



Founded in 1788

ST. MARY of THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

127 N. Monroe St., Monroe, MI 48162 734-241-1644

THE CHRONICLE



November 29, 2020
1st Sunday of Advent

Vision Statement: To Welcome. To Inspire. To Transform. To Serve.

A Note From Father David



As we begin a new Church year, and the season of Advent, we continue to venture into uncharted territory. We await the coming and revelation of the Lord Jesus, who is the only one who can save us. Not only do we seek His coming in the fullness of time, but we also want to experience Him here and now. Yes, in this current pandemic, political situation, and time of change in our culture and the Church. Advent, which is a simple season, will be especially simple this year. I know that many continue to try to make good decisions about our safety and health, and how we can continue to grow our faith.

We plan to begin to tape short reflections on the Sunday readings for you, beginning this Advent. The clergy and staff want to try to connect and “bring home the Word”. These reflections can help you to prepare for the Sunday mass, reiterate the readings after the mass, or give you something extra if you are not able to physically come to mass. I hope this new initiative is helpful for you and for us who offer the reflections.

We priests have decided that this Advent, in consideration of the pandemic, there will be no scheduled communal reconciliation services. Instead, Fr. Giancarlo and I will schedule more times when one or both of us will be available in church for individual confessions, respecting physical distancing. They will be scheduled at different times and days of the week, beginning next week through December 23. Please check the bulletin and website for these times.

NEW DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

This week, we are happy to welcome Mrs. Leslee Smith as the new director of Faith Formation for St. Mary, St. John the Baptist, and St. Michael parishes. She is originally from Michigan, but most recently has lived and ministered at a parish in Florida. Her office will be in St. Mary middle school. This is a challenging time to make a transition in parish ministry, but we offer our support and prayers. May God work through her as she serves our families and young people, especially in catechesis and sacramental preparation. Please see her brief introduction article on the parish website.

I want to publicly thank Deacon Zaid who has generously worked in the interim to develop and oversee our modified faith formation program at this time, as well as Mrs. Rebecca Mester, who has generously given of her time as administrative assistant in the faith formation office.

CHRISTMAS PLANS

As we make plans for Christmas, we will do the best we can to accommodate people over the four-day Christmas weekend. All are asked to reserve spaces in church at your parish of choice by going to the parish website or contacting the parish office by phone. Remember that we have less than a 50% capacity in our worship spaces with physical distancing. Please be flexible and consider coming to mass on Saturday, Dec. 26 or Sunday, Dec. 27 for your Christmas mass, in order to help us to accommodate the usual higher number of worshippers on Christmas Eve. Please check the website and bulletin as to when mass reservations open.



St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, a Catholic community of faith, proclaims Jesus Christ through prayer, worship, celebration of the sacraments, ongoing care for those in need, lifelong faith formation and stewardship of our time, talents and treasures.

DIRECTORY

CONTACT US AT 734-241-1644

PASTOR

Rev. David Burgard

ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Rev. Giancarlo Ghezzi

IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Bob Singelyn

DEACONS

Dcn. Mike Stewart
dcnmike@stmarymonroe.org

Dcn. Zaid Chabaan
dcnzaid@gmail.com

Dcn. Michael Ingels Deacon Emeritus

PASTORAL MINISTER AND CHRISTIAN SERVICE

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734-241-6088
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DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

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MCES

Kyle Kubik, Executive Principal
734-241-3923

MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST

John Raymond
734-242-6253

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Julie Dull
734-241-8910

CYO SPORTS

PARISH OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Rogers
parishoffice@stmarymonroe.org

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Roger Kidd, Chair (at large)
Elliot Alfredson, Vice Chair (at large)
Hugh Acosta (Stewardship)
Donna Banker (Recording Sec)
Sal Benisatto (at large)
Fred Fedorowicz (Christian Service)
Al Gallan (at large)
David Heilman (at large)
Rick Kidd (at large)
Gus Martyres (at large)
Bob McMillan (at large)

HOW TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS



Please contact the parish office or Fr. David with inquiries about the Sacraments at:
734-241-1644 or
parishoffice@stmarymonroe.org

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/ CONFESSIONS

Saturday, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Reconciliation room is in the left sacristy door behind the altar. The sacrament is available upon request from one of the priests.

