

THE HOLY
FAMILY OF
*Jesus, Mary
& Joseph*



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

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

*The child
grew and
became strong,
filled with
wisdom; and
the favor
of God
was upon him.*

Luke 2:40

Worship in Our Parish

Mass Schedule

Monday, December 28
8:00 a.m. Holy Hour

Tuesday, December 29
9:00 a.m. +Dan English
by Ann English

Wednesday, December 30
8:00 a.m. +Fred Kromer
by Cal & Rita Braun

Thursday, December 31 **New Year's Eve**
9:00 a.m. S.I. Rose Marie Knudsen
and Family
by Rose Marie Knudsen
St. Mary's Parish Family

4:30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Family

Friday January 01 **New Year's Day**
9:00 a.m. St. Mary's Parish Family

Saturday, January 02
4:30 p.m. S.I. Jan Olsen
by His Family

Sunday, January 03
9:00 a.m. Rosalie VonWahlde
by Joe, Lori & Andrew
VonWahlde

11:00 a.m. +Kenny Hudson
by His Family

Liturgical Assignments

4:30 pm:

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

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Ushers:

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

12/13/2020

Online Giving \$4,811.00
Adult Envelopes..... \$23,150.00
Loose Collection \$209.00
Total Support..... \$28,170.00

Education Center Debt\$326,012.01

Mary, Light of Learning Campaign
Outstanding Pledges \$40,467.16

CSA 2020 Goal \$141,072.00
Pledged to Date..... \$123,901.00
Online Pledges..... \$21,525.00
Total Pledges \$145,426.00
Over Goal \$4,354.00
Participating Families 486

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

Christmas

Merry Christmas to all! As we begin the Octave of the Nativity of Our Lord, I hope and pray that everyone is rejoicing in the celebration of the great miracle that took place over two thousand years ago. This past year, and this Christmas celebration, have been unlike any other. January seems like so long ago, when we were just starting to hear reports of a possible new virus starting to spread in China. I don't think anyone could have imagined the impact that it would have on our daily lives, and on the celebration of our faith. Try to keep in mind the truth that all the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle. Those of us who believe in God's love for us, manifest in the birth of Jesus, are called to be a light to all this Christmas and throughout the upcoming year!

Holy Family and St. Joseph

This weekend we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Families are a gift that God has given to us, but sometimes sinfulness on the part of one or more family members can make it very difficult for someone to consider their family a gift. Let us pray together on this holy day that more families are able to follow the example of the

Holy Family and that all parents will strive to model themselves after Joseph and Mary. Pope Francis has declared 2021 to be special "Year of St. Joseph," as we commemorate 150 years since he was named as the patron of the universal Church. This "year" actually began on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, back on December 8, and will conclude on December 8, 2021. The aim of this special year is "to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal." The pope has also granted a plenary indulgence to Catholics who recite any approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, especially on March 19, his solemnity, and May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Other notable days for St. Joseph are this Sunday, the Feast of the Holy Family, and the 19th of each month and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the saint in the Latin tradition. If you want to read more, and I would encourage everyone to read Pope Francis' Letter, *Patris corde*, go to the diocesan or Vatican websites.

New Year

We just have a few days left in 2020, and I know that most of us are ready to leave it far behind. However, let us not forget to take a

few moments and look at the blessings which God has granted, even in the midst of the hardship and suffering that so many endured. Please sign up and join us this Thursday evening or Friday morning to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, on January 1st. We don't know what awaits us in 2021, but we can be sure that our God will be walking with us every step of the way!

Matching Gifts

Last call for any donations so that we can reach our matching gift donation goal. A very generous parishioner has offered to match up to \$50,000 in donations for the Education Center debt and mosaic restoration with 90% going toward the former and 10% to the latter. Donations are due by the first of the year to qualify. Thank you!

May God bless you and all of those you love throughout this week and the New Year!

Fr. Dave

This Week in Our Parish

At a Glance

Monday, December 28
8:00 a.m. Adoration & Holy Hour
Tuesday, December 29
Wednesday, December 30
7:30 a.m. Reconciliation
5:30 p.m. Reconciliation-
Thursday, December 31 **New Year's Eve**
Friday, January 01 **New Year's Day**
Saturday, January 02
3:30-4:10 p.m. Reconciliation
Sunday, January 03

St. Mary's Christian Service

St. Mary's Christian Service applied for a grant from *Soup For All* this year. Because of the success of the event, we are very thankful and honored to be chosen to receive a Grant of **\$4,000**. These funds are to be used for housing and other homeless prevention needs. Thank you who supported this event and volunteered on behalf of St. Mary's.

Your Christian Service Ministry Humbly thanks all of you for your generosity this Christmas Season to help those in need. We will have a report for you the first part of January 2021.

St. Mary's Christian Service Ministry Board extends to you, our Parish Family and Friends the warmest wishes for a Happy Healthy and Blessed **2021!** May we all feel the Smile of Christ's Love.

Sincerely, Jackie Koehler-Berry, Rita Brook, Alice Diedrich, Linda Doublestein, Greg Pastotnik, Mueril Tuggle, and Dorothy E. Raha

Please NOTE: St. Mary's Pantry will be closed Thursday December 24, and 31st.



St. Mary's Central Food Pantry is an ongoing weekly ministry which appreciates and needs your support. Please **help us restock our shelves**. We will re-open our party on Thursday, January 6, 2021.

