



## ADVENT NEWSLETTER 2021

**St. Mary Directory**  
14200 E. Old U.S.Hwy. 12  
Chelsea, MI 48118-1124  
[www.stmarychelsea.org](http://www.stmarychelsea.org)

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Email [SMCCH@aol.com](mailto:SMCCH@aol.com)

V. Rev. William J. Turner, PhD, KCHS, Pastor  
Thomas Franklin, Deacon  
D. Michael Martin, Deacon  
Wayne Slomiany, Deacon  
Dick Shaneyfelt, Senior Deacon

**OFFICE SECRETARY**

Beth Wenzel

**PARISH BUSINESS MANAGER**

Beth Ewald

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE**

Marita Martin, L.E.M; D.R.E. 475-8164  
Secretary: Jenny Haroney

**YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE**

Ryan Houle 475-3250  
**MUSIC MINISTER**

Steve Hinz 475-7561

**PARISH NURSE**

Kathy Payne, R.N. 475-1497

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday 9:00AM - 5:00PM

**SUNDAY MASSES:**

Saturday 4:30 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:00AM

**CONFESSIONS:**

Saturday, 12:00-1:00 PM

**EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION**

Thursday, 9:00AM - Friday, 9:00AM  
Extended to Sat. 9 AM on first Saturday, and  
until 7 PM Friday in Lent

Mass at St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea Hospital  
Wednesday, 4:00PM (when permitted)

**BAPTISMS:** 2nd Sunday of the month by  
appointment

**MARRIAGE:** arrangements to be made nine  
months in advance, please call the office  
before setting the date.

**Franciscan Sisters** 475-9005

**From Your Canon:**

SERVING OVER 1100 FAMILIES IN  
OUR 176th YEAR

We have moved forward with as much activity that is safely allowed to prevent taking any part in the spread of Covid. So far we have been very successful. We have returned to **Religious Education Programs** for children and adults. I am so grateful to our parishioners, many of whom have supported the parish through the use of **Online Banking Donations**, making it possible for the parish to fully function. I encourage those who have yet to return to Mass that **it is time**. There is evidence that coming to Mass has not seemed to spread the virus. Christians live out their lives trusting in God and God has always answered our prayers.

This coming church year, beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, we reflect upon the **Gospel of Luke**. We will see Jesus as the great healer, defeating evil and sickness wherever he goes. We need at this time to be encouraged by that news. I **again encourage your generosity**, especially as we draw near to Christmas, to the annual donations to **St. Louis Center and Faith in Action**. Gift tags will be available as usual in early December. **Our Secret Santa donations** provide for so many in the Chelsea area who have additional needs, especially for children at Christmas. I am also happy to send **donations from you to the Holy Land Christians and Parishes** through our direct bank transfers. I hope we will be able to have a **Holy Land trip** this coming June.

**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception** will be a Holy Day this year on Wednesday, December 8. Masses are Tuesday at 6 PM and Wednesday at 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM. **Regional Penance Services** are celebrated December 13-16.

**The Annual Live Nativity** is planned again this year as well as **The Christmas Parade**. Keep informed on our website concerning our events. Our annual **Appreciation Party** for volunteers will be on Saturday, December 11 after the 4:30 PM Mass. Please see the back page here for all Christmas seasonal services. **Jan. 1, the Motherhood of Mary, is not a Holy Day** in the coming schedule.

**Christmas Buttons** will again be available at the front door this Advent as we strive to publicly celebrate what we believe, that **Christ coming made all the difference** and his presence ignites our care for the poor and suffering. This is a time to reach out to them with that Christmas spirit and have the freedom to do so unimpeded. May God indeed bless those around us through our enthusiasm for Christmas time and **"May God bless us, everyone!"**

*Receive our Thanksgiving, O Lord, for your presence amid our troubles and concerns!*

### Religious Education

Faith is the answer to the question most often asked of me – “How did you manage to survive?” – and I can only repeat it simply and unashamedly. To me that truth says more than that man has a duty and obligation toward his Creator. To me it says that God has a special purpose, a special love, a special providence for all those he has created. God cares for each of us individually, watches over us, provides for us. The circumstances of each day of our lives of every moment of every day, are provided for us by him. Every moment of our life has a purpose, every action of ours, no matter how dull or routine or trivial it may seem in itself, has a dignity and worth beyond human understanding. No man’s life is insignificant in God’s sight, nor are his works insignificant – no matter what the world or his neighbors or family or friends may think of them. Yet what a terrible responsibility is here. For it means that no moment can be wasted, no opportunity missed, since each has a purpose in man’s life, each has a purpose in God’s plan. Think of our day, today or yesterday. Think of the work you did, the people you met, moment by moment. What did it mean to you – and what might it have meant for God? (Servant of God Walter J. Ciszek (+1984) was an American Jesuit priest convicted of being a “Vatican Spy” in World War II. He spent 23 years in Soviet prisons.)



