



ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Forming Saints for Christ and the Church

DECEMBER 13, 2015
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 Assistantdspaeth@stmaryrush.org
Jill Kuntz, Administrator of Religious Education.....jkuntz@stmaryrush.org
Sherri Kirschner, Principal..... skirschner@stmaryrush.org
Theresa Komlanc, School Secretary tkomlanc@stmaryrush.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday.....8:30a.m.-4:30p.m. Regenia Ripberger 765-561-1179
Friday.....8:30a.m.-Noon Lisa Wagoner 812-593-0790
765-663-2444

Our St. Mary Prayer Line

Parish Council

Chair: Shawn Adkins

Finance Council

Chair: Elbert Gordon

School Commission

Chair: Jamey Pavey

Baptism

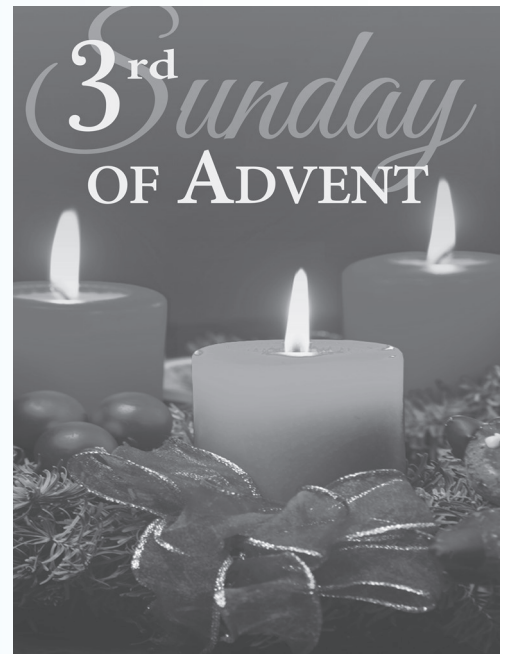
Call the parish office for scheduling.

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.



While we Catholic Christians are currently in the preparatory season of Advent, the Jews have been celebrating Hanukkah these last few days. Hanukkah, this year, began at sundown on Sunday, Dec 6 and continues until sundown on Monday, Dec 14. Hanukkah is also known as the Feast of the Dedication or the Festival of Lights. One can read about the origin of Hanukkah in the I Maccabees 4:36-61 (esp. 4:56) and II Maccabees 10:1-9 (esp. 10:6). Why might we Christians care about a Jewish Holiday? Well, Jesus was Jewish, and he celebrated Hanukkah (see John 10:22-23). And while we are not bound to Jewish laws and traditions in the same way as Jesus, a practicing Jew, Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets.

Hanukkah means “dedication.” Its initial purpose was to rededicate the temple after it had been profaned by the worship of foreign idols, pillaged, and burned. This feast celebrated the fact that once again the house of God was cleansed and sanctified for His use alone. In like manner, we who have trusted in Jesus Christ as Savior should cleanse our lives – like the Temple – and set them apart for God’s use. We should dedicate ourselves to God and live only for Him.

Some of the traditional practices associated with Hanukkah could be ‘reinterpreted’ in light of Christ. For example, each family is to place its Hanukkah candlestick so that it is visible to the outside – whether in a window or in a special place near a door. Just so, Jesus tells us not to light our candle and put it under a bushel basket (Lk 11:33). We should put it on a candle stand and let it shine as a testimony to all.

Each candle is to be lit right after sundown. As this world gets darker and darker from winter and pressing evils, so we should be lights in the world. The date for Christmas was set because by the 25th (a few days after the Winter solstice) daylight begins to increase. Both the Jews and Christians celebrate God’s Light, whom Christians recognize properly as Jesus Himself – the Light of the World.

