



# Parish of St. Mary



## Worship Schedule

Lord's Day Mass:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM (Lee) 5:30 PM (Otis)

Sunday: 8 & 11 AM (Lee) & 9:30 AM (Stockbridge)

Weekday Mass: (Lee) - 7:00 AM

Holy Days of Obligation (please see inside)

## Parish Offices

40 Academy Street / Lee, MA 01238

Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 9am-12pm or by appt

Telephone (413)243-0275

Fax: (413)243-1926

Faith Formation Office (413)243-1079, Ext. 8

Email: [icsmchurch@gmail.com](mailto:icsmchurch@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stmarylos.com](http://www.stmarylos.com)

Prayer Line (413)243-1523 (Vicki)

## Parish Pastoral Staff

Fr. Brian F. McGrath - *Pastor*

Fr. Matt Barone - *Parochial Vicar*

Deacon Jim McElroy - *Permanent Deacon*

Deacon Bob Digan - *Deacon Emeritus*

Mrs. Karen T. Vidoli - *Office Manager*

Mrs. Katherine Murray - *Faith Formation Coordinator*

Mrs. Holly Cusack - *Bookkeeper*

Ms. Sandy Cummings - *Music Director (Lee)*

Ms. Susan Aery - *Music Director (Otis)*

Mr. Art DeVlyder - *Music Director (Stockbridge)*

Mrs. Colleen Free - *Youth Ministry*

Mr. Charles Houff - *Pastoral Council*

Mr. Richard Brittain - *Administration & Finance*

Mrs. Brenda Bianco - *Child Advocate*

Mr. Jeffrey Simmons - *Maintenance*

Mr. Tim Holian - *Maintenance*

## Pastoral Council

Charles Houff,  
chair

Laura Sexton

Lewis Brooks

Chad Klapes

Lori Koperek

Richard Lacey

Carol Lombardo

Kate Murray

Lynda Newton

Erin Pollard

Trish Santos

## Finance Council

Richard Brittain,  
chair

Bob Gutmann

Bob Kelly

Richard Lacey

John Masten

Cathie Sparks

Thom Swift

Holly Cusack

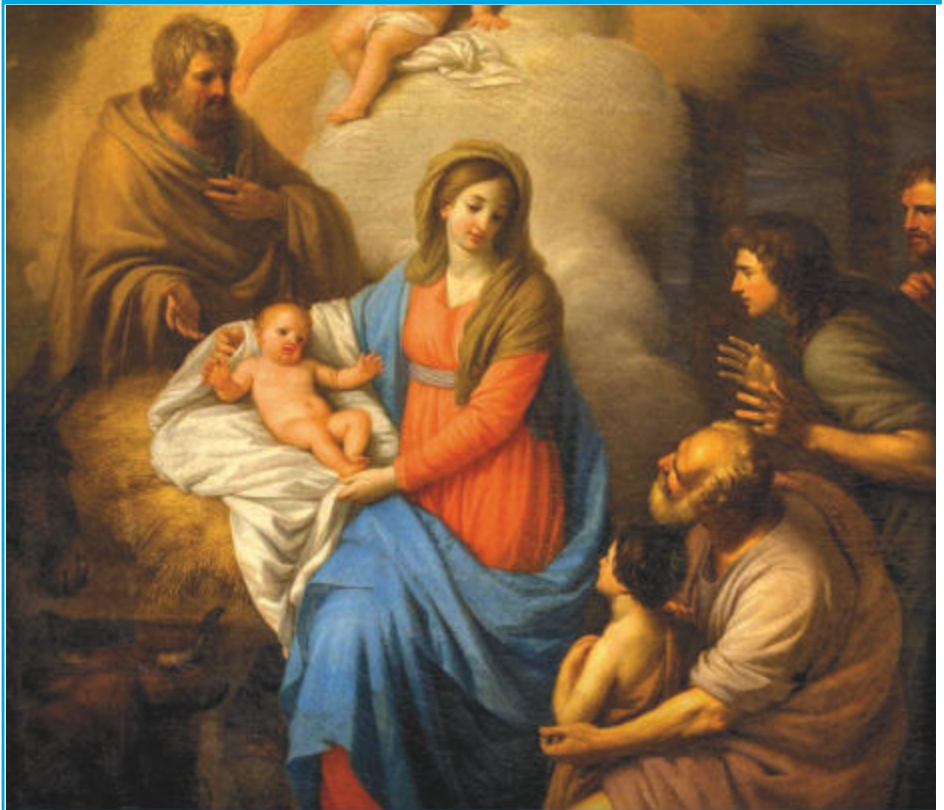


St. Mary, Mother of the Church  
140 Main Street  
Lee

St. Mary of the Lakes  
72 North Main Road  
Otis

St. Joseph Church  
11 Elm Street  
Stockbridge

*One parish serving God and Neighbor in three worship sites.*



## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

And the Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory as of the Father's only Son,  
full of grace and truth.

- Jn 1:14

*St. Mary's School* Est. 1885

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115 Orchard Street — Lee, MA 01238

Telephone (413) 243-1079 | Fax 243-1022

[www.StMarysLee.org](http://www.StMarysLee.org)

Miss. Cara Maiorano | *Interim-Principal*

Mrs. Linda Winters | *School Secretary*

Mrs. Gina Reiners | *School Board Chair*

# Parish of St Mary

Please pray for the men and women who have been activated to serve our nation, all our police officers, firefighters, first responders, health care workers, research scientists and essential services workers.