**Do You Want to Grow in Virtue?** Come to the Advent Penance Service “God knows our situation; He will not judge us as if we had no difficulties to overcome. What matters is the sincerity and perseverance of our will to overcome them. Before we can be cured we must want to be cured. Those who really wish for help will get it; but for many modern people even the wish is difficult ... We may, indeed, be sure

that perfect virtue will not be attained by any merely human efforts. You must ask for God’s help.” (C. S. Lewis) Penance Services this year are as follows: Monday, December 13th at St. Andrew in Saline, December 14th at St. Joseph in Dexter, Wednesday, December 15th, here at St. Mary Chelsea and, Thursday, December 16th at St. Mary Manchester. All services begin at 7:00pm.

*JOY - get joy by living this simple formula. Jesus, Others, Yourself. You need all three because without taking care of Yourself you get JO. But you won't have JOY if you don't put Jesus first and others second.*

### Music Ministry



5 members of our music ministry team worked in a community outreach program through September and October. We provided a 4 hymn sing concerts

for the residents at Silver Maples, CRC Dancey House Chapel, Towsley Village, and The Pines. The “St. Mary Gospel Singers” featured Jennifer Berry, Steve Hinz, Diane Howlin, and Kim Manchester, all under the faithful leadership of Craig Houle.



**The Light Parade is BACK!** Hometown Holidays is bringing back the Light Parade this year. St. Mary does have a float in the parade along with kids walking.

We are looking for volunteers to walk with their kids in the parade. If you are wanting to join the fun, please call the Religious Ed office, 734-475-8164. The Light Parade is December 4th at 6pm.

**Advent reflection by Deacon Wayne:** Fall is the end of the growing season and the preparation for winter and for Christians, it is the end of the old church year and the start of a new church year beginning with the Advent season. Advent prepares us for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Many of us will light candles on our Advent wreath celebrating the faithfulness of God each week. Advent reminds us that Jesus will be coming again in glory. Advent also begins a new church year of the gift of God's Grace. So, what is God's Grace and why is it so important, why do we celebrate this incredible gift, and why do we need it especially during everything that is happening today?

Grace is the gift of God's life within us. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church grace is defined as "favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life" (CCC 1996).

We celebrate God's gift to us because it is something that we do not deserve and is never gained by our earning it. It also allows us to be adoptive sons and daughters of God.

And I think you would agree that during this pandemic time, we need God's grace to help us find our way and to endure some of the hardships that we have all gone through and may continue to encounter. One way of asking to receive more grace is by receiving the sacraments like Confession and Holy Communion.

Heavenly Father, pour out your Grace upon us and draw us even closer to you reminding us that we are adoptive sons and daughters. Help us during this new Church year to appreciate the gift of Grace, reflected in the coming of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

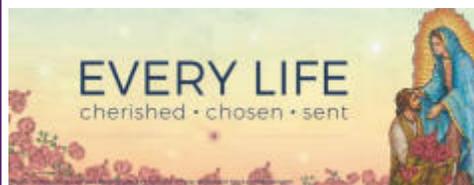


Oh Come, Let Us Adore Him...Bundle up your family and friends and come listen to one of the greatest stories ever told! The Live Nativity will be on Friday, December 3, 2021 with two performances: 6:30pm and 7:00pm. There will be live animals and a choir singing Christian carols. This is a non-denominational event and there is no charge. **Location:** at the new Palmer Commons. The event is handicap accessible and this year will have expanded seating! For questions or to get involved, please contact Deanna Robbins 734-645-5500.



It has been our St. Mary tradition to set out "Gift Tags" on the first week-end of Advent. This year is no different. On November 27th

and 28th, the St. Mary Giving Trees will be in the Gathering Space. These tags benefit families from Faith In Action and the St. Louis Center. St. Mary is a generous parish and during these times the need is even greater to help these families. In the spirit of giving, please look for the Giving Trees coming soon. Gifts need to be wrapped, and returned **WITH THE TAG ATTACHED** that you take from the tree. This helps us identify who the gift is actually for. Thank you.



*there were none of them. –Psalm 139:16*

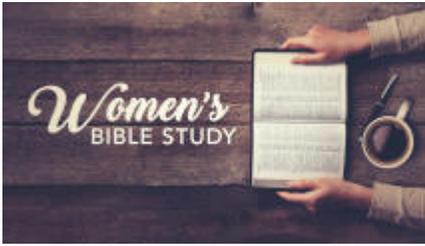
*Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet*

Thank you for supporting the 2021 Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign. Your support with prayer both at home and at Planned Parenthood are greatly appreciated.

Please join with the St. Mary Respect Life Commission in continuing to pray for the change of hearts and minds in our culture of death, for the respect of life from conception to natural death. If you are interested in sharing your ideas to promote Life and family in our parish community, please contact Eileen Augustine at 734-475-5803. We welcome new ideas and members at any time.

May God bless you with a joyful Advent season and a Christmas filled with gratitude, love and hope.

