



# ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Forming Saints for Christ and the Church*

DECEMBER 14, 2014  
THIRD SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT

512 North Perkins Street ✘ Rushville ✘ Indiana ✘ 46173  
Parish: 765-932-2588 ✘ School: 765-932-3639 ✘ www.stmaryrush.org

## Staff

Rev. Jeremy M. Gries, Pastor.....frgries@stmaryrush.org  
Debbie Spaeth, Administrative Assistant .....dspaeth@stmaryrush.org  
Terri Nigh, Administrator Religious Ed. (ARE) ..... tegar2@frontier.com  
Sherri Kirschner, Principal..... skirschner@stmaryrush.org  
Theresa Komlanc, School Secretary ..... tkomlanc@stmaryrush.org

## Parish Office Hours

Monday-Wednesday...8:30a.m.-4:30p.m.  
Thursday.....9:30a.m.-4:30p.m.  
Friday.....8:30a.m.-Noon

## Our St. Mary Prayer Line

Regenia Ripberger 765-561-1179  
Lisa Wagoner 812-593-0790  
765-663-2444

## Parish Council

Chair: Shawn Adkins

## Finance Council

Chair: Doug Krieger

## Board of Education

Chair: Jim Cowan

## Baptism

Call the parish office for scheduling.

## Reconciliation/Confession

Saturday...4:30p.m.- 5:15p.m.  
Tuesday.....6:00p.m.6:25p.m.

**Marriage** Engaged couples must meet with the Pastor to complete initial marriage paperwork at least 9 months before the anticipated wedding date *and prior to making any other arrangements concerning the wedding.*

*No date may be considered reserved until initial meeting and the necessary paperwork have been completed. Call the parish office for an appointment.*



## FROM THE PASTOR

Archbishop Tobin has asked our parish and all those of the Connersville Deanery to be part of the current cycle of parish planning related to the *Connected in the Spirit*. The process includes an in-house parish assessment of current ministry and effectiveness. This internal evaluation will be spearheaded by the parish core team. The **core team** may and will be eliciting input and feedback from various committees and members of the parish. If you are interested in providing feedback, or viewing the assessment instrument, please contact Fr. Gries. The St

Mary Parish Core Team members who will assist in this work are: Bruce Fenimore (chair), Denise Ripberger (secretary), Shawn Adkins, and Annette Niehoff. I am personally thankful for their willingness to serve the parish in this capacity. I am also on the core team. We will complete the internal evaluation by mid-February 2015.

Following the internal evaluation, the various parishes of the deanery will be formed into working groups of 2 to 4 parishes, called **cohorts**, which will then study, plan, and make recommendations or plan how to:

1. Share more resources with each other and with parishes in need;
2. Avoid unneeded duplication of services; and
3. Fill in the gaps where service and ministry have not been available.

St Mary's has not yet received its' cohort partner parishes; although, we were asked for input on possible parish groupings. This phase will not begin until late February 2015. More information will be forth coming as it becomes available.

How goes your **Christmas preparations**? Any extra prayer time? Extra rosaries? Read the Scriptures? Made use of the Sacrament of Penance? There is still time!!! I've personally committed to a peaceful praying of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary each day of Advent in patient preparation for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas. (Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple). Join me.

St Mary, Expectant Mother of God, Pray for us. ~ Fr. Gries

### Mass Schedule: December 15 - 21

<b>Monday</b>		No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30p.m.	Wilma Haining
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30a.m.	Brady Bishop
<b>Thursday</b>	8:30a.m.	Ken Schneider
<b>Friday</b>	8:30a.m.	Charles & Margaret Pavey
<b>Saturday</b>	5:30p.m.	Kathleen Ketcham
<b>Sunday</b>	7:30a.m.	Don Weiler
	10:00a.m.	St. Mary and St. Rose

Upcoming Holiday Mass Schedule: December 24 at 4:00p.m., 6:30p.m. and midnight here at St. Mary; 9:00p.m. at St. Rose. December 25 at 9:00a.m. here at St. Mary. December 31 at 4:30p.m. and January 1 at 9:00a.m. at St. Mary.

Incense will be used at the 6:30p.m. Mass on December 24, Midnight Mass and at the 9:00a.m. Mass on December 25.

JOY TO THE WORLD: Watch special Christmas Programming on EWTN. Dish 261, Direct 370, Comcast 291 or EWTN.com



Our Condolences to: Kristen and Paul Barada, Jr. and sons at the sudden death of Kristen's father, Michael Lee Walker.



**EXPIRED FOOD CANNOT BE DISTRIBUTED.**  
FROM THE FOOD PANTRY. PLEASE CHECK  
THE DATES ON THE LABELS. THANK YOU!

Listed below are items the Food Pantry will be including in Christmas hygiene baskets. Donations can be left at church entrances.

4-roll packs of bath tissue	toothpaste
2-roll packs of paper towels	toothbrushes
facial tissue (e.g. Kleenex)	floss
shampoo	deodorant
bar soap	toilet bowl cleaner
liquid hand soap	laundry detergent
hand sanitizer	dish soap
general purpose cleaners	bleach

Items always needed for the Food Pantry:

Peanut Butter	Sugar
Mac and Cheese	Spaghetti's
Boxes of Spaghetti	Pork and Beans
Jars Spaghetti Sauce	Canned Vegetables
Cereal and Oatmeal (Item of Month)	Ramen Noodles
Canned Fruit	Hamburger Helper
Cans of Tuna	Tuna Helper
Toilet Paper	Bars of Soap
Dish Soap	Toothpaste

During the month of November the food pantry served 49 families which included 118 adults and 60 children. Pastoral Care assisted 3 Rush County families with utilities and rent for a total of \$650.00. Thanksgiving Baskets were given to 25 families.

