



FOUNDED 1890

SAINT MARY OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

A Journey in Faith — To Love and Serve the Lord

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT • December 13, 2020

FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR

THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT IS GAUDETE {GOW-DAY-TAY} SUNDAY, from the Latin word that means “rejoice”. The title for this Sunday comes from the Latin word in the entrance antiphon, which begins: “Rejoice in the Lord always”. The phrase is from St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians, and the passage tells us why we should rejoice: “rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say, rejoice”.

IN THE GOSPEL READING, we learn more about the mission of St. John the Baptist. His mission should remind us that Advent is a season of preparation. We need to prepare ourselves for the possibility of the coming of God the Son in His Second Advent, knowing that His return can happen at any moment. If we prepare by cleansing our souls in the Sacrament of reconciliation, we will be ready, and we can rejoice because, as this Sunday’s antiphon announces, “The Lord is near”! (Phil 4:5).

WE HAVE AMBLE OPPORTUNITIES for the sacrament of reconciliation in the coming week and have set apart four different dates and timings for this sacrament.

- 1) Individual confession and absolution on Monday, December 14, from 5 PM to 6 PM.
- 2) Communal Penance followed by individual confession and absolution on Tuesday, December 15, at 7 PM. Our neighboring priests have graciously accepted to hear confession on this day.
- 3) Communal Penance followed by Individual confession and absolution on Saturday, December 19 at 11 AM.
- 4) Individual confession and absolution on Monday, December 21 from 5 PM to 6 PM.

ON THE PASTORAL Note, our Sins will be absolved, only when you go to the Priests individually and confess your sins and you receive the absolution. Otherwise, you are not absolved of your Sins. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1422), “Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God’s mercy for the offense committed against him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, by example, and by prayer labors for their conversion.” Therefore, to those who receive the sacrament of Penance are given:

1. Pardon from God (Grace and spiritual Strength)
2. Reconciliation with the Church.

I hope it will help us to prepare and celebrate worthily the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

CSA 2020: we are still behind reaching our target of CSA. I thank you wholeheartedly for all those who have contributed and pledged, but those who have not, please, consider prayerfully to help us to reach our share to help the Archdiocese of Detroit to continue their ministries throughout Southeast of Michigan. “Be Blessed and be a Blessing”.

With Every Blessings,
Fr. John Peter Arul MSFS.

GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE TODAY!

Please turn in your giving Tree gifts today. If you are unable to do so, please contact the parish office at 248-685-1482. Please be sure to have your gift tag handy, so you can provide us with the numbers.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Masses will be celebrated December 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th.

Masses will be celebrated at the following times:

December 24th

4pm, 6pm, Midnight

December 25th

10am, 12 Noon

December 26th

5pm

December 27th

8am, 10am, 12 Noon

Please sign up for mass attendance at Eventbrite
[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/O/ST-MARY-CATHOLIC-CHURCH-30368870362](https://www.eventbrite.com/o/st-mary-catholic-church-30368870362)



REPORT

Parish Target.....	\$153,102.00
Pledged.....	\$120,246.13
Number of Donors.....	432
Amount needed	
to reach Goal	\$32,855.87

Thank you for
your generous
response



SAINT MARY, OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS
1955 E. Commerce, Milford, Michigan 48381

Pastor: Fr. John Peter Arul MSFS
Fr.johnpeter@stmarymilfordmi.org

Assistant Pastor: Fr. Augustine Joseph MSFS
Fr.augustine@stmarymilfordmi.org

Pastoral Assistant/Christian Service Coordinator:
Valerie Thompson
v.thompson@stmarymilfordmi.org
Website: www.stmarymilfordmi.org
Phone: 248-685-1482 FAX: 248-684-5642

PARISH OFFICES

Secretary: Cherie Makie
parishoffice@stmarymilfordmi.org
Christian Service Assistant: Judy Vance
j.vance@stmarymilfordmi.org

