



Saint Mary Catholic Church Byron, Illinois

www.saintmaryinbyron.org | 815-234-7431 | secretary@saintmaryinbyron.org



Fr. Richard Rosinski, Pastor

226 E. Second Street
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Sacramental Emergencies
815-406-8193

Email: richr@saintmaryinbyron.org

Mass Times

Weekend: Saturday 5PM

Sunday 8:00AM & 10:45AM

Weekday Mass

Tues., Wed., Thurs., Friday: 7:30AM

Holy Day

See Bulletin

Reconciliation

Friday 8-8:30AM

Saturday 3:30-4:30PM

Or by appointment



Keep in touch with us

VIA EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE

<https://flocknote.com/smbyron>



www.facebook.com/stmarybyron/

Christmas 2020

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." - Lk 2:11-12



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1986, 1970 CCD.
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Mass is Streamed LIVE @8am
Can watch replay of Mass at anytime.
<https://stmarylive.com>
YouTube Saint Mary

Mass INTENTIONS

Tuesday 12/29 7:30am

Andrew Muldowney † Family

Wednesday 12/30 7:30am

Special Intention for the Skurski Family

Thursday 12/31 New Years Eve

7:30am In Thanksgiving for God

6pm Doris Vogel † P Bratta

Friday 1/1 New Years Day

9am Petra Mohorich † Fr Rich

Saturday 1/2

5pm Loretta & Lisa Eden † SVDP

Sunday 1/3

8am For the People

10:45am JoAnne Hildreth † Hildreth Family



Please Pray for those who need our Prayers

For those who are Sick:

Diane Eubanks

Kevin R.

Frank Harwarth

Ed Philpps

Kevin Lyons

Joy Lafleur Cutsforth, sister of Betty Pat
& Peggy

For those who Died:

Msgr Thomas Brady

Nancy Davis, mom of Sabina Kruse 11/11/20

All those on our Prayer List

All those who have asked for Prayers

For all teachers, aids, and support staff

For all the essential Workers

For all those unable to see their loved ones

* For all those who are homebound, and
In a nursing home, and unable to attend
Mass

*For all those who are having surgery

*Please pray for our First

Responders; Police, Fire and
Paramedics and all our Civil

Servants. All those serving to Protect us
Doctors & Nurses all those on our prayer
list and all those serving in the Military or
our priest, and all priests.



The Nativity of the Lord – Christmas 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today we rejoice with the Angels in the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus. He is the Christ, the long awaited One, God with us who will deliver us from sin and death, the One to reunite us to God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit. A Blessed and Joyous Christmas to you and all those you love.

There are four reading options that the Church uses for the Great Feast. Taken from Matthew, Luke, and John together they give a fuller understanding of the meaning of the Divine Birth. Since people chose to attend only one Mass on Christmas, most of us do not hear all these Gospels and since it is the option of the priest as to which option of readings he wishes to proclaim, the whole story is not often heard. But let us look at the complete story! Beginning with the Gospel of Matthew 1: 1-25, the option for the Vigil Mass, we read how the Christ is born into human history through a family line leading back to Abraham. It is clear that Jesus is born into a human family, through the royal line of David but Joseph plays his part in God's plan and does not have relations with Mary, his wife. This reinforces the role that God plays in the birth of the Messiah. We too are born into a human family.

The Gospel from Luke 2: 1-14, read for the Mass at Night, places the birth of the Messiah clearly in human history by using political names and places and draws attention to the historical census which takes the holy couple to Bethlehem. There the joyous message is proclaimed by the angel not to the powerful but to the humble shepherds. We are born into history at a particular time and place so that we begin our journey to God.

At the Mass at Dawn the gospel is taken from Luke 2: 15-20 which shows the response of the shepherds who, after the Angels leave, go to seek the newborn. Then they share the heavenly message and return to their jobs praising and glorifying God for what He has done. We also experience God in our lives and return from that encounter changed in a profound way.

