

December 13, 2020 | Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday

# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Bryan Zielenieski  
Parish Administrator

*Advent 2020*

Fr. Luke Uebler  
Parochial Vicar



## Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday!

Now is the time to rejoice! So much happening, so much yet to accomplish and yet the Third Sunday of Advent reminds us that we are still preparing for the coming of the Lord. How are your preparations going? As a parish we are also celebrating Bambinelli Sunday, the Sunday in which your infant Jesus figures are brought from your home and blessed before putting them in the manger after attending Christmas Mass. With the blessing of the baby Jesus I thought it would be great to have some prayers for you to say as your nativity figures move towards the manger.

### ***Placing of all animals in the manger scene:***

Loving God, all of creation was present at your birth. The animals shared their very home and provided warmth so that you could become God with us. As we place our animals in our manger scene, may we always care for and respect all of your creation. Amen.

### ***Placing of Shepherds:***

Loving God, you bring dignity to all people recognizing they are created in your image and likeness. The shepherds were the first to come in haste to greet you. As we place these shepherds in our manger scene, may we always recognize the dignity and respect all people deserve. Amen

### ***Placing of Joseph:***

Loving God, Joseph accepted his vocation in life by listening to the angel and taking Mary into his home. As Joseph encountered many challenging circumstances he continued to guide and protect his Holy Family. As we place Joseph in the manger, bless and guide our circumstances in life so that we can be a Holy Family. Amen

### ***Placing of Mary:***

Loving God, Mary said yes to the Angel Gabriel, and carried Jesus your Son in her womb. As her yes brought forth a Savior, may we open our hearts and minds to say yes to your will in our lives. May our actions bring Christ into our world, just as Mary's yes brought Jesus into the world.

***Wisemen and Camels:*** (They can travel to the manger from Christmas to Epiphany if desired. A suggestion would be to have them travel from room to room until January 3, 2021 when we celebrate the Epiphany.) Loving God, the Wisemen traveled from afar to seek the child Jesus and brought gifts of great importance. Just as they looked for Jesus, help us to look for Jesus and offer him the gifts of our lives so that we can spread your message of hope and love. Amen.

6919 Transit Road Swormville, N.Y. 14051  
All are welcome here, St. Mary's is a safe place to meet Jesus.

**Consider This... Prepare Reconcile, Renew**  
**Rejoicing and Planning**

An incredible **THANK YOU** to all who made our first Giving Tuesday so successful. Believe it or not, I am writing this on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the day after Giving Tuesday, but because of the bulletin schedules with the Christmas Season approaching you won't see it until around the 13<sup>th</sup> of December. Your generosity as St. Mary's is greatly appreciated, and I will keep you up to date on the status of the projects that were listed.

**The Day of Mercy** was an incredible experience of Jesus' Divine Mercy and Love upon all who joined us. There is no better way for us to prepare ourselves for Christmas than by experiencing Mercy and Love. Thanks to the visiting priests who helped us cover the 24 hours. If you missed it, there are still a few opportunities for Reconciliation available on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7 – 8pm in the chapel, or Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3pm before the 4pm Mass.

**Blessing of the Outdoor Manger and Christmas Tree** will take place this Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Wear your warm clothes and join us near the entrance of the Parish Center as we bless our outdoor Nativity scene and light the Christmas tree. Masks and distancing will be required.

**Christmas Mass Reservations** are required for anyone planning on joining us at St. Mary's for any of our Christmas Masses. This is to ensure that all safety procedures and protocols are being followed. Please go to our website and reserve your spot now, or call the parish office for assistance.

Remember, with so much going on, make sure there's still room for Jesus. May these next two weeks help us to prepare for the true reason for the season.

Keep Smiling 😊 Fr. Bryan



**Christmas Schedule**

**Christmas Eve**  
*All Masses are in the church unless otherwise noted*  
 4:00pm in the Chapel  
 2:00pm, 4:15pm - Children's Mass  
 6:30pm, 9:00pm, & Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day**  
 9:30am & 11:30am

**Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, January 1st**  
**Holy Day of Obligation (In the Church)**  
 Thursday, December 31st Vigil Mass 5:00PM  
 Friday, January 1st 9:30AM & 11:30AM  
 All in the Church