FAITH FORMATION OFFICES 248-685-2702

Director of Faith Formation: Colleen Gonzalez:
c.gonzalez@stmarymilfordmi.org

Director of Adult Formation/RCIA: Anita Daroczy
a.daroczy@stmarymilfordmi.org

Men's Ministry: Faith Formation
faithformation@stmarymilfordmi.org

Director of Youth Ministry: Olivia Frailing
youthministry@stmarymilfordmi.org

Faith Formation Admin Assistant: Wendi Burke
faithformation@stmarymilfordmi.org

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Music Minister & Organist:

Steve Hansen 734-730-7970
s.hansen@stmarymilfordmi.org
Joe Hassell: Guitarist 810-623-4794

New Covenant Youth Ensemble
Maureen Simms 248-684-5289
maurtsimms@aol.com

PARISH COUNCIL

Council President: Larry Chludzinski
Council meeting is the fourth Tuesday of the month.

WORSHIP

Chairperson: Judy Ulbrich
Commission meeting is the second Tuesday of the month.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Chairperson: Jerri Somervell
Commission meeting is the second Tuesday of the month.

FAITH FORMATION

Chairperson: Mike Ciarelli
Commission meeting is the second Tuesday of the month.

FINANCE

Chairperson: Keith Hughes
Commission meeting is the third Tuesday of the month.

BAPTISMS Please call the Parish Office to arrange for your child's baptism.

MARRIAGES Arrangements may be made by contacting the Parish Office at least six months before the wedding date. You must also be a Parishioner six months previously.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Individual Confession on Saturdays between 9:00 & 9:30 am, Mondays 6:30-6:55 pm, Thursdays 8:30-8:55 am or anytime upon request by calling the Parish Office.

Rev. 11-9-20

FAITH FORMATION



**FOR ALL ADULTS,
PARENTS AND
CATECHISTS**

These classes are offered for the entire congregation for personal enrichment as well as for Catechist Certification.

All classes will be presented on Thursdays
6:30 pm via Zoom

QUESTIONS? Deacon Tim Pilon
at: deaconimpilon@yahoo.com



THEOLOGY SERIES: Thur. 12/17/2020

G. DYING AND RISING: A PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

Our human destiny is the fullness of everlasting life with God that is both revealed and promised in Jesus' victory over sin and death. The sufferings of illness, aging, violence, and death disclose a community on pilgrimage to the fullness of union with God. The purpose of this topic is to enable participants to develop a pastoral dimension within a faith context of the Resurrection as they journey with the community in the process of dying and rising.



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“He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted...”

Sheepish Question:

What worldly concerns hold me back from the freedom Christ offers?

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Longing

God, our faithful Lord,
 you accomplish your will in all things.
 We await the fulfillment of your promises.
 We long for the fullness of your kingdom,
 and that longing is our ceaseless prayer,
 Until the advent of that glorious day,
 lift up our hearts in unwavering joy.
 Show us the light that has already come into
 our world,

so that we may give you thanks in all that
 we do.
 Keep us holy and blameless
 as we undertake works of justice and
 promote peace,
 so that others may see and hear and know
 your goodness,
 and be drawn to your light.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Expectations

Today's Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28. St. Paul tells the Christians in Thessalonica to discern carefully whether a word or action is truly from God, but he also warns them not to oppose the action of God's Spirit simply because it is new or unfamiliar to them. A few decades earlier some people wondered if John the Baptist was acting according to God's Spirit. They questioned him thoroughly, but despite John's testimony, they refused to believe that God had sent him. They did not rejoice in his words because John did not fit their expectations.

Although the words of our First Reading are beautiful and compelling, some people did not believe this prophecy

because their experience was very different. The prophet describes the glorious restoration of Israel, but decades of ruin made the fulfillment of that promise seem remote. People struggled to rejoice in the prophet's words.