Let us also pray for our departed brothers and sisters, especially those who have died due to the pandemic, anyone who has passed away recently, for those we miss so much.

**Albert Norman, Nancy Dawson,  
Vincent Malveaux, Rene Flores  
Robert Holm, Francis Arnold**

May they rest in the loving arms of God in heaven. AMEN.

If you would like to add a name of a deceased loved one, please call the rectory.



## The Candles this Week

Sanctuary: Michael Coty

Grotto Lamps: Mary E. & John J.

Kelly, Sr., Jack Kelly, Mary &

Dominic Biasin, Spike & Ilene Biasin

Oratory Lamp: Scott Philip Peeples

Candles may be reserved  
by calling the rectory at 243-0275



## Weekly Parishioner Contributions 12/12/21

Mail: \$2,112

Consider Online giving.

Online: \$1,216

Set up your gift today.

Lee: Not available

Visit our Website or

Otis: Not available

call Karen at the

Stockbridge: Not available

rectory (243-0275)

**Thanks! You make all our ministries possible.**

## Mass Intentions for This Week

Fri. 12/24	4:00 pm	† Jackie Abbott (7th Anniversary), <i>by her family</i>
	5:30 pm	† Peter and Dawn Simmons, <i>by their family</i>
		† Robert J. Hardiman, <i>by Don &amp; Kristina Zukowski</i>
Sat. 12/25	8:00 am	♥ Alexander Marzec (Spiritual & Physical Wellbeing), <i>by Isabella Shea</i>
	9:30 am	† The Deceased of Our Parish Family
	11:00 am	† Francis and Rena McCusker, <i>by the family</i>
Sun. 12/26	8:00 am	† Scott Peeples, <i>by the family</i>
	9:30 am	† Fr. Daniel Brunton
	9:30 am	† Deceased of the Broderick and Ford Families, <i>by the family</i>
	11:00 am	† Lou DiGrigoli, <i>by Joyce and the family</i>
Mon. 12/27	7:00 am	♥ Joe Rock, service to St. Mary's
Tue. 12/28	7:00 am	† Edward Forfa, <i>by his son Ed Forfa</i>
		† Bill Laudon (1st Anniversary), <i>by MaryTheresa and Mark</i>
Wed. 12/29	7:00 am	† Deceased Members of our Parish Family
Thu. 12/30	7:00 am	†
Fri. 12/31	7:00 am	† Catherine Chichester, <i>by the Tagge family</i>
	4:00 pm	† John Boyne, <i>by his family</i>
Sat. 1/1	9:00 am	† Nancy Dawson, <i>by the Vidoli family</i>
	4:00 pm	† Jeffrey Zerbato and Michael Coty, <i>by Mike &amp; Mary Lou</i>
	5:30 pm	♥ Michelle Fitzgerald for her health, <i>by Isabella Shea</i>
Sun. 1/2	8:00 am	† Janet D'Agostino, <i>by the family</i>
	9:30 am	† Jeff Baer, <i>by Ron &amp; Libby Driscoll</i>
	11:00 am	† Jack Kelly, <i>by Ron &amp; Libby Driscoll</i>

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Contact the rectory (243-0275) if you want to book a Mass. It is a holy action to offer your prayers and the prayers of the Church in the sacrifice of the Mass.