In addition to regular confession times, arrangements can be made by calling the parish office.

MARRIAGE

At least one individual must be a member of St. Mary Church. A minimum of six months previous notice is required before the wedding date. Please phone the parish office for more information.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Anyone interested in inquiring about our faith, or anyone interested in becoming a Roman Catholic Christian please contact the parish office.

BAPTISM OF INFANTS

Please contact the parish office for baptism dates at least one month in advance.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

The Sacrament is available upon request for persons who are seriously ill, scheduled for a medical procedure, or with a chronic condition. A person can be anointed as often as their condition warrants.



TECH TROUBLESHOOTER
"Watching over your computer"
MARILYN WEBER
A+ Certified Professional IT Technician - 30+ Years Experience
Parish Member
734-242-4976
mjwebers@st.net

- IT Solutions & Consulting
- IT Support - Windows & Apple Devices
- IT Services - By Appointment

SPECIAL NOTES



We're glad you came to join with us in our worship time today. We hope that you have felt God's love in a new, refreshing way. We look forward to seeing you again next week!

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS

Dialogue & Reconciliation in the Near East
That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, & reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

MASS SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS TIMES

Monday	St. Michael 8:15 am
Tuesday	St. John 8:15 am St. Mary 6:00 pm
Wednesday	St. Mary 8:15 am
Thursday	St. John 8:15 am St. Mary 12:15 pm
Friday	St. Michael 8:15 am

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday	St. Mary 4:30 pm St. Michael 5:00 pm St. John 5:30 pm
Sunday	St. Mary - 7:30 am, 10:00 am, - Spanish Mass at 2:00 St. Michael - 8:00 am, 10:30 am St. John - 9:00 am, 11:30 am

TELEVISED SUNDAY MASSES

4:30 am Channel 2, WJBK Fox Detroit
5:00 am Channel 11, WTOL Toledo
6:00 am Channel 24, WNWO Toledo

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Masses will continue to be livestreamed to our website or Facebook every Sunday from either
St. Mary at 10:00 am
or St. John at 11:30 am.

***The December 6th mass will be
livestreamed from
St. John Church at 11:30 am***

Following the livestream, these masses are archived and are available to watch from each website and will not require a Facebook account.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, December 1st

6:00 pm Mass
† Tillie Kirkham

Wednesday, December 2nd

† People of the Parish

Thursday, December 3rd

12:15 pm Mass

Saturday, December 5th

7:30 am First Saturday Devotions
8:30 am Mass - Father Giancarlo
3:00 pm - Confessions
4:30 pm Mass - Father David
† Bill Burgess
† Matusik & Siverling Families
† Margaret Westover

Sunday, December 6th

7:30 am Mass - Father Giancarlo
† Roy Griffith
† Virginia Kohler
† Richard LaVoy
† Michael Zanger

10:00 am Mass - Father David
† Allen Bressler
† Tom Dusseau

2:00 pm - Spanish Mass - Father Giancarlo

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The parish office is open for necessary business during the following hours until further notice.

Monday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

(closed between noon & 1:00 for staff lunch)

Wednesday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

(no lunch closures on Wednesdays and Fridays)

Please be aware that a mask will be required and there is a limited capacity allowed into the office.

Thank you for understanding and your cooperation.

