

“This is the one about whom it is written:
‘Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.’”

Matthew 11:11



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@gpriests.org

Emergency Number: 616-604-4105

Deacon

Rev. Mr. Bill Charron

bcharron@stmarysl.org

Pastoral Associate & R.C.I.A.

Bill Dunn

bdunn@stmarysl.org

Business Manager

Maribeth Lawrence

mlawrence@stmarysl.org

Parish Secretary

Barbara Wyant

parishoffice@stmarysl.org

Christian Service

Dorothy Raha

draha@stmarysl.org

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Heinert

dheinert@stmarysl.org

K-6 Faith Formation

Cynthia Larson

clarson@slstm.org

7-12th & Confirmation Prep

Chris Iwan

ciwan@stmarysl.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

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday-7:00 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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Y

Worship in Our Parish

Mass Schedule

Monday, December 16
8:00 a.m. +Nik Barbera
by The Family of Helen
Szubinski

Tuesday, December 17
8:00 a.m. +Paul Collins &
Fred Griesbach
by Charlene Lozicki

Wednesday, December 18
7:00 a.m. S.I. George Maierhauser
by St. Mary's Youth Group

Thursday, December 19
9:00 a.m. +Elizabeth Cook
by The Smith Family

Friday December 20
9:00 a.m. +Pete Dalman
by Betty Dalman

Saturday, December 21
4:30 p.m. +Bruce & Isabelle Kinney
by The Kinney Family

Sunday, December 22
9:00 a.m. +Rosalie VonWahlde
by Joe & Lori Von Wahldde
11:00 a.m. +Frank & Christine Raha
by Dorothy Raha

Liturgical Assignments

12/21-22/2019

4:30 pm: Mike Grillo, Jack Biros, Alivia Holmes, Need Server, Kathy Struve, Diane Carmode, Barbara Eskew, Mike Grillo, Cathy Kennedy (req sub), Gary Kujawski, Rachel Lohman, Karen Mead, Kathy Struve, Need 3 EM's

9:00 a.m. Michael Zambiasi, Nino, Gabriella & Isabella Padula, Kristin Padula, Rob Clark, Maryvic Cuison, Carl & Betty Doering, Lou Draeger, Mary Sue Farmer, Lee Ann Frame, Julie Kieft, Joe Popiel, Alice Szpieg, Laure Veitenheimer

11:00 a.m. Bill Dunn, Parker Hill, Travis Throop, Need Server, Lana Fedewa, Bill & Patti Bernesser, Bill Dunn, Wendy Ely, David Lukasik, Sandy Mercurio, Cheri & Rob Shippy, Sharon Vink, Need 2 EM's

Ushers: Tom Twa, Mark Brininstool, Austin Twa, Jim Kauppila, Jeff Frame, David Randall, Ken Sandy, Mitchel Tennyson, Lance Kilinski, Dave Burel, Greg Babbitt, Dave Schaner, Bernie Wade, B.J. Wade, Chad Wade, Rob Peel, Joel Westhoff

Our First Fruits to God

12/08/2019

Online Giving\$10,721.50
Adult Envelopes.....\$26,368.00
Kids Coins\$96.08
Loose Contributions\$2,040.50
Total Support.....\$39,226.08

Education Center Debt.....\$716,517.04

Mary, Light of Learning Campaign
Goal\$2,000,000.00
Mary, Light of Learning Campaign
Pledges\$1,355,130.02
Mary, Light of Learning Campaign
Received\$1,240,951.42

CSA 2019 Goal\$137,595.00
Pledged to Date\$147,236.00
Over Goal\$9,641.00
Participating Families420

If you are 70 ½ 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

Advent

On this Gaudete Sunday we rejoice that the coming of the Lord is near! Our liturgies take on a more festive feeling with the rose (pink) vestments, the rose candle on the Advent wreath, and additional singing that reminds us that our time of hopeful waiting is nearly at an end. This is also our last full week to prepare for Christmas, and while many of us still have some practical arrangements to complete, I hope that we will all redouble our efforts to prepare our hearts and souls for this joyful event. Whether we are spending some quiet time in prayer, volunteering at our church or other organization, or making an extra donation to charity, there are so many ways that God is inviting us to see His presence and goodness all around us.

One way to prepare for Christmas is in song. All are invited to join our school children on Tuesday evening at 6:30 in the church for their annual Christmas music program. They will lead us in song and recall for us the events that surrounded the birth of our savior in the flesh. The special joy of children this time of year is a gift that we should all take advantage of.