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

**Pray For Peace
In Our World**



Scrip Scoop

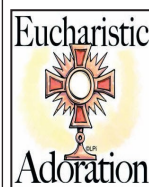
Merry Christmas! Thank you for supporting the Scrip program this year. The Parish office will be closed to all visitors and drop off traffic until further notice. *If you would like to purchase Scrip, please use the RaiseRight Mobile App and utilize shipping Scrip gift cards directly to your home. If you would like to place an order from the Cash and Carry box, you can mail a check and order form in the mail or drop it in the offertory.* Once we receive your order, and fill it, we will contact you when it's ready to pick up. We will hand your order through the door. Nobody will be allowed to come into the Parish office.

Please remember to help support local business! Order Scrip for Citgo, Fields Fabric, Frank's Meat Market, JW's, Mama Mia's, Stan's, Sweet Temptations, Ted's, and Village Baker.

The Cash and Carry box has a new item, Biggby Coffee. The cards are \$25 denomination.

For more information on the Scrip program, or to print an order form, please visit our website: www.slstm.org/scrip

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



We want to extend our deep appreciation for all those who took the time to adore our Lord during the 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration at St. Michael's in Muskegon. It was truly a beautiful time of grace! May God reward each of you, those who worked more or those who worked less, with His very best! God bless you all.

Andrea Stepanski



Please pray for the families of Robert Start (husband of Lou Start) and Carole Garzelloni (wife of Joe Garzelloni).

May they rest in peace in the arms of the Lord. Bring comfort and support to their families as they grieve in the days and months ahead.

Scripture Readings 01.03.20

Is 60:1-6 Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

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.

"Like Our Blessed Mother, welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance."

"Living Out Christmas in the New Year" USCCB Pro-Life Activities

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

Family Perspective

The Magi in today's gospel were led to Jesus by a star. Who are the stars your children follow? Don't let it be the tabloid stars. Resolve in this New Year to be the guiding star in the life of your children.

Encore Institute:

**Adventures in Volunteering Thursday,
January 14, 10-11:30 a.m.
With Dawn Kaltenberg-VanHorn and
Adrienne Goodstal,
Mel Trotter Ministries
(RSVP by Jan. 11) Zoom Presentation**

Volunteering not only helps others but leads to new discoveries and new friends. Plus, studies show that volunteering promotes a healthier and more active lifestyle! Join us as we learn about Mel Trotter Ministries and what it is like to serve the poor during a pandemic. What are the challenges and the blessings?

(\$10 donation suggested)

Catholic Information Center: 616-459-7267

Adult Faith Formation

Bible study: We are currently on break till January. Hoping that Covid cases stabilize in the area. Please pray and fast this Advent 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, downstairs in room D. **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.

Parish blog: Kristin writes about being **Patient during Advent**. One could do well spending some time reading and reflecting on how this virtue is something God really wants us to learn. To read, please follow the link: <https://www.stmarysl.org/news-adult-ff/advent-waiting>

Men's Ministry: Exodus 90 finished on Immaculate Conception. If you are interested in joining a less strict growth opportunity, then we are putting one together for January. It will be reading the book of Proverbs over the course of a month. Please, contact me if interested.

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 are looking at **starting in January.**

Dave Heinert

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

Youth Ministry

Merry Christmas from 7-12th Grade Faith Formation!

"What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wiseman, I would do my part.
Yet all I have I give Him-
give Him my heart"

-Christina Rosetti, *In the Bleak Midwinter*

7/8th Grade!

Keep working on Lessons 8-10 of *Chosen* and don't forget our January 13th due dates!

9-12th Grade!

Want to join in on faith formation in Spring 2021? Register on our parish website to get information on virtual meeting dates and times!

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/



Faith Formation K-6

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-40 (or shorter form: Luke 2:22, 39-40)

Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

"the family is the privileged setting where every person learns to give and receive love...The family is an intermediate institution between individuals and society, and nothing can completely take its place...The family is a school that enables men and women to grow to the full measure of their humanity...."

O God, who in the Holy Family left us a perfect model of family life lived in faith and obedience to your will, help us be examples of faith and love for your commandments" (Pope Benedict XVI)

Family Time:

Our family life allows us to teach our children about the faith and how to live it out in today's world. Think today about when you brought your children to church to be baptized? The beginning of teaching them about the faith and cooperation and commitment you made to God and them. Mary and Joseph were able to cooperate in God's plan for our salvation by being faithful to what God asked of them, that is to bring Jesus into the world(Mary's yes) and Joseph in his willingness to cooperate and be her spouse and raise Jesus. Jesus learned about how to practice the Jewish faith from Mary and Joseph. The prophecy spoken by Simeon and Mary sorrow that would come reminds us that family life has good times and hard times. It points to us to take notice of our support for each of our family members in good and bad times. Let the Holy family show and intercede for you as you teach your children about the faith. Today pray the Our Father together.

May you and your families enjoy this beautiful Christmas Season,
Merry Christmas

Cynthia Larson

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

*"The family
is
the salt of the earth
and
the light of the world,
it is the leaven of society."*

Pope Francis

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
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
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
Ron Barnes
Billy Bergenson
Dan Bouma
Marisa Brizzalara
Janice Bullinger
Connor Burke
Gustavo Carrerro
Carolyn Cibor
Raymond Cibor
Millie Conran
DC
Danielle
Mark Dean
John & Patti DeJonge
Sharon DeWitt
Jim Donnelly
Lisa & Dick Dorato
Jennifer Edinger
Theresa Farnelli
Caren Fann
Joe Fendt
Vanessa Fox
Mary Jo Glassner
Ernie Grabman

Paul Grantz
Russ Greenbauer
Carrie Baldus Gross
Janet Hall
Lee Haslick
Stephen B. Hess
Linda Howe
Jack
Keki Jahs
Karen
Nicholas Karlsons
Kathleen
Kathleen Kennedy
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 Senkowicz
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