The Hanukkah menorah has a ninth candle called the *shamash*, which means “servant.” None of the eight candles are ever to be used to light any of the other eight candles. All of them are to be lit from the ninth, or servant, candle. God the Father calls Jesus Christ “my servant, whom I have chosen” (Mt 12:18). Jesus came not to be served but to serve (Mt 20:28). Note that the *shamash* candle is at the center, where Christ should be in our lives. We cannot find our light in the light of the world. Each of us must have our candle lit by the Light of Christ Himself. He is truly the Servant and the sole source of our light. Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish brothers and sisters!

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

Mass Schedule: December 14 - December 20

Monday	6:30p.m.	No Mass
Tuesday	6:30p.m.	Edward Neuman
Wednesday	8:30a.m.	William Shanahan
Thursday	8:30a.m.	Charles & Margaret Pavey
Friday	8:30a.m.	Ken Saxon
Saturday	5:30p.m.	Edwin & Loretta Nobbe
Sunday	7:30a.m.	St. Mary & St. Rose
	10:00a.m.	Merlin Herbert

The Rush County Chorale, under the direction of David Doyle, will be presenting its annual Christmas concerts on Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 7:30p.m. and Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 2:30p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Rushville. Tickets are \$6 and are available at the door or from any Chorale member.



Aging Religious Need Your Help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals and agencies, often for little pay. Their sacrifices leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious on this weekend helps provide prescription medications, nursing care and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime. Please place your Retirement Fund envelope in the regular Sunday collection.

**December Birthdays (Shut-Ins & Nursing Homes)**

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 the envelope and drop it into the regular Sunday collection.

Our Sympathy to: John, Misty and Jonathon Blankman at the death of Misty's father, Virgil McKay.

Prayer List: Howard Ariens and our Brothers and Sisters in San Bernardino, California.



Aubree Lynn Berkemeier, daughter of Chad and Jessica (Wilson) Berkemeier, will be baptized on December 12, 2015. Welcome Aubree!

Items that will be in the Christmas hygiene baskets include:
 4-Roll Packs Toilet Paper/Toothpaste/Toothbrushes/2-Roll Pack of Paper Towel/Deodorant/Shampoo/Kleenex/Bar Soap/Liquid Hand Soap/Laundry Detergent/Floss/Hand Sanitizer/General Purpose Cleaner/Toilet Cleaner/Bleach
Please support local families in need, by donating any of these items. Hygiene baskets will be distributed December 18.

Liturgical Roles**Servers – December 19 & 20**

Sat.	5:30p.m.	Will, Katie & Anne Thoman
Sun.	7:30a.m.	Tyler, Nicholas & Jacob Amos
	10:00a.m.	Michael & Shaun Fudge, Mitchell Cowan

Lectors – December 19 & 20

Sat.	5:30p.m.	John Blankman
Sun.	7:30a.m.	John Williams
	10:00a.m.	Tessa Hoeing

Extra-Ordinary Ministers– December 19 & 20

Sat.	5:30p.m.	Tom Giesting, Steve Richards, Rita Corn
Sun.	7:30a.m.	Susie Odum, Regenia Ripberger, Doug Krieger
	10:00a.m.	Kevin & Debbie Banks, Mary Beth Burklow

Ushers for December 2015

Sat.	5:30p.m.	Bruce Fenimore & Steve Schwering
Sun.	7:30a.m.	Bobby Spaeth & John Niehoff
	10:00a.m.	Kevin Mahan & Eric Wagoner

Ministers-to-the-Sick

Dec. 14 Marilyn Schroeder & Jeanie Hedrick
 Dec. 21 Jeanie Spaeth

Money Counters

Dec. 14 Kathy Dean, Jeanie Spaeth, Sheila Zwickey,
Debby Williams
 Dec. 21 Jeanie Spaeth, Missy Koors, April Flannery,
Royanna Eck

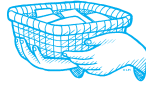
"Save the Date"**St. Mary Parish Mission****January 30, 2016 - February 3, 2016****EXTRAORDINARY
JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY****CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY**

