St. Mary Catholic Faith Community

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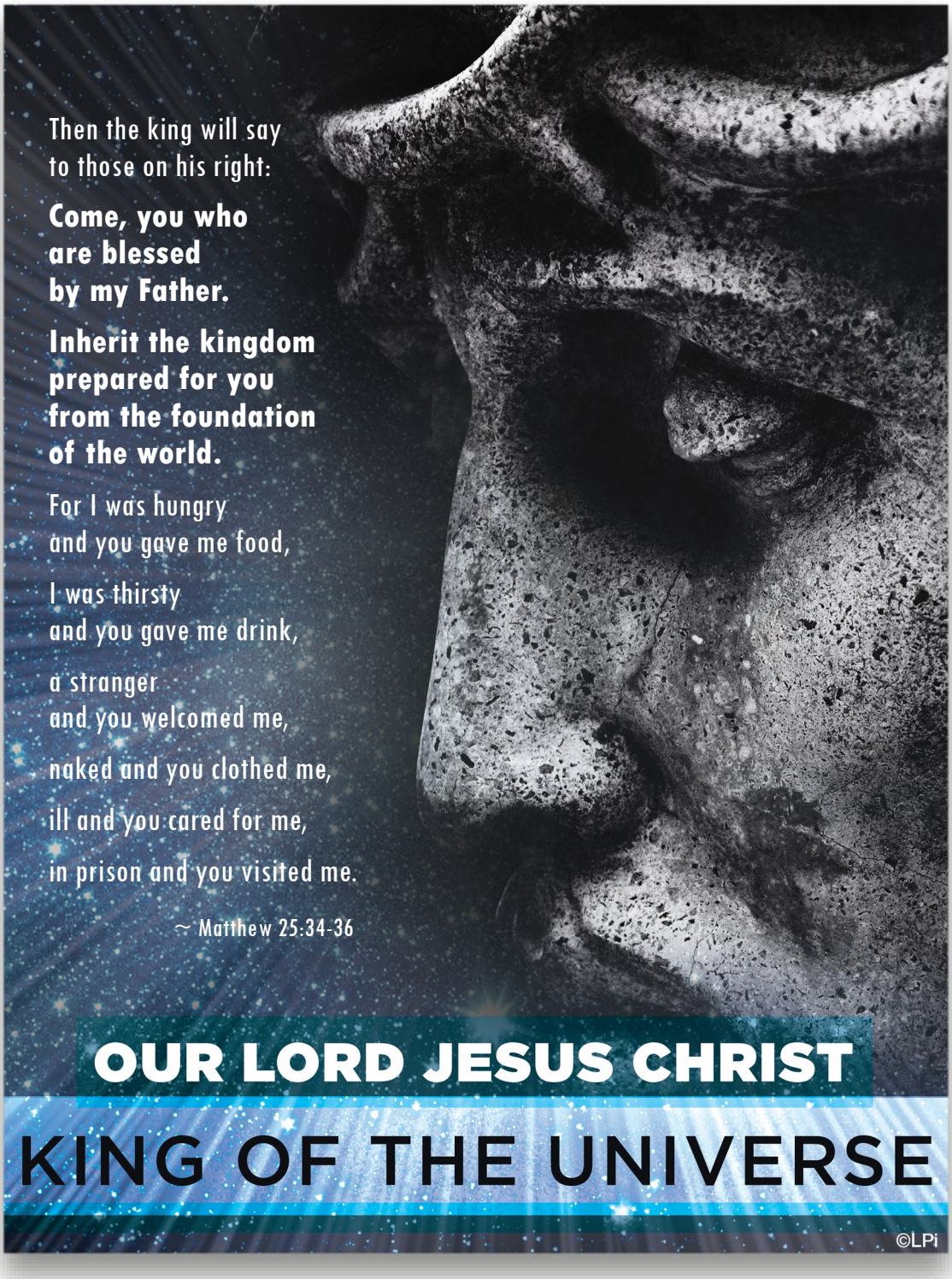

November 22, 2026

Dear Friends

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Before we enter into Advent, in this final weekend of the Church's liturgical year, the Church invites us to pause and ask a simple yet life-changing question: Who sits on the throne of our hearts?

When I hear the word "king," my mind often jumps to images of grand palaces, crowns bedecked with jewels, and magnificent thrones. Yet, today's Scripture readings completely turn those images on their head. In our first reading from Ezekiel, God shows us that instead of ruling from a towering throne, He steps right into the pasture. "I myself will look after and tend my sheep," the Lord promises. Our King is a Shepherd who deeply and personally cares for each one of us, his sheep.

I believe that brings us directly to our mission here at St. Mary. If Jesus is truly our King, then we are called to be more than passive subjects; we are called to be intentional disciples. Discipleship begins by recognizing the voice of the Good Shepherd in our own lives, allowing Him to bind up our wounds, and letting Him lead us to restful waters.