## Ministers on the Altar Next Week

Fri. 12/31	4:00 pm (Lee):	Fr. Brian	A.S.: Sophie Sparks
		E.M.: Maureen Wellspeak, Charles & Verna Houff	Lector: Mary Ann Saunders
Sat. 1/1	9:00 am (Lee):	Fr. Matt	A.S.: Sophie Sparks
		E.M.: Maureen Wellspeak, Charles & Verna Houff	Lector: Mary Ann Saunders
	4:00 pm (Lee):	Fr. Matt w/Dec. Jim to Preach	A.S.: Sophie Sparks
		E.M.: Maureen Wellspeak, Charles & Verna Houff	Lector: Mary Ann Saunders
	5:30 pm (Otis):	Fr. Brian	Lector: Logan and Dylan Fedor
Sun. 1/2	8:00 am (Lee):	Fr. Matt w/Dec. Jim to Preach	Lector: Richard Lindsay
		E.M.: Bill Ingegna, Roger Scheurer & Bobbie Ann Salinetti	
	9:30 am (Stockbridge):	Fr. Brian	Lector: Paula Valenti
	11:00 am (Lee):	Fr. Matt w/Dec. Jim to Preach	
		Lector: Malcolm Chisholm	E.M.: Julie Choi & Sue Scarpa

## READINGS FOR DECEMBER 24TH - JANUARY 2ND, 2021

Friday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89/Lk 1:67-79  
*Christmas Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
*Midnight:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Saturday, **The Nativity of the Lord:**  
*Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
*Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Sunday, **The Holy Family:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52  
 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday, **St. John the Evangelist:** 1 Jn 1:1-4 / Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday, **Holy Innocents:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 / Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday, **St. Thomas Becket:** 1 Jn 2:3-12 / Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17 / Lk 2:36-40

Friday, **St. Sylvester:** 1 Jn 2:18-21 / Jn 1:1-18

Saturday, **Mary, Mother of God:** Num 6:22-27 / Gal 4:4-7 / Lk 2:16-21

Sunday, **Epiphany:** Is 60:1-6 / Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Mt 2:1-12

FOR UNTO US,  
a Child is Born.





**From Our Pastor**

Merry Christmas!

One of the great blessings of having the keys to the church is that I get to go there at all hours of the day. Often it is to set something up, or fix something, or check on a potential problem. But I always try to make even those visits a time of prayer and quiet.

In Advent, my visits often included a time of prayer in front of the nativity scene quietly reflecting on the great upcoming celebration of Christmas. Wise Men traveling from the East by the guidance of a star. It sounds romantic. But I've slept on a beach in Egypt, awakened by wild camels, chewing food filled with food from the most recent sand storm. Those Wise Men put themselves out to see the newborn king of the Jews. In prayer, I put myself in their caravan and journeyed with them.

Shepherds in their field. Staff in hand to fend of any threat to their sheep. The shepherds searched for green pastures for their beloved sheep. They lived a life under the elements, grounded to the earth. And then an angel visits them and announces glad tiding of great joy! I sat with them on watch. I joined in their joy at the Good News.

Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem from a different direction than the Wise Men. I loved how they moved across our church throughout Advent. The donkey just being a donkey. Mary and Joseph so filled with a mystery that is now revealed in the manger. O how I am so blessed to adore!

Christmas is filled with presents and company and food and dishes and so much more. I hope it is filled, even for a few moments while you attend Mass, with peace and joy and silence and hope and love.

Love is incarnate in the little babe. God comes to earth to show us the way for us to journey to heaven.

Hold the Christ Child tenderly in your hearts. Know that Mary and Joseph, as they made a home for Jesus, also watch over you and your family with great affection and care.

May God Bless you in this holy season! Merry Christmas! Fr. b.