- Feed the Hungry
- Give Drink to the Thirsty
- Clothe the Naked
- Shelter the Homeless
- Visit the Sick
- Visit the Imprisoned
- Bury the Dead

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY


- Admonish the Sinner
- Instruct the Ignorant
- Counsel the Doubtful
- Comfort the Sorrowful
- Bear wrongs Patiently
- Forgive all Injuries
- Pray for the Living / Dead

Sunday Collection
December 6, 2015





Adults (149 Envelopes + 14 Loose Checks)\$	7,783.00
Youth (3 Envelopes)	\$ 4.50
Loose	\$ 332.11
Total	\$ 8,119.61
Weekly Budget (2015/2016)	\$ -7,500.00
Surplus (+) / Deficit (-)	\$ +619.61 ☺
Sunday 12/6/15	\$ 8,119.61
Regular Maintenance	\$ 290.00
Preserving Our Heritage	\$ 3,430.00
Votive Candles	\$ 45.00
Religious Retirement	\$ 10.00
Cemetery	\$ 300.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 42.00
C.D	\$ 5.00
Food Pantry	\$ 577.00
TOTAL 12/6/15	\$ 12,818.61

Mass Attendance - 12/6/15 - 673



Catholic Charities, Indianapolis, sponsors monthly caregiver support groups for family members who are caregivers of older adults. Meetings are open to adult family caregivers in the community and are a way to share and learn from each other. To confirm attendance or for additional information, contact Monica Woodsworth a mwoodsworth@archindy.org or at 765-261-3378. Monday, December 14 2015, 5:30- 7p.m., St. Mark Catholic School, 541 E Edgewood Avenue.

Christmas and New Year's Worship 2015
Christmas: December 24, Mass at 4:00p.m., 6:00p.m., and 12:00 Midnight and December 25 at 9:00a.m.
New Year's: December 31, Mass at 4:30p.m. and January 1 at 9:00a.m.

Archdiocese of Indianapolis
2015/2016 United Catholic Appeal
 Please mail your pledge card directly to the Archdiocese or drop into the Sunday collection. Thank You.

Date	Pledge Cards	Pledge Amount
11//14	153	\$25,150
Goal	474	\$14,255
% of Goal	35%	176%



Faith Opportunity
BIBLE STUDY
 Led by Fr. Jeremy Gries
 Wednesday Evenings
 7:00-8:15p.m.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Dec. 16 | Messianic Fulfillment III |
| Dec. 23, 30, Jan. 6 | Break |
| Jan. 13 | The Church I |
| Jan. 20 | The Church II |
| Jan. 27 | The Church III |

Come to one, come to all.
 Bring your Bible & Catechism!

-St. Mary Catholic School News-
Christmas Program - December 16 at 6:30p.m. with a dress rehearsal at 1:00p.m.
Gift Cards - St. Mary School has a variety of gift cards. Contact the school office. Deadline to order is 10:00a.m. on December 14, 2015.

-Religious Education News-
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Class TODAY, December 13. Topic: Sacraments of Service: Holy Orders and Matrimony. Please keep Catechumens: Jordon Lightner, Cody Smith, Tammy Smith, Alexis Query, Bree Huskins and Kaitlyn Dawson and Candidates: Mike Moore, Kevin Dolan and Sherry Owen in your prayers.
Religious Education -Preschool- 6th: Class TODAY, December 13, 2015. No class December 20 & 27.
High School Religious Education, for 7th -11th grade, Next class is scheduled for January 10, from 5:30-7:45p.m.
Youth Group: January 10, 2016 at 4:00p.m.



The Parish Office will close at noon on December 24 and remain closed on December 25, 2015, for Christmas.
The Parish Office will close at noon on December 31 and remain closed on January 1, 2015, for New Year's.

ABORTION ALTERNATIVES

Birthline	Mon.-Fri.	317-635-4808
Option Helpline	24/7	1-800-712-HELP