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR THE SICK AND UNEMPLOYED

Amanda Blanchette
Fred & Meg Fedorowicz
Frank Kolakowski
Dave Karuss
Lawson Linden
Tom Opperman
Aysiah Rose Rennert
Mark & Theresa Tom

THOSE IN NURSING HOMES OR ASSISTED LIVING

Alice Lorraine
Care Center
John Kuras

Brookdale
Joanne Bondy

Brookdale-Ann Arbor
Beulah May

Cambrian, Tecumseh
Melvin Jasper

Elderly Solutions
Nancy Reaume

Fountain View
Lorraine Young

IHM Care Center
Pascal Flameygh
Mary Foshag
Mary Gallagher
Rose Mary Kennedy
Iris Schroeder
Jean Waybright

Wellspring Lutheran Home

Dolores Bodine
Barbara Matthews
Joyce Stein
Don Toeppe

OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

TSgt Matthew Marshall, USAF
LCpl Trevor Tomkinson



WHAT'S NEW ON OUR WEBSITE

Please check our website at www.stmarymonroe.org for our newly added **Weekly Reflections on the Sunday Readings**. As well as a link to the **Daily Readings**. Remember to follow us on Facebook at St. Mary Parish Monroe, MI for the very current news.



THE ADVENT WREATH



Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 5th & 6th	4:30 Mass	7:30 Mass	10:00 Mass
EME			
GREETERS:			
LECTORS	Michael Cochran Carolyn Morrin	Marilyn Laboe Greg Martin	Lorie Holden Frank Koob

LAY LEANINGS By Deacon Mike Stewart © 2020 Mike Stewart Email: layleanings@gmail.com Used with permission



Several years ago, in the process of moving between rented college housing, our daughter acquired an old, large, and very bulky coffee table. I know ... I've moved it a few times, and the last time, up three flights of stairs. Not only is this table a behemoth, but at one time it looked like it was dragged behind a car. Before I was forced to lug this monstrosity up yet another flight of stairs, I tried bribing her with money to let me give it a proper burial ... in the dumpster of her apartment complex. Nothing doing. Though she bought it for pocket change, it's become a conversation piece, and so it stays.

So attached was my daughter to this table, that she eventually convinced her now-husband to help her refinish it. The first order of business was to bring it home, since she couldn't do that sort of work in her small apartment. Once again, I offered her money to let me 'take it for a ride.' Nothing doing. For a time, the table sat dry-docked in my garage while my car sat out in the cold.

Even before she started to strip the finish from the table, I continued to try and convince her to come to her senses. Surely there was a better way to invest your time, I assured her. But to my surprise, as I went into the garage a couple hours later, I saw a beautiful, unfinished piece of art, with the vibrant grain now evident in the freshly bleached and sanded wood. Not long after, the first coat of mahogany stain was applied, and the following day, the glossy coat. That old beast of a table - my dumpster dream - was, in reality, a very beautiful piece of furniture.

So what was the difference between the value my daughter placed on this table and mine? I saw value in its past; she saw its value in its future. I didn't see beauty, I saw battered. She saw beauty through the battered. I was prepared to take the easy path which would have never allowed us to see the potential of this table. She never even considered that path because all she could see was the potential.

That old table is a constant reminder to me of the people I've encountered in my life who have become my used up furniture ... never allowing me to see their true potential, clouded only by my view of their past. And yet, every life, even those allegedly used up, has value in the eyes of our Creator. Let's pray about that.



So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Matthew 10:31

The Lighter Side . . .

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ST. VINCENT De PAUL



Pantry Needs

Soups, SpaghettiOs,
and Mac n' Cheese

As we begin Advent we are called to "Be watchful! Be alert" as we stand in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives.

Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul ENVELOPE will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you are helping your neighbor who is hungry, hopeless and frightened to know that they belong to God.

Know that you are a constant in all our prayers.

P.S. Want to know more about our Society? Please send me an e-mail at: jstbernard2017@comcast.net.

Visit our website at www.svdpstmarymonroe.org

OFFERTORY REPORT

Offertory Report

	Actual	Budget	Variance	%/Budget
October	\$35,793*	\$39,600	-\$3,807	90.39%
Year to Date	\$165,053	\$168,300	-\$3,247	98.07%

Includes \$4,110 from electronic giving

Please be aware that although the Sunday offertory is counted every Monday, in order to have an accurate offertory report, it could take up to 4 weeks to print a monthly report.