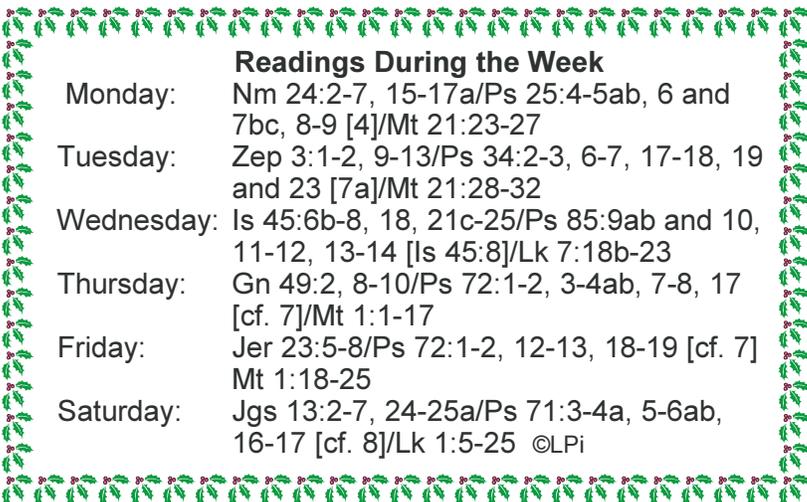
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**Readings During the Week**

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7] Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25 ©LPi



*Marriage Banns*

**December 12, 2020**  
 Mary Catherine Van Dusen & Daniel Pelgrin

**Disciples Support their Parish...  
Educating our Young Disciples...**



**St. Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach—  
Special Needs List:** Disposable diapers, especially size 1. Baby Wipes, Onesies 0-3, gently used clothing that has been freshly washed. These items may be dropped off in the designated crib in the church foyer.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We are no longer able to take the following: **Car Seats, Cribs, (except for Pack 'N Plays), used stuffed animals, used bottles, large furniture such as changing tables.** For any questions or information: Rosanne Saccoccia 741-9825 or Kim Fassel 741-3324.

**OPLATEK—THE BLESSED CHRISTMAS WAFER –** This wafer commemorates a custom that is many centuries old. Oplatek, from Latin “Oblatum” – the Holy Bread – is “Our Christmas Oblation.” It is sometimes referred to as the Bread of Angels. Breaking and sharing this Christmas wafer in traditional ways, we make our Christmas oblation of best wishes to family and friends, accompanied by expressions of forgiveness. Thus, we share harmony and joy in Christ as the Christmas festival family of God.



**Thank you** to parishioners Craig Holler (Holler Excavating) and John Siefert (John Siefert Landscaping) for donating their services to plant two 10' Frasier Fir Evergreen Trees in front of church. The trees will be decorated for the Christmas Season and will be part of our Tree Lighting Ceremony.

ing their services to plant two 10' Frasier Fir Evergreen Trees in front of church. The trees will be decorated for the Christmas Season and will be part of our Tree Lighting Ceremony.



**Christmas Flowers –** This year we again invite parishioners to make a donation toward Christmas Flowers in memory of their loved ones. If you would like to make a donation, please fill out the form below and enclose it in an envelope with your donation. Mark the envelope “Christmas Flowers” and place it in the collection basket or send it to the Parish Office. A list of contributors and honorees will be displayed by the Christmas Flowers. (You may also use the Christmas Flower Envelopes that are included in your envelope packets).

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR (CIRCLE ONE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION)



The Knights of Columbus St Mary’s Council , along with the St Pius Council, will be sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive, to be held Tuesday Dec 29. Blood donations will be accepted from 1:30 until 6pm, at the St Pius Father Weber Center, located at 1700 North French Road in Getzville at St Pius Church. Please give blood if you are able.



St. Mary School  
SWORMVILLE

**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:  
Mrs. Shannon Federowicz**

Mrs. Shannon Federowicz is a 16 year veteran teacher at St. Mary School. She coordinates Makerspace activities throughout the school, teaches technology, and provides IT support to the SMS teachers and staff. Mrs. Federowicz attended Catholic elementary school and credits her foundation in Catholic education as “the reason I have a relationship with God.” She says she continues to teach in a Catholic school because, “It allows me to be a better disciple of God.”

When asked why she continues to teach at St. Mary School , she shared, “The whole school community is like an extension of my family. My daughters attend SMS and I trust each of them (faculty) with the educational and spiritual guidance and growth of my children.”



Call 689-8424  
to learn about  
our school!