When God doesn't meet our expectations, we struggle to rejoice, too. We may question what, if anything, God is doing. As we light the pink candle of our Advent wreath, we ask God to permeate our darkness, especially our perplexed hearts. We ask God to help us see all that God is doing and wants to do through us. We also ask God to help us meet his expectations for us: expectations that we will always seek his light and rejoice and give thanks in the light we will find.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Goodbye and Thank you!

IT IS WITH both joy and sadness that I announce that effective December 31, 2020 I will be retiring from service at St. Mary. It has been an amazing 20 years, and I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone for all of their support and kindness. So many of you (literally hundreds) have worked tirelessly by my side over the years, helping with events, activities and all of the Christian Service programs. You have shown me the love and devotion of God over and over again with your dedication and service. You have helped me to grow as a person and also as a disciple and for that I am truly grateful. I am especially grateful to the hundreds of teens who took part in the Mission program over the years and to their parents for entrusting them to my care. It has been one of the most amazing things I have had the opportunity to be part of. I will cherish those memories for the rest of my life. I have learned as much from them as they have from me. Thank you just doesn't seem enough but it's all I have to offer.

I HAVE BEEN truly blessed these past 20 years to have been able to have a job that allowed me to do all of the things I so love to do and to be able to do it with so many wonderful people.

AS I MOVE into this new chapter of my life I will miss you all dearly, but I am looking forward to being able to spend time with my amazing new grandson.

ALL I CAN say is keep doing what you have all been doing for the past 20 years, letting the light and love of God shine through in all that you do.

THANK YOU ALL from the bottom of my heart for 20 incredible years.

Yours in Christ,
Valerie Fisher Thompson



CHRISTMAS WAFERS

THE CHRISTMAS WAFER (Oplatek) commemorates a custom many centuries old. It is a tradition among Polish, Slovak, and Lithuanian families, which has been adopted by many other ethnic groups.

THE TRADITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

AFTER GRACE IS said and before sitting down to the Christmas Eve (or Christmas Day) meal, all present share the wafer as a symbol of love, brotherhood, innocence, and Christ. The oldest person present breaks the wafer with the next oldest person exchanging wishes for health and happiness. Then the Oplatek is broken with others, beginning with the oldest child, also sharing wishes for happiness, health and good fortune. When the wafer is accepted, a willingness to forgive and forget is expressed; when it is offered to another, a willingness to share is denoted.

TO HELP CONTINUE this beautiful tradition of love and peace of the Christmas season, we make Christmas Wafers (Oplatek) available after all Masses.*

~ JV

*Sales are by donations

CHRISTMAS HAM ORDERS

IF YOU HAVEN'T decided what you are going to serve for Christmas dinner (you know it's really not that far off!)

You might want to consider a Dearborn Ham or Kielbasa.

ORDER FORMS ARE available in the courtyard lobby and on the parish website.

The order form can be found on Page 9 of this bulletin.

**PICK UP WILL BE CURBSIDE WITH NO CONTACT
DUE TO THE CURRENT SITUATION**

EXPOSITION, ADORATION AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

O Jesus, in Your Great Mercy, forgive our sinfulness, heal our brokenness and renew our hearts, that we may be one in You.

Jesus I Trust in You.

**Fridays 1 pm–5pm
Benediction begins at 4:50**

KNIGHT NEWS



MY BROTHER KNIGHTS, Thanks to all of you that helped sell our trees and make the event a success. But our work is not done for the season. This week we will be sorting out food for the Christmas food baskets. Typically we distribute over 500 pounds of food to 25 local and deserving families. This year has been particularly tough on many of our parishioners and our neighbors. The money from the tree sales and the generosity of our local Milford stores goes a long way to filling those boxes of food with canned and dry goods, and turkeys for many meals during the Holidays. Sorting is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, pick up on Saturday.

FROM FULTON J. Sheen: ‘When visiting those in grief, may I be able, by gentle and healing words, to soften their pain.’