GIVING TREE



To help celebrate the Advent Season, St. Mary will again take a part in the "Spirit of Christmas" project in Monroe with our "Giving Tree". The "Giving Tree" ornaments are set up at the Elm Ave doors of church or in the parish office. Tags will be on the tree that name item(s) needed by an adult, teen or child in need of Christmas gifts.

Please return your purchased and wrapped gifts, with their tags, to the church or parish office by Monday, December 21.

Monetary gifts are welcome and will be used to purchase gifts for any tags still on the tree.

HELP OUR MARRIAGE

Having trouble in your marriage?

We have been helping married couples save their marriages since 1977.

... but the greatest of these is

LOVE

"The key to staying married is deciding not get divorced... its that simple" - Lisa Marie Hayes

HelpOurMarriage.Org

248 - 382 - 8281



Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord And let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace AMEN.



Family of **Joyce Ann Eby** gathered to celebrate her long and faith-filled life on Wednesday, November 16, 2020. Her great nephew and newly ordained priest, Fr. Mark Tibai presided at the Mass of the Resurrection celebrating God's goodness and mercy made evident in her life.

Along with her husband, Bill (d. May 17, 2020), and her brother, Ronald Yensch, Joyce enjoyed travelling to the Smokey Mountains, Toronto and on the Algona Snow Train in Sault Ste. Marie. Weekend jaunts saw the trio visiting Michigan festivals and fairs.

Known as a generous person, Joyce thought of others before she cared for her own needs. The parish community of St. Mary offers its sympathy and prayerful support to all whom Joyce loved including her brother, Ronald, her nieces and nephews, Brian Liedel, Rose Standifer, Scott Yensch, Robert Yensch, her great nieces; Abigail, Grace and Faith as well as her godson, Thurlow Bruck. May the promise of eternal life be a consolation and hope to each of you as your mourn Joyce's recent death.

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY



St. Joseph Cemetery

909 N. Monroe St., Monroe, MI,

Located in Chapel of Light

Monday, November 30 from 5 pm to 7 pm

Remembrance Tree Lighting & Ornament Making

Music, prayer & remembrance. All supplies are provided.

You may bring a photo if you wish.

Please RSVP 734-241-1411

St. Joseph Cemetery Clean-Up

December 1-15

All decor will be removed during this clean up. Please remove all items that you wish to save by Dec. 1. Winter & Christmas decor may be placed the week of Thanksgiving. Call 734-241-1411 with questions.

A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

We Know Not the Day or the Hour

During this month of November, our Sunday readings focus on the mysteries of dying and death. In a culture that is often moot about the reality of our mortality (death), our church and faith share wisdom about this sacred time.

The Church encourages us to reflect upon and prepare for our bodily death. Through prayer and scripture, we can more easily face the reality of our eventual death with hope, recognizing the longing within us to be in God's holy presence.

What are some ways that we can prepare for our death?

We can best prepare for our death by creating or updating our last will and testament; designating a trusted family member or friend to make medical decisions that coincide with your wishes when you are no longer able to do so for yourself; communicating with family your funeral wishes; and planning your Catholic Funeral. These efforts will assure peace of mind for you and the members of your family.

Many parishioners have already chosen the Scriptural readings and music they would like at their funeral, which is a celebration of one's earthly life as well as a celebration of the eternal life in Christ that we all hope to enjoy.

Parish staff members are available to help you plan your funeral liturgy.

For more information, please contact the parish office; parishoffice@stmarymonroe.org 734-241-1644 or Lorie Bronson; lorieb@stmarymonroe.org / 734-241-6088.

A PRAYER AS I PUT ON MY MASK

As I prepare to go into the world,
Help me see the sacrament in the wearing of this cloth -
A tangible and visible way of living
Love for my neighbor, as I love myself.

Christ,

Since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart,
That people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly,
Not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit,

As the elastic touched my ears, remind me to listen carefully -
And full of care - to those I meet.

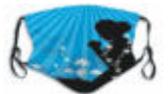
May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner,
And each breath that it holds, be filled with your love.

