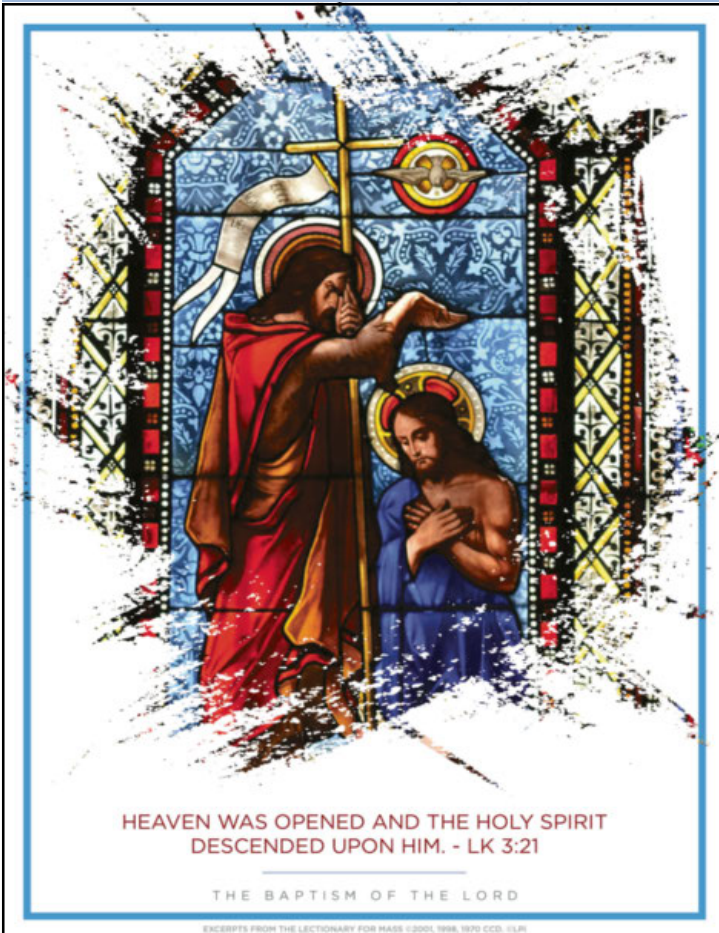


# St. Mary/St. Patrick Catholic Church

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
JANUARY 9, 2022

606 W. Main St. • Durand, IL 61024 • 815-248-2490 • Visit us @ [stmarystpatrick.org](http://stmarystpatrick.org)



## WELCOME

If you are visiting with us today, we welcome you.  
For information about the parish or to register for the parish  
Check us out at: [www.stmarystpatrick.org](http://www.stmarystpatrick.org)

## MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday, Vigil, 4:30 p.m.

Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends - St. Mary Church  
September-May - St. Patrick Church

Sunday, 8:00 a.m. - St. Mary Church

10:00 a.m. - Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends - St. Patrick  
10:30 a.m. - September-May - St. Mary Church

Monday, 7:30 a.m. Communion Service - St. Mary Church

Tuesday thru Friday, 7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary Church

## RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS:

Sunday, 7:30 a.m. - St. Mary Church

First Saturday, 11-11:30 a.m. - St. Mary Church

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

First Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - St. Mary Church

Benediction, 4:00 p.m. - St. Mary Church

**THE BULLETIN:** View the bulletin online at [stmarystpatrick.org](http://stmarystpatrick.org)

Very Rev. Matthew M. Bergschneider, Pastor  
Deacon Dick Mulcahey, Deacon Steve Pulkrabek

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon–Thrs 8-4, Fri 8– Noon

A Reflection for the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, by Deacon Steve Pulkrabek

The readings for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord focus on the revelation of Jesus Christ as God's beloved and upon the effects of the Spirit. Today, we celebrate the Lord's baptism by John in the Jordan River. Although today's Gospel message is short in length, having only 5 sentences, it contains an abundance of meaning for us as followers of Christ. We are presented with an example of Faith, Humility, and also the revelation of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel John is quick to direct attention away from himself and onto the awaited messiah. He exhibits sincere and true humility. He also clarifies that there will be a notable and profound difference between his baptism of water and that of a baptism with the Holy Spirit. The baptism, the one instituted by Christ not only signifies grace, but is the effective cause of grace, it actually confers grace.

