



St. Mary of the *Assumption* Roman Catholic Church

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 26, 2021

"After three days they found him in the temple..."
Luke 2:46

Ablaze Young Adult Ministry Celebrates Christmas with a Paint Night



St. Mary's young adult ministry, **Ablaze**, held a Christmas Paint Night on Dec. 16. The group shared fun and fellowship while painting Christmas trees, listening to Christmas music, and answering trivia questions.

1 St. Mary's Hill
Lancaster, NY 14086
stmarysonthehill.org

Rectory Phone (716) 683-6445
Rectory Fax (716) 684-8446
Rectory Hours Weekdays: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
School Phone (716) 683-2112
School Website smeschool.com
Faith Formation (716) 683-8564
Cemetery (716) 601-0305

Masses

Saturday: 4:30 & 7 p.m.
Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & 12 Noon
Weekdays: 12 Noon
All Masses are celebrated in Church.

Live Streamed Masses:

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.
Weekdays: 12 Noon

Confessions

Saturday 3:30 - 4 p.m. or by appointment
Regional Penance Services during Advent & Lent

Parish Registration

We welcome new parishioners to St. Mary's!
Registration may be made by phone or in person.

Readings for This Week

- Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
- Monday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
- Friday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
- Saturday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Ablaze Young Adult Ministry



Ablaze is looking for young adults to help build this new, vibrant ministry. Young adults in their 20s and 30s who are interested in joining the ministry team to help plan and participate in events should contact Jennifer Gaglione at jakaite1@gmail.com or 716-480-0510. Or reach out through Facebook or Instagram: [@AblazeBuffaloNY](https://www.instagram.com/AblazeBuffaloNY)

Mark Your Calendar: 2022 Parish Mission

Dr. Edward Sri will present a two-day parish mission entitled *Living Lent* on Tuesday, March 15 and Wednesday, March 16 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. As in previous years, the Lenten mission will be co-sponsored by St. Mary's, Our Lady of Pompeii, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta and St. Martha parishes. The 2022 mission will be held at St. Martha Church, 10 French Road, Depew. *Watch for more information!*

Masses for the Week

- Monday – December 27 – St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**
12:00 p.m. Dr. & Mrs. John J. Nowak (Virginia)
- Tuesday – December 28 – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**
12:00 p.m. Jean Reynders (Family)
- Wednesday – December 29 – Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord – St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr**
12:00 p.m. Stella & Theodore Panasiewicz, Viola & Frank Kwandrans (Family)
- Thursday – December 30 – Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**
12:00 p.m. Thomas Bielat (Sandy Kulpit)
- Friday – December 31 – Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord – St. Sylvester I, Pope**
4:30 p.m. Herb & Beth Wutz (Family)
- Saturday – January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**
8:00 a.m. Karen Dake (Jim & Marian Snyder)
12:00 p.m. Carol Monkelbaan (Jim & Marian Snyder)
4:30 p.m. John A. Schrader (Nieces & Nephews)
7:00 p.m. Barb Bigos (Josie Laptina)
- Sunday – January 2 – Epiphany of the Lord**
8:00 a.m. Ronald Hermann (In Loving Memory)
10:00 a.m. Jeanne & Roy Smith (Jerry & Marilyn)
12:00 p.m. Carl Hetherly, Jr. (Aunt Ginny)

Offer a Mass for a Loved One

As a special way to remember a deceased loved one, or for the intentions of someone living, please consider offering a Mass for them at St. Mary's.

The usual donation for Masses for such intentions is \$15. You may select Mass dates, as they are available. Please contact the Rectory to schedule a Mass, or send the name of the person for whom a Mass is being offered to: St. Mary of the Assumption, 1 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster, NY, 14086.

Your check should be made payable to St. Mary of the Assumption. Please include your name and phone number.



New St. Mary's Blog! L.I.F.E. ~ Living in Faith Everyday

Visit the St. Mary's website to read our new L.I.F.E. blog. Our blog will feature articles, devotionals, and testimonies about the Catholic faith. We hope to equip Catholics with the knowledge and guidance they need to defend the faith, grow deeper in their relationship with the Lord, and live in faith everyday. Our first post, *Spiritual Fitness in the New Year*, is available to read now online.