In your name and in the name of love

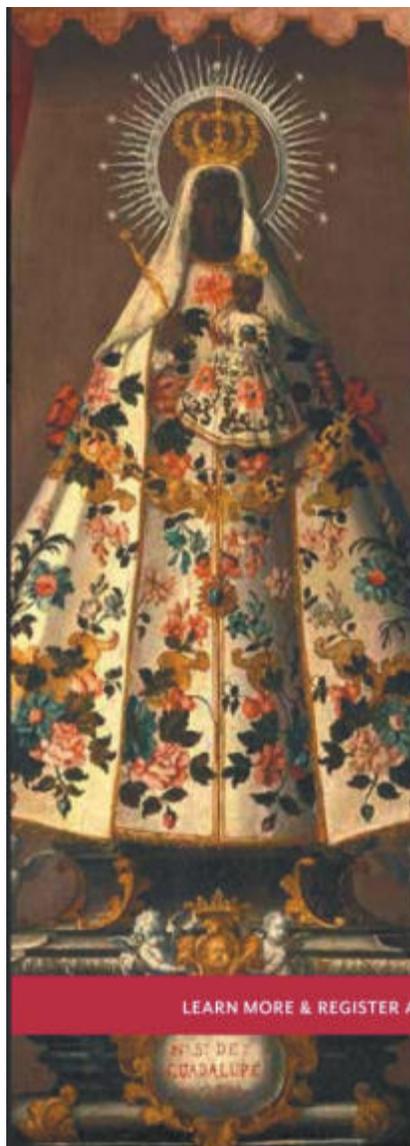
I pray.

May it be so. May it be so.

~~ By Sister Marie Tresp, RSM



ADVENT RETREAT EXPERIENCE



BEHOLD THY MOTHER

Getting to Know the Blessed
Virgin Mary

A free online Advent retreat experience
for the lay faithful guided by Sacred Heart
Major Seminary faculty and open to all.
Learn at your own pace and from the
comfort of your home.

**"THEN JESUS SAID TO THE DISCIPLE,
'BEHOLD, YOUR MOTHER!'"**

JOHN 19:27

Sacred Heart professor Dr. Robert Fastiggi will offer reflections on the beautiful teachings of our Catholic faith about Mary: her role as Mother of God, her Perpetual Virginity, her Immaculate Conception, and her Assumption into Heaven. But Mary is not just a figure of the past. Sacred Heart faculty will also introduce us to Mary's "apparitions" to people living in very different times and places.

Join us this Advent as we rediscover the gift of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and her role in our lives and in the Church.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT [SHMS.EDU/MARY](https://shms.edu/mary)





Faith Formation News

St. John ~ St. Mary ~ St. Michael



MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. John the Baptist was the cousin of Jesus and the “forerunner” for Jesus. He had a very clear mission from God (as we will hear over the next two weeks). John spent his time in the desert. As the crowds came to John, he knew that the mission was not about himself. His mission was to point to the one who would come after him, Jesus. He began to announce the coming of the kingdom and to call everyone to a fundamental reformation of life. His purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus. His baptism, he said, was for repentance, but one would come who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. John knew that his one goal in life was to help people see who Jesus really was: the Lamb of God, sent from the Father, to take away the sins of the world. He was a martyr who was beheaded by King Herod during Jesus’ lifetime.

Welcome Leslee Smith, our new Director of Religious Education (DRE)! We look forward to meeting you.

FAMILY FUN:

Advent begins a new year in the life of the Catholic Church. Come together as a family to create a list of resolutions your family can work toward during this coming liturgical year. This should include committing to time to pray individually and as a family, to go to confession regularly, and to do a work of kindness as a family for those in need. Post this list on your refrigerator (or somewhere else everyone can see it) to remind yourself to do these things this coming year!

TAKE TIME TO CHAT:

- What does it mean to “keep watch” for Jesus?
- Why you think Jesus doesn’t tell us when the end of the world will be?
- What has Jesus put his servants in charge of?

LITURGY LINK:

Take a look at the crucifix in your church (it is usually above/behind the altar). What is unique about the crucifix in your church?

Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools
www.mcesmonroe.com 734-241-6335

#GiveMCES

Tuesday, December 1st is National Giving Tuesday. GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement, unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world.

GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past nine years, this idea has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

At a time when we are all experiencing the pandemic, generosity is what brings people of all races, faiths, and political views together across the globe. Generosity gives everyone the power to make a positive change in the lives of others and is a fundamental value anyone can act on.

On Tuesday, December 1st- if you are able- we ask that you consider a monetary donation to MCES. **ANY donation, whether it’s \$5.00 or \$500.00, will help us fulfill our mission** and help us in forming Saints + Scholars! We know that the pandemic has created challenges, and if you cannot give, we just ask that you say an extra prayer for MCES!

How to Give:

Online: Visit one.bidpal.net/givemces to give online anytime during the 24 hours!

By Phone: 734-241-3377 between 8:00am-3:00pm

In Person: Stop by St. Mary Campus -151 N. Monroe St. Monroe, MI 48162 between 8:00am-3:00pm



Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church Grow!

All information will be kept strictly confidential, and used only to facilitate your stewardship of God's gifts



Regarding your offertory support...

During this time of disruption to our lives and the life of the parish, we continue to need the support of God's people spiritually and financially. We are so grateful to all who throughout the pandemic crisis have been supporting the parish by mailing in or dropping off their contributions. Now that masses have resumed, the offertory has improved, but we still fall short of our needs to finish out this year's budget. The parish has made adjustments to spending only on essentials. In addition, I am thankful to our parish staff who have been asked to make personal sacrifices in response to the decrease in parish income. We need them and their commitment to serve the Lord and God's people.

In our call to be good and generous stewards, we are invited to take an honest look at our changing personal and family situation and determine what our giving should be: equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. As we take small steps forward, we will continue to adjust the parish budget to meet the reality of our present resources. Please help us to continue to be the Catholic witness that God has made us to be since St. Mary was founded over 200 years ago.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

What is Electronic Giving?

- Automatically transfers givers' contributions from their checking or savings account.
- It is a hassle-free and fee-free, simple solution for today's busy families.
- You have the freedom to modify or cancel transactions at any time.

How does it benefit me?

- It is easy, convenient and safe.
- Keep consistent Stewardship, even when you are on vacation.
- Allows you to set your weekly donation and forget it!
- You can make changes to your donation at any time.

How do I sign up?

- Simply fill in the following information and return it with a VOIDED check from your account. Place the completed form in an envelope and drop it in the offertory collection.
- You can also deliver your ACH offering authorization to the parish office.

How does it help our church?

- Eliminates the need for paper checks and the processing fees that come with them.
- Easier to forecast cash flow.
- Saves staff time processing checks.

I authorize St. Mary Parish, Monroe, MI, to initiate electronic debit entries to my:

Checking Account Savings Account

In the amount of \$ _____ to be withdrawn monthly (15th of each month)

Name of Financial Institution: _____

Account Number _____ Routing/Transit Number _____

I acknowledge that the origination of ACH (Automated Clearing House) transactions to my account must comply with the provisions of U.S. Law. This authority will remain in effect until I have cancelled in writing.

Signature: _____

Date _____

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHURCH RIGHT NOW?

To make an online gift to St. Mary, please go to give.aod.org (be sure to select St. Mary Parish, Monroe) or complete and return the Electronic Giving entry form above. Thank you for supporting St. Mary parish at this critical time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed many challenges to the Archdiocese of Detroit and our parishes, including offertory funds lost due to the suspension of public liturgies. Parishes rely on the generosity of their members to cover expenses related to ministry, maintenance, staffing, community outreach programs and other pressing needs.



Sunday, Nov 29, 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Keep your eyes open

Nothing is more empowering than a fresh start.

