



## THE HOLY FAMILY



He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52



*St. Mary, Our Lady  
of the Annunciation  
December 26, 2021  
Rev. James R. Rafferty, Pastor  
Deacon David Drysdale*

**SUNDAY EUCHARIST**

Saturday: 4:30 pm  
Sunday: 8:15, 10:00 & 11:45 am

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturdays: 8:00 am & 3:00-4:00 pm  
Wednesday 6:00 pm,  
First Friday 8:00 am & 6:30pm  
Or by Appointment— call parish office  
**Baptism Class-Registration Required**  
Date TBD

**PARISH OFFICE**

32477 Church St., Rockwood, MI 48173  
734-379-9248 or 379-1476  
Email: stmaryrockwood@sbcglobal.net  
Website www.stmaryannunciation.org

**Parish Office Hours**

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9--4  
Wed 9-noon or by appointment

**PARISH COUNCIL**

Mike Williams, President  
734-379-9248

**CATECHISM PROGRAM**

Leslie Swayze, DRE  
Director of Religious Education  
ljswayze@yahoo.com or 734-379-9248

**St. Mary Prayer Line**

stmaryprayers7@gmail.com

**St. Vincent de Paul Help Line**

734-277-5620

**Food Pantry Third Saturday of the Month 10-12pm**

**St. Mary's Clothing Closet**

**Open 1st & 3rd Saturday 10-12pm. 734-277-5620**

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**Mass Schedule**

**Monday, December 27, 2021**

**St. John, apostle and Evangelist**

8:30 a.m. Ken Cuzelis+ by JoAnn Scanland

**Tuesday, December 28, 2021**

**The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

8:30 a.m. Bill & Rose Winters+ by Fran Winters

**Wednesday, December 29, 2021**

**St. Thomas Becket; Bishop and Martyr**

6:30 p.m. Living and deceased parishioners of St. Mary

Nellie Schultz+ by Jim Schultz

Sixto Campos+ by Campos & Yap Families

Cathy & Ralph Subastian by Barbara Lane

Ceil & Thomas May, Tim Brown by Betty Steffke

**Thursday, December 30, 2021**

8:30 a.m. A Special Intention

**Friday, December 31, 2021**

**St. Sylvester I, Pope**

8:30 a.m. Lenore Louzon+ by Susan Cuzelis

**Saturday, January 1, 2022**

**Mary Mother of God**

8:30 a.m. Intentions of the Blessed Mother

Living & Deceased members of Domigan Family

Dorothy Keddie+ by D of M

Deacon David Drysdale by Barb Metzger & Judy

Roger Fawcett

4:30 p.m. Patricia Quick+ by Beverly Gonyea

**Sunday, January 2, 2022**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

8:15 a.m. George Siska+ by Family

10:00 a.m. Helen Laginess+ by Family

11:45 a.m. Antonio Catella by Tony Conti

**Mary's Meals**

***FREE Meals for Those in Need!***

*Every Thursday at 5:00p.m. St. Mary offers a full course meal for those in our community who are in need. **We are now feeding over 55 people each week!** Praise God! The Soup Kitchen is located in the school hall. The parking lot entrance is off of Burton Street.*

**Giving Basket Needs**

**Rice, Spaghetti Os, family size cereal, Oatmeal, Spaghetti, cream of mushroom and cream of chicken soup**

*"Whatever you do to the least of my Brethren,  
that you do unto me."*

**Offering December 12 & 19, 2021**

Current	YTD	Budget	over/(under)
\$N/A	\$224,525	\$ 212,405	\$12,120

**Catholic Services Appeal**

**\$102,547    \$80,077    \$22,470**

**Thank you for your generosity!**

*Offerings may be mailed to us at :*

*32477 Church St., Rockwood MI 48173*

## Dec. 30-Jan 2

Benediction 12/30	Mass	4:30 p.m.	8:15 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	11:45 a.m.
Mark S	<b>Lector</b>	Janet K	Pat Sz	Fran S	Ron M
	<b>Acolyte</b>	Tom M	Steve O	Jim H	Mark S
	<b>Servers</b>	Needed	Hunter/Ryder	Collins Family	Sarah/Peyton

### December/January 2022 Calendar

Rosary is prayed a half hour before Mass

Information is based on submission date of bulletin and subject to change; watch website and flocknote

26 Mass 8:15, 10:00, & 11:45am	27 Mass 8:30am Flame of Love 9:30am  No RCIA Office Closed	28 Mass 8:30am  <b>No D of M</b>  <b>No Catechism</b>	29 Confession 6:00 pm  Mass 6:30pm	30 Mass 8:30am Adoration 9:30-6:45pm	31 Mass 8:30 am	1 Confession 8:00am & 3:00pm  Mass 8:30am & 4:30pm
2 Mass 8:15, 10:00 & 11:45am	3 Mass 8:30am Flame of Love 9:30am	4 Mass 8:30am D of M 9:30, 1:00, & 6:30pm Catechism 6pm	5 Unite Hearts Noon Confession 6pm Mass 6:30pm	6 Mass 8:30am Adoration 9:30-6:45pm	7 Confession 8am & 6:30pm Mass 8:30am & 7pm	8 Confession 8:00am & 3:00pm Mass 8:30am & 4:30pm
9 Mass 8:15, 10:00 & 11:45am  Confirmation Sunday Session 9:30	10 Mass 8:30am Flame of Love 9:30am	11 Mass 8:30am D of M 9:30, 1:00, & 6:30pm Catechism 6pm	12 Confession 6pm Mass 6:30pm  K of C Planning 7:30pm	13 Mass 8:30am Adoration 9:30-6:45pm	14 Mass 8:30am	15 Confession 8:00am & 3:00pm Mass 8:30am & 4:30pm  Clothing Closet & Giving Basket 10-noon