Enjoy Sunday with your family

Gus LaRuffa - PGK (248) 912-7406

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council 7444



BLESSING TREE

This year, the trees in the church will be decorated with cards from our parishioners! Anyone who would like to take part just needs to mail us a Christmas card with a greeting. The cards will then be hung on the trees in the church. Please mail the cards to:

St. Mary Catholic Church
1955 E. Commerce St.
Milford, MI 48381

Please note on the envelope “Blessing Tree”.



“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us”

John 1:14

JESUS IS LONGING for you to visit Him. Come, rest in Our Lord, any time, any day at the St. John Paul II Perpetual Adoration Chapel located at 3700 Harvey Lake Rd, Highland.

Call Autumn Woodcox at 248-872-6607 or

Jenna Konarzewski 248-891-1623 for more information.

Come in for a quick visit or consider being a much needed weekly adorer. Please note the chapel is closed every day between 12p-1p for cleaning. Masks required.

“A voice says, “Cry out!” I answer, “What shall I cry out?”

Cry out at the top of your voice, Here is your God!”

Isaiah 40:6,9

JESUS HOPE OF THE WORLD



THE DARK DAYS of winter are now upon us. Adding to that, the darkness of the covid-19 virus continues to attack us both physically and mentally, causing uncertainty and fear. Our country’s undecided election and civil unrest, the evil of hatred which appears to be spreading and the killing of the unborn, all add to the darkness. If there is a bright side for us, it has to be that in spite of all the darkness, there is One, who alone can bring hope and light to our weary world. As long ago, the world awaited the coming of the Messiah, we know that **HE IS ALREADY HERE, AND ALWAYS WITH US.** As we prepare our hearts and homes, this year under very different and difficult circumstances, it is **“HIS ENDLESS LIGHT THAT SHATTERS THE DARKNESS AND DEATH.”** As we focus on Jesus, our world is much brighter and peaceful. We Christians are now preparing for the celebration of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, our Savior, who brought hope and light to a weary world. Hopefully our churches will remain open, Masses will be celebrated and we can receive Jesus sacramentally. For those unable to attend, our live streamed and recorded Masses are available from several sources. Any spare time can be spent praying and connecting more with our Lord, being grateful for the many blessings that we do have, our family and friends. Pray for those who are ill or have lost loved ones. If possible, be charitable to those who are less fortunate. Stay connected with family and friends by phone, zoom or skype and even a note in your Christmas cards. Read scripture, sing Christmas Carols, decorate your homes and don’t allow “human restrictions” to spoil our Christmas spirit. **TRY** to spread the Love of Jesus.

“JESUS, HOPE OF the world, Jesus Light in our darkness, Here, we await You, O Master Divine. Here we receive You in Bread and Wine, Jesus, Hope of the world. Come to us O Son of God. Come to us O Son of man. Come Son of God; come Son of man, shepherd Your people in love. Come to us O Rising Sun. Come to us O Endless Light. Come Rising Sun; come Endless Light. Shatter the darkness and death. Jesus, Hope of the world.”