This is the day for us to remember the graces we have received in Baptism and to renew our Baptismal promises: On the day of our Baptism, as Pope St. John Paul II explains, "We were anointed with the Oil of Catechumens, the sign of Christ's gentle strength, to fight against evil. Blessed water was poured over us, an effective sign of interior purification through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We were then anointed with Chrism to show that we were thus consecrated in the image of Jesus, the Father's Anointed One. The candle lit from the Paschal Candle was a symbol of the light of Faith which our parents and godparents must have continually safeguarded and nourished with the life-giving grace of the Spirit."

Significance of Christ's baptism: This exalted identity of the "Son of God" revealed at his baptism is the starting point for all that Jesus will undertake—his self-giving ministry, death and Resurrection. It is because Jesus knows Who he is that he does as he does. As we begin Ordinary Time, we do so knowing that, in our own Baptism, God has named us beloved sons and daughters. Like Jesus, all that we undertake must flow from who we are—God's beloved. We are called to follow in the footsteps of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This means that we, too, must humbly submit ourselves to God's wise and loving plan for our lives. He, in turn, anoints us with the Holy Spirit that we may be clothed with His power and grace.

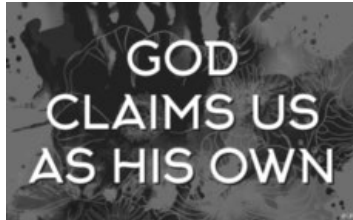


Religious Education class will be held this Sunday followed by the 16th and the 23rd.

Second Grade Parents, if your son or daughter will be receiving First Holy Communion this April, please attend the Parent Meeting this Sunday, January 9th at 9 a.m. in St. Mary Church hall.

The Baptism of the Lord

“We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ.” — Pope Francis



What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

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PLEASE PRAY



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Larry Pelter, who passed December 25, 2021. May God grant him eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon him.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is held on Sundays at 7:30 a.m. and on the first Saturday of the month from 11-11:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church.
- Requests for Anointing of the Sick can be made by calling 815-248-4428.
- For Religious Education information please give us a call at 815-248-2490, or visit [www.stmarystpatrick.org](http://www.stmarystpatrick.org). To register for a Wedding or Baptism, register as parishioners, reserve a Mass intention, request Anointing of the Sick, memorial candles or flowers, or for any other parish matters, please stop by or give the office a call, 815-248-2490.
- The Parish Office will be closed February 21, for the holiday.

*Holy Mother of God, pray for us.*

Who Am I to Judge? This month we will begin an eight-week small group study program where we'll explore the classical view of morality and find that it's not merely a set of guiding principles for theoretical situations– it is an entire way of life. What is “right” and wrong”? Is what's right for you right for me? Is there a right and wrong for everyone, all the time? These are difficult questions to discuss in our culture. We live in a society that supports the opinion that each person should make his or her own morality– that there is no moral truth that applies to everyone. Maybe some of us wonder whether there really is an absolute right and wrong for everyone. Or maybe we accept that there is a moral standard for all, but we don't know how to explain our moral convictions to others. Maybe some of us are afraid of saying something is immoral because we're afraid of offending others or of being labeled intolerant. How do we talk about morality in a relativistic world? Please call the office to facilitate a small group: 815-248-2490 or email [tpolizzii@stmarystpatrick.org](mailto:tpolizzii@stmarystpatrick.org). Sign-up is underway. The first group meeting will be held the weekend of January 24th.

ROCKFORD WALK FOR LIFE, JANUARY 15

Join us for the Rockford Walk for Life! Saturday, January 15th, 11 a.m., Rockford Federal Courthouse: 327 S. Church Street, Rockford, 61101. We will begin with prayer, a rally and then walk several blocks past the State of Illinois building, and back to the Federal Courthouse to conclude in prayer. Since January 1973, over 62 million unborn babies have been killed through legal abortion. Join us in this peaceful and prayerful walk to end the killing of our innocent brothers and sisters in the womb. The speakers for the event are confirmed. Join us to unite for love of Jesus and His children.

