

December 26, 2021

# *Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish*

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## *The Holy Family*

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. - Lk 2:46-47

### **PASTOR:**

Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Diermeier  
[dierjoe@aol.com](mailto:dierjoe@aol.com)

### **PARISH DEACONS:**

Deacon Bryan Hiltz  
Deacon John Bourke  
Deacon Gordy Ruplinger

### **BULLETIN EMAIL:**

[bulletin@stmarysmarathon.org](mailto:bulletin@stmarysmarathon.org)

### **WEEKEND MASSES:**

Saturday—4:00 PM  
Sunday—8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

### **Pax Christi Adoration Chapel Hours:**

Sundays—11:00 AM until 11:00 PM  
Wednesdays—7:00 AM until 11:00 PM

### **PHONE:**

Rectory	715 443 2045
School	715 443 3430
Religious Ed.	715 443 2433

**Adult Choir** will sing at the 8:00am Mass on Sunday, January 2, 2022.

**The Knights of Columbus** will hold their annual free throw contest at St. Mary's school gym on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 2:00pm. Girls and boys ages 9-14 are eligible to participate. There are no fees for entering; all equipment will be provided.



Sign up and give it your best shot. For further info please call 715-443-3676.

**Retirement Fund for Religious** The annual collection for this fund has ended. Please return the envelope that was attached two weeks ago if you plan on making a donation.

**End of Calendar Year Charitable Contributions** As the end of the calendar year approaches we want to remind you that charitable contributions must be applied to the year in which they are received. The only exception would be that when a check is mailed: it is applied to the year the check is postmarked, even if it is received in the next calendar year.

**Help those Devastated by the Recent Tornadoes in Several States** Assist families and communities affected by the recent devastating tornadoes in Kentucky and at least 5 other states. Visit Catholic Charities' website - CCLSE.org - click on "Donate Today," and enter "tornado relief" and your gift amount in the "general donations" box.

**FYI: Parish lectors** - If you would like to assist at the weekend Mass as a reader please sign the **WEEKEND MASS MINISTRY SIGN-UP LIST** that is located in the hallway by the sacristy door.

**FYI: Altar servers** - If anyone would like to serve for the weekend Mass, please sign the sheet by the sacristy door. This could include adults who are willing to serve or could include families who would like to help with this ministry.

**Thank You** for all the Christmas cards and greetings. May all of you have a blessed Christmas season.

*Margaret Shidell*

Parish Stewardship for December 5, 2021	
Average amount needed in weekly stewardship envelopes..... \$13,300.00	
Adults Env. & Online .....	\$ 15,369.04
Students.....	\$ 30.35
Plate .....	\$ 854.91
Automatic Direct Donation avg.....	<u>\$1,649.25</u>
<i>Total for the week.....</i>	<i>\$ 17,903.55</i>

Parish Stewardship for December 12, 2021	
Average amount needed in weekly stewardship envelopes..... \$13,300.00	
Adults Env. & Online .....	\$ 15,338.44
Holy Day .....	\$ 1,430.75
Students.....	\$ 15.65
Plate .....	\$ 999.82
Automatic Direct Donation avg.....	<u>\$1,649.25</u>
<i>Total for the week.....</i>	<i>\$ 19,433.91</i>

**New Year's Eve and Day Mass Times:**  
December 31 at 4:00pm  
January 1 at 9:00am

**Week at a Glance**  
**Wed., Dec. 29..** Communal Rosary 7:00pm



**SAINT OF THE WEEK**

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

**2022 MARCH FOR LIFE**

**JANUARY 19-23, 2022 | WASHINGTON DC**  
[DIOLC.ORG/M4L](http://DIOLC.ORG/M4L)

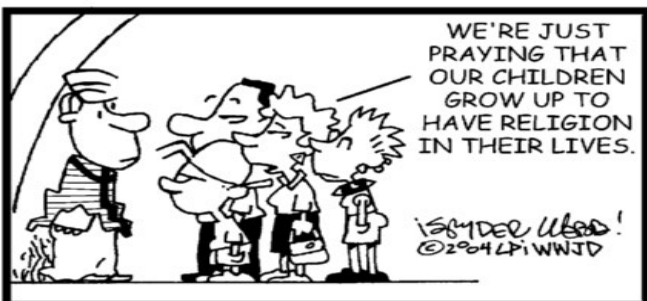
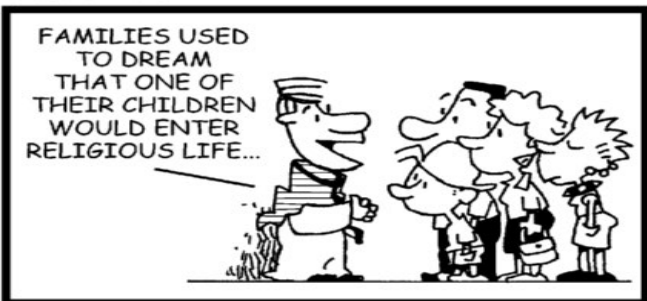
Join our Pilgrimage for Life to Washington, D.C., -- With two Special Guests! There has never been a more important time to join the March for Life in our nation's capitol, with the Dobbs case being heard by the Supreme Court and the possibility of Roe v. Wade being overturned. Plus, our pilgrims will be addressed by two amazing speakers, before and after the March: Terry Beatley, Founder of Hosea Initiative, and Valentyna Pavsuykova, Founder of Chalice of Mercy. For the registration letter, tentative schedule, and details, visit [diolc.org/M4L](http://diolc.org/M4L).