Until next week,

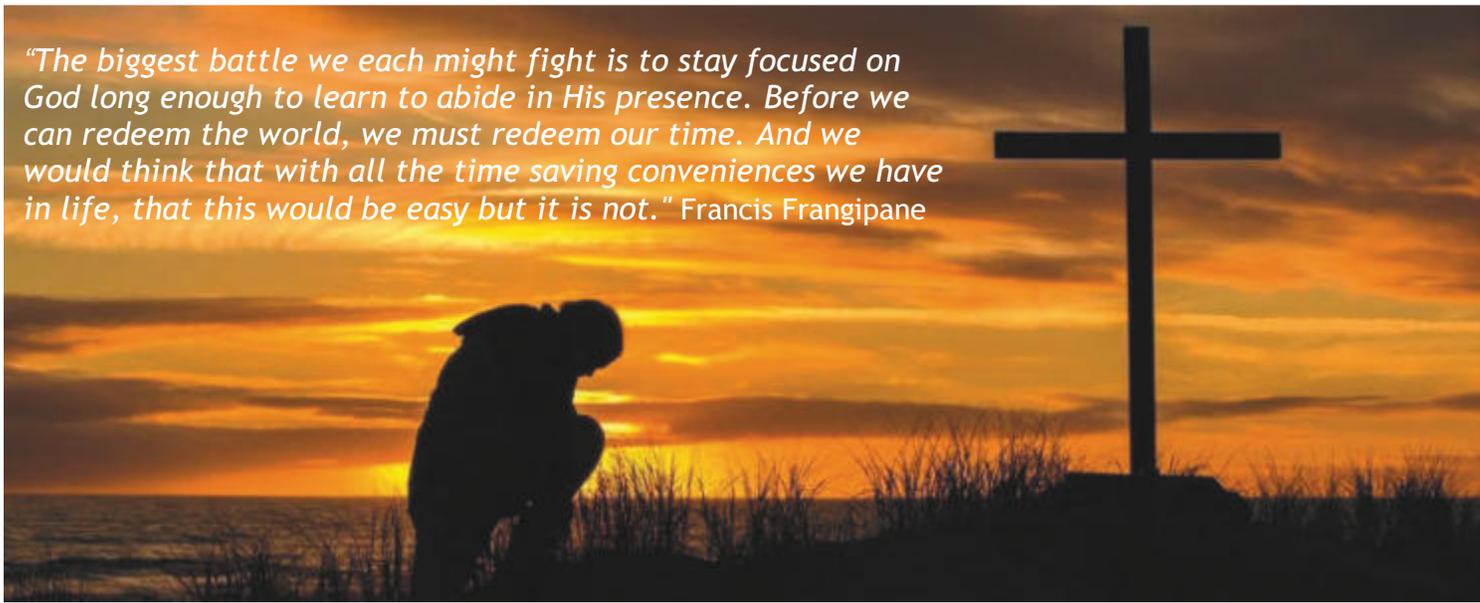
Love & Prayers,

~Arlene Loehr

P.S. JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

"The biggest battle we each might fight is to stay focused on God long enough to learn to abide in His presence. Before we can redeem the world, we must redeem our time. And we would think that with all the time saving conveniences we have in life, that this would be easy but it is not." Francis Frangipane



NEXT WEEKEND'S LITURGY

Fourth Week of advent

Introduction

THIS LAST WEEK of Advent is brief, but the message is profound. The fulfillment of God's promises is about to happen! This single day places us in a long line of yearning people. Christmas is upon us, yet the task of endless anticipation is a sacred reality we need to embrace. Just as with those who are inches away from relief, rescue or reversal of any kind, still hang on. All of life is like this.



"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."
— Luke 1:30

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Sm 7:15, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Promise of an heir from the house of David.

Ps 89 Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Rom 16:25-27 Everyone is offered salvation through Christ.

Lk 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel announces the prophecy's Fulfillment.

APPLIANCES NEEDED

ST. MARY SVDP is in need of washers, Refrigerators and a counter top microwave for area clients in need. If you have any of these items in working condition you would like to donate, [please contact either:](#)

[Nikki Morantes at 248-830-0726](#) OR

[Sheila Lengel at 810-919-8015.](#)



STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

A Constant Companion

AS CHRISTIANS, WE are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

DURING THIS BUSY time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

BRING JESUS WITH you into the office Christmas party. Take Him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of Him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give Him all your time and let His presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation Himself.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

Please note that ALL MONIES donated to St. Mary St. Vincent de Paul remain in this area, and are used to assist local families in need.