At this time there is a need for a couple of substitute Religious Education catechists and aides. The parish is also in need of a High School Religious Ed Catechist and an Aide for January through May of 2022. In the past, catechists and aides have come from various professions and backgrounds, but what they all had in common was a desire to pass the faith to the next generation of young Catholics. Please prayerfully consider whether you may be called to this essential ministry.

**NATIONAL APPEAL WEEKEND  
JANUARY 15-16**

A Message from Bishop Malloy:  
January 2022



Dear Friends in Christ,

Your support for the 2022 National Appeal in the Diocese of Rockford empowers local communities, shares the Gospel message with our neighbors, and cares for elderly religious. Through this combined appeal collection on January 15-16, we continue the work of building the Kingdom of God right here in our own country and within our own Diocese. Rather than make separate collections for the requests in this appeal, and the many other needs of the church, our Diocese has opted to combine these requests into three separate appeals spaced throughout the year. The National Appeal is the first of these combined appeals in 2022.... Thank you for considering generous support of the 2022 National Appeal.

*Most Reverend David J. Malloy  
Bishop of Rockford*

**“Who is this Christ? Is He anything like you?”** Perhaps you’ve heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

“He is nothing like me,” the saint is said to have answered. “But I hope I am like him.”

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, person and a martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke the truth — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. “One worthier than I is coming,” he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God’s will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let’s examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we respond to God’s plan?

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**WORD OF LIFE**

When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others’ lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them.

“How to Build a Culture of Life” ([respectlife.org/culture-of-life](http://respectlife.org/culture-of-life))



**PARISH PRAYER TREE AND PRAYER CHAIN**

Our Parish Prayer Tree and Prayer Chain offer a network of support and prayers not only for our parish, but for the community at large. If you would like someone included on the Parish Prayer Tree which is in the bulletin, please call the Parish Office: 815-248-2490. If you would like someone added to the Parish Prayer Chain, which is a group of parishioners who pray for parish members and their intentions, please call Mary Borgmann, 815-865-5555, Margie Flynn, 815-494-4288 or the parish office, 815-248-2490.

Please remember in your prayers our homebound parishioners and those in Medina Manor, along with Glenn Busjahn, Ryan Bergschneider, Adrian Book, Regina Borg, Art Block, Terry Brogan, Dave Brown, Lisa Carlson, David DiGvonna, Christine Gignac, Tristan Hendler, Kevin Henze, Carol Hertzner, Jennifer Hicks, Judy Hollenbeck, Kenneth Jason, Tony Jason, Carrie Kiely, Shelly Wenger Jauch, Mary Joyce, Samantha Kaldohl, Emmanuel Kilb, Nancy Kalina, Carol Kirchner, Joanne Komprood, Bill Kussner, Keith Ludolph, Dominick & Rose Lomanto, Stacey Ludkowski, Mary Terese Lynne, Judy Lynde, Vicki Marshall, Vicky Mathew, Raymond McDade, Theresa Mikosz, Jeff Miller, Isabelle Morales, Deacon Dick Mulcahey, Barb Neuzil, Kathy Nielsen, Gracie Nicolosi, Erline Nipps, Holgeir and Karen Oksnevad, Patty Page, Kelli Palmer, Sandra Pauley, Joe Peiffer, Tom Peiffer, Elefterious Prevett, Louis Ropilla, Carol Rosko, Frances Salvato, Brock Scarpetta, JoEllen Sharer, Dennis Shippy, Eugene Siwinski, Dean Simmer, Betty Sorg, Dawson Thomas, Amber Hill Thompson, Lana Todd, Marcie Turner, Jean Walsh, and Laurie Walsh.

Remember our service men and women including: Nic Blum, Will Devore, Will Francis, Lucas Graves, Rev. Bob Keener, Landon Ketchum, Garrett & Jason Kirk, Ashley Kochanski, Chris Miranda, Matthew Moser, Mark Shram, Zeth Willard, and Charlie Wojcik. (12/28/21)

If you or your loved one no longer need our prayers then please let us know so that we can keep the Prayer Tree and Prayer Chain current. Parish Office number: 815-248-2490.

