.**

RCIA: If you know anyone wanting to become Catholic, then please have them contact me or Fr. Dave. RCIA is currently distant learning.

RCIC: If for any reason you have a child that has missed a sacrament, then please send me an email.

Blog: To read some previous posts please follow the link: www.stmarysl.org/news-adult-ff

Men's Ministry: Some men in the parish are currently reading a chapter of **Proverbs** a day and gearing up for Lent. Failure to plan is planning to fail. **Lent is next month.**

Women's Ministry: We are taking the launch of this adventure a little slower with the rise in Covid cases. It's giving us an opportunity to learn more about the program. "There is a time for everything." Visit walkingwithpurpose.com for more information. Please contact me if you would like to be added to an email list. We will hopefully start in **Early February.**

Dave Heinert

Director of Adult Faith Formation
616-842-1702 | dheinert@stmarysl.org | www.stmarysl.org

Youth Ministry

7/8th Grade

Lessons 11-14 are due January 27! Don't forget that we are meeting Sunday, January 24 at 7pm via Zoom to talk about the 7 Sacraments. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the first 15 minutes of class. I will send out a Zoom Link at 5pm on the 24th!

If you have not gotten in your Saint name paper or Sponsor information forms, PLEASE get these in ASAP. Having all this information will make the next few weeks before Confirmation go much more smoothly! Thank you!

9-12th Grade

We were so glad to finally meet last week! We are continuing our conversation about Mental Wellness and God's love for us this week on Wednesday, January 27 at 7pm via Zoom. I will send out the Zoom link at 5pm on the 27th. Hope to see you all there!

Tim Wheeler

Youth Minister/ Confirmation Coordinator
St. Mary's Parish // 406 E. Savidge Street Spring Lake, MI 49456
616-935-6974 ext. 108 / www.stmarysl.org/

As a Prayerful Community

*Pray for our Parishioners who serve our country
with pride and valor .*

*We remember those who have asked to be listed
in the bulletin for our prayers.*

MMN3 Trenton Blanchard, USN
 LCPL Benjamin Bosse
 Major Ken Brakora, USAF
 Lt. Col. Jason Braun, USAF
 PVT Brian Brennan, USA
 MA1 Jason Bruemmer, USN
 Capt. Catherine
 Cassleman, AF Reserve
 Major Jim Cassleman M.D., USAF
 Capt. Rick Cassleman, USAF
 Courtney Clark, Peace Corps,
 SSGT Johnathan Cox II, USAF
 PFC Zachary J. Crevier, USA
 Specialist Ryan Diedrich, USA
 SGT Scott Diedrich, USMC,
 LT Darcy M. Dubuc, MD, USN
 SGT Justin Ebidon, USMC
 SFC Jacob Frame, Green Beret
 SGT Jacob Gardner, USMC
 Airman Jacob Green, USAF
 CDR Brent Jackson USN
 MGy Sgt Daniel Kauppila, USMC
 Airman Basic Zachary
 Kennedy, USAF

SGT Adam Ketner, USMC
 SSG Scott Lange USAF
 SPC Henry T. May, USAF
 Andrew McCabe, Coast
 Guard Helicopter Rescue
 Lt. Col. William F. Ratledge, USAF
 Lt. Col. Kenneth Rossman, USMC
 CMSgt. Michael J. Rozneck. USSF
 LCPL Kyle James Russell, USMC
 Jonathan Schmitt
 First Class IT, USN
 Capt. Matteson Smith, USA
 Major Max Smith, USA
 Capt. Ann Trombly, USAF
 PFT Austin Van Strate
 Major L. Brandon Wohlschlegel,
 Army Ranger.

We also pray for all
 first responders and
 law enforcement officers
 who put their lives on the line to
 keep us safe at home.

Jamie Anderson
 Chase Anspach
 Nancy Arzuaga
 Cristy Barnes
 Billy Bergenson
 Dan Bouma
 Marisa Brizzalara
 Gustavo Carrerro
 Carolyn Cibor
 Raymond Cibor
 Millie Conran
 Danielle
 Mark Dean
 John & Patti DeJonge
 Sharon DeWitt
 Mark Dinneweth
 Jim Donnelly
 Lisa & Dick Dorato
 Jennifer Edinger
 Theresa Farnelli
 Caren Fann
 Joe Fendt
 Vanessa Fox
 Jack Gardner
 Mary Jo Glassner
 Ernie Grabman
 Paul Grantz
 Russ Greenbauer

Carrie Baldus Gross
 Tom Gullo
 Janet Hall
 Lee Haslick
 Oliver K. Hawkins
 Stephen B. Hess
 Linda Howe
 Jack
 Keki Jahs
 Karen
 Nicholas Karlsons
 Kathleen
 Kathleen Kennedy
 Lance Kilinski
 Beatrice Kotecki
 Janelle Martin
 Bill Mason
 Jim McHugh
 Melissa
 Margie Meyer
 Lisa Meyers
 Susan Millett
 Wendy Murray
 Jacob Myers
 Lydia Napieralski
 Janie & Ron P
 Bill Palermo
 Helen Paul

Marlene Perry
 Jennifer Porter
 Linda Quaine
 Val Race
 Jack Richards
 Amanda Ricord
 Ayden Riggs
 Teresa Rivera
 Steve Rosso
 Helen Rozneck
 George Sadowski
 Esperanza Sanchez
 Kathie Saurbaugh
 Christopher Schippers
 Tony Schippers
 Nancy Senkowitz
 Rodney & Donna Sorn
 Cathy Staeven
 Linda Traynor
 Charles VanderLaan
 Ric VanWeelden
 Alan Walczak
 Eileen Westerhoff Young
 Alan Williams
 Richard Wilson
 Sara Wolcott Family
 Zachary Zimmerman