The final Mass setting takes its gospel from John 1: 1-18 which places the Word (Jesus) not in the human line leading back to Abraham or even Adam but to God himself. Here we read "the Word was with God, and the Word was God" and the Word made His dwelling with us. This beginning of John's gospel explains in the clearest way that Jesus is not only fully human but fully God. The Word made Flesh. This is the true and fullest meaning of Christmas, God, the Eternal, is born in human history but is and always will be God. May this truth live in our hearts and guide us always as we strive to follow Him. The Reason for the Season!

Blessed Christmas to all, Fr. Rich

- **Sign up for the whole Month of December, Christmas & Holy Days**
- **Cancel if you are unable to attend- PLEASE**
- **If you sign up to Sanitize please check in Before Mass.**
- **WE NEED PEOPLE TO HELP!**

Mass times Sat-5pm, Sun 8,10:45 & Daily Mass

Please Sign up for daily Mass and each Mass you attend.

You may call office to sign up also

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054CACA82BA4FB6-mass>

Parish Office

226 E 2nd St | PO Box 1070 | Byron, IL 61010

(815) 234.7431

Mon-Thurs 8am-4pm (closed 12-1) Fri 8-12

SVDP Society (815) 406.8368



2020 St Vincent DePaul in Action:

In the last two months, we have been receiving one or two calls per day asking for assistance from local families, compared to one or two calls per week in "normal times". SVDP will continue to be good stewards with the generous donations of our parishioners throughout the community.

October 1st to current: Over 30 families were given aide with various needs totaling over \$5,000. On Dec 11 the conference distributed to additional families, 25 Christmas baskets which included a large box of food, socks filled with candy for each family member and a personal card signed by our conference including Walmart gift cards and gas cards. Cost of food purchased \$1250, gift cards \$2450. The smiles on the faces of those who received the baskets was overwhelming and joyful. Anyone interested in helping with an event, please let us know. Always have room for more fun members. Assistance was shared with another Rockford Conference (called twinning) to keep an elderly lady in her home. Hats and mittens were donated to St Elizabeth Center, Snow pants for 15 students were provided to Meridian School District and Rockford and Rochelle Rescue Missions were given gift cards to purchase items needed for their homeless as we refer friends in need to them in desperate situations.

We know it is hard to ask for help, but if you or anyone you know needs a little help, please reach out to us on our St Vincent de Paul phone.
815-406-8368.

Merry Christmas to our Parish family,
St Vincent DePaul Conference St. Mary
Byron

This year the Byron Conference of St Vincent DePaul was blessed to have a spectacular \$25,000 matching pledge initiative. We mailed letters to our parish family to participate in the Matching Grant opportunity. Close to 100 families donated for approximately \$12,000 so far. Half of them donated \$100 or more. Thank you for supporting local families with needs of rent, utilities, food, etc. You can still mail your donation or drop in basket at Church.



Knights of Columbus®

From the moment of our founding in 1882, charity has been the first principle of the Knights of Columbus.

We are Catholic men of faith and men of charitable action.

The Four Degrees of the Knights of Columbus are Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

We the Knights of Columbus raise money throughout the year to support many charities in our own community.

- We've raised over \$5500 to split between Ogle County Educational Cooperative, Village of progress and Byron Special Olympics through our Intellectual Disability Drive.
- We have raised \$1600 dollars for Darkhorse Lodge, which is a retreat area for combat veterans in Tennessee, through donations from our Fish Fry's.
- We have raised \$600 through our Bread Drive Ministry to directly support our Seminarians.
- We have also sponsored trips for youth programs in our own parish.
- All monies that we raise are to be given away, not to build up a bank account.
- In September we hosted a Rosary in memory of 9/11.
- In January we will be sponsoring an essay contest for Junior and Senior high school students as part of our Religious Education program.

As you can see we are deeply involved in our parish and our community.

If you are interested in becoming a Knight please ask myself or any Knight, you can't miss us, we're in the blue shirts!