Father Paul and the St. Mary's staff would like to say thank you to everyone who generously volunteered throughout the past year. St. Mary's volunteers always go above and beyond, offering their time and talents to lead vibrant ministries, teach our children, help with fundraisers, decorate our church, and more. Due to the ongoing pandemic, there is not a Volunteer Brunch planned at this time. We look forward to gathering together to celebrate our volunteers as soon as we may do so safely. In the meantime, we offer our sincere thanks and blessings to you all.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

A Prayer for Renewal

In every age, O God, you have called us
to be your people, to be your Church.
In this time, we begin anew to discern
the pathways that will lead us,
your people, closer to you.
Continually Bless our journey
as we proclaim your Good News,
celebrate your saving presence among us,
serve others with charity and justice,
and steward the world
you have entrusted to our care.
Send your Spirit to lead and guide
our Emmaus journey as we commit
ourselves to the renewal of our Church.
This we ask through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



St. Mary's New Year's Masses

New Year's Eve Mass Friday, December 31:
Solemnity of Mary Vigil
4:30 p.m.

New Year's Day Masses Saturday, January 1:
Solemnity of Mary
8 a.m. & Noon

4:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
(These two Masses fulfill the Sunday obligation)

Faith Formation Update

Saturday classes: 1/8, 1/22
Sunday High School Classes: 1/9, 1/23
Monday Middle School Classes: 1/10, 1/24

Thank you for making faith formation a priority in your families. We appreciate each and every one of you. We are excited to continue our journey together in the new year. We look forward to praying together with you at Mass! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Becky and Kaitlin



Thank You for Supporting St. Mary's! 12 Days of Christmas Raffle Sale Closed Dec. 17

Thank you to all who supported this new fundraiser! Daily Cash prizes will be awarded from Saturday, December 25 through Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Winners will be contacted after January 5.

For more information, email Jennifersparmo@gmail.com or call (716) 713-0719.

Calendar Club 2022 Closes Dec. 31

Calendars make great gifts, and this year we are running two sets - A and B - so more people can join in the fun! Your \$20 donation registers you for all 2022 drawings. Winning numbers will be generated using a random number generator (000-999) and will be published at the beginning of the following month.

For more information, email jesskulpit@gmail.com.

Scrip News

Support St. Mary's with Scrip! Shop available inventory in the Rectory, Monday-Friday between 9:00-4:00. A percentage of every sale comes back to St. Mary's! Consider all the places that you normally shop, including Tops groceries and gas, prescriptions, coffee breaks, and more!

Cash or checks accepted. We thank you for your support throughout the year!
Questions? Call (716) 683-6445, Ext. 12, or email: scrip@smeschool.com



A Vocation View

Feast of the Holy Family – December 26, 2021

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, all had to make sacrifices to accomplish the Will of God. Let's all be open to the idea that our children or grandchildren may be called to serve the Church as a priest or religious sister. Let us not stand in the way of those whom God has called. For help in discerning God's will, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org.

Sale of Card Holders Benefits Parish

Hand-crafted solid wood card holders made from old St. Mary's Church pews are available for purchase at the Rectory during regular business hours – while supplies last. The antique oak card holders are priced at \$15, with all proceeds going to our parish. Special thanks to parishioner Dave Wienckowski for his talented work in making them. And thanks to our parishioners for your support!

A Spirit of Giving

Many ministries and parishioners at St. Mary's went above and beyond to help others in need this Christmas season.



St. Mary's Faith Formation middle and high school classes donated over 60 bags of gifts for teens rescued by the Western New York nonprofit organization P.A.T.H. (People Against Trafficking Humans).



St. Mary's W.I.N.G.S. (Women in God's Spirit) collected items for the Felician Sisters, food for R.O.C. (Rural Outreach Center), and P.A.T.H. (People Against Trafficking Humans)



St. Mary's Ladies of Charity and St. Mary's parishioners made donations to support Catholic Charities' Immigrant and Refugee Center in Buffalo. Around 50 bags of donations went to help refugee families settling in Western New York.

Volunteers Needed For Live Streaming

Additional volunteers are needed to assist with live streaming Masses at St. Mary's. This can be done at Church and possibly from home in the future, with minimal training and time commitment. If you can help, please call the Rectory at (716) 683-6445. *Thank you!*

Meditation & Yoga as Christian Spiritual Practice

St. Mary's next Meditation & Yoga as Christian Spiritual Practice class will be held on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Parish Center. Safe distancing will be maintained. Classes are free of charge; however, donations will be accepted. Please bring your own mat. For more information, please contact Jane Schmitt at Janeschmitt@hotmail.com or (716) 984-6282.