IF YOU HAVE questions or are interested in joining us, please contact Julie Jacobs at (248) 396-2857.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Michelle Adams
 Robert Andrzweski
 Brandy Asnaz
 Arlene Banka
 Laurel Bedgood
 Anthony Beningo
 Shirley Bible
 Darryl Bolitho
 Virginia Boomer
 Carol Brown
 Vince Brown
 Tom Buckley
 Dan Burke
 Sarah Campione
 Marguerite Carlise
 John Carlton
 Fran Cenzer
 Terri Chiaz
 Chuck Chidsey
 Josie Ciaravino
 John Clement
 Trevor Cline
 Bud Conrad
 Richard Cole
 Paul Corrin
 Julien Couture
 Simone Couture
 Joe Criscuolo
 Cliff & Mary Cunningham
 Mary Jane DeCender
 Russ DeLong
 John Dickey
 Jacob DiPonio
 Tonya DiPonio
 Dolores Donnellon
 P.J. Driscoll
 David Dunn
 Dylan Drouillard
 Morgan Elliot
 Alan Fergin
 Mary Finnegan
 Beverly Fleming
 Thomas Fuja
 Anthony Garofalo
 Betty Gates
 Natalina Gaviglio
 Bev Golden
 Jack Graver
 Jamie Guckian
 Eli Hansen
 Helen Harcharick
 Kathy Harcharick
 George Hayden
 Nancy Heinz
 Dennis Henry
 James Hanson
 Ann Marie Howard
 Virginia Iaconelli
 Atlas Lee Jackson
 Jackie Johnson
 Joan Johnston
 Kate Joslin
 Patricia Kelly
 Rob Kelly
 Christopher Kirk
 Jason Kirk
 Ryan Kirk
 Linda Kozlowski
 Bruce Krot
 Barb Kuehnl
 Dorothy LaFave
 Connie Lagodzinski
 Becky Lamb
 David Lashbrook
 Lorraine Latour
 Nancy Leanord
 Ron Lemmon
 David Liscinsky
 Frannie Lesniak
 Randy Manar

Cary Marakovitz
 Tom Marciniak
 Kelly Martin
 Suzanne Marzek
 Virginia Markey
 Dr. Dunsten Mascarenhas
 John Matusiak
 Michael McCarthy
 Sean McCusker
 Marge McDiarmid
 Michael McGregor
 Debra McKinney
 Kathy & Fred McMahon
 Mary McNamara
 Pete Mercer
 Michael Misteravich
 Adam Moore
 Earl & Pat Moore
 Charlotte Moss
 Fr. Ed Mitchell
 Joan Murphy
 Joan Opiela
 Mike Polcyn
 Tim Pollard
 Don Ponto
 Karl Prescher
 Susan Quade
 Fran Rabideau
 Michael Rahig
 Cindy Rashid
 Betty Redford
 John Rogers
 Marilyn Rogers
 Henry Rossi
 Sandy Roy
 George Rusczyk
 Claire Salyers
 Eileen Sausa
 Dave Scherf
 Christopher Scherf
 Lillian Schuller
 Gloria Schulte
 Jackie Schutz
 Janet Sikora
 Ken Sikorski
 Edna Skop
 Anne Sordyl
 Graham Squires
 Phil Stapleton
 Kimi Stephens
 Connie Stewart
 Duane Stibal
 Kristin Stoneback
 Helen Swiacki
 Lynn Tankersley
 Shirley Teasdale
 Bob Tomczyk
 Hai Tran
 Michael Trupiano
 Chris Tucker
 Diane Turcotte
 Bill Tumidanski
 Erin Van Gordon
 Mark Vecellio
 Sally Wagener
 Matthew Wagner
 Frank Walcheck
 Damon Weaver
 Justin Weaver
 Nina White
 William Wilkins
 Ruth Wilson
 Arlene Yearn
 Diana Zerilli
 Nicole Zapinski
 Connie Zielinski
 Laurie Zielinski
 Paxton Zielinski
 rev. 12-13-20



SAINT MARY PARISH

1955 E. Commerce, Milford, Michigan 48381
 Website: stmarymilfordmi.org
 Email: stmaryscatholicchurch@comcast.net
 Phone: 248-685-1482

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday : 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,
 12:00 noon

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Cancelled until further notice