*The Respect Life Commission*

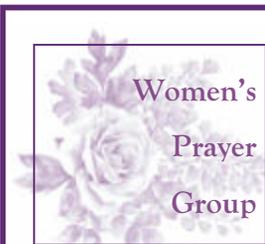


The Women's Bible Study group will continue a study of the Gospel and Epistles of John. Discussion

sessions are on Wednesday afternoons from 12:15 until 2:15. PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE with the study of Scripture is NOT NECESSARY: the only requirement is an interest in learning Scripture; typically about two hours of study per lesson is expected, and guidelines for study are included in the materials provided. Cost for study materials is about \$20. These studies carry an imprimatur and are published by Liturgical Press. For more information contact Mary Ann Zettelmaier at 475-7421. To Register, please email Marita Martin at maritamartindre@gmail.com.



"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it." Proverbs 3:27 The St. Mary Meal Ministry brings a month's worth of meals to families with new babies. Join dozens of other parishioners by signing up for the meal ministry email list. You will receive a notification each time we have a new family to support, and at that point, you can discern if you are able to sign up for a slot. If you cannot at that time, then simply wait for the next notification. Being open to the possibility of service is such a blessing to our parish's growing families. Please email [hines.jenna@gmail.com](mailto:hines.jenna@gmail.com) to be added to the list.

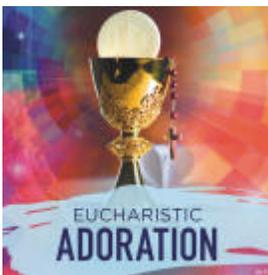


"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together..." Hebrews 10: 24-25 The St. Mary prayer group is open to all women (18+) in the parish.

We meet the first Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30pm to study the Bible, discuss vocations, pray for one another's intentions, and enjoy fellowship. Email Jenna Hines ([hines.jenna@gmail.com](mailto:hines.jenna@gmail.com)) for information and directions.



Show the world that all lives matter...On Friday, January 21, 2022, St. Mary community will be joining many across the United States who will light a "Luminary for Life" at sunset. Placing this "light" outside your home, will acknowledge your prayerful support of life from womb to tomb. This is our effort as Catholics, to witness to life and the dignity of all persons. This action corresponds to the Supreme Court ruling of 1974 which made abortion legal. St. Mary Right to Life Ministry will have white luminary bags in the Gathering Space after all Masses the weekend of January 15 & 16, 2022. Please consider taking a bag and supporting life as a precious gift from God.



Prayerful "Present" in the Presence of Jesus Adoration occurs every Thursday and Friday of every week. It begins after the 9 a.m. Mass on Thursdays, and continues for 24 hours until Friday morning at 9 a.m. On the First Friday of every month Eucharistic Adoration continues until Saturday at 9 am for 48 Hours. We are seeking "Companions of the Lord." Please consider making this commitment for an hour that is convenient for you or being a substitute whenever necessary. Those who cannot commit to a specific "hour of power" to pray and reflect in the presence of Jesus, are always welcome. Contact: Anne Green [greentsudents@hotmail.com](mailto:greentsudents@hotmail.com)



St. Mary Prayer Chain is made up of 25-30 members of our parish. If you know someone who needs prayers, you can start the prayer chain by emailing Dave Good at [dgood101@comcast.net](mailto:dgood101@comcast.net) or calling Dave at 734-475-9374 from 11AM to 10PM. You can also call/email Beth at the St. Mary office at 475-7561 or [smcch@aol.com](mailto:smcch@aol.com). Prayers are emailed to the prayer chain as soon as possible—typically during the evening hours on the day the email was received. If you would like to join the prayer chain, please email Dave.

**SAVE THE DATE**

# REBOOT!

**ST. MARY CHELSEA AND  
ST. JOSEPH DEXTER**

*WITH INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED  
SPEAKER AND AUTHOR,  
CHRIS STEFANICK*

REBOOT! is the fun, inspiring and practical experience of applying the beauty and genius of the heart of the Gospel to every aspect of your life. From prayer and spirituality, to work, dating, marriage, parenting, health and more. There is no part of your life that will be left untouched!



**WEDNESDAY, March 9, 7:00 – 9:30 PM**

**at St. Joseph Church on Mast Road**

Keep watching for all the details!

To register for reduced rate tickets,

contact our parish office

734-475-7561

DO NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN INSIGHT INTO LIVING LIFE MORE FULLY!  
THE LIFE GOD HAS CREATED FOR YOU!

### Regional Advent Penance Services



**7:00PM Each Night**

*St. Andrew, Saline—*

*Monday, December 13*

*St. Joseph, Dexter—*

*Tuesday, December 14*

*St. Mary, Chelsea —*

*Wednesday, December 15*

*St. Mary, Manchester—*

*Thursday, December 16*

***Last Scheduled Confessions***

*Monday, December 20th 7-9pm*

### 2021 CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

*Christmas Eve*

*4:00 PM—Children’s Mass*

*6:00 PM—Family Mass*

*11:30 PM— Midnight Mass*

*Christmas*

*10:00 AM Mass only*

*New Year’s (Motherhood of Mary)*

**Not a Holy Day of Obligation**

Masses will run as follows:

December 31st, 9:00am Daily Mass

January 1st, 9:00am First Saturday Mass

& 4:30pm Epiphany Vigil Mass

January 2nd, Epiphany Sunday

8am & 10am Mass



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St. Mary Church  
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