Advent brings

with it a new gospel to guide us through the new liturgical year: Mark, the shortest of the four narratives about Jesus. Consider reading all 16 chapters at the start of the liturgical year to grasp the breathless beauty of Mark's story. Reflect on other ways to stay alert to new spiritual discoveries, in keeping with Jesus' summons: "Watch!" Pay attention, not just to the news of the day but also to the movements of the Spirit in you. Where might you be prompted to forgive, be generous, get involved, or keep silent?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37 (2). *"What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"*

Monday, Nov 30, 2020

FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE

First responder

Saint Andrew has a special place in the collective heart of Scotland. He is sometimes known as the "first called" apostle because of his early encounter and following of Jesus, alongside his better-known brother and fellow fisherman Simon Peter. When confronting his own crucifixion in the year 60, it is said Andrew chose an X-shaped cross, or saltire, because he felt unworthy to be crucified on the same kind of cross as Jesus. That saltire is now Scotland's national flag. Follow the Scottish example: Give first-called Andrew a special place in your heart.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684). *"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

Tuesday, Dec 01, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

A light shines in the darkness

In this first week of Advent, the church highlights the theme of hope. We remember that the "people who walk in darkness will see a great light." Good news at this time of long nights as we are reeling mentally, physically, financially, emotionally from the coronavirus pandemic and find it hard to cope. But today is also World AIDS Day, a time to remember another virus-borne pandemic that has killed more than 30 million worldwide, calling to mind the inspiring way our world can come together at its best to respond to terrible diseases. Pray for an increase in hope and healing today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). *"There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain."*

Wednesday, Dec 02, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Martyrs in our time

Forty years ago today, four American churchwomen were murdered and dumped in a shallow grave in a cow pasture in Santiago Nonualco, El Salvador. Maryknoll sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline sister Dorothy Kazel, and lay missionary Jean Donovan were victims of the country's civil war, killed by members of the Salvadoran National Guard. The women knew they faced danger and yet they could not leave the people. Jean Donovan wrote in a letter two weeks before her death: "Several times I have decided to leave El Salvador. I almost could, except for the children, the poor bruised victims of this insanity."

Inspired by the life and martyrdom of Archbishop Saint Oscar Romero, all four women shared a commitment to the church's "preferential option for the poor." Ita, Maura, Dorothy, and Jean—you walk with us still and we remember.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177). *"Jesus summoned his disciples and said, 'My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they . . . have nothing to eat.'"*

Thursday, Dec 03, 2020

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST

Gain from apparent loss

While focus is often on Francis' youthful fervor, which sparked his missionary adventures in Asia, less emphasis falls on his maturation. In Japan, he learned to appreciate local culture, connecting it with the gospel. While ocean travel in the 16th century was perilous, long separation from Ignatius of Loyola may have been an even greater suffering. Francis was one of Ignatius' first companions at the founding of the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits, as they are commonly known. And imagine Francis' disappointment when he couldn't reach his ultimate dream destination: China. Have you ever had a "dream deferred," an unrealized goal? What have you learned from the apparent failure that you might not have learned from success?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178). *"The house . . . did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock."*

Friday, Dec 04, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF DAMASCUS, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

An iconic witness

History takes some strange turns. John Damascene is considered one of the great fathers of the Eastern Church, known today for its beautiful iconographic representations of the communion of saints. Yet back in the seventh century, John had to defend the use of icons against a movement in the East to ban them. And who protected him from being arrested by his powerful opponents? The Muslim caliph of Damascus under whose rule John lived and served administratively. Beneath the twists of history, search for the hidden story of salvation, unfolding through the centuries and before our eyes in these iconic times as well.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31 (179). *"Then he touched their eyes and said, 'Let it be done for you according to your faith.' And their eyes were opened."*

Saturday, Dec 05, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Pay it forward

Why is it that the season of Lent seems to get all the instructions of what to do—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—but with Advent, we have no handy summary about what to actually do during the season—besides wait? Sure, we have our creches and wreaths, maybe even a Jesse tree or, better yet, an Advent calendar with chocolate hidden behind each door. While all these customs are good, how can we "effect"—that is, bring about—the new life we so eagerly await? The world may have an answer for us. Today marks International Volunteer Day. How can you put into action on behalf of others your faith and expectation of new life in God?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). *"Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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3rd Grade First Honors