Nursery

Closed until further notice

Weekday Masses

Monday: 7:00 p.m.
 Tues., Wed., Thurs., Friday: 9:00 a.m.
 Sat., 8:30 am

Holy Day Masses

9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 14th, 7:00pm

† Justin Kelly, req. by: His Family

Tuesday, December 15th, 9:00 am

† Salvator Cassar Sr., req. by: The Refalo Family

† A needy soul in Purgatory, req. by: Jacob Lesniak

Wednesday, December 16th, 9:00am

† Bill McGrath, (8th anniversary) req. by: Friends

Milena Sophia Marcheff, req. by: Tetyana

Thursday, December 17th, 9:00 am

Anthony Alahn Marcheff, req. by: Tetyana

Friday, December 18th, 9:00 am

† Brian Refalo, req. by: The Refalo Family

† Concetta DiPonio, req. by: Her Family

Saturday, December 19th

8:30 am (presider) Fr. John Peter

† Arulanandam, req. by: His Son

5:00 PM (presider) Fr. John Peter

† Arulanandam, req. by: His Son

† Rita Pace, req. by: Family

Sunday, December 20th

8:00 am (presider) Fr. Augustine

† Al Kossman, req. by: His Wife-Anne

† Concetta DiPonio, req. by: Her Family

10:00 am (presider) Fr. John Peter

† Richard & Betty Casey, req. by: The Casey Children

† Gene Sypniewski, req. by: The Sypniewski Family

12:00 Noon (presider) Fr. Augustine

† Kristie Fader, req. by: Mom & Dad

People of St. Mary

**IN LOVING
 REMEMBRANCE**

On behalf of the Parish Family of St. Mary, we would like to extend our deepest sympathies and prayerful reassurances to the family and friends of:

JOE JAWARSKI
 Brother-in-law of
 Cheryl Kaczmarek

OFFERTORY REPORT

Thank you so much for your great generosity and open-hearted support of St. Mary.

Our annual budget is based on contributions each week of \$22,482.00 The contributions for last weekend were \$26,977.00

This amount includes On Line Giving donations. **THANK YOU!**



ADVENT

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN QUITE THE RIDE. LET'S TAKE THIS ADVENT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REALLY ENTER INTO OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD, SURRENDER THIS YEAR BACK TO HIM AND START FRESH IN THIS NEW LITURGICAL YEAR! HERE ARE SOME IDEAS FOR WHAT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CAN DO TOGETHER FOR ADVENT:

Family Advent Prayer Challenge: <https://www.52sundays.com/advent-prayer-challengefbclid=IwAR3WZsARfGkAZK542p5SQ69TEu9mqWuQ10T6wu5NxxhntkGWvNBqGg8mTcjc>

Unshakeable Joy with Chris Stefanick:
https://coaching.reallifecatholic.com/unshakeable-joy?mc_cid=7fb874e620&mc_eid=dd764b2a00

Dynamic Catholic Best Advent Ever: <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever.html>

Gospel of Luke: If you read one chapter from the Gospel of Luke each day of Advent you will have read the entire gospel by Christmas.

Journey to Christmas: <https://www.goodcatholic.com/about-journey-to-christmas.tr>
Rejoice!: <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/rejoice-advent-meditations-with-the-holy-family>

Keep an **Advent wreath** somewhere everybody can see it, and each Sunday light the week candle and say a prayer to go with it.



St. Mary Giving Tree Fundraiser Program

Orders due by Monday, December 14, 2020 (1:00pm)
 Payment must accompany order. If returning in weekly collection or sending via mail - clearly mark **GIVING TREE FUNDRAISER PROGRAM** in the memo line and on the envelope. May also place order on-line via website: www.stmarymilfordmi.org

All orders **MUST** be picked up on **Wednesday, December 23rd** between 1pm & 6pm via curbside pick-up