However, that is not the end. We are then called to lead others to the King of the Universe. Discipleship and evangelization are one. In today's Gospel from Matthew 25, Jesus tells us that He will separate us not by our titles or status, but by how we loved the people right in front of us. "Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me."

For us at St. Mary, we have to become the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus in our neighborhoods, workplaces, and homes. We are called to share Christ with others. Take a moment to think about the people in your life right now: that neighbor across the street, a family member that you'll see at Thanksgiving, one of your siblings, or even your mom or dad. Many of those people that you are thinking about may not be Catholic, or perhaps they were raised in the faith and have drifted away over the years.

God uses our voices to draw His sheep to Him. Simply inviting someone to sit with you at Sunday Mass, or introducing them to OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults), can open the door that has been closed all of these years. OCIA is a welcoming, no-pressure space for people to ask questions, explore the Catholic faith, and have an encounter with a God who loves and longs for them to be at His table. OCIA is for anyone that is new to Christianity, coming from another faith tradition, or looking to reconnect and complete their sacraments.

As we close out this liturgical year, I invite you to pray with Psalm 23 and ask Jesus where He is calling you to grow as a disciple. Who in your family or neighborhood feels scattered, weary, or spiritually hungry right now? Don't underestimate the power of a simple, heartfelt invitation to Mass or OCIA. If you or someone you know is curious about taking that next step, please reach out to me - I would love to walk alongside you.

May Christ reign in our hearts, our families,
and our parish, now and always.

℘ In Christ the King ☙

Sam Rasp, Director of Discipleship

Liturgical Schedule and Mass Intentions

Monday, November 23
8:15 am Mass
1:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday, November 24
8:15 am Mass
- Heather Groehler

Wednesday, November 25
8:15 am Mass

Thursday, November 26*
9:00 am Mass - *Thanksgiving Liturgy*
† Herman and Mary Patula
No Evening Reconciliation

Friday, November 27
8:15 am Mass
† Len Singer

Saturday, November 28
4:00 pm Mass (AL)
† Leonard Lalko
† Janusz and Mary Czechowski
† Jack and Dolores Thompson
- Melenchuk Family

Sunday, November 29
7:30 am Mass (AL)
- The living and deceased members of St. Mary Catholic Faith Community

9:00 am Mass (AL)
† Bushman and Pawlak Families
† Sharon Lake
† Joseph and Genevieve Stencel

11:00 am Mass (MI)
† Stanley Strzyzewski

* **Mass starts at <u>9:00 am</u>** (not 8:15 am).

AL: Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz
MI: Fr. Mike Ignaszak

Pray For:

Lonni Albright • Lisa B. • Antoinette D'Alessio • Dona Finco
Maria Frederick • Kathleen Hahn • Bob Kasun
Machnitzky Family • Baby Jesse Michael • Donna Moon
John Navarrette • Sandy R. • Mary Kay Scheidt
Amanda Stellberg • Betty T. • Donna Thurow
Carol Umstot • Claire and Karl W. • Mary W.
Jim and Judi Weber • Eric Werner • Denice Zvers

Wedding Banns

II Clinton Plowman and Linsey Zwiefelhofer
I Alec Robert Mitchell and Alexandria Paige Pelzek
I Zachary Grycowski and Eira Grycowski

Announcements

In Loving Memory

May the Risen Lord grant eternal rest and peace to:

Christine L. Blonski - wife of Michael; mother of Joanna and Andrew; sister of Steven (Wendy) Kennedy; aunt of Thomas (Alyssa), Michael, and Ryan; sister-in-law of Jeffery Blonski; daughter of Tom and Helen Kennedy; daughter-in-law of Kathleen Blonski; further survived by other relatives and friends.

...And may Christine and her family and friends find comfort in God's love and promise.

Readings - November 22 through November 29, 2026

Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-3, 5, 6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46
Monday: Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Ps 24:1b-4b, 5-6; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Rv 14:14-19; Ps 96:10-13; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Rv 15:1-4; Ps 98:1-3b, 7-9; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 21:20-28
Friday: Rv 20:1-4, 11 - 21:2; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a; Lk 21:29-33
Next Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

The Parish Office will be CLOSED
Thursday, November 26 through Sunday, November 29
for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Love to Sing?
Join the St. Mary Parish Celebration Choir!

Connect with fellow parishioners and share your love for music in a meaningful way. Whether you're a seasoned singer or just love to harmonize, there is a place for you in our choir family. The Celebration Choir usually sings at 11:00 am Mass on Sundays and at other major masses and feasts.

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in the church. Come as you are - no auditions required - just a willing spirit and a love for singing. **If you are interested or have any questions, contact Jim Clauer, Director of Liturgy and Music, at clauerj@stmaryhc.org or 414-425-2174, ext. 239.** We can't wait to sing alongside you!

Information Center Volunteers Needed!