Mosaic Update

The final cost estimates are coming in for the restoration work on the Mosaic, and it looks like the total amount will be around \$160,000 over the \$25,000 that we have already spent. We will strive to have most of the work completed during Lent, so the pieces will likely be coming down towards the end of January or early February. One item that we need to arrange is a place to stay for the three conservators who will be removing and mapping the pieces and then reinstalling them when complete. The estimate is that this process will take around 8 weeks, divided between removal and reinstallation. Is there anyone who would have a summer home or some guest lodging in the area who would be willing to host them this winter and early spring for free or at a discounted price? This would save us the cost of 2 hotel rooms for 8 weeks. Let me know if you might be able to help with this item.

Donation Match

Generous parishioners have stepped up to help us solicit more donations for both the education center loan payoff and the mosaic project. They are offering to match,

dollar for dollar, any new donations of at least \$2,000 that are given by April 15, up to a total match of \$50,000. For these donations, 80% will go toward the MLOL Campaign to pay off the education center debt and 20% will go toward the mosaic restoration. I am extremely grateful for these parishioners who are generously challenging all of us to help our parish complete these two important projects. If you are able to accept this challenge, please send in your donation with "Matching Gift" in the memo of your check or put a note with your donation indicating that it is for the matching challenge. Thank you to everyone who has financially supported St. Mary's with all the different projects we have going on!

May God bless you and those you love throughout the upcoming week and may these last weeks of Advent be a time of joyful hope and preparation for our Lord's birth!

Fr. Dave

This Week in Our Parish

At a Glance

Monday, December 16

7:25 a.m. Praying of the Rosary
7:00 p.m. Adoration & Holy Hour
7:00 p.m. R.C.I.A.

Tuesday, December 17

7:25 a.m. Praying of the Rosary
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Quid est Veritas?
6:30 p.m. School Christmas Program
8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, December 18

7:30 a.m. Reconciliation
3:45 p.m. Junior Choir
4:15-5:30 p.m. Elementary Faith Form.
5:30-6:30 p.m. Reconciliation
6:30 p.m. Open Gym 7-12 FF
7:00 p.m. 7-12 Faith Formation

Thursday, December 19

7:25 a.m. Praying of the Rosary
7:00 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday, December 20

7:25 a.m. Praying of the Rosary

Saturday, December 21

9:00 a.m. Junior Choir Practice
3:00-4:10 p.m. Reconciliation

Sunday, December 22

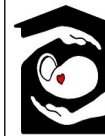


Dear Friends,
Our former seminarian in residence, now Deacon in residence at St. Paul's Church in Grand Rapids, Michael Goodwin will be here at St. Mary's to lead us in an evening of prayer, adoration and Benediction. The date will be Monday, **December 16** at 7:00 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity to renew or make a new acquaintance with Deacon Michael. He would most enjoy meeting again the friends that he made while in residence here. Come and celebrate Advent in a most positive way. Join us as we adore Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and further prepare our hearts for Christmas under the guidance and care of Deacon Michael. Remember, Monday night December 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Scripture Readings 12.22.19

Is 7:10-14 Ps 24: 1-6
Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

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.

"Those who die in God's grace and friendship live forever with Christ. Heaven is not an abstract idea, but a true and lasting relationship with God that is beyond all earthly description and understanding. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead and everlasting life by preparing now, in hope for our passage from this life into eternal life."

USCCB "Catholic Considerations for Our Earthly Passing"

To become involved with the Sanctity of Life Ministry please contact Mary Bilski at 616-846-5751 or mjbilski@att.net



Remember, gifts and gift cards for the Giving Tree should be turned in by Monday, December 16.

Christmas baskets will be distributed beginning Wednesday, December 18. Gift cards should be turned in to the Parish Office. Please do not leave gift cards under the tree. Thank you for your generosity.



Our fifth-eighth grade students spend 90 minutes each week in a self chosen elective course outside the academic curriculum. These courses are personal passion projects for each of our middle school teachers--an opportunity to share something they love with a multi-age group of students. This week, I would like to express my gratitude for Rachel Derck, our 5th grade homeroom and middle school math teacher who shares her passion for healthy living during elective time. In Happy Healthy You, students engage in hands on learning to prepare healthy snacks, exercise and stretch, and develop social emotional health skills that will benefit them long after middle school. Rachel uses guest fitness instructors and our St. Mary's Abbey kitchen to bring dynamic learning opportunities to the students who have chosen this elective. It is really something to see!

