

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 9, 2018**



**THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY**

112 E. Washington Street • P.O. Box 246  
Elizabeth, IL 61028

**Parish Mission Statement**

*The Church of St. Mary, followers of Christ, are inspired by our Catholic faith to build on our traditions through the Eucharist, prayer and education. As the family of God, and with one another, we desire to live our faith in the world.*



**Ella**

**Our youngest religious education class, Anna, Lily and Ella made these advent wreaths as an activity and learned a bit about advent colors and the wreath itself last week.**

**So far, they have also learned that the circular wreath signifies the eternal love of God—always there and never ends. They are very creative and were very proud of their projects!**



**Lily**

**Anna**



### Mass Intentions

#### Saturday, December 8

4:00 pm (SJ) † Gary Mullane  
By Bob & Karen Harkness

6:00 pm (SM) \* For the People of SM & SJ

#### Sunday, December 9

8:30 am (SM) † John Walsh  
By Doris Trader, Steve & Wendy Meyer

10:15 am (SJ) \* † Dan & Pat Cottral  
By Joan Johnson Family

#### Monday, December 10 - No Mass

#### Tuesday, December 11

5:00 pm (SJ) \* † Bud Bonar  
By Elouise Bonar

#### Wednesday, December 12

8:30 am (SM) \* † Ken Berlage  
By Family

#### Thursday, December 13

8:30 am (SJ) \* † Lois & Pat Farrell  
By Thomas Johnson

#### Friday, December 14

8:30 am (SM) \* † Marlene Chunes  
By Tony Chunes

#### Saturday, December 15

4:00 pm (SJ) \* For the People of SJ & SM  
6:00 pm (SM) \* † Dan Schamper  
By Pat Brown

#### Sunday, December 16

8:30 am (SM) \* † John Walsh  
By Doris Trader, Steve & Wendy Meyer  
10:15 am (SJ) † Theriza & Harry Peschang  
By Joan Johnson Family

\*Pastor scheduled to celebrate



### Respect Life Corner Word of Life

"Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother. Not sure how to help or what to say? Learn ten tips at [www.usccb.org/support-her](http://www.usccb.org/support-her)."

"10 ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting" USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

### Altar & Rosary Society



The Altar & Rosary Society meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm in the church hall at the Church of St. Mary in Elizabeth.

### Knights of Columbus

Fr. Ron Conro Knights of Columbus meet the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the church hall at the Church of St. Mary.



Dear Friends in Christ,

*"John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 3:3).*

The Gospel for the second Sunday of Advent introduces the great prophet John the Baptist for our Advent consideration. He proclaimed that the Messiah would be coming, and people needed to thoroughly repent of and turn away from their sins (and show that by accepting a baptism of repentance) in order to be forgiven for them, to be ready to welcome the Messiah and be accepted by him. Similarly, in Advent we prepare to celebrate the past coming of the Messiah, and we prepare for his future coming at the end of time and at the end of our life. One critical part of doing that is precisely what John the Baptist called for: repentance, conversion (turning away from sin and toward God), and the joyful receipt of forgiveness and God's blessings. May God give us the grace to desire to examine our hearts and our lives so that we can become better followers of Jesus Christ, and to turn away from all sin, mortal and venial. May we grow in the knowledge and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and share those with others. May we be instruments of God's reconciliation and peace, this Advent and forever.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is essential for all Catholics to grow in holiness. Like prayer, faithful participation at Mass, regular reception of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion in a state of grace, and regular reading of the Bible (especially the Gospels), regular reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (more commonly known as confession of sins to a priest) helps us to turn away from whatever is unholy and untrue in our life, and to be more open to God's presence, life, and grace, which we need if we are to fulfill our purpose in life to know, love, and serve God in this world and be happy with God in the next.

If aware of any mortal sins, a Catholic is not to receive our Lord in Holy Communion until receiving forgiveness of sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and is required to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to receive that forgiveness of sins within a year's time of the earliest of their mortal sins that have yet to be forgiven. (So, as a good practice, a Catholic should go to confession at least once a year, but twice, especially once in Advent and once again in Lent, better prepares us to celebrate Christmas and Easter.) A mortal sin is a sin involving a serious matter, committed with full knowledge of its being a sin, and with full consent of the will. Whether or not one has any mortal sins on his or her soul, he or she receives grace in making use of this sacrament. God wants to forgive all our sins, but too often we do not want to admit that we have sinned or try to stop committing sins. This is even more reason why we should get ourselves to make a good confession and receive God's forgiveness and grace.

This Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 P.M., we will have a special Advent presentation at St. John's in Hanover, which will be repeated on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. at St. Mary's in Elizabeth. This will be a video presentation around an hour long, with a short discussion afterwards.

Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 P.M., we will have a communal penance service at St. Mary's in Elizabeth. After a short prayer service, three priests will be available to hear individual confessions. The following Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, also at 2:30 P.M., we will have a similar service at St. John's in Hanover.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Fr. Dennis

### Community of Christians Luncheon

St. Paul Lutheran Church will be hosting the Community of Christian Luncheon this month on the 18th. It will be held earlier this month because of the holidays. The menu will be baked ham, potatoes, veg, salad, dessert and buns. After lunch they will also have bingo with prizes sponsored by the Apple River State Bank.