**GO GREEN AT CHRISTMAS!**

Check out the flyers at the doors for suggestions on going green at Christmas. How about using comics from the newspapers for wrapping paper, or recycling Christmas cards? How about considering some alternative gift ideas? There is a farm that would love to feed your Christmas tree to their goats in the new year. Give a gift to the world and be a good steward of the limited resources we have by going green for Christmas.

**When Considering Options, Remember**

- |                          |  |                           |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| RETHINK—Your choices     |  | REFUSE—Single use         |
| REDUCE - Consumption     |  | REUSE - Everything        |
| REFURBISH - Old Stuff    |  | REPAIR - Before Replacing |
| REPURPOSE - Be Creative! |  | RECYCLE - Last Option     |
| REPEAT!                  |  |                           |

**ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

**SMC = St. Mary, Mother of the Church, Lee**

**STJ = St. Joseph's, Stockbridge**

**SML = St. Mary of the Lakes, Otis | SMS = St. Mary's School, Lee**

**We are live-streaming the Weekend Masses from St. Mary's Church on our Facebook page**  
*(St Mary Lee, Otis, Stockbridge).*

*You can keep updated on the diocesan ([diospringfield.org](http://diospringfield.org)) parish ([stmaryylos.com](http://stmaryylos.com)) and school websites ([stmaryslee.org](http://stmaryslee.org)) as well on Facebook & MyParish App.*

**Fri. 12/24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass - SMC**  
**5:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass - SMC**

**Sat. 12/25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
**8:00 am Christmas Day Mass - SML**  
**9:30 am Christmas Day Mass - STJ**  
**11:00 am Christmas Day Mass - SMC.**  
*(no 4:00 pm or 5:30 pm Masses today!)*

**Sun 12/26 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
**8:00 am Sunday Mass - SMC**  
**9:30 am Sunday Mass - SML**  
**9:30 am Sunday Mass - STJ**  
**11:00 am Sunday Mass - SMC**

**Mon 12/27**

**Tue 12/28**

**Wed 12/29**

**Thu 12/30**

**Fri. 12/31 4:00 pm New Year's Eve Mass - SMC**

**Sat. 12/25 HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**9:00 am New Year's Day Mass - SMC**  
**3:00 pm Confessions - SMC**  
**4:00 pm Sunday Vigil Mass - SMC**  
**5:30 pm Sunday Vigil Mass - SML**

**Sun 12/26 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**  
**8:00 am Sunday Mass - SMC**  
**9:30 am Sunday Mass - STJ**  
**11:00 am Sunday Mass - SMC**

**Upcoming:** 1/1 New Years & Feast of Mary, Mother of God *(it falls on a Saturday, so it is not a day of obligation— New Year's Eve Mass at 4:00 pm and New Year's Day Mass at 9:00 am) both in Lee*

**CHRISTMAS**



We are a Eucharistic community, finding strength in Jesus and His Church by living both Word and Sacrament. We minister to the needs of the People of God through Worship and living out the Gospel and the Teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

**Rectory Office Hours** are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to Noon.

**Registration:** We welcome all new members to our parish family. To formally join the parish, please fill in the Parish Census form. Our parish census helps us keep track of who is a member of the parish. It is how we send parishioners the Catholic Mirror and parish mailings. If you want to be registered with us, simply fill in the Census Form (found at the entrances of the church or on our website) or stop by the rectory.

**Baptisms** take place at the request of the family. In preparation, parents are asked to complete one class. Contact the rectory for additional information

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** takes place in the Oratory  
 Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 11 pm  
 Sat. & Sun. 9 am - 11 pm

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation & The Anointing of the Sick** is offered every Saturday from 3:00-3:30 in **St. Mary's Church, Lee**. These sacraments may be received any time by appointment.

**Sick or Homebound:** Kindly inform the Rectory if you or someone you know would like a visit at home, hospital or nursing home. You've come to church for all those years, now let us bring church to you.

**Marriage:** Congratulations to our newly engaged. Please contact the rectory to begin the process of preparation. The preparation can take up to a year. God's grace lasts all the days of your life.