While I am on the subject of gratitude, let me take this opportunity to invite all of you to mark your calendars for our St. Mary's School Gratitude Gala on Saturday, **March 21** right here on the parish and school campus. This evening is dedicated to celebrating all those, including you, who have helped St. Mary's School go Above and Beyond in all we do. I hope you will join me!

Thank you for your very generous response for the items we requested for individuals serving time in our prisons, jails and juvenile centers. Hopefully they will realize that they are not forgotten during this season of Advent approaching the birth of the infant Jesus Christ on Christmas day. For more information contact Tricia Worrell, Program Director (616.475.1255) or tworrell@grdiocese.org.

**Pray For Peace
In Our World**



Evangelization Clip

John the Baptist sent his own disciples to Jesus with a question: "Are You the Messiah?" John knew the answer. His life work was proclaiming Jesus as Messiah, and he did. John knew his own disciples must begin to follow Jesus. **John points us to Jesus as well.** So...**who is Jesus to you, today?** Ponder this as you prepare this Advent season for Jesus to come again into your day to day life with yet a bigger and livelier presence. Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist and in our committed time of prayer. And let your family know of your faith. Share that also with friends who seem interested in joining, or re-joining our faith community.



Scrip Scoop

The Christmas shopping season has officially begun! The Scrip Cash and Carry box has everything you need for the hard to buy for person on your list! Pick up Scrip for: Applebees, Barnes & Noble, Celebration Cinema, Culver's, Dick's Sports, Goodrich Theaters, Home Depot, Jo-Ann, Kohl's, Old Navy, Red Robin, Starbucks, and many more. There are over 750 gift cards available for purchase, simply visit: www.shopwithscrip.com for a complete list.

December 16th at 9am all orders must be in to be guaranteed before Christmas!!!

Jennifer Grossman & Marcie Hamilton
SCRIP Coordinators
scrip@slstm.org 616-842-1702 ext. 260

Faith Formation, ETC.

Faith Formation K-6

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. This Sunday is traditionally called "Gaudete Sunday." Gaudete is the Latin word that means "Rejoice!" We call today "Gaudete Sunday" because one of the prayers for today's Mass, taken from Paul's Letter to Philippians, is this: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near."

WHAT IS THE ROSE COLOR ABOUT?

On this day the priests wear rose colored vestments. The third candle on the Advent wreath is rose (pink) as well. While purple/violet is a color to signify prayer, penance, and preparation during Advent. These visual color shifts are reminders in our life to help us on our Advent journey to prepare and shift our hearts. Rose helps us begin the shift of our hearts to joy as Christmas is almost here

THE THIRD SUNDAY

By week three we have passed the half-way point of Advent. Jesus is near. Christmas is almost here. Many people begin to feel rather stressed out by the season. This third Sunday of Advent is a reminder to seek and spread joy in the coming of Christ. So, here is your challenge during the third week of Advent: spread joy not stress! Be a source of joyful appreciation for all that God has given to you and share that joy with others.

What are one or maybe two things that will allow your families to participate more fully in God's kingdom both as it is here now? May the rest of your Advent journey be filled with expectant hope. May God continue His good work in each of us. Come Lord Jesus!

Cynthia Larson
Faith Formation K-6
616-842-2840/clarson@slstm.org

Adult Faith Formation

Bible Study: Tuesday mornings in the B & C rooms from 9:30 - 11 am. We are currently doing short studies found on Formed.org till the new year. We'll be studying **Mary** starting in **January**.

Tap'd @ TED's: The next Tap'd will be in 2020.

Bible Timeline: Sundays at 6:30 pm-8:00 pm downstairs in room D. Catechist Bill Sibilla is leading a walk through the Bible using the Bible Timeline series.

"Quid Est Veritas": What is Truth? **Tuesdays**, at 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the Youth Room, with Gregory Todd. We'll be continuing **Rejoice an Advent Meditation with St. Joseph** by Ascension.

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



Uncovering the Mysteries of the Magi on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 @ 7:00 pm - 8:45 pm With Fr. Charlie Brunick, CSP at the Catholic Information Center.

