

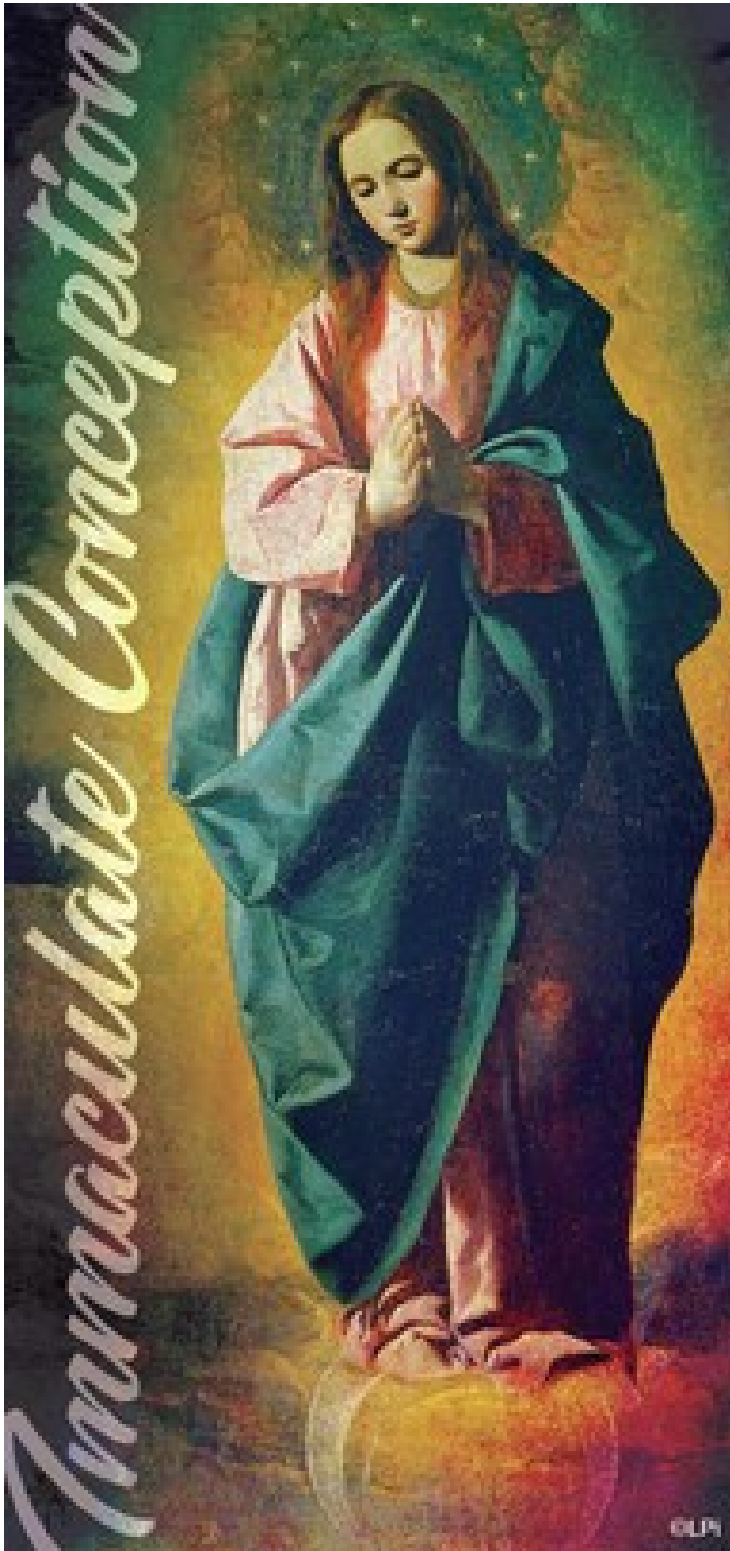
SAINT MARY

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

A Journey in Faith — To Love and Serve the Lord

FOUNDED 1890

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 8, 2019



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday, December 14th

9:00–10:00 am Private Penance

Thursday, December 19th

7:00 pm Communal Penance

Monday, December 23rd

5:00 pm–6:00 pm Private Penance

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tuesday, December 24th

Masses: 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, & Midnight

Wednesday, December 25th

Masses: 10:00 am & 12:00 Noon

NEW YEARS

Tuesday, December 31st

New Year's Eve

Mass: 5:00 pm

Wednesday, January 1st

New Year's Day

Mass: 11:00 am

CHRISTMAS HAM AND KIELBASA

DON'T MISS OUT on the chance to order Dearborn Ham or Kielbasa for Christmas Dinner!

Next weekend is the last weekend to place your order!

Items will be available for pick up on December 23rd. Order forms are available online or in the courtyard lobby.

Proceeds from the sale of hams and kielbasa go to help fund the Mission program.

THANK YOU IN advance for your support!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Joseph and Mary were not able to find a dwelling place to bring Jesus into the world. During Advent, come for a visit with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, to invite and welcome Him into a dwelling place in your heart.