### The Twelve Days of Christmas

*A popular Christmas Carol, certainly, but much more. Some historians suggest that, in a hidden but playful way, it was also used as a simple Catechism of belief in times of persecution. As you sing the familiar words, reflect on these hidden truths of Faith:*

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Partridge in a Pear Tree | 1. Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ       |
| 2. Turtle Doves             | 2. Testaments: Old and New             |
| 3. French Hens              | 3. Virtues: Faith, Hope and Charity    |
| 4. Calling Birds            | 4. Gospels                             |
| 5. Gold Rings               | 5. First Books of the Bible            |
| 6. Geese A-Laying           | 6. Days of God's Creation              |
| 7. Swans A-Swimming         | 7. Gifts of the Holy Spirit            |
| 8. Maids A-Milking          | 8. Beatitudes                          |
| 9. Ladies Dancing           | 9. Fruits of the Holy Spirit           |
| 10. Lords A-Leaping         | 10. Commandments                       |
| 11. Pipers Piping           | 11. Faithful Apostles                  |
| 12. Drummers Drumming       | 12. Points of Belief in Apostles Creed |



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

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### Attention Religious Education Families

I would like to wish all our Religious Education families a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for your dedication to our program and making sure to hand on our beautiful Catholic faith to your children. God bless you. Leslie Swayze, DRE.

### Calendar for 2021-2022

Dec. 28th **No Class—Christmas Break**

Jan. 4th Class

Jan. 9th **Confirmation Sunday Session #6 (9:30-11:30am)**

Jan. 11th Class

Jan. 18th Class—Movie Night

### Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

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

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### The Story of the Holy Innocents

Herod "the Great," king of Judea, was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans and his religious indifference. Hence he was insecure and fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother, and his sister's two husbands, to name only a few.

Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews," whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also "do him homage." They found Jesus, offered him their gifts, and warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt.

Herod became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under." The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children." (Mt 2:18) Rachel was the wife of Jacob (Israel). She is pictured as weeping at the place where the Israelites were herded together by the conquering Assyrians for their march into captivity.

Franciscanmedia.org



**Come Let us Adore HIM!  
Every Thursday from 9:15 a.m.  
until 6:45 p.m.**

**He is really there!**  
"I myself Am the Living Bread come  
down from Heaven."  
(Jn 6:35)

**The specific way that Jesus asks you to love Him in return is  
to spend one quiet hour with Him  
in the Blessed Sacrament.**

"Where your treasure is, there is your heart...." "Could you not  
watch one hour with Me?" (Mt 6:21; 26:40)

**For Peace in our country!**

"When My people humble themselves and seek My Presence...  
I will revive their land." (2Chr 7:14)

**Jesus is infinitely deserving of our unceasing thanksgiving  
and adoration for all He has done for our salvation.**

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive honor, glory and  
praise." (Rev. 5:12)

"We must understand that in order 'to do', we must first learn 'to  
be', that is to say, in the sweet company of Jesus in adoration."  
--Pope John Paul II

"Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacra-  
ment is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God  
and the one most helpful to us."

--St. Alphonsus Liguori

"Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night  
and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come  
back to the Eucharist, come back to that Adoration."

--Mother Teresa

What an honor it is for your body to be spiritually sacrificed in  
the hour of your adoration before the Blessed Sacrament! What  
a privilege for your soul to do here below what the angels and  
saints are doing in heaven so sweetly and gloriously...

-St. Louis de Montfort

## December 26th

The Infant Jesus doesn't preach, or perform any  
miracles; he just receives the sweet caresses of  
his dearest mother because that is the will of his  
Father, who is in heaven.

—Servant of God Mother Auxilia De La Cruz

***Mother of Fairest Love, pray for us!***

Please keep Hayley Reamer and Jesus Moreno, Jr. in your prayers  
as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony.



**Please note:** Due to an increase in price, the cost of  
candles will be going up to \$3 for the 3 day and \$6 for  
6 day. We appreciate your understanding.



Betty Beste	Ken Herzog
James Benyo	William Kaminske
Nancy Benyo	Leo Kormos
Bernadette Ciupak	Kim Landrith
Arlys Clegg	Dave (DJ) Lerner
Karla Cobb	Diane Leach
Ashley Collins	Lawrence Leach
Mildred Costa	Elizabeth Lovett
Olga Cronin	Brian McNamara
Noah Czajka	Julie Morin
Diane Czajkowski	Pete Petrey
Mikey Czajkowski	Gary Pizzini
Rita Davidson	Chuck Przybylo
Patrick Eldridge	Eileen Herzog
Marlene Elwell	Przybylo
Ann Gick	Patricia Schwartz
Carol Gick	Violet Scheffer
Joanne Gomoll	Joe Selva
Andrew Hailo	Phil Wawrzyniec
Sandra Head	Jerry Zemke
Doreen Hebert	Terri Zemke

***Please Pray  
for the Sick...***

## Please Pray for Those in the Armed Forces

Alexis Assenmacher  
Andrew Benyo  
Chaz Phipps  
James T. Herzog  
Ryan Jernigan  
Troy Masserant  
Caitlin Mercure  
Daniel Mercure II  
Col. Paul B Murphy  
John Reaume  
Ian Reimel  
Bryan Reyes  
Austin Shocklee  
Zachary Sitarski

Denny Szczechowski  
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