

The mission of St. Mary Parish is to make Christ real in our communities by living the gospel, worshipping together, & serving others.

December 13, 2020 • Third Sunday of Advent

# Saint Mary

2700 Horton Rd • Waverly, IA 50677

## Parish Office

Hrs: M-Th 8am-4:30pm;  
F 8am-2pm

Phone: (319) 352-2493

Fax: (319) 352-3122

Website: StMarysFamily.com

Bulletin Deadline: Mon. 3pm

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**Pastoral Council:** Ruth Schluter,  
Jennifer Siech, Elaine Lawler,  
Trent Lockard, Kris Dunkin,  
Jeff Keen, Jenne Seward

**Faith Formation Commission:**  
Wayne Green, Terri Cruise,  
Bill Flege, Jennifer Nus, Becky  
Prostine, Mariah Stauffer

**Finance Council:** Steve Phyfe,  
Scott Danner, Kelly Flege, Joe  
Barber, Becky Willson, Becky  
David

**Bulletin & Worship Aid - Please take this with you when you leave so volunteers do not need to remove it! Thank you!**

"We don't know what the future holds, but it's all God's work," says Sister Theresa McGrath (center), a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, for nearly 70 years.

## Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

In good times and bad, Sister Theresa and the senior religious shown here have dedicated themselves to God's work. Together with nearly 30,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests in the United States, they educated the young, tended the sick, and ministered to the needy. Today, they pray for a world that is hurting. Yet many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your tax-deductible gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

## retiredreligious.org

Above, from left: Sister Alice Garcia, SSC, 91; Brother Martin Gonzalez, OCSO, 86; Sister Theresa McGrath, CCV, 86; Sister Anne Cecilia Muldoon, OSU, 91; Abbot Emeritus Peter Eberle, OSB, 79.

**To give at your parish:** Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

**To donate by mail:** Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

**Data preference (Please check one.)**

Yes, I agree that the data I provided to complete this transaction may be used for that purpose and used and stored for United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) records and to evaluate interest in RFR web pages.

No, the data I provided may only be used to complete this transaction and may not be stored for United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Retirement Fund for Religious records.

**Please check with your employer about matching gifts.**

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You may use this form or the envelope in your packet to donate! Thanks!

## Candle Memorials:

Emiel Engels      Don McEnany  
Scott Woodruff    Nicholas Demuth  
Jim Sabelka      Francis Harrington  
Alice Harrington   Bernard Frascht  
Robert Hoffman

## Worship Schedule

**Tues** 4:30 pm Rosary by Zoom  
**Tues** 5:30 pm Mike Fay  
**Wed** 8:00 am Marcella McCormick  
**Fri** 8:00 am Sadie Byrnes Family  
**Sat** 4:30 pm Reconciliation  
**Sat** 5:15 pm Patricia Howell  
**Sun** 8:00 am For the People  
**Sun** 9:35 am Divine Mercy Chaplet  
**Sun** 10:00 am Al Bock

*Daily Mass cancelled if funeral scheduled.*

**Prayer Concerns:** Gertrude Boeckman, Jeffrey Traeger, Rayla Leary, Donna Nelson, Carter Stevens, Ruth Schissel, Megan Smith, Carol Bolton, Bill Rechkemmer, Fr Lou Jaeger, Harold Iverson, Joanne Zrostlik, Virgil Birgin, Rhonda Kalainoff

## Calendar: Dec 7-13

**Mon:** Peace & Justice Mtg, 7pm on zoom  
**Fri:** Women's Group, 8:30am, room B  
**Sat-Sun:** Peanut Butter Collection for backpack program  
**Sun:** RCIA, 11am, room B

**Edge Postponed** to Jan 6, 2021  
(will **not** be held Dec 16)

## Stewardship of Treasure

Weekly offertory budget \$8,913

### Gifts Nov 23-29, 2020:

Offering Gifts ..... \$26,703  
On-Line Offering Gifts ..... \$2,045  
Christmas Offering ..... \$1,475  
Food Pantry Monetary Gifts \$845  
Holy Day I.C ..... \$20  
Retired Religious Collection ..... \$20  
Giving Tree ..... \$669

### Fiscal Yr July 1-Nov 29, 2020:

Offertory Received ..... \$188,236  
Budget Yr-to-Date ..... \$196,096  
**Shortage** ..... - \$7,860

## Third Sunday of Advent

Last year at this time, with no awareness of what was coming with Covid and its impact on travel, I was preparing to take a class of students on a January term course. We would study the impact of Greek philosophy on the development of Christianity, using sites in Sicily and Rome to help us illuminate the topic. The first Sunday we were abroad we celebrated Mass at the cathedral of Syracuse in Sicily. A church, dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, has stood on the site since the third century. In the cathedral there is a Latin inscription which announces the ancient heritage of Christianity in Syracuse. It reads "The Church of Syracuse is the daughter of St. Peter (i.e., established by St. Peter), the first after Antioch dedicated to Christ." The Christian community in Syracuse was founded less than twenty-five years after the resurrection of Jesus. St. Paul preached there on a journey through Sicily.

The last Sunday of the course, we celebrated Mass in a crypt chapel at St. Peter's Basilica. The presider at the liturgy was former Loras College professor and newly consecrated bishop of Des Moines, Bishop William Joensen. In two weeks in Italy, participants in the course had an opportunity to experience their faith in continuity with ancient and venerable traditions and also as dynamic and alive in the present time. It's a reminder that we Catholics have a well-founded reason to hold on to hope.