Natalie Ausmus
Maggie Cornett
Levi Cousino
James Halsey
Oakley Kwiatkowski
Stella Lipford
Molly Myers
Delaney Sloan
John Treanor
Hallee Urbanski

3rd Grade Second Honors

Stephen Ban
Avery Burrous
Aviana Cicero
Liam Flowers
Abigail Keck
Jackson Lambert
Rylan MacDonald
Chloe Marks
Nolan Massengill
Ethan McLaughlin
Marco Miscio
Evelyn Nash
Nolan Rafko
Audie Roberts

4th Grade First Honors

Nate Angove
Hadley Himes
Hailey Kohler
Daniel Laboe
Carson Peters
Brady Reinhardt
Shelby Stoffer
Elizabeth Stumpmier

4th Grade Second Honors

Emma Brenton
Lucy Calkins
Logan Carter
Hunter Dahl
Jackson Dobrick
Benjamin Donnelly
Nick Ferreira
Lauren Gildersleeve
Calloway Gossiaux
Madelyne Harrington
Kenzie Lay

Colton Marks
Cameron Martin
Ella Prush
Matteo Rimanelli
Grayson Rule
Ameila Runyon Perez Parra
Ava Sinnott
Hadley Stansberry
Cash Suzore
Eleanora Setzler

5th Grade First Honors

Cameron Cousino
Christopher Fritz
Valentina Galati
Sienna Jackson
Esme Kane
Ella Linster
Maeve Westerlund

5th Grade Second Honors

Rocco Antonelli
Mary Ausmus
Sophia Bozynski
Cayleigh Brown
Elliot Brown
Audrey Calkins
Reese Foster
Isabella Galea
Carly Genaw
Joseph Gessner III
Emma Gessner
Avery Gramlich
Olivia Horning
Cecelia Husby
Olivia Martin
Lacey Palmer
Genevieve Sottile
Emma Swartout
Cade Wasner

6th Grade First Honors

Jacob Angove
Jack Casey
Drew Kettinger
Cameron Kidd
Easton Kwiatkowski
Bennett Schafer
Audrey Smith
Alexa Turner
Avery Yaeger

6th Grade Second Honors

Brody DeLand
Anna DeLucia
Kyle Donnelly
Madelyn Genaw
Chandler Gossiaux
Morgan Guzik
Vincent Harris
Juleigh Husby
Luca Lanzesira
Grant Lewis
Eliana Lyke
Blake Martin
Noah Massengill
Nina Nguyen
Landon Phillips
Lillian Potcova
Alexa Prush
Cole Reinhardt
Emma Sinnott
Tyler St. Pierre
Luke Wasner

7th Grade First Honors

Violet Boylan
Addison Bressler
Madelyn Gessner
Raelynn Lay
Isabelle Morin
Halle Newsom
Anthony Raymond
Jacob St. Pierre
Kiley Urbanski

7th Grade Second Honors

Gabriel Angove
Stella Archer
Alexander Ausmus
Kathryn Blackmore
Ella Calkins
Lana Dobrick
Max Foldvary
Quinn Harrington
Jackson Heinzerling
Brady Hines
Kristian Ish
Nora Kinsey
Alaina Leicht
Brianna Lynch
Avery Markavich

Madeline Moore
Magdalene Nash
Ezekiel Shafer
Cole Smith
Andrew Sottile
Henry Wickenheiser
Trey Worrell
Dominic Zangara

8th Grade First Honors

Emily Bellino
Jessica Costlow
Callie Cousino
Ajshia DeCarlo
Ian Foster
Meadow Paolino
McKenna Payne
Callais Schafer
William Shafer
Louise Smedley
Alexandra Wickenheiser
Alaina Wille
Jada Worrell
Elizabeth Zwack

8th Grade Second Honors

Mikayla Camilleri
William Craiger
Robert Dobberstein
Ava Eby
Vito Galati
Jonathon Geiger
Blake Gust
Andrew Harris
Ava Jondro
Paul Laboe
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