



## 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.*



**“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” - Lk 14:27**

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

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

It's said that upon reading the Gospels, Gandhi commented that he very much liked Jesus Christ. It was Christ's followers he found troublesome. One wonders who Gandhi had met and if these Christians had truly counted the cost of their faith. Following Jesus, *really* following Jesus, is much more challenging than we may think. He emphasizes this with strong language in this Sunday's Gospel. He compares discipleship to the carrying of one's own execution device — “*his own cross*” — and for the need even to “*hate*” what could disrupt one's commitment. Some of this is standard hyperbole, exaggeration for effect common to the time period. Some of this should make us wonder how deep our discipleship goes.

*“Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost?”* Jesus imagines this construction project gone wrong. Someone may lay the foundation but not have enough resources to finish. We've received the firm foundation of the sacraments — our baptism, for one, along with weekly Mass attendance and regular confession. Yet how often do we find ourselves too distracted, exhausted, or uninterested to truly build our lives on our faith? We have all met such Christians. Some days, we may be those Christians ourselves. We become the incomplete tower that confuses and baffles the onlookers. *“This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish!”*

For some of us, our cross may feel heavier than we expected upon the first lift. Building a tower means laying stone upon stone. It's a process. We don't arrive at completion overnight. Grace is always sufficient to provide the resources, but we need to keep saying yes to the task. This week, consider your own discipleship. What is one area where you've become distracted or discouraged? How can that improve this week? Let God lay another brick on the tower.

### Mass Intentions

#### Saturday, September 7

4:00 pm (SJ) \* † Susan Sullivan Gable  
By Bob Gable  
(Wedding Ann.)

6:00 pm (SM) \* † Ken Berlage  
By Marilyn Berlage

#### Sunday, September 8

8:30 am (SM) \* † Warren Gerleman  
By Larry & Kay Berlage

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

#### Monday, September 9—No Mass

#### Tuesday, September 10

5:00 pm (SJ) \* † William & Ede Sullivan  
By Cottral Family

#### Wednesday, September 11

8:30 am (SM) \* † The Offerman Family  
By Joe & Joan Offerman

#### Thursday, September 12 • •

8:30 am (SJ) \* † Joan Sullivan Gable  
By Bob Gable

#### Friday, September 13

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

#### Saturday, September 14

4:00 pm (SJ) \* † Deacon Dave Wilbricht  
By Louise McCormick

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

#### Sunday, September 15

8:30 am (SM) \* † Jean Ertmer  
By Alvin Ertmer

10:15 am (SJ) \* † Doug Bonar  
By Karen & Bob Harkness

\*Pastor scheduled to celebrate

*“Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:33).*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Followers and friends of Jesus Christ are to be in the world, but not of it. We are to be imbedded in the world to bring the light of Christ to every person, place, and situation, as much as possible. As our Lord points out in the Gospel, the cost of discipleship is total dedication to our Lord and his teachings. This is challenging, requiring a true detachment from things and even persons, so that we can “focus like a laser beam” on Jesus Christ, and so that we can be his “change agents” wherever we go, rather than being assimilated into the mediocrity and banality of the world.

In a letter to a friend considering becoming Catholic, Flannery O’Connor, a 20<sup>th</sup> century American writer and a devout Catholic, told her friend that to become Catholic is supposed to be a liberating experience. Too many, including too many Catholics, think that the life of an observant Catholic is weighed down learning and observing lots of rules and regulations, which are seen to restrict freedom. A Catholic serious about the Catholic faith finds true peace, joy, and freedom precisely in striving to live the challenge of being a dedicated disciple of Jesus Christ, a seeker after God, truth and love, always trusting in and relying on God to help us do so. We all can improve, but let us do so following Jesus closely, our way, our truth, and our life.

This weekend we honor grandparents. Grandparents influence their grandchildren more than they might think. By their example and their words, grandparents can help their grandchildren appreciate the Catholic faith, and find in it a rich resource for living a good life in this life and in the life to come.

St. Mary’s and St. John’s religious education programs are starting up for the new school year. If you wish to enroll your child, there is still time. Please contact the office of the parish whose religious education classes you wish to have your child attend. Let us pray for our students, their families, and their catechists, that they will know the love and will of God through their studies, and be formed more and more into the mind, heart, and life of Jesus Christ.

The annual blue Mass at the firehouse in Shannon will take place this Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a Mass for first responders, living and deceased, on the anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001. The procession will begin at St. Wendelin’s Church around 6:30 P.M., with Mass at the firehouse at 7:00 P.M. Please pray for our first responders.

