



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.



THE BAPTISM *of the Lord*

"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16bc

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

The Baptism of the Lord

Think of what it's like to wait a long time. Can you imagine what it would be like to wait for centuries? No one person lives that long, of course. But for the Israelites, they had heard the stories from generation to generation. They had been conquered time and time again, and now "the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ." They had been waiting for a Messiah, one who did miraculous deeds and said profound things; someone aglow with the glory of God. We all know what it's like to hope and be disappointed. But what if your hopes were fulfilled?

That day at the Jordan River, an audience had gathered. Among the crowd for baptism was an unknown man. Perhaps he was dirty from weeks in the desert. His hands had the calloused palms of a tradesman, a carpenter. He and John the Baptist may have embraced with the familiarity of the cousins they were. This man wades into the Jordan for a good, solid dunking. As he rises from the water, the One who breathed life into Adam gasps for air like any other man.

But then "heaven was opened." The clouds in the sky part miles above. "And the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove." An apparition with substance sails through the sky. It exudes gentleness and power all at once. "And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" Can you imagine the sight? For the crowd, there is no doubting what they have seen, who they have seen. Can you imagine this encounter with our God who keeps His promises? What are you waiting for?

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 12

4:00 pm (SJ) † Gerald Murphy
By Tim & Tonya Wand

6:00 pm (SM) * † Ralph Rife
By Carol Fischer

Sunday, January 13

8:30 am (SM) † Deceased members of Duffy & Brus Family
By Mike & Linda Duffy

10:15 am (SJ) * For the People of SJ & SM

Monday, January 14 - No Mass

Tuesday, January 15

5:00 pm (SJ) * † Fr. Thomas Balog
By Fr. Dennis

Wednesday, January 16

8:30 am (SM) † Lyman & Regina Hayes
By Marilyn Gollmer

Thursday, January 17 • •

8:30 am (SJ) † Fr. William Knott
Fr. Dennis

Friday, January 18

8:30 am (SM) † Ken Berlage
By Family

Saturday, January 19

4:00 pm (SJ) † Ann Sheridan
By Erin Murphy

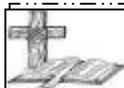
6:00 pm (SM) * For the People of SM & SJ

Sunday, January 20

8:30 am (SM) † Don Fischer
By Carol Fischer

10:15 am (SJ) † Gerald Murphy
By Bob & Rhonda Gibbs

*Pastor scheduled to celebrate



**Respect Life Corner
Word of Life**

When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others.



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, but not in December, January or February.

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.



“And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased’” (Luke 3:22).

Dear Friends in Christ,

This weekend the Church celebrates the baptism of the Lord by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. While Jesus had no sin, he nevertheless chose to be baptized to show that his love for us sinners and his concern for our condition were so great, he would accept the limitations and hardships of the human condition, even death, in fulfillment of God the Father’s will that he should save us from eternal death by his redemptive death on the cross. This observance brings to a close the Christmas season. On Monday we begin the first period of Ordinary Time, which goes until Ash Wednesday, when we start Lent.

Why is the baptism of the Lord part of the Christmas season? One reason is that it is connected with the feast of Epiphany, which we celebrated last weekend. “Epiphany” means “manifestation,” and our tradition has pointed out three particular occasions in the life of Jesus when his person and his mission were especially manifested: at the visit of the magi, at his baptism in the Jordan River, and at the wedding feast of Cana when he performed his first public miracle. In their gifts, the magi recognized Jesus as God (with the gift of incense), as king (with the gift of gold), and as a man who would die (with the gift of myrrh, a spice to anoint a body for burial). At his baptism by John the Baptist, Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit and approved for his mission by God the Father, the mission to humbly take upon himself the guilt of all the sins of the human race for our salvation. At the wedding feast of Cana, Jesus performed the miracle of turning water into wine, beginning to manifest his divinity, as a result of which his disciples started to believe in him, to begin to recognize his special relationship with God.

