



Saint Mary
Catholic Church
Byron, Illinois

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(Need an Appointment With Fr Rich)

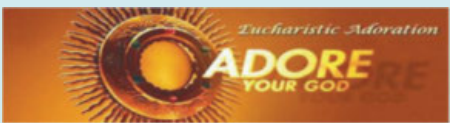
Mass Times

Weekend: Saturday 5PM
Sunday 8:00AM & 10:45AM
Weekday Mass
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Friday: 7:30AM
Holy Day See Bulletin



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fridays 8-8:30am
Saturday 3:30-4:30pm



Fridays 8-9am

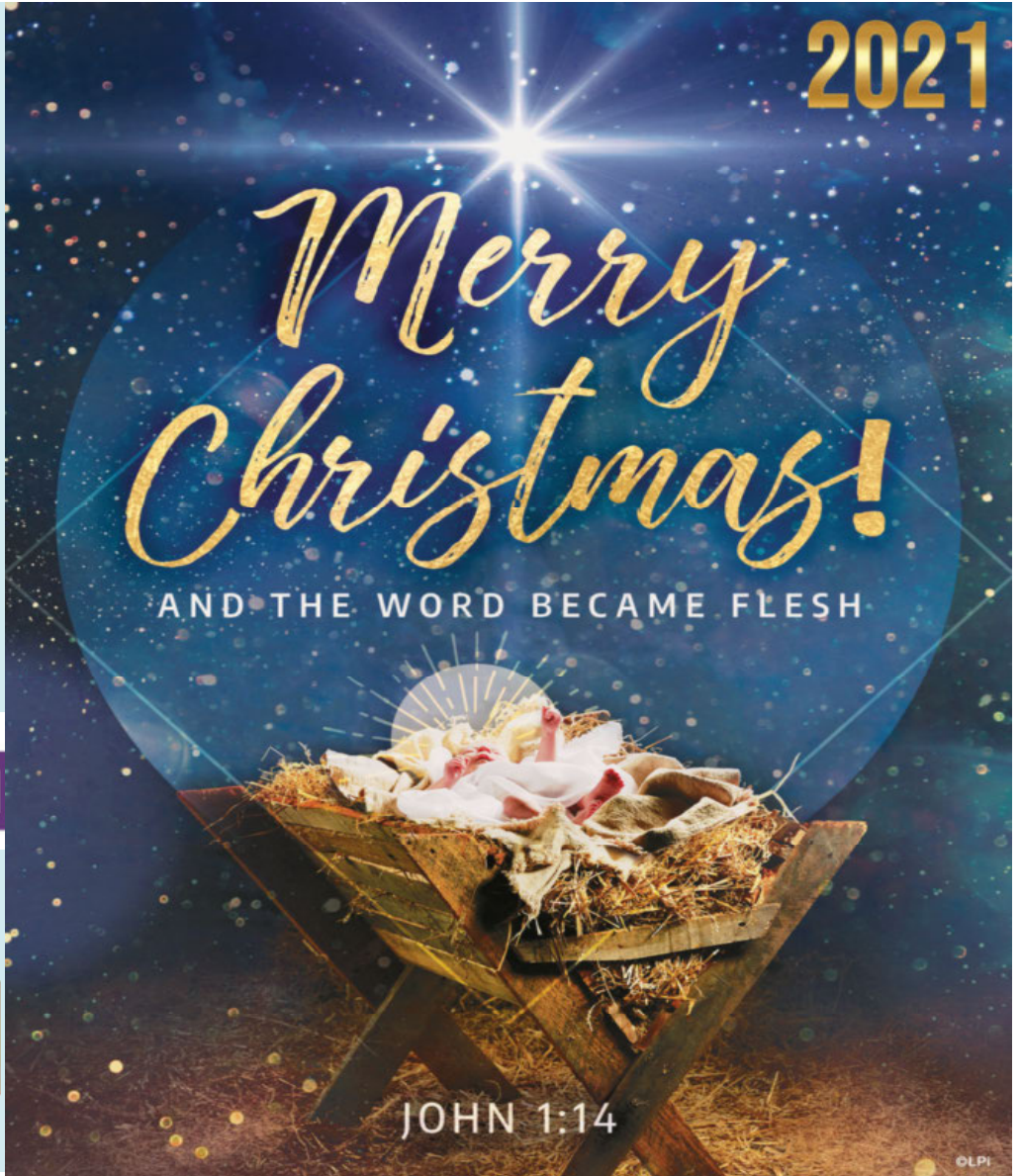


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VIA EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE

<https://flocknote.com/smb Byron>



www.facebook.com/stmarybyron/



Christmas Mass Schedule 2021

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th
4pm, 6pm, 8pm

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th
8am, 10am
No 5pm Mass/Confessions