Around the Area

- **Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish**, 496 Terrace Boulevard, Depew, invites everyone to attend its **Eucharistic Holy Hour** every Tuesday from 7 to 8 p.m., with Deacon John Hendricks presiding.
- **Our Lady of Pompeii Parish**, 129 Laverack Avenue, Lancaster, will hold its free monthly **Faith Enrichment Series** on Monday, January 3 from 7 to 8 p.m. Seminarian C.J. Wild will present **CALLED TO SERVE: Reflections on Christian Leadership**. For more information, visit olpparish.com or call (716) 683-6522.
- **UB North Newman Center**, 495 Skiddersville Road, Amherst, will host an Annulment Workshop on Saturday, February 5 from 9 to 11 a.m. The session will include information on the recent changes in the annulment process and step-by-step help in getting started. A nominal registration fee will cover the cost of materials. For additional information, contact Barbara at 716-633-7786 or BJWTR@aol.com. Walk-ins are welcome.



Please Remember in Your Prayers

Eddie Krajewski, Joan Pomietlarz, Stephanie Merenda, Rose Marie Nowak, Tracey Rogowski, Richard Marr, Judith Zielinski, Robert Nye, Joseph Scandurra, Richard Zielinski, Tammy Bosse Phillips, John Netter, Christine Zgoda, Molly Fleischman, Chris Nicastro, Thomas Barniak, Jennifer LaValley, John Zbock, Mary Peterson, Bob Lipiarz, Lisa Schmidt, Virginia Nowak, Mark Antonio, Sr., M. Margaret Benz, Erik Slimko, Leigh Szablewski, Stephen Czaplá, Kathleen Slawatycki, Thomas Kostek, Mario Petrosky, Alice Ann Ott, Sandra Lisowski, Jim Doherty, Samuel Suzano, Robert Stevens, Robert Niznansky, Monica Niznansky, Mark Niewiemski, Sr., Linda Rugani, Patricia Singleton, Shirley Rinow, Augusta Stefano, Erin Heerd, Tim Bosse, Charles Friedmann, Barb Kegler, Tracy Martell, Robert Knauber, Gertrude Hauserman, Matthew Schmidt, David Hake, Carole Olejniczak, Rosemary Schmitt, Arlene Jason, Ruth Wunner, Suzanne Notarpole, and Bill Anstett.

Please Pray for Those in the Armed Forces...

Raymond Herr, Jeremiah & Rebecca Herr (Air Force), Robert Napper (Navy), LTC Evelyn Vento, M.D. (Army), Christopher Pfeil, Jr. (Air Force), Chief Fireman William Noll (Coast Guard), Capt. Kelly Lelito (Army), Patrick Brotka (Navy), Capt. Thomas Derion (Army), Col. David J. Roll (Air Force), LCPL Anthony Celano (Marines), Anthony Celani, Jr., Maj. Jeffrey Buczak (Army), Lance Corporal Stephen St. George (Marines), Msgt. Mark T. Braun (Marines), PV2 Jacob C. White (Army), Maj. Geoff Guinnup (Army), Matthew Banach (Air Force), Capt. Robert Gold (Army), Capt. Daniel Warner (Army), Capt. Joshua T. Mertzluft (Air Force), Sgt. Gregory Glauber (Army), Capt. Ethan Rugani (Army), Capt. Benjamin Geblein (Army), Capt. Matthew A. Keysa (Army), Lt. Jacob Concannon (Air Force), MC3 Joseph Calabrese (Navy), AMAA Vincent DiJoseph (Navy), Lt. Marcus Knoll (Navy), and MA1 Mitchell Cayea (Navy).