To read the entire interview with Mrs. Federowicz,  
go to St. Mary School’s website:  
[www.stmaryschoolswormville.org](http://www.stmaryschoolswormville.org)

### Disciples Support their Community...



**Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP)** is a national charitable organization with over 230 chapters across the U.S. that build and deliver beds to kids in need at no cost to that child's family. We've recently organized a Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapter locally, determined to give kids, ages 3 – 17 yrs., a safe and comfortable place to lay their heads. Currently, we service target zip codes in the poorest segments of the City of Buffalo where the need is greatest. We also accept donations for new twin-size bedding (sheets, blankets and pillows). From start to finish, each bed costs approximately \$200, each bunk bed \$400. Donations can be made to the Buffalo SHP chapter through the SHP website at <https://www.shpbeds.org/>, by check to Sleep in Heavenly Peace-Buffalo chapter, 60 Bryant Woods South, Amherst, NY 14228 or on our Facebook page @SHPBuffalo. To learn more about our mission and how you can help or volunteer, please contact Jerry Sheldon, President of SHP-Buffalo at (716)570-3449 or at [jerry.sheldon@shpbeds.org](mailto:jerry.sheldon@shpbeds.org)



Every Advent is a time of waiting in the final weeks and days of Mary's pregnancy, in addition to our vigil awaiting the Lord's return in glory. Our liturgical readings sequentially lead us to Christ's birth. We hear about miraculous conceptions in the lives of Elizabeth and Mary and the joy of John the Baptist leaping in Elizabeth's womb. We see the image of Joseph leading the pregnant Mary on a donkey to Bethlehem. In these days of Advent, the whole world awaits the birth of an infant who will take away the sins of the world. We journey with the pregnant Mary and await the day the prophets foretold. Our liturgical observance conveys a subtle pro-life message as we wait with expectation. As we live these Advent days, be sure to celebrate life in all of its stages from conception until natural death and see Jesus in every human person!



**Diocese of Buffalo Office of Pro-Life Telephone Hot-Line Numbers:** Crisis Pregnancy, Abortion Alternatives & Healing, 847-2205. St. Gianna Pregnancy Outreach Centers, helping Mothers & Fathers in Need: **Buffalo**, 716-842-2229, **Chautauqua County**, 716-203-7593, **Niagara County**, 716-284-2229.

**WNY Postpartum Connection**—For a directory of mental health and support services for pregnant and postpartum moms visit [wnypostpartum.com](http://wnypostpartum.com)

**Project Rachel**—A post-abortion Reconciliation Program. Receive free, nonjudgmental, confidential information. Office of Pro-Life Activities/Diocese of Buffalo. We care. Let us help you. Confidential Hotline (716) 847-2211.

**Every Saturday from 8:15-9:45AM** the Rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet are said outside of Buffalo Women Services at 2500 Main St. for the unborn children, mothers, fathers and families. Please consider joining the Warriors of Love for a peaceful, prayerful witness to pray for the end to abortion. Come for all or part of the prayer time.



**Giving Tree**—The spirit of giving and helping those in need are intricate parts of our Church community. This is our 21st year of offering the Giving Tree for the many men, women and children in our area that desperately need our prayers and thoughtful assistance. The list of organizations participating this year include: St. Mary's Families, BestSelf Family Connections & BestSelf Recovery Connections, Erie Co. Holding Center, Alden Correctional Facility, Niagara Co. Correctional Facility, West Side Blessings, Compass House, Vive LaCasa, Response to Love Center, Gerard Place, International Institute of Buffalo-Human Trafficking and Mercy Comprehensive Care Center. Ornaments are available on the Giving Trees in the church and chapel.

Please read the instructions on the front and back of the ornament and return your unwrapped gift in a holiday bag (under the Giving Tree) **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER THIS WEEKEND To help those that are not coming into church, we will have a Drive-Up Gift Return opportunity on Sunday, Dec. 13th from 1 PM to 4 PM at the back of the church.** Volunteers will be available to take your gift out of your car or trunk - germ free!!

There has been some concern in the past that certain suggested gifts seemed unusual. It is important to note that many of the individuals on our tree have special circumstances, including: mental illness, physical illness, chemical addictions and abusive situations at home. We thank you for your understanding and sensitivity. We have committed to delivering a gift to every one of the individuals on the giving tree. Please make sure to return a gift if you take an ornament.

Please call Joanie Clover 870-3582 with any questions.