## Liturgical Roles

### Servers – December 20 & 21

Sat.	5:30p.m.	Matthew Komlanc, Ereena Moore, John Alexander
Sun.	7:30a.m.	Glen Harpring, Nicholas & Jacob Amos
	10:00a.m.	Lily Yager, Hallie & Alexis Fenimore

### Lectors – December 20 & 21

Sat.	5:30p.m.	Tom Giesting
Sun.	7:30a.m.	Bob Bridges
	10:00a.m.	Mary Beth Burklow

### Extra-Ordinary Ministers – December 20 & 21

Sat.	5:30p.m.	Julia Jessup, Rita Corn, Barb Musgrave
Sun.	7:30a.m.	Ken & Nancy Schroeder, Mary Ann Bridges
	10:00a.m.	Steve Pavey, Stephen Ariens, Sarah Niedenthal

### Ushers for December 2014

Sat.	5:30p.m.	Dutch Tragesser & Volunteer
Sun.	7:30a.m.	Mike Mahan & Volunteer
	10:00a.m.	David & Brayton Schultz

### Ministers-to-the-Sick

Dec. 15	Janet Pike	Dec. 22	Monica Neuman
---------	------------	---------	---------------

### Money Counters

Dec. 15	Nancy Newbold, Lucille Hinton, Donna Land, Diana Leising
Dec. 22	Kathy Dean, Jeanie Spaeth, Debbie Banks, Gary Nigh

### **A Stewardship Moment**

In today's second reading, Paul concludes his letter to the Christian community at Thessalonica by providing it with actions to take as its' members wait for the return of the Lord. The first action is to rejoice always and give thanks to all circumstances. This sounds easy but it's not. The two words that make this task difficult are "always" and "all". This means giving thanks and rejoicing, even when our circumstances are not always moments of joy and thanksgiving, or when we are confronted with a broken world. Prayerful stewards rejoice and give thanks, in all circumstances, because they are people of hope. A good reflection this week would be how the season of Advent can give you reason to hope.



**Sunday Collection**  
December 7, 2014



Adults (163 Envelopes +10 Loose Checks)	\$ 8,387.00
Youth (4 Envelopes)	\$ 4.00
Loose	\$ 437.50
Total	\$ 8,828.50
Weekly Budget (2014/2015)	\$ <u>7,300.00</u>
Surplus (+) / Deficit (-)	\$ +1,528.50 ☺
Sunday 12/7/14	\$ 8,828.50
Regular Maintenance	\$ 130.00
Preserving Our Heritage	\$ 6,308.00
Votive Candles	\$ 41.00
Lighthouse Ministry CD's	\$ 25.00
Calvary Cemetery	\$ 55.00
Flowers	\$ 375.00
Religious Retirement	\$ 15.00
Food Pantry	\$ <u>932.00</u>
TOTAL 12/7/14	\$ 16,709.50

Mass Attendance - Weekend of December 6/7 - 584

Support Religious Communities: "Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's collection for the *Retirement fund for Religious* provides vital support for the retirement needs of senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests. It also helps ensure that younger members can continue the good works of their elders! If you forgot your envelopes, this weekend, you can still drop it into next Sunday's collection basket. May God bless you for your generosity!



**Changing Footprints - Third Annual Trivia Night**  
Saturday, January 24, 2015

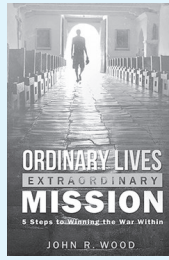
Ruth Houk is available to register your team and answer any questions. rahouk1@frontier.com



December Birthdays-St. Mary Homebound  
December 16—Elverna Comer  
December 24—Martha Todd



Monetary donations are now being accepted for Christmas flowers. Envelopes are on the tables, at each church entrance. Please fill out, completely, and drop into the regular Sunday collection.



**ADULT FAITH CLASS**  
**Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission**

by John R. Wood  
Led by Fr. Jeremy M. Gries  
Wednesday Evenings from 7-8:30p.m.  
Multipurpose Room  
Free Study Guide

**TOPICS**

- January 7 - Prologue & Step 1 (Pages 5-32)
- January 14 - Step 2 (Pages 33-78)
- January 21 - Step 3 (Pages 79-110)
- January 28 - Step 4 (Pages 111-150)
- February 4 - Step 5 (Pages 151-174)
- February 11 - Sep 6 (Pages 175-187)

**-St. Mary Catholic School-**

Last Day to Order Gift Cards, to ensure Christmas delivery, is December 15, 2014. Contact the school office.

St. Mary Catholic School Christmas program will be on Thursday, December 18 at 7:00p.m. with a dress rehearsal at 1:30p.m.

**-Religious Education-**

Sunday Morning Religious Education, Class TODAY, December 14, 2014.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Class TODAY, December 14. Please keep Catechumens: Chris Nobbe and Monte Sitton and Candidates: Joe Hoffman, Evelyn Sammons, Marcy Westphal, Jessica Berkemeier and Sally Farley in your prayers.



Sister Eileen Rose Bonner, S.P., Connected in the Spirit, all of those who are sick and suffering in our parish and community.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Adult Only Social and Dance will be held on Friday, January 30, 2015 at the K of C. Watch the bulletin for more information; including ticket sales.



**Archdiocese of Indianapolis**  
**2014-2015 United Catholic Appeal**  
Please mail your pledge card directly to the Archdiocese or drop into the Sunday collection. Thank You.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Pledge Cards</u>	<u>Pledge Amount</u>
12/4/14	132	\$25,700
Goal	474	\$14,255
<b>% of Goal</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>180%</b>