If you would like to occasionally assist with decorating the church then please give a Terry at the office a call. 815-248-2490 Thank you.

The Durand Area Food Pantry will be open for food box pick-up on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 4:30-6 p.m. and on the 4th Saturday from 9-10:30 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran in Durand.

**THANKS**

Thank you goes to McCorkle Funeral Home for providing to the parish the beautiful, Catholic 2022 appointment calendars.

### MINISTRY SCHEDULES

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Jan. 15 4:30 p.m. Peg Stewart  
 Jan. 16 8:00 a.m. Deacon Steve Pulkrabek  
 Jan. 16 10:30 a.m. tbd

#### LECTORS

Jan. 15 4:30 p.m. Margie Schafer  
 Jan. 16 8:00 a.m. Greg Ryan  
 Jan. 16 10:30 a.m. Charlene Miller

#### USHERS

Jan. 15 4:30 p.m. Sue Wells, Jack Wells  
 Jan. 16 8:00 a.m. Jason Pease, Dan VanDeVoorde  
 Jan. 16 10:30 a.m. Jim McClellan, Shad Sutherland

#### ALTAR SERVERS

Jan. 15 4:30 p.m. Flynns  
 Jan. 16 8:00 a.m. L. Sutherland, A. VanDeVoorde  
 Jan. 16 10:30 a.m. McLevigies

#### COLLECTION COUNTERS

Jan. 16 \*Denise Starnes, Mary O'Hagan

#### SACRISTAN, ST. PATRICK CHURCH

Jan. 15, SP 4:30 p.m. Bonnie Vonderohe

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Collection Totals			
2nd Week of December 2020	2nd Week of December 2021		
Mail-in & drop-off	\$4380.00	Envelopes	\$3393.00
Loose:	\$70.00	Loose	\$128.00

The letters for donations to Diocesan Appeals will be sent from the Diocesan offices directly to all donors. This is the same as last year. This includes the Diocesan Appeal, National Appeal, International Appeal, and Mission Appeal.

Financial statements for 2021 for St. Mary/St. Patrick Catholic Church will be mailed upon request. To request yours, email [secretary@stmarystpatrick.org](mailto:secretary@stmarystpatrick.org) or contact the parish office at, 815-248-2490. Thank you.



## Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 8, 2022

4:30 p.m. (SP) +Helen Daniels

Sunday, January 9–Baptism of the Lord

8:00 a.m. (SM) All Souls

10:30 a.m. (SM) +Al Jose

Monday, January 10

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Tuesday, January 11

7:30 a.m. +Margaret Moisan

Wednesday, January 12–St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

7:30 a.m. +Loretto & Augusto Azul and Ben Hur

Thursday, January 13–St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor Of The Church

7:30 a.m. +Kurt Janisch.

Friday, January 14

7:30 p.m. +Andrew Helwig

Saturday, January 15

4:30 p.m. SP +Donna Bramer

Sunday, January 16–Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. SM The People of the Parish

10:30 a.m. SM +Ruby Mercer

“+” denotes a Mass intention for the deceased.

Mass intentions can also be for the living.

(SM) St. Mary Church, Durand

(SP) St. Patrick Church, Davis/Irish Grove

## MEMORIAL CANDLE INTENTIONS

Lighting candles is an ancient practice we continue today to signify our hope and prayers we offer for a particular intention. The intended person could be living or deceased. We have two special ways of burning candles for the sake of the prayer. Seven-day candles burn before the Tabernacle and the Icon of The Blessed Virgin Mary inside of St. Mary Church. These candles are available to be lighted for your intention and will burn for one week. While we do ask for a donation of \$10 this cost should not be a prohibiting factor.



Mary Icon Candle

Tabernacle Candle

## TABERNACLE FLORAL MEMORIALS

Floral memorials dedicating the two bouquets on either side of the Tabernacle at St. Mary Church are available for loved ones—living and deceased or for special intentions such as holidays, anniversaries or other special events.



A donation of \$15 per vase will help offset the cost of these flowers and enable you to have a beautiful floral tribute for one week. Please call the parish office at 815-248-2490, to schedule.

Tabernacle Flowers





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