In Christ,  
Fr. Dennis

### Ministry Formation

How is God calling you to serve? Ministry Formation is a two year program for any adult Catholics who desire a deeper relationship with God and His community, to explore Catholic teaching, and to develop compassionate leadership skills in diverse areas of ministry.

Classes are in going to be held for the first time in Stockton. We are also pleased to announce our new family friendly class schedule! You will meet about twice a month: Wednesday meetings 7-9pm and Saturday meetings 9am-12:30pm. Apply at: [www.ceorockford.org](http://www.ceorockford.org) under Adult Faith Formation or call Kristina at 815-399-4300. The first classes start Sept. 4th, but there is still time to sign-up. If interested, the people that have taken the class so it is a great experience not to be missed. Please call and sign up. The church will pay the cost of the classes.



### Respect Life Corner

#### Word of Life

“By our baptism, we are members of Christ’s body and sharers in his mission. Imitating Christ, we must care for all members of our communities, honoring each person as unique, sacred, and created in the image of God.

USCCB, “Open Wide Our Hearts” Bulletin Insert



### 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, February, June, July or August.

#### 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

None at time of printing



## Our Parish Community

Sunday after Mass will be our first religious education class. You may pick up the youth at 11:30am. The parish will be providing snacks and drinks for them each week before classes begin.

The Altar and Rosary will have their meeting on **Thursday, September 19th at 6:00pm** in the church hall. If you are a member, please plan to attend. Please note the day and time change. We have a lot to discuss and we want to discuss possible schedule changes.

**Register now for the 2019 Women of Christ Conference**—The 11th annual Women of Christ Conference is officially open for registration. If you wish to register by mail, there are Registration Flyers available for you at [womenofchrist.net](http://womenofchrist.net). You can also register online at the website [womenofchrist@gmail.com](mailto:womenofchrist@gmail.com). \$40 groups of 5 or more | \$45 single ticket | \$25 student Clergy/Religious: Free. It's a good adult catechesis. Phone 262-384-8414.

A marriage may be made in heaven, but the maintenance must be done on earth. Worldwide Marriage Encounter gives you the tools to maintain your marriage. Don't let your marriage become a divorce statistic—keep it enriched. Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends on October 18-20 in Brookfield, WI; November 8-10 in Geneva, IL or December 6-8 in Madison, WI. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: [alifetimeoflove.org](http://alifetimeoflove.org) or call **(888)574-5653**.

### Parish Office: St. Mary

Phone (SM)..... 815-858-3422  
Fax (SM)..... 815-858-2622  
E-mail (SM).....[stmary-elizabeth@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:stmary-elizabeth@rockforddiocese.org)  
Web.....[www.stmaryelizabethil.org](http://www.stmaryelizabethil.org)  
[www.facebook.com/stmary.eliz.il.61028](http://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](mailto:st_john@frontier.com)

### Parish Staff : St. Mary

Rev. Dennis Morrissy..... **(Pastor)**  
E-mail.....[dmorrissy@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:dmorrissy@rockforddiocese.org)  
Direct voicemail.....(815)388-8844  
Rev. Stanislaw Kos (In Residence)

### Parish Secretary

Marilyn Gollmer ..... 815-541-0354  
**Rel. Ed. Director & 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, Sept. 14 at 6:00 pm (SM)**

Commentator.....Kathy Ondracek  
Lector.....Kathy Ondracek  
EM.....Toni, Larry & Nancy  
Altar Servers.....Trent  
Greeter.....Toni Mika

**Sunday, Sept. 15 at 8:30 am (SM)**

Commentator.....Marilyn Gollmer  
Lector.....Kathy Oczak  
EM.....Dena, Karla & Deb  
Altar Servers.....Trevor & Cora  
Greeter.....Marilyn G  
**Elizabeth Nursing Home—Sept. 15**  
EM.....Nancy Walker

**\*\*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](http://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 September 8, 2019

Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 [1]/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

Monday: Col 1:24—2:3/Ps 62:6-7, 9 [8]/Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11 [9]/Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab [9]/Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [6]/Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11 [cf. 5]/Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 [cf. 7b]/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Next Sunday: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19 [Lk 15:18]/1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

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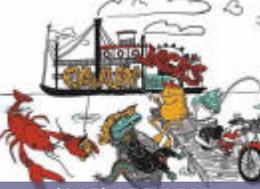
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