Staff

Pastor	Rev. Paul W. Steller	ext. 17	paul@stmarysonthehill.org
Weekend Associate	Rev. Msgr. Frederick D. Leising		
Permanent Deacon	Deacon John Owczarczak		john@stmarysonthehill.org
Business Manager	Robert E. Over	ext. 36	bob@stmarysonthehill.org
Cemetery Director	Daniel E. Rinow	ext. 34	danny@stmarysonthehill.org
Director of Music	Andrea Ross	330-9182	andrea@stmarysonthehill.org
Director of Faith Formation	Becky Hoag	683-8564	becky@stmarysonthehill.org
Faith Formation Coordinator	Kaitlin Scirri	683-8564	kaitlin@stmarysonthehill.org
Communications Coordinator	Kaitlin Scirri	683-6445 ext. 24	kaitlin@stmarysonthehill.org
Events Coordinator	Mary Kate DeMarzio	ext. 12	marykate@stmarysonthehill.org
Parish Bookkeeper	Heather Pierce	ext. 14	heather@stmarysonthehill.org
Parish Secretary	Carol Kwandrans	ext. 10	carol@stmarysonthehill.org
Parish Trustees	Christina Pietrantonio, Dan Stoiber		
School Principal	Kim Kwitowski	683-2112 (ext. 124)	kwitowskik@smeschool.com

Ministries and Parish Outreach

Ablaze Young Adult Ministry	Jennifer Gaglione	480-0510	Ladies of Charity	Holly Walter	656-9583
Altar Society	Gertrude Wolski	683-0593	Liturgy	Joe Kugler	681-5448
Archiving	Rectory	683-6445	Liturgy Environment	Elaine Driscoll	683-8611
Baptism Preparation	Rectory	683-6445	Marriage Rehearsals	Deacon John Owczarczak	683-3269
Before Cana Marriage Prep	Deacon John Owczarczak	683-3269	Meditation & Yoga	Jane Schmitt	984-6282
Bereavement	Marilyn Streit	684-9864	Ministry of Praise	Rectory	683-6445
Care of the Soul Book Club	Diane Knittel	601-7860	Music	Andrea Ross	330-9182
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon John Owczarczak	683-3269	Outreach Coordinator	Holly Walter	656-9583
Evangelization	Holly Walter	656-9583	Prayer Shawls	Patricia Kedzierski	681-2284
Faith Formation	Becky Hoag	683-8564	Prison Ministry	Jack Thielmann	684-5777
Finance Council	Dan Stoiber	683-6445	R.C.I.A.	Mary Nowak	681-4145
Food Baskets	Elaine Driscoll	683-8611	Respect Life	Deacon John Owczarczak	683-3269
Funeral Breakfasts	Josie Wienckowski	683-4749	SME School	Kim Kwitowski	683-2112
Greeters	Paula Clarone	685-9356	Social Justice Ministry	Holly Walter	656-9583
Hospitality	Elaine Driscoll	683-8611	St. Vincent de Paul	Jim Snyder	395-5677
Junior Ladies Of Charity	Marian Snyder	681-2957	Ushers	Harold Knittel	260-0911
Knights of Columbus	Rectory	683-6445	WINGS (Women's Bible Study)	Kim Dobiesz	683-6445

Parish Registration

St. Mary's welcomes new parishioners at anytime. Please call the Rectory or register in person.

Baptism

Parishioners are asked to contact the Rectory before the birth of a child and to participate in a program of preparation for the celebration of Baptism. Baptisms are celebrated the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 1:15 p.m. or during any weekend Mass. A godparent should be a practicing Catholic and must obtain a Letter of Recommendation from his or her own parish. Please call the Rectory for details and registration.

Confessions

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered on Saturdays from 3:30 to 4 p.m. or by appointment, by calling the Rectory. Area Penance Services are offered during Advent and Lent.

Marriages

Before a wedding date is scheduled, arrangements must be made with the pastor at least six months in advance. Weddings may be scheduled anytime after 3:00 p.m. on Fridays and before 1:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti, etc. is prohibited.

Ministry to the Sick

Mass with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be held the third Sundays of May and November at 3:00 p.m. in the Church. Due to COVID restrictions,

we have paused taking Communion to parishioners at home. Please notify the Rectory when a parishioner is admitted to a hospital or nursing home.

Bulletin Announcements

Bulletin Editor: Kaitlin Scirri
Email materials to kaitlin@stmarysonthehill.org at least nine days before the date of the bulletin in which they are to appear. Please allow extra time during holidays.

Low Gluten Hosts

Hosts with .01% gluten content are available at Masses. Please advise the priest just prior to each Mass that you will need this host, and receive from that priest, who is aware of the condition.

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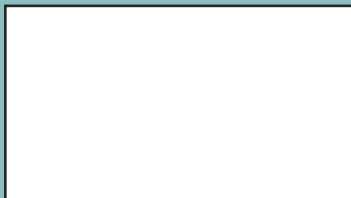
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