**WEEKLY PRAYER**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021**

- Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
- Monday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
- Friday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
- Saturday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**HOLY FAMILY**



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**Thank you** to everyone who had a hand in the recent Color Vision projects. We received a check totaling \$243.75 that will help support St. Mary's School.

## Our Mission and Identity

Our parish, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, grows only in Christ and through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Flowing from these gifts, we dedicate ourselves to live and proclaim the Gospel message of Christ’s love. To live Christ’s love may at times be difficult. Nevertheless, it is our goal.

We are called to reach out to our parish family, to the needs of the local community, the diocesan Church, the universal Church, and to the global community. We do this by being attentive to the voice of God found in the Sacred Scriptures, in the Sacred Tradition of our Catholic faith, and through an informed conscience which we try to cultivate.

In light of our baptism, we try to be Christ centered in every aspect of our faith life.

## Contact Information

Jennifer Switlick .....Administrative Assistant  
..... and Bulletin Editor  
Joseph Koch ..... School Principal  
David Salber ..... Plant Manager  
Jim Schumacher ..... Religious Ed. Coordinator  
Steve Kreager.. Interim Religious Ed. Coordinator  
Dane Kirk ..... Youth Minister  
Toni Zemke RCIA Coordinator  
Suzie Lang ..... School Secretary  
Karen Fischer ..... School Hot Lunch Manager



## Pax Christi Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel can ONLY be described as a wonderful gift. It is the gift of being close to the presence of the Lord Jesus as we contemplate His love for us.

During the Holy Mass, the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. During times of Adoration when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, we see the consecrated bread and the consecrated wine which have truly become the Real Presence of Jesus Christ. In one sense, this is a miracle in our midst – that Jesus would come to us in this way. But often that is the way of the Lord – a silent and unobtrusive way. He comes to us in silence, remains within us and invites us to carry Him into the world around us. None of us can ever fully understand how this occurs, but we do know why it occurs. It happens because God loves us and loves this world so deeply. He wants to remain with us and we with Him.

If you are willing to give the Lord even a bit of your time by adoring Him in the Blessed Sacrament, you will find these words to take on new meaning:

*Come in faith, Remain in hope, go out in love.*

**The effects of adoration:** Here is a comment from one of our parishioners who has a weekly hour of adoration. “In the past, I never had a personal relationship with Jesus. I knew of him, I knew about him, but I didn’t know him. I didn’t really love Jesus because you can’t love someone you don’t know. The first time I went to adoration, I was bored out of my mind and spent most of the time looking at my watch. During my second visit, I didn’t pray at all. The third time, however, I was at a low point. Adoration has improved every aspect of my life. I’m no longer in a state of constant worry about situations I have no control over. I don’t know what the future holds, but I find great comfort in knowing the One who does.”

**\*Currently the Adoration Chapel is open on Sundays and Wednesdays.**

# SACRAMENTS and SPIRITUAL LIFE

## Weekend Mass

Saturday at 4:00PM

Sunday at 8:00AM and 10:00AM

## Weekdays

Holy Mass is offered most days. A Communion Service is scheduled at 8:00AM on weekdays when the Mass is not celebrated.

## Baptism

Preparation classes will be held each month in the church meeting room. Pre-registration is required by calling the parish office.

## Reconciliation

Anytime by request.

## Marriage

Couples desiring marriage should contact the pastor at least six months prior to the anticipated date of the wedding.

## Anointing of the Sick

Anytime by request.

•Regular visits are made to the hospital. Families may notify the parish office when a parishioner is hospitalized.

•If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, please call the Religious Education Office.

•If you are interested in the religious life, the diaconate, the priesthood or lay ministry, please contact the pastor for further information.

•All adults (anyone beyond high school age) living within the parish and regularly participating in the liturgy may register as parishioners. To register, please contact the pastor.

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Thanks, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I love being here to help the community where people are making a difference every day. Thank you for all you do.

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