**"Warm Tree"** - When all of the ornaments are taken off our Giving Tree, it's time to start bringing in hats, mittens, and scarves to place on the tree. These will be distributed to those in need.

**Alternative Christmas Gift Giving Through Ann Marie Zon's Nicaraguan Mission**—The Nicaraguan Mission provides a wonderful way to support a needy family while giving Christmas gifts to your family/friends.

**For a \$100 donation** you can give a pregnant cow to a needy family. The cow's first calf will be given to another family. The cow will serve the family for seven years providing milk, cheese and calves. **For a \$50 donation** you can give a pig which will birth 6-12 piglets twice a year. Or you can send a child to school for a full year. **\$30 supports** an elementary student, **\$50 a middle-schooler**, and **\$100 a high school student**. A **\$600 donation** will send a student to college for a year.

Gift cards will be provided for your recipients. **Send your check made out to NICARAGUAN MISSION** to 100 Sundown Trail, Williamsville, NY 14221 For any further information call Joe Testa at 688-8357.

**Educating our Young Disciples...****Faith Formation News—This formation year's focus is to Serve with a Heart Like Jesus**

**Prayer:** Dear God, Thank You for giving me the Spirit of Your Son to live in my spirit. Please help me to serve others with His Heart. Let people feel Your love as You touch and bless them through me. Amen.

**Scripture:** "Serve him with all your heart and with all your soul." Joshua 22:5

**Serving with a Heart Like Jesus:** Clothe the Naked is a Corporal Work of Mercy.

- Your family can live this out by; donating gently used clothing to St. Vincent DePaul Society or another organization in need of clothing items.

**Highlight of what's been happening:** Our St. Mary's Parish Teens are discovering what the Advent season is all about by attending sessions held on Sunday's after the 6:00 pm Mass throughout the four weeks of the Advent season. This event is open to children in grades 6-12. Interested in joining? The link to sign up is found on our Faith Formation calendar. Notice in the **picture below, the Jesse Tree.**



**Faith in Action!** Your Christmas tree is full of history! As your family is sitting around your own Christmas tree, identify which ornament is the oldest, and share its story. Take turns telling memories of a favorite ornament you have on the tree.

**What to look forward to:**

- **Families with young kids** - Watch "Take A Minute with Jesus" found in the weekly online newsletter each Sunday.
- **Families with teens** - Sign up to attend our Teen Bible Study on December 14 6:30pm -7:45pm in the Church.

**Young Adults** - No need to sign up, just show up for our Second Sunday young adult group for ages 18 - 25. Our next gathering is 10:45am – 12:15pm on December 13<sup>th</sup> in room 109 of the Parish Center (Youth Room) Please use the rear parking lot entrance of the Church.

To get more information on these activities and more, check out our online calendar found on our St. Mary's website under the Faith Formation tab.

**Faith Challenge:** Make a homemade ornament together as a family. Don't forget to add the date. Check out Pinterest for tons of ideas!

**Contact the Faith Formation Office if you would like more information about:**

Our Faith Formation programs  
 Adult Faith Enrichment  
 Youth Ministry  
 Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Eucharist, or Confirmation



**What's this ADVENT thing all about?** Come join the Youth Ministry Team while we learn more about the ADVENT season in preparation for Christmas. **Sunday December 13 and 20th from 7:15pm – 8:15pm in the Parish Center Room 109.** Intended for school grades 6-12. Parents are welcome to stay. Each week will have a focus to discuss, activities and something to make or take home to reflect the topic for that week. Attendance to all four weeks is definitely encouraged however, not required. Consider these sessions as a Faith Experience for those preparing for Confirmation.

The link to sign can be found on the St Mary's website, Faith Formation calendar. Contact the Youth Ministry Team with any questions

639-8891 or youth@stmaryswormville.org

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 13, 2020**

**Saturday, December 12, 2020—Vigil**

2:00PM Wedding—Mary Catherine Van Dusen & Daniel Pelgrin (chapel)  
4:00PM Joan Daigler by Lee & Gene Santercole

**Sunday, December 13, 2020—Third Sunday of Advent  
Gaudete Sunday**

7:30AM Pete & Joyce Oehman by the family  
9:30AM Alice Bunce by Michael & Carol Gilgunn  
11:30AM Angeline Diliberto by the Diliberto Family  
6:00PM Roberta Quaresima by Antonietta Ducoli

