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.

4th Sunday of Easter

"Thank You, Mom"

From the initial wonder to the morning sickness,
From the sleepless nights to the giggles of delight,
From the first steps to the temper tantrums,
Thank you, Mom.

From school day pride to detention day disappointment,
From the big game to the big show to the big "uh-oh,"
With secret shared moments and home-cooked meals,
Thank you, Mom.

Through tears and laughter,
Through sorrow and joy,
For all the ups and downs, and for the journey yet to come,
Thank you, Mom!
Dear Friends in Christ,

“God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 7:17).

Sometimes it seems nothing is ever easy. There is always some catch, some wrinkle, some unforeseen difficulty, even when we try to do the right thing. Paul and Barnabas sought to spread the good news that the long-awaited Messiah had finally come to the Jewish people and to all the people of the world. In preaching the word of God, they attracted many followers. Yet, those who did not want their world to be rocked by this good news persecuted and then expelled them from the territory they were in.

Today, as in every era and wherever Christianity is preached, many Christians have “washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:14b) by giving their lives as martyrs for Christ. Yet Jesus, our good shepherd, gives them and others who believe in him eternal life (John 10:28). So, despite adversities, we disciples can be “filled with joy and the Holy Spirit” (Acts 13:52). Still, we pray for all those persecuted for their Christian faith, and do what we can to alleviate their distress and win justice and peace for them.

This Mother’s Day weekend we honor all mothers and all women who have acted in any kind of maternal role, such as foster mothers and godmothers. The unconditional love that is a hallmark of mothers reflects the unconditional love of God for each one of us. Mothers are human and therefore not perfect, which is all the more reason to thank God for the love they show us and to ask God to bless them in this life and in the next life.

We thank all who made their pledges or payments for the Diocesan Appeal last weekend, our kickoff weekend for the Diocesan Appeal this year. If you have not made a pledge, please do so sometime in the coming weekends. As our biggest appeal of the year, and the one that affects the parishes the most, we will continue to ask for pledges and donations until we meet our targets. May God bless you for your generosity.

In Christ,
Fr. Dennis

Vocation Corner  By Fr. Kyle Manno

Recently, I went to my brother’s house for a visit and as soon as I opened the front door one of my nephews and two of my nieces started sprinting towards me. I crouched down and opened my arms to receive them as they joyfully wanted a hug from me. In that moment I felt incredibly loved by them and by God!

As I think back on that moment I think how instinctual it is for a child to run to someone to love and express their joy. And the question for each one of us is, “Do we express the same joy when we encounter other people?” When we greet others do we give them a solemn hello or do we greet them with joy and tell them how excited we are to see them? This can be the path to experiencing Christ because Christ tells us that we are called to love one another as He loves.

So let us become more like Christ by being men and women of joy. Let us be men and women who show our thankfulness and joy when we encounter other people. If we begin every interaction in this manner then God willing every interaction will be one that is filled with God’s glory!

Respect Life Corner  Word of Life

“If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you... God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple. Seek his guidance, and let healing power of prayer, a conversation in which ‘heart speaks unto heart,’ strengthen you.”

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.

Stewardship Report
May 4 & 5, 2019

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Our Parish Community

Happy Mothers Day—This weekend your Knights of Columbus ask all mothers to register so that a rosary may be said in your honor by a Knight. You may sign up before or after the Masses on Saturday and Sunday, a momento will be given.

Please help pregnant single mothers and make it easier for them to choose life! Leave new or slightly used items for babies and young children in this cradle in the vestibule of the church. Cash donations will be accepted too. Place money in an envelope marked Knights of Columbus in the Sunday collection.

Grand View Estates and the Elizabeth Nursing Home will again be hosting and informational program that may be of interest to the elderly, families and caregivers. The one coming up is 10 Warnings Signs of Alzheimer’s. The date for this program is June 11th at 2:00pm. This is an educational program to help people recognize common signs of the disease and know what to watch for in themselves and others. Topics will include exploring typical age-related changes, describing the common signs for Alzheimer’s and dementia, offering tips for how to approach someone about memory concerns, and identifying helpful Alzheimer’s Association resources. This program is presented by Megan Pedersen of the Alzheimer’s Association. All are free and open to the public.

Friends and neighbors come and enjoy a Community Lunch along with fun and conversation and fellowship. It will be held this month on Tuesday, May 28th from 11am to 1pm at the Elizabeth Community Bldg. ALL are welcome to join us for the FREE meal. This month the meal is hosted by Elizabeth United Methodist Church.

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.elizabethil.61028

Parish Office: St. John
Phone (SJ).................815-591-2258
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E-mail (SJ)........st_john@frontier.com

Parish Staff: St. Mary
Rev. Dennis Morrissy......... (Pastor)
E-mail........dennismorrissy@rockforddiocese.org
Direct voicemail...........(815)388-8844
Rev. Stanislaw Kos (In Residence)
Parish Secretary
Marilyn Gollmer...........815-541-0354
Rel. Ed. Director & Bookkeeper
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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 and Healing Service (SM)
* Subject to change during holy days.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 9-10am (SM). 3:15-3:45pm (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.

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.

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

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Liturgical Roles
Saturday, May 18 at 6:00 pm (SM)
Commentator...............Frank Schwirtz
Lector..........................Frank Schwirtz
EM........................Norma, Pat B & Mary Mo
Altar Servers...............Trent
Greeter.......................Frank & Norma

Sunday, May 19 at 8:30 am (SM)
Commentator...............Kathy Oczak
Lector..........................Jan Thraen
EM..........................Brian E, Dena B & Jessica E
Altar Servers...............Ty & Leah
Greeter.......................Jan Thraen

Elizabeth Nursing Home—
EM..........................Larry Berlage

**All Parishioners and residents of the Elizabeth and Hanover areas are welcome to access the many Catholic videos and other materials available at www.formed.org. Simply go to the web site, click “Enter Code,” sign in using access code 94TGXM, put in the requested information to create a personal account, and from then on just “login” with your e-mail name and a password you created.

Readings for the Week
May 12, 2019
Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3, 43, 3 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [8]/Jn 15:9-17
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14

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