### Stewardship Report

December 1 & 2, 2018

Weekly Offering	\$1388.00
Votive lights	\$8.00
Thanksgiving	\$100.00
Country Fair Workers	\$230.00



## Our Parish Community

We will be having religious education class following the 8:30am Mass this Sunday. We will also have it next Sunday. The 23rd will be the Youth Mass and Reconciliation for the Youth.

Thank you to all who helped set up the Christmas decorations. We have a beautiful church, but the beauty intensifies during the holiday season thanks to all the helping hands we have! Thank you to Jessica, Brian and Bryton Engle, Bennett, & Parker Reese, Trevor Grube, Nancy Rife, Jan Thraen, Joyce Gerleman, Tom Griffin, Jim Holland, Wayne Wand and Dena Boehm. As Christians, service to others is important. However you serve THANK YOU for being a Christian in action! God bless and Merry Christmas!

### Vocation Corner By Fr. Kyle A. Manno

We are in the second week of Advent and as we continue to journey closer to the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, I sit here wondering how many of us know what Advent truly is and why it is celebrated.

To begin, the word Advent comes from two Latin words; 'Ad' and 'Venire.' Ad means 'to' and Venire means 'come.' Therefore, Advent means 'to come.' But what exactly is to come? Or maybe the better question is: who is to come? The obvious answer is, of course, Jesus!

Therefore, Advent is a time of preparation as we wait for the coming of Christ, his Advent!

When we hear the word 'waiting,' we often imagine someone sitting idly around, but that is not true waiting. Think of it this way: when we are waiting to go on a vacation we don't just sit around waiting for the time to pass, we pack and plan. And when we are waiting for someone to come to our house for dinner we don't just watch the minutes tick by, we cook and clean. We do this because when we are about to experience greatness we wait not passively, but actively, by preparing for what is to come.

So this Advent season I encourage you to prepare for the coming of Christ by cleaning out your soul with the grace of Confession so that you can be ready to receive the gift of His very self. So get up and go, get that soul cleansed!

### Parish Office: St. Mary

Phone (SM)..... 815-858-3422  
 Fax (SM) ..... 815-858-2622  
 E-mail (SM).....stmary-elizabeth@rockforddiocese.org  
 Web.....www.stmaryelizabethil.org  
 www.facebook.com/stmary.eliz.il.61028

### Parish Office: St. John

Phone (SJ).....815-591-2258  
 Fax (SJ).....815-591-2259  
 E-mail (SJ).....st\_john@frontier.com

### Parish Staff : St. Mary

Rev. Dennis Morrissy..... **(Pastor)**  
 E-mail.....dmorrissy@rockforddiocese.org  
 Direct voicemail.....(815)388-8844  
 Rev. Stanislaw Kos (In Residence)  
 Deacon Dave Wilbricht....(815)591-3329

### Parish Secretary

Marilyn Gollmer ..... 815-541-0354

### Religious Education Director and Bookkeeper

Norma Schwirtz, DRE,DYM (SM).....  
 .....815-238-2317

### Mass Schedule \*

#### Weekday

**Monday:** No Mass  
**Tuesday:** 5:00pm (SJ)  
**Wednesday:** 8:30am (SM)  
**Thursday:** 8:30am (SJ)  
**Friday:** 8:30am (SM)

### Weekend:

**Saturday:** 4:00pm (SJ) 6:00pm (SM)

**Sunday:** 8:30am (SM) 10:15am (SJ)

**First Thursday:** 8:30am-Mass, Holy Hour and Healing Service (SJ)

**First Friday:** 8:30am-Mass, Holy Hour & Healing Service (SM)

\* Subject to change during holy days.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 9-10 am (SM), 3:15-3:45 pm (SJ) or call SM's office for appointment.

### Sacrament of Marriage

Engaged couples must call Fr. Morrissy to begin their preparation at least six months before their wedding date.

### Sacrament of Baptism

Call Fr. Morrissy to begin preparation.

### Sick or Hospitalized

Please notify Fr. Morrissy of family members who are ill or in the hospital.

### Pregnant?

There are alternatives to abortion! If pregnant and in need of assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call the Freeport Pregnancy Center at 815-232-5433.

(SJ)-St. John • (SM)-St. Mary

## Liturgical Roles

**Saturday, Dec. 15 at 6:00 pm (SM)**

Commentator.....Tracy H  
 Lector.....Tracy H  
 EM.....Toni, Nancy & Larry  
 Altar Servers.....Trent  
 Greeter.....Toni

**Sunday, Dec. 16 at 8:30 am (SM)**

Commentator.....Marilyn G  
 Lector.....Kathy O  
 EM.....Steve, Wendy & Jan  
 Altar Servers.....Leah & Ty  
 Greeter.....John & Edie D

**Elizabeth Nursing Home-**

EM.....Larry Berlage



### Readings for the Week

**December 9, 2018**

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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