Prayerfully yours,

Rick Pell Grand Knight

Adel Clow
 Ralph Larson
 Joe Cerasa
 Rebecca Donovan
 Casey Porch
 Ebanks Family
 Richard Hamas
 Katherine Boos
 John Hess
 Karen Anderson
 Nora Skurski
 Kathy Schramer
 Ani Muldowney
 Eleanor Kane
 Keith Grennan
 Sarah Mandzen
 Barb Grubb
 Joan Hanlin
 Matt Henkle
 Pat Bontjes
 Patti Ludwig
 Kathy Marinelli
 Teresa Eubanks
 Millie Anderson
 Kathy Rudy
 Carol Stein



All our friends at Generations at Neighbors
 Tony & Mary Balestrier, parents of Greg
 Seth Bennet , Friend of M Pearson
 Troy Keip, nephew of Shirley Barber
 Bill Philipps, brother of Ed Philipps
 Jennifer Peterson, friend of Wanda Cacciatore
 Teresa Early friend of Faith Pauling
 Carol Semenini, Sister of Bonnie Scullion
 Walter Monk, son in law of Ed Phillips
 Ryan Collins, cousin of Ralph & J Larson
 Pat Hedlund, friend of Helen Mleczko
 Mary Alice T, sister of Bonnie Scullion
 Ann Lyon, sister of Dave Lyon
 Christina Carmona, mother of Bernie Gleiter
 William Gorski, brother of Diann Frison & Paulette Stoll



For Our Troops, Their Families, and Our Country

All Seminarians & Sister
 Sister Lydia Marie
 Sister Mary Ley
 —Military
 Jonah Pearson
 Austin & Kathryn Elzen

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NEWS • NEWS

RE Remote starts December 6-20
 Make sure to check your Flocknote messages



Stephanie Schermerhorn CRE
 stephanie@saintmaryinbyron.org

Thank you to all teachers and aids for signing up to teach.

This year has been a wonderful learning experience for all of our students and Catechists, and we have all come together with such grace and patience to make the children of this parish have an even more effective RE experience than we could have imagined. Although we are currently working remotely with our students, we have found so much beauty in this time apart just as much as our time together. The program will return to in-person on January 24th following the Confirmation of our 8th grade class on January 18th. Please keep our 8th graders in your prayers as they approach their final sacrament of initiation into our faith! The 2nd grade class has already received their First Reconciliation and are now working towards First Communion in the Spring. If you have not signed your children up for RE I encourage you to consider signing up for the beginning of the second semester, we would love to have them. I would like to thank all of the parents, students, and catechists who have been so encouraging and supportive this year, your efforts have not gone unnoticed! You all make me proud to be Catholic! I am wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2021!

-Stephanie Schermerhorn

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adult Choir— See Mary Pearson

Knights of Columbus Tuesday 1/5 7:30pm Zoom

SVdP Society Jan 7, 8:30am Zoom

Prayer Shawl –TBA

Grief Share starts 1/4 6PM email Barb

Johnsonbarb81@gmail.com

Confirmation 1-18-21



WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH
 CONTRIBUTIONS FOR December 16, 2020

Envelopes	\$ 3283.00
On Line Giving	\$ 1756.00
	\$

Last weeks as do to early submission of bulletin deadlines

A big THANK YOU to all that have sent in their stewardship. This will help us to continue to pay our bills. We Thank you for Generosity during this difficult time . We Continue to keep you and Your family in our prayers.
 Fr Rich & Staff

THANK
YOU!

Thank You
for your
STEWARDSHIP
of
TREASURE
Commitment



Every year, there are traditions around Christmas Mass, and the music we sing is one of them. The encouraging, joy-filled words about a baby Savior, the melodies both resounding or lullaby-tender, and our neighbors' voices offering a message of God's unabashed Love; this is our sung prayer, a gift of worship to our Creator, and tapestry of sound woven around us as a community. And especially this Christmas, when things are not as expected, we hold on to those traditions worth passing on. Christmas hymns that have been sung through generations are a story of our faith for those hearing them again. I hope that through these Christmas songs, you will hear God reminding you that You Are Cherished so much! In Peace, Mary Pearson



Thank you to all those who donated to our giving tree. We were able to gift 40 members from Generations of Neighbors and 85 gifts from St Elisabeth Center of Rockford. We also gifted them another 20 gift cards.



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