Jesus was born to live, teach, heal, suffer, die, and rise for us. Jesus is manifested to the truly wise of every nation who seek God; to sinners who seek God’s forgiveness; and to his disciples, who wish to follow him and thereby to grow to better know, love, and serve God, and to continue his mission of reconciliation in the world.

May we all find in Jesus Christ the light of the world and the light of our life. May we let him lead us out of all darkness, so that we and others might have the fullness of light and life, in this world and in the next!

Next weekend we will have a second collection at all Masses for the National Appeal, the first of the “combined” appeals the diocese will have us take up this year. Please use the envelope the diocese has mailed or will mail to you. If you do not receive that envelope, we will have National Appeal envelopes for your use in the vestibule. Thank you for your generosity. In Christ,
Fr. Dennis

ELIZABETH COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus #10212 will be sponsoring a blood drive at the Elizabeth Community Bldg. in Elizabeth, IL on Thursday, January 31, 2019 from 12:30-5:30pm. For an appointment please call 1-800-733-2767.

**Stewardship Report
Christmas**

\$3382.00

Dec. 29 & 30, 2018

Weekly Offering \$954.00
Immaculate Conception \$25.00
Votive Lights \$8.00

January 6 & 7, 2019

Weekly Offering \$600.00
Christmas \$50.00
Solemnity of Mary \$782.00
Votive Lights \$28.00



Our Parish Community

The collection for the **National Appeal** will be next weekend, January 19 & 20th. You should be receiving your envelope in the mail this week. Please give what you can. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Vocations Corner by Fr. Manny Gomez— This time of year, after the holidays, it seems that there is not a lot to do. Life in the parish slows down; in most of the parishes there are not special activities or events, lines for confession, and Mass attendance comes back to its regular numbers. Even nature seems to take a break during the winter season; trees lose their leaves during fall, and look barren the whole winter season. Life is still there.

Winter season is a time to prune trees. Some branches are cut off because they are dead; others are pruned if they had been damaged by winds or storm; other branches are pruned to make trees more beautiful and fruitful. Just like the trees we also can take advantage of this time of the church (ordinary time) to cut off whatever is dead in our lives, or brings death to our lives (i.e. a vice or a bad attitude towards others). We may also take a look at those relationships damaged by the storms of hate and misunderstanding in the past; or we may just look at ourselves and see in what ways we can be more beautiful and fruitful.

Be aware! A tree that is not pruned may cause damage to our property. A broken or dead branch that is not taken care of may fall on our home or car. A tree that is not pruned does not bear much fruit. The same thing happens with our lives, in particular with our vocation. If we don't look constantly into ourselves to cut off whatever is dead or broken within us, we may be risking that a dead branch may collapse our vocation. It is also true that if we don't leave behind the things that do not allow us to be more beautiful and fruitful, our vocation eventually will be like an old barren tree. Responding to God's call is a continuous process of growth. Let us ask God's grace to keep growing in his friendship and love.

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 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, Jan. 19 at 6:00 pm (SM)

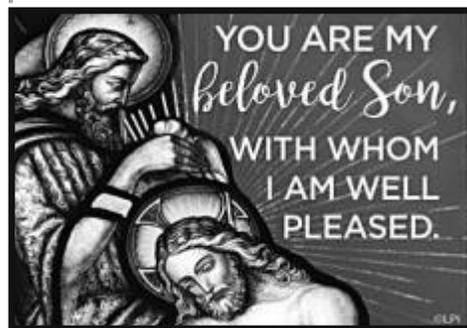
Commentator.....Pat Brown
 Lector.....Pat Brown
 EM.....Mary M, Larry, Marilyn B
 Altar Servers.....Trent
 Greeter.....Floyd & Mary

Sunday, Jan. 20 at 8:30 am (SM)

Commentator.....Bennett Reese
 Lector.....Deb Reese
 EM.....Marilyn G, Cheryl & Joyce
 Altar Servers.....Cora & Parker
 Greeter.....Marilyn G

Elizabeth Nursing Home—

EM.....Larry



Readings for the Week

January 13, 2019

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 [cf. 7c]/Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 7]/Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 [8]/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 [cf. 7b]/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

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