Sunday, December 26th
Feast of the Holy Family
8am & 10:45am



New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31st
Solemnity of Mary-(not a holy day)
7:30am Morning Mass
6pm Vigil Mass

New Years Day, Saturday, January 1st
Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary
9 am
No 5pm Mass/Confessions

Sunday, January 2nd
The Epiphany of the Lord
8am, 10:45 am



Tuesday 12/28 7:30am

Andrew & Veronica Lody † Zurawski Family

Wednesday 12/29 7:30am

Mary Feldhaus † Family

Thursday 12/30 7:30am

Charles Vogel † Family

Friday 12/31

7:30am Doris Vogel † Family

Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary -

6pm Sally Haupt † Pell's

Saturday 1/1

Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary

9am Barb Zimmerman † SVDP

Sunday 1/2 Epiphany of the Lord

8am Petra Mohorich † Fr Rich

10:45am William Mehring † P Detmer

But we will give ourselves continually to
Prayer
and to the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4

Please Pray for those who need our Prayers

For those who where in the recent storms in IL, KY, AR

*For those who have died,
Edward Linkenheld, grandfather of
Fr James Linkenheld
Angie Hanson, sister in law of
Karen Feldhaus*

*All those on our Prayer List
All those who have asked for Prayers*

For all teachers, aids, and support staff

** 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 and
their families
our priest, and all priests.
Please Pray For Vocations*



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend the Church rejoices in the Feasts of the Nativity of our Lord and The Holy Family. Together these celebrations mark the great story of our salvation and the realization that our God and Creator became Flesh. In the great joy of this holy season, I wish a Blessed and Glorious Christmas to you and all those you love.

The Sacred Scriptures lead us to know and appreciate this great mystery of the Incarnation. Very few of us, though read the whole story. The Church uses four sets of readings for Christmas. Taken from Matthew, Luke, and John together they give a fuller understanding of the meaning of the Divine Birth and its impact on people. Since most of us chose to attend only one Mass on Christmas, we do not hear all these Gospel stories. It is also the option of the pastor as to which set of readings he wishes to proclaim. I, for example prefer the readings for the Christmas Night Mass! Let us look at the complete story!

Beginning with Matthew 1: 1-25, the option for the Vigil or first Mass, we read how the Christ is born into human history through a family line leading back to Abraham, our Father in Faith. Jesus is born into a human family, passing 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 demonstrates the role that God plays in the birth of the Messiah. We too are born into a human family.

Luke 2: 1-14, which is proclaimed 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 first proclaimed by the angel not to the powerful but to the humble shepherds. We also are born into history at a particular time and place so that we begin our journey to God.

For 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.

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 Prologue of John's gospel explains in the clearest way that Jesus is not only fully human but fully God. The Word made Flesh. Together these gospel passages paint the fullest meaning of Christmas. Our God, the Eternal One, is born in human history but is and always will be God. May this truth live in our hearts and guide us always. The Reason for the Season!

Peace and Love always. A Blessed Christmas to all!

Fr. Rich

Website

Saintmaryinbyron.org



Mass is Streamed LIVE @8am
Can watch replay of Mass at
anytime.

<https://stmarylive.com>
YouTube Saint Mary

2021 St Vincent DePaul in Review:

Programs/Events Oct 1, 2020 through Sept 30, 2021 St Vincent DePaul fiscal year.

November: Bread of Life: Turkeys for Thanksgiving dinners

Bread of Life: food gift cards for 100 (covid relief incentive)

St Elizabeth Center, underwear and socks

Thanksgiving cards sent to parish homebound and Neighbors resi-

dents

December: 25 Christmas Food Baskets to Needy Families FINs and Parishioners

St Elizabeth Center: Hats and socks for homeless

Christmas cards sent to parish homebound and Neighbors residents

People Helping People: Felker gift cards remaining from covid donations for food

Rockford and Ogle County Rescue Missions: Gift cards to purchase needed items for homeless.

January: Meridian School District: 15 pair snow pants

February: Wellness Calls made to 25 FINs and 30 parish homebound

March: Fish Dinners to 10 families of FINs and 30 Parish homebound

Spring Thinking of you card with gift and food gift card to 20 families

April Bread of Life: Hams for Easter food boxes

Easter cards sent to 31 parish widows/widowers and 25 Neighbors residents.

June Sunshine Park Farmers Market, Saturdays through Oct 2 (16 weeks)

Produce, crafts, etc. all donated by parishioners. Thank YOU.

July Byron Gospel Fest: donations presented to SVDP. Local churches refer those in need to the Byron Conference.

August: School Supplies to Byron and Meridian Schools

Walk for the Poor fundraiser for our Conference.