**Holy Orders:** If you feel the call to religious life or a vocation to the diaconate or priesthood; contact Fr. Brian or Fr. Matt at the rectory or the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr. Jon Reardon: 413-739-0456, ext. 4

email: [vocations@diospringfield.org](mailto:vocations@diospringfield.org)

**New Direction Crisis Pregnancy Center:** Has a help line available 24/7. Call: 413-347-8005



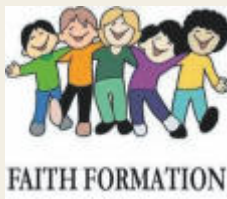
**ADORATION NEWS: OUR LADY'S ORATORY** could use you! As the Year of the Eucharist begins, please consider spending an hour a week with Jesus in our Adoration Chapel. **WE CURRENTLY HAVE 20 OPEN HOURS.** Available hours are posted in the Oratory. More info can be had by calling Laurie Forfa at 413-464-8143 or Lisa Thorne at 298-3261

**THANK YOU** to all who contributed towards the Christmas flowers and decorations. Because this bulletin had to go to the printers early we were not able to get the list in this week. It will be in next week's bulletin. **A huge thanks also** to each of the people at all three churches and grounds who helped with the Advent and Christmas decorations. You bring joy to the season!

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY:** Because Christmas falls on a Saturday **there will not be any Saturday afternoon Masses on 12/25** in either Lee or Otis (no 4 pm or 5:30 pm that day!). We will be having Masses on **Sunday Masses (12/26 Feast of the Holy Family)** at 8:00 am in Lee, 9:30 am in both Stockbridge & Otis, 11:00 am in Lee.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Since it falls on a Saturday, it is not a day of obligation. But since love to celebrate Mary and the beginning of a New Year we will have **New Year's Eve Mass at 4:00 pm and New Year's Day Mass at 9:00 am.** Holy Mary, Mother God, pray for us as we begin a new year!

**MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND:** Fr. Matt is organizing the ministry to the homebound. If you know someone who could use a visit, or if you would like to get involved in bringing communion to those who cannot make it to church, please give him a call at the rectory (243-0275).



Merry Christmas!

Our Kindergarten through 9th grade catechists have done such a wonderful job this year of meaningful faith formation over Zoom. Students are engaged and growing in their faith after each class. Our Confirmation catechist, Colleen Free, has also done a wonderful job in person, along with help from Kristina Zukowski, keeping our young adults engaged in their faith and forming a relationship with Christ. I'm grateful to each of them for their many hours of service to the program.

In exciting news, our plan is to meet again in person in January. I am hoping this change will allow for more activities and connection within the program. Zoom has been awesome but, as we've all learned, in-person is still better. If you have been unable to join us due to the Zoom format, please email me and I'll get your family signed up!

Here is our schedule for next year. Faith formation families, please check your email for an updated schedule.

**Schedule for Grades K-9**

- 1/9: Class for K-9
- 1/23: Class for K-9
- 2/6: Class for K-6, Catechetical Mass 7-11
- 2/13: Class for K-9
- 3/6: Class for K-9
- 3/20: Class for K-9
- 4/3: Class for K-9
- 4/10: Last day of class for but First Communion
- 4/24: First Communion Class
- 4/28: First Communion rehearsal 3:30-5:00 pm
- 4/29: First Communion rehearsal 3:30-5:00 pm
- 4/30: FIRST COMMUNION 9:00 am

**Schedule for Confirmation**

- 1/2 and 1/9: Confirmation Class
- 1/16, 1/23 and 1/30: Confirmation Class
- 2/6: Attend Catechetical Mass
- 2/13 and 2/27: Confirmation Class
- 3/6: Confirmation Class
- 3/13: Confirmation Class
- 3/20: Confirmation Class
- 3/27: Confirmation Class
- 4/3: Confirmation Class
- 4/10: Last Confirmation Class
- 4/24: Confirmation Rehearsal 6:00 pm
- 5/1: CONFIRMATION 2:00 pm

If you have any questions or I can be of any assistance, please contact me at

[stmaryleccd@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryleccd@gmail.com)

Joyfully in Christ, Katie Murray



# One Parish Serving through Three Churches, Two Cemeteries and Our School

## From the Area and the Diocese

**YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST:** "One of the most admirable effects of Holy Communion is to preserve the soul from sin, and to help those who fall through weakness to rise again."