Name	Phone #
6006 Half Spiral Sliced Torch Glazed Ham - \$38.00	
6005 Whole Spiral Sliced Glazed Ham - \$60.00	
6002 Half Spiral Sliced Ham/Glaze Pkt - \$35.00	
6001 Whole Spiral Sliced Ham/Glaze Pkt - \$51.00	
6003 Whole Classic Semi Boneless Ham - \$45.00	
6004 Half Classic Semi Boneless Ham - \$30.00	
6021 Smoked Kielbasa - \$25.00	
6023 Fresh Kielbasa - \$25.00	
Amount Due	
Amount Paid - (Please Indicate) _____ CASH _____ CHECK # _____	



6005 – Whole Spiral Sliced Torch Glazed Ham



6006-Half Spiral

Our Famous Dearborn Torch Glazed Ham has been slow cooked and smoked for up to 24 hours. This ham is ready to serve from fridge to table and is best served at room temperature. This product has a shelf life of 7 days from receipt or can be frozen and thawed in the refrigerator 2 days prior to use.

Average weight: 8lbs-½ ham
 Average weight: 14lbs-whole ham



6001-Whole Spiral Sliced Ham with Glaze Packet on side
6002- Half Spiral

Our Famous Dearborn ham with glaze packet. If you prefer to add the glaze yourself this ham is the ham for you. It has been cooked and smoked for up to 24 hours. It is best served at room Temperature. It has a shelf life of 14 days from receipt or can be Frozen and thawed in the refrigerator 2 days prior to use.
 Average weight: 8lbs – ½ ham, 14lbs – whole ham



6003 – Whole Classic Semi Boneless Trim Ham
6004- Half Classic

Our classic trim semi-boneless ham is a mouthwatering treat! While this ham comes pre-cooked for maximum flavor and for best results our heating instructions are included on the label.
 Average weight: 8lbs – ½ ham, 14lbs-whole ham



6023 – Fresh Kielbasa
 Enjoy our famous Dearborn Brand Fresh Kielbasa made with fresh garlic! 5lb package

6021 – Smoked Kielbasa
 Try our famous Dearborn Smoked Kielbasa. This pre-cooked Kielbasa is made with beef and pork and is ready to heat and serve. 5lb. package

Third Week of Advent Gaudete Week

Our week begins with “Gaudete Sunday.” *Gaudete* means “rejoice” in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, “The Lord is near.” This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose colored, and the rose colored vestments often used at the Eucharist.

The second part of Advent begins on December 17th each year. For the last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings changes. The first readings are still from the prophesies, but now the gospels are from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter into the story of how Jesus' life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us. Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory.

Preparing our Hearts and asking for Grace

We prepare this week by feeling the joy. We move through this week feeling a part of the waiting world that rejoices because our longing has prepared us to believe the reign of God is close at hand. And so we consciously ask:

*Prepare our hearts
and remove the sadness
that hinders us from feeling
the joy and hope
which his presence
will bestow.*

Each morning this week, in that brief moment we are becoming accustomed to, we want to light a *third* inner candle. Three candles, going from expectation, to longing, to joy. They represent our inner preparation, or inner *perspective*. In this world of “conflict and division,” “greed and lust for power,” we begin each day this week with a sense of liberating joy. Perhaps we can pause, breathe deeply and say,

*“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.”*

Each day this week, we will continue to go through our everyday life, but we will experience the difference our faith can bring to it. We are confident that the grace we ask for will be given us. We will encounter sin - in our own hearts and in our experience of the sin of the world. We can pause in those moments, and feel the joy of the words,

*“You are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people
from their sins.” Matthew 1:21*

We may experience the Light shining into dark places of our lives and showing us patterns of sinfulness, and inviting us to experience God's mercy and healing. Perhaps we wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. We may want to make gestures of reconciliation with a loved one, relative, friend or associate. With more light and joy, it is easier to say, “I'm sorry; let's begin again.”

Each night this week we want to pause in gratitude. Whatever the day has brought, no matter how busy it has been, we can stop, before we fall asleep, to give thanks for a little more light, a little more freedom to walk by that light, in joy.

Our celebration of the coming of our Savior in history, is opening us up to experience his coming to us this year, and preparing us to await his coming in Glory.

*Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people.
We await your coming. Come, O Lord.*



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