SVDP Twinning Program: Conferences with available funds is asked in crisis situations to share the cost of a project for a Friend in Need. Byron has participated three times this fiscal year.



SVDP will continue to be good stewards with the generous donations of our parishioners throughout the community. If you are able to help with an event, please let us know.

ST Vincent de Paul - Helpline

815-406-8368



Interested in becoming a Knight?
Contact a Knight or Call Jeff Jackson
@ 815-222-8686



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, Fraternity & Patriotism

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

- We've raised over \$7500 to split between Ogle Co ED COOP, Byron Special Olympics, and Village of Progress through our Intellectual Disability Drive.
- We had to change our Fish Fry's this year to a drive up style
- We have raised about \$600 through our Bread Ministry to directly support our Seminarians.
- ALL monies that we raise are given away, not to build up a bank account.

As you can see we are deeply involved in our parish and our Community. We wish you all the Joy and Blessings of this season. Knights of Columbus #4739

Ralph Larson
 Rebecca Donovan
 Eubanks Family
 Richard Hamas
 Katherine Boos
 John Hess
 Nora Skurski
 Kathy Schramer
 Ani Muldowney
 Keith Grennan
 Sarah Mandzen
 Kathy Rudy
 Carol Stein
 Kevin R
 Ed Philipps
 Jean Wolfe
 Joan Hanlin
 Jean Dickman
 Diane Eubanks
 William Gorski
 Al Thibodeau
 Barb Johnson
 Linda Ross



All our friends at Generations at Neighbors
 Jane Pearson, mother of Jake Billeter
 Bill Philipps, brother of Ed Philipps
 Walter Monk, son in law of Ed Philipps
 Ryan Collins, cousin of Ralph & J Larson
 Christina Carmona, mother of Bernie Gleiter



All Seminarians & Sister
 Sister Lydia Marie
 Sister Mary Ley
 Deacon Nate Pacer

—Military
 Jonah Pearson
 Austin Elzen
 Chipper Kruse
 Mark Miller
 Michael Criscione

What's Happening in RE?

This year our students have been taking a journey through the Old Testament and connecting those stories to the New Covenant, Jesus the Messiah. We finished our semester preparing for Advent and studying the Jesse Tree to follow all our Old Testament characters all the way into the New Testament. As the new year begins, we will jump back into our history and learn more about God's divine mercy and love. I want to thank all the teachers, parents, and volunteers that have helped so far this year. We have been fortunate enough to have so many wonderful people impact this program and our community, and I am so grateful to each and every one of you! May God Bless you all this Christmas and I look forward to seeing all of you back after the New Year!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I take this opportunity on behalf of the parish community to thank all who worked so hard to make out Christmas celebration so beautiful and welcoming. To all the ministers who helped us pray, to those who decorated the church to help lift our spirits in joy and to all of you who welcomed all who came to worship both old and new; thank you! Thank you also for your wonderful Christmas gifts I have received. I am deeply moved by your support, your generosity, and your love. As we all work to build God's kingdom here on Earth, I am grateful that God was pleased to send me to help in this part of the vineyard. Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.
 Peace always, Fr. Rich

*Peace and Blessings,
 Stephanie Schermerhorn, CRE*



WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH
 12/14/2021

Envelopes	\$ 4261.00
On-line Giving	\$ 2105.00
Holy Day	\$ 663.00

December 26

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 JOHN 3:1)

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

- Adult Choir– Jan 22 TBA**
- Knights of Columbus Tuesday 1/4/22, 7:30pm**
- SVdP Society Jan 6 8:30am**
- Prayer Shawl Ministry Tues Jan 18, 8:00am**
- Adoration– Fridays 8-9am**
- Youth Group Sunday TBA**
- Office Closed Dec 23-27 Jan 3**
- Confirmation 1/26/22 5:30pm**

We welcome Fr James Linkenheld with us for Christmas and he will be here saying Mass the first week in January for Daily Mass.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

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January 17 - April 18, 2022
St Mary Church, Byron
815-234-4549
Ron & Rosemarie Edwards
roseedwards1@comcast.net

GRIEF SHARE



Merry Christmas, & may the Peace of Christ resound through your hearts like a glorious yet comforting melody! Our musicians have been working on Christmas music for a month, a labor of love for each singer and pianist! We are so blessed to have many talented people serving our parish through music. If you have ever wanted to help lead our sung prayer, please do let us know! Every voice is welcome, and we love new faces! Have a Blessed New Year!

~Mary Pearson,

Coordinator of Music at St. Mary, Byron

Thank you to all those who donated to our giving tree. We were able to gift 35 members of Generations at Neighbors and 100 gifts to children from St Elizabeth Center of Rockford.





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