~Saint Ignatius of Loyola

[www.yearoftheeucharist.net](http://www.yearoftheeucharist.net)

**VOCATIONS:** Let's continue to pray and support vocations. Perhaps priesthood or consecrated life awaits you. Contact Fr. Jon Reardon at [vocations@diospringfield.org](mailto:vocations@diospringfield.org) or 413-248-7034.

**WANT A PLACE OF QUIET AND REST?** Stop by the Visitation Monastery, 14 Beech Rd., Tyringham. The Monastery church is open to the public from 6 am to 6 pm every day. Join in Mass- 7:45 AM Daily or pray the Liturgy of the Hours: 7 am Morning Prayer | 10 am Office of Readings | 2 pm Day Time Prayer | 5 pm Evening Prayer

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3. Enter your name and email

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## PRO - LIFE REFLECTION

From today's Gospel, Luke 2.

**"Why were you looking for me?"**

The value and gift of life is found in our children.



Since 2020, 40 Days for Life has given a 4040 Scholarship-- \$4,040 to a full-time undergraduate or a graduate college student in the U.S., involved in the pro-life movement and saving lives by his/her leadership. 2020's 4040 Scholarship winner was John Mark Porter: sidewalk counselor, 40 Days for Life participant, citizen lobbyist, campus debate organizer, and pregnancy help center volunteer. This year's scholarship winner is Jenica Thornby. Jenica survived the 1999 Columbine High School massacre and struggled with despair until she encountered Christ. "I want **everybody** to know the Lord..." she said. "...and the full and abundant life that He's called us to." Now a religious sister named Sister Mary Gianna, she is a regular 40 Days for Life participant pursuing a nursing degree. Like these 2 winners, let us pray that **all** young people come to Christ & come to value the lives He has blessed us with!

## PRAYERS FOR LIFE

As the U.S. Supreme Court considers *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, on the Mississippi law banning abortion after 15-weeks, we pray that our eyes will be open to the truth and see the beauty of life in the womb, that women will be supported and babies will be saved, in Jesus' name, Amen.



### **LIVE THE LITURGY**

Merry Christmas! There is something sacred about sun when it dances upon a field of newly iced snow. Lights and colors bounce around in myriad ways flashing prisms of beauty as if in tune with the rhythm of a melodic dance. The Word became flesh and now dwells among us. Humanity can now dance. We sparkle with the beauty and radiance of God and can now walk through life with confidence knowing that we have been divinely kissed. It is a sacred moment, a holy marriage between God and His sons and daughters. All is bright and all is well. Today we celebrate who we are in Christ and rest safely in God's care. God's presence, revealed in the humble birth of His Son, dances in our hearts, calling us to beauty, truth, purpose, and love. Today we know, without doubt, that we are not the product of the rambling offerings of a universe that created itself. We are loved, treasured, and blessed. We have a Savior who can show us the way. Accept him.

©LPI

### **GOSPEL MEDITATION - 12/25/21 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

“He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man, Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188).” The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God's intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart.

Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God's beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.

Accepting the truth of God's birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has been profoundly changed. ©LPI

### **EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - STEWARDSHIP TIES**

There is a lot of imagery around Christmas that has to do with adoption — or, more specifically, with a child being loved by another as if they belonged to that person and loved in such a profound way that in time, they do come to belong to that person.

We see this with Joseph and the infant Jesus. Joseph is not Jesus' biological father. But through a series of actions, and through his faithfulness in small, everyday matters, Joseph becomes the foster father of Jesus.

Perhaps we are parents who have adopted children, or we ourselves were adopted. We have also seen how, through a series of actions of love and sacrifice, someone can become the parent of a person who is not their “blood.” A lot of times these families celebrate the day of the adoption. I've heard it called a “gotcha day,” and it's marked joyously, like a birthday.