**Monday, December 14, 2020—St. John of the Cross,  
priest and doctor of the Church**

7:00AM John Schinas by the O'Donnell & Max Families  
9:00AM Lois Owcarz by the family

**Tuesday, December 15, 2020**

7:00AM Sam Ward by his estate  
9:00AM Gerhard Diegelman by wife & family

**Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

7:00AM Ann Forte by family & friends  
9:00AM Commemoration of Jesus Agony in the Garden of Olives by Carmela Lattuca

**Thursday, December 17, 2020**

7:00AM Marie C. & Jacob J. Monkelbaan by their estate  
9:00AM Genevieve Donatelli by daughter Deanna

**Friday, December 18, 2020**

7:00AM All Souls' Intentions by Parishioners  
9:00AM Ruth Rowe (anniversary of death) by her estate

**Saturday, December 19, 2020**

9:00AM Kenneth Hill, Jr. by Mary Beth & Bruce Goodman  
4:00PM Edward & Barbara Knoerl by Dr. & Mrs. Gary Swistak

**Sunday, December 20, 2020—Fourth Sunday of Advent**

7:30AM Fannie & Francis Bolognese by Patricia & John Rapp  
9:30AM John Ducoli by Antonietta & family  
11:30AM Amanda Slisz by the family  
6:00PM Norm & Peg Stroth by the Eichelberger Family

**Prepare Next Week Sunday's Readings**

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." *Luke 1:31*

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

**Please Note:**

**Daily Mass: 7 & 9am, Monday-Thursday (chapel)**

**Friday 7am & 9am church**

**Saturday 9am church**

**A Vocation View**—John the Baptist urged his followers to turn away from sin and renounce anything that was keeping them from doing God's will. What can you turn away from in order to hear God's call more clearly and answer more readily? If God is calling you to a Church vocation, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit [buffalovocations.org](http://buffalovocations.org)

**Pastoral Team**

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Deacon Gary Hoover [dcnh1@outlook.com](mailto:dcnh1@outlook.com)

Deacon Richard Stachura

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Phone: 688-9380 Fax: 688-6025

Mon.-Fri. 8:30AM-4:00PM

[rectory@stmaryswormville.org](mailto:rectory@stmaryswormville.org)

Website: [www.stmaryswormville.org](http://www.stmaryswormville.org)

**Bulletin Articles**

[bulletin@stmaryswormville.org](mailto:bulletin@stmaryswormville.org)

**Trustees**

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**Principal:** Mary Jo Aiken

Phone 689-8424 Fax 689-0004

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Karen Smaczniak ext. 14

**Sacrament Coordinator for Penance & Eucharist**

Betsy White ext. 36

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**Director of Youth Ministry**

**Sacrament of Confirmation**

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**Parish Life Coordinator**

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**RCIA / Adult Formation**

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Family Faith Formation 688-0599

**Parish Council Chair/**

**Vice-Chair**

Stanley Zak 741-3673

Tony Pridgeon 688-5278

[parishcouncil@stmaryswormville.org](mailto:parishcouncil@stmaryswormville.org)

**Mass Schedule:**

**Saturday Vigil: 4pm**

**Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30am & 6pm**

**Daily: 7 & 9am Mon.-Thurs. Chapel**

**7 & 9am Fri. Church**

**9am Sat. Church**

**Holy Days: 5pm Vigil, 7 & 9am, 7pm**

**Eucharistic Adoration:**

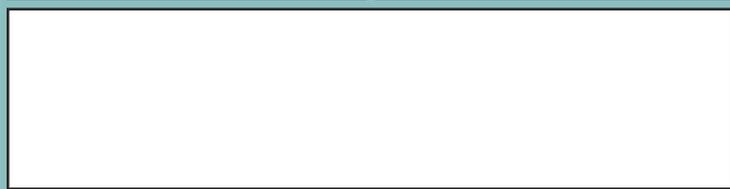
First Friday, 9:30am-noon in the church

**Confession: Saturdays 3-3:45pm and after 4pm Mass**

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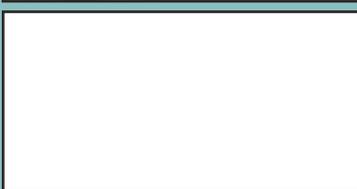


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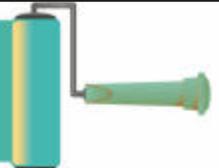
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