Each day there is a chance that we will encounter darkness, difficulty, inconvenience, trouble. Daily there are things that can depress us, or put us in a very bad mood, or try our patience. And still, we hear from St. Paul in the second reading this weekend, "Rejoice always". I don't know about you but there are some days when I'm tempted to say, maybe tomorrow. St. Paul is suggesting that we can give our power and our time to be annoyed, or angry, or even to evil. Or we can give our power to God's Spirit who will strengthen and console us.

St. Paul urges us to render constant thanks. The older I get, the more I believe this is the call we ignore too frequently. We forget to be grateful. Ignoring the call to give thanks is the thing that often throws us off balance, gets us off track. Even in our darkest hour, we can give thanks: for blessings, for the gifts, for the light ..., no matter how dim. Giving thanks, in every circumstance, helps us continue on the journey not only to Christmas but through life.

These are the final weeks of tangled lights, and shopping trips, and garland, and cookie platters. And in the midst of it all, voices that are ancient and new call to us, not to analyze, change or fix. Just to pray and rejoice and be grateful.

- Fr Doug Wathier

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**If you choose to sing,  
please leave your  
mask on.**

**LUKE 1: MAGNIFICAT**

Pedro Rubalcava



Text: Based on Luke 1:46-55. Text and music © 1997, Pedro Rubalcava. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

**COMMUNION SONG:** (Refrain) **Come, Lord! Maranatha! Come and bring us your peace. Come, Lord, Maranatha! Come to us; set us free. Come, Lord, and bring us your peace.**

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**Songs for today:** **Entrance:** Emmanuel (Angrisano) **Prep of the Gifts:** Canticle of Zachary (Vaughn Williams) **Communion:** Come, Lord! Maranatha (Manalo) **Sending:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**During Communion,** a minister will come to your row. As you are approached, stand to receive the Body of Christ. Please leave your masks on until the minister passes by you.

**Weather Cancellations...**

We always post cancellations or closings on KWWL, our parish webpage & Facebook page.

**If W-SR school is cancelled or out early** due to weather, parish events and afternoon/evening Mass are cancelled.

**If W-SR school starts late** due to weather, morning Mass is cancelled.

As always, if you are uncomfortable with road conditions due to weather, please stay home. Your safety is most important.

**Just for fun...** Ole was working at the local diner, when the owner asked Ole to go next door & get some quarters before they ran out. Ole went to the grocer next door, but they were out. He finally returned with a roll of quarters after asking at 3 more stores. "Ole, where are the quarters!" exclaimed the owner. Ole smiled, "Right there. I went to 4 stores before I got that roll of quarters but I didn't give up." The owner sighed, "Ole, I meant chicken quarters!"

☞  I want to register in the parish. Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I have a new email, phone # or address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Candle Memorial \$10 - \_\_\_\_\_ name/preferred month  
 Mass Intention \$5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Return in the collection or to the office

**Reading 1** IS 61:1-2A, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

**Reading 2** 1 THES 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

**Gospel** JN 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent.

They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?"

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

(bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. (up)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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## **Beauty in Christ: On Fire with the Holy Spirit**

Join us for the annual Catholic women's conference on Jan 30, 9am-1pm. This will be a virtual gathering this year. \$25 registration on website [ArchWomensConference.org](http://ArchWomensConference.org) Guest speakers Caroline Gambale-Dirkes & Maria Vadia. The link for this event is on our parish webpage

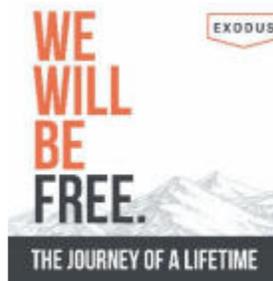
# Christmas Masses:



**Christmas Eve 4:00pm,  
7:00pm, 9:00pm**

**Christmas Day 9:00am**

- Social distancing & masks will be required.
- 4pm Mass is the most crowded. Also, the evening Masses are often too late children. Please consider another Mass if you are able to reduce crowding & to allow space for children at the 4pm.
- 9am Christmas Day has the lowest attendance. If you are in the vulnerable population or want to avoid crowds, this is the Mass for you!
- **We will not open the church until 30 minutes before Mass** to reduce contact and ensure everyone's safety.
- Livestreaming of the 4pm will be available on St Mary Catholic Church Facebook page; & available on our webpage [StMarysFamily.com](http://StMarysFamily.com) about 5:30pm. The recording will be available for later viewing on Facebook as well as on our webpage.



EXODUS

This Lent, St Mary invites all men seeking authentic freedom to join their brothers in Christ for **Exodus 90**, which will kick off on **Jan 4, 2021**.

Exodus 90 is a 90-day spiritual exercise that gives Catholic men a clear path for the journey to freedom through prayer, asceticism and support. More than 30,000 men around the country have made the Exodus and transformed their lives. You can, too! For more information and to enroll in Exodus 90, please contact Deacon Phil at [smcdeacon@gmail.com](mailto:smcdeacon@gmail.com) or 319-830-6306  
Exodus website: [exodus90.com/how-it-works](http://exodus90.com/how-it-works)

**Thank you...** To my parish family for their calls, letters & prayers during Harold's hospitalization after breaking his leg. We appreciate all the support. Harold & Clara Iversen Well wishes or Christmas greetings during his recovery can be mailed to Harold Iversen at Clarksville Skilled Nursing & Rehab, 115 N Hilton St, Clarksville, IA 50619.

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**St. Mary Parish Life**  
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*We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.*  
**-1 John Chapter 4**

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