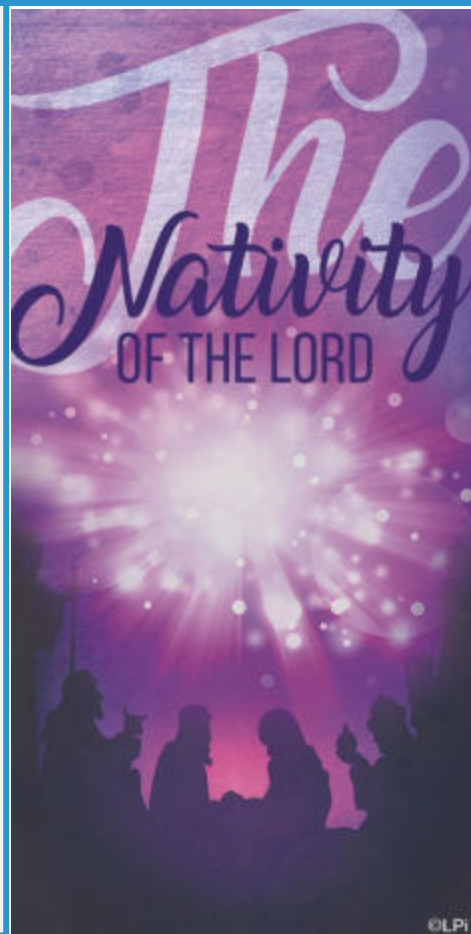
Most of us are not descended from the Israelites, God's Chosen People. But through a series of extraordinary actions of love and sacrifice, God has made Himself our parent, too. And through our own actions, and through faithfulness in small and everyday matters, we are His children.

But in this family, instead of blood ties, we have stewardship ties. It's not about who we look like, it's about how we treat one another. How we take care of one another.

So this Christmas, let's think about how we will celebrate our adoption. As much as it is Jesus' birthday, it's also our “gotcha day” — the day we received the gift of eternal family.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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December 25th and 26th, 2021



St. Mary's School  
... where every child shines!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ST. MARY'S SCHOOL!**

Our students and faculty pray for all parishioners, alumni, benefactors and friends of our school each and every day. Thank you for your support. May God bless you in this holy season and throughout the New Year. Merry Christmas!

**SAVE THE DATE:** St. Mary's Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 21, 2022. More details in the Spring. Let it snow for now, but when Spring comes, let the golf balls fly!

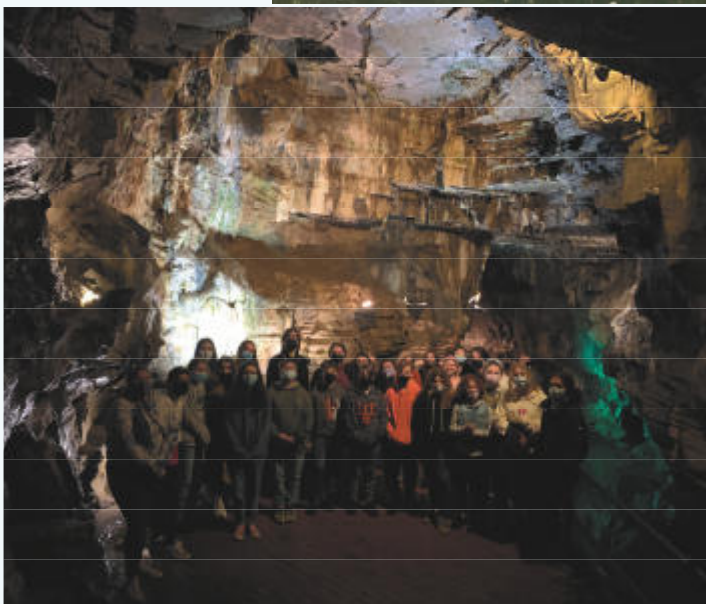


Feast of St. Lucy →

Middle School Field

Trip to

Howe Caverns ↓



**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

Question: What does "Alleluia" mean?

(answer on page 6)

**VALLEY ROLL-OFF DUMPSTER SERVICE**  
We "EXPRESS" OURSELVES IN OUR SERVICE  
10, 12, 15, 20, 30, 40 YARDS  
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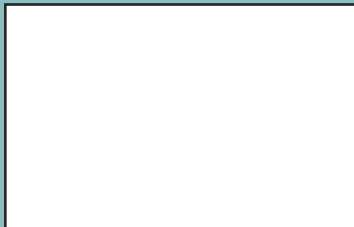
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