The Information Center (IC) in the Gathering Space serves like a "weekend parish office." The duties of a volunteer include answering questions and offering assistance, selling gift cards, handling and labeling lost-and-found items, distributing items for pick-up by parishioners, accepting items that go to the Parish Office, as well as other smaller tasks.

Volunteers generally work the same Mass once each month, beginning a half-hour before Mass starts to a half-hour after Mass ends. Volunteers will receive training in the Center until they feel comfortable and ready to serve on their own.

Please consider becoming a part of this valuable ministry - it is a great way to meet other parishioners and to become even more familiar with everything our parish offers! If you are interested or have questions, please contact Sue Timlin at 414-460-4886 or potatosue.ch@gmail.com.



Encounter Jesus in this special Advent Evening!

- Eucharistic Adoration
- A short Advent reflection by André Lesperance
- Prayerful music led by the Magnify worship team
- Optional intercessory prayer teams, quiet reflection, and other aids to prayer will uplift us.

All ages are welcome! This is a great way to introduce youth to deeper prayer.

...While there is much to do as the holidays draw near, God's word reminds us,
"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:11)

Announcements

Circle of Love Envelopes Are Still Available

The trees have been removed, but you can still choose a gift-suggestion envelope from the Circle of Love basket on a table in the Gathering Space. It has been heartwarming to see so many parishioners help make Christmas happier for individuals who are experiencing personal or financial hardship - not just in the community, but also within our own parish and school family. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need! **If you have any questions about Circle of Love, please call Linda Zielinski at 414-702-7854.**

A Night in Bethlehem

Sunday, November 29, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Gathering Space

Spend the evening with your family experiencing the early life of Jesus. We will create nativity pieces, enjoy Bethlehem tastes, do a small service project, take in the smells and gifts of Epiphany, and discover who was at Jesus' birth.

RSVP by Wednesday, November 25 to Jess Panlener at panlenerj@stmaryhc.org or 414-425-2174.

Holiday Cookie Tins Are Needed for a School Fundraiser!



St. Mary Parish School's 8th Grade Class is looking for new or slightly-used holiday cookie tins for their Annual Christmas Cookie Sale Fundraiser which will be held the weekend of December 12 and 13. Large collection bins have been placed inside the School Office lobby and in the hallway leading from the Gathering Space to the Parish Office. You can drop off tins until December 11. Please help the Class of 2027 and donate holiday tins for this big fundraiser, which supports 8th Graders' field trips and end-of-the-year events and activities.

St. Mary Class of 2027 Christmas Cookie Sale Fundraiser

Weekend of December 12 and 13
Before and After All Masses
Gathering Space



Let the 8th Grade Graduating Class of 2027 help take some of the stress away from your holiday season this year by giving you a head start on your Christmas cookies. The class is selling delicious homemade Christmas cookies, beautifully packaged in Christmas tins, perfect for gift-giving or to be shared after your holiday dinner. *Thanks for supporting the Class of 2027!*

Cub Scouts Poinsettia Sale



Cub Scout Pack 530 will be selling poinsettia plants for Christmas, and will be on hand to take orders with payment (cash or check, only) **after all Masses on December 5 and 6 in the Gathering Space.** Plants are available in two sizes in red, white, pink/white mixed, or red/white mixed.

On the following weekend, December 12 and 13, after any Mass, plants can then be picked up in the Gathering Space. St. Mary Cub Scouts thank you for support!



Morning with Guadalupe | with Sam Rasp, Director of Discipleship

Saturday, December 12, 10:00 am, in the Church Gathering Space

Explore the story, significance, and enduring devotion surrounding Our Lady of Guadalupe as we celebrate her feast day.

Help us plan for seating and refreshments: RSVP by December 5 to Sam at rasps@stmaryhc.org.



We never succeed all by ourselves. This Thanksgiving,
let us remember all the good things, and people,
who have come into our lives. We focus on thanking each one
who has helped us, and ultimately thank God
for the good gifts of this world.

Let us pray…

God our Father,
Graciously accept from your humble people
a thankful heart and spirit.
Everything we have and are able to share with others
ultimately comes from your love of your creations.
Often we think that everything we have is our own creation;
we ask you this day to create in us a spirit of gratitude,
that we may always know that all good gifts come from you.

We ask this through Christ our brother,
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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ST. MARY PARISH

FESTIVAL Grateful











A Festival to Remember!

This year's St. Mary Parish Festival was remarkable! We had great weather and a record turnout. After expenses, Festival 2026 generated $100,000 in net proceeds for our parish, the third-highest total in Festival history!

Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who attended and supported this wonderful celebration of parish and community. We are especially grateful to the more than 850 volunteers who shared their time and talents before, during, and after the weekend. It simply would not be possible without their dedication.

Special thanks to Dave Lownik, Bob Coleman, and Darren Fields, whose leadership, planning, and countless hours of work made this year's success possible.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Festival 2026 such a memorable weekend! We can't wait for next year!

Festival 2027 will be July 9, 10, 11!







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