What comes to mind when you think of the wise men presented by the Gospel of Matthew? Kings from various nations, arriving on camelback, following a miraculous star? Join Fr. Charlie, as he delves into the mystery, myths and historical clues to discover how the story of the three men bring deeper meanings to our celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany. CFD: Theology (\$10 donation requested.) catholicinformationcenter.org/616-459-7267.

St. Mary's Christian Service

Thanksgiving Donation: Thank you for your support. Your generous gifts totaled \$2,176. Our Christian Service Ministry would not be able to operate without you.

St. Mary's Central Food Pantry, an ongoing ministry, appreciates and needs your support. Please remember us when you shop. **This week's list includes:** Everything! Monetary gifts and Scrip are welcomed. Please place donations in with your offertory or tun in to the parish office for recording on your contribution statemen. Remember to mark all donations 'Christian Service.' Please remember the families we serve in your prayers.



Parish family, thank you for your support of the Christmas Food Gift Baskets. We will pack 110 Monday morning and distribute them this week on **December 18 & 19**. Donated hams (not cut in half) between 6-9 pounds are still needed. Let me know if you are able to donate one. Hams may be brought directly to the pantry Wednesday afternoon or all day on Thursday.

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

Youth Ministry

Wednesday Jan. 8th 7-8:30pm 9-12th grade Suicide Prevention Training by Mosaic Counseling:

Mosaic Counseling is an award winning service that has brought suicide prevention training to countless people in the lakeshore area. Providing people with practical ways to get help and how to watch for warning signs of distress. We are very excited to provide this amazing opportunity for our high school faith formation students.

March for Life Jan. 23-26th 2020 (Washington DC):

9th-College aged students are encouraged to come to Washington and March for Life. We will be joining other in the Diocese of Grand Rapids on charter buses.

Cost: \$325. (Charter transportation, 2 nights hotel stay and 5 meals included)

Chris Iwan
Coordinator of Middle School and High School Youth Ministry
616-935-6974 / www.stmarysl.org/ ciwan@stmarysl.org
www.facebook.com/stmaryslym



Touched by Mercy, a Day for those Affected by Suicide will be held at the Franciscan Life Process Center, Lowell Campus, 11650 Downes St. NE Lowell, MI 49331 on **Saturday, February 8, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**. Join Sister Colleen Ann Nagle, FSE, MA and Father Ron Hutchinson, MA for a special day of reflection, sharing and prayer for those who have been affected by the suicide of a loved one. Please go to touchedbymercy2020.eventbrite.com to register.

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.*

LCPL Benjamin Bosse
Major Ken Brakora, USAF
Lt. Col. Jason Braun, USAF
PVT Brian Brennan, USA
MA1 Jason Bruemmer, USN
CWO5 Tracy T. Byers, USMC
Capt. Catherine
Cassleman, ANG
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
SGT Ashley Howe, USMC
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
SMSgt. Michael J. Rozneck. USAF
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
Cristy Barnes
Logan Boon
Marisa Brizzalara
Connor Burke
Gustavo Carrero
Carolyn Cibor
Raymond Cibor
Millie Conran
DC
Danielle
Sharon DeWitt
Jennifer Edinger
Caren Fann
Joe Fendt
Vanessa Fox
Mary Jo Glassner
Glenn
Ernie Grabman
Paul Grantz
Marshall Graves, Jr.
Russ Greenbauer
Janet Hall
Lee Haslick

Stephen B. Hess
Jack
Keki Jahs
Karen
Nicholas Karlsons
Kathleen Kennedy
Jean Koehs
Violet Korecki
Beatrice Kotecki
Baby Paul Langeres
Phil Lemmen
Angelo Marasco
Janelle Martin
Bill Mason
Ridge Matthews
Jim McHugh
Melissa
Margie Meyer
Lisa Meyers
Susan Millett
Jeff Moorehouse
Jacob Myers
Ted Ostradick
Bill Palermo
Jennifer Porter

Val Race
Jack Richards
Ayden Riggs
Teresa Rivera
George Sadowski
Esperanza Sanchez
Kathie Saurbaugh
Christopher Schippers
Tony Schippers
Nancy Senkovicz
Roger Shoestring
Cathy Staeven
Charles VanderLaan
Ric VanWeelden
Alan Walczak
Eileen Westerhoff
Young
Alan Williams
Richard Wilson
Sara Wolcott Family
Amy Wygmans
Ted Youn
Zachary Zimmerman