Fridays 1pm–5pm



SAINT MARY, OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS
 1955 E. Commerce, Milford, Michigan 48381
 Pastor: Msgr. John Budde
 frjgbudde@stmarymilfordmi.org

Weekend Associate: Rev. Gordon Judd, CSB
Deacon: Paul Nickels
Pastoral Associate: Valerie Thompson
 v.thompson@stmarymilfordmi.org
 Website: www.stmarymilfordmi.org
 Phone: 248-685-1482 FAX: 248-684-5642

PARISH OFFICES

Secretary: Cherie Makie
 parishoffice@stmarymilfordmi.org
Christian Service Assistant: Judy Vance
 j.vance@stmarymilfordmi.org
Technology Coordinator: Cathy Gannon
 cagannon@stmarymilfordmi.org

FAITH FORMATION OFFICES 248-685-2702

Director of Faith Formation: Colleen Gonzalez:
 c.gonzalez@stmarymilfordmi.org

Director of Adult Formation/RCIA: Anita Daroczy
 a.daroczy@stmarymilfordmi.org

Men's Ministry: Mel Boomer
 mjboomer@comcast.net

Director of Youth Ministry: Olivia Frailing
 youthministry@stmarymilfordmi.org

Faith Formation Admin Assistant: Wendi Hines
 faithformation@stmarymilfordmi.org

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Music Minister & Organist:
 Steve Hansen: 734-730-7970
 s.hansen@stmarymilfordmi.org
 Joe Hassell: Guitarist—810-623-4794
New Covenant Youth Ensemble
 Maureen Simms 248-684-5289
 maurtsimms@aol.com

PARISH COUNCIL

Council President: Larry Chludzinski
Council meeting is the fourth Monday of the month.

WORSHIP

Chairperson: Judy Ulbrich 248-685-7066
Commission meeting is the second Tuesday of the month.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Chairperson: Jerri Somervell
Commission meeting is the second Tuesday of the month.

FAITH FORMATION

Chairperson: Mike Ciarelli
Commission meeting is the second Tuesday of the month.

FINANCE

Chairperson: Art Kasik 248-770-6324
Commission meeting is the third Tuesday of the month.
BAPTISMS Please call the Parish Office to arrange for your child's baptism.

MARRIAGES Arrangements may be made by contacting the Parish Office at least six months before the wedding date. You must also be a Parishioner six months previously.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Individual Confession on Saturdays between 9:00 & 9:30 am or anytime upon request by calling the Parish Office.

rev. 09/24/2019

FAITH FORMATION

Mon Dec. 9

EDGE Grades 6-7

Tue Dec. 10 The Parable Project drama
 (this is in lieu of regular K-5 classes)

All classes resume the week of Jan. 6-10

"KEEPING THE SEASON"

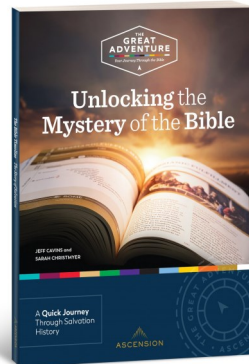
Fruition

Holy Lord,
 from your Chosen People came a royal descendant,
 a righteous ruler, a Savior filled with your Spirit.
 In him you reveal your perfect and powerful love,
 a love that encompasses all people.
 Through your Son, you liberate the world
 from hatred, injustice, and violence,
 so that all creation may know true harmony and lasting peace.
 By the power of the Holy Spirit,
 grant us wisdom, strength, patience and mercy.
 Grant us the gifts we need to bear good fruit
 and to be signs that your kingdom has begun.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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MAKE THE COMPLEX SIMPLE!



UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE

THE BIBLE IS at the heart of our faith
 and our relationship with God.

Reading the Bible should bring us closer
 to Christ, but many people find it hard
 to even begin.

THIS WILL INCLUDE home Bible reading, thought-provoking
 discussion questions and will open the door to a newfound
 understanding of God's Word and his plan for your life.

\$25.00 materials fee

Thursdays
beginning January 9
7 pm, Rooms 7,8

To register please contact Faith Formation office at
248-685-2702 or faithformation@stmarymilfordmi.org

Questions: Contact Anita Daroczy

FAITH FORMATION

The Vision of Vatican II

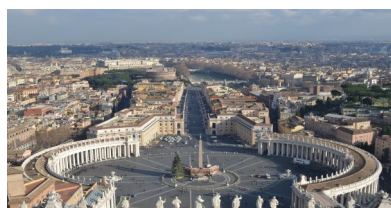
Deacon Tim Pilon

EVEN THOUGH THE Second Vatican Council did its work just a little over 50 years ago and many of its reforms have been implemented in today's church, surprisingly few Catholics have a deep understanding of the council itself and its broad purposes and outcomes. We invite you to join **Deacon Tim Pilon**, who was a seminarian during the years of the council and who is part of a generation of clergy who hung on every word that came out of Rome for the council's duration. Through video and other types of presentations, as well as lively discussion, we hope to provide insight into Vatican II and its outcomes.

THE SERIES WILL take place at St. Mary Parish once per month for 6 selected Mondays continuing on **December 16 @ 7:30 pm in room 5**. It is recommended for all adults, especially those who are involved in catechizing and evangelizing as well as those who simply would like to know more about the trends in Church thinking today. We strongly invite the "merely curious." Please join us.



St. John XXIII



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!

Who: Seasoned Citizens of St. Mary
What: Annual Sr. Dinner, *"Do You Hear What I Hear?"*
When: January 25, 2020, 3:00-4:30 pm
Where: Parish Hall
Why: The Confirmation Candidates are excited to serve you!
Fine Print:

Catering by Wendy Brown of Two Women and a Tray, Free Hearing screenings brought to you by Huron Valley Hearing/and our parish Health Ministry, Howell Nature Center's "Animal Acoustics" presentation.

Cost: Free
 Donations accepted on behalf of Kids Against Hunger food pack.

Reservations Taken: Jan. 11/12 and 18/19 after all masses and in the parish offices.



ATTENTION MEN

Event: Men's Retreat
Location: St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center
Dates: January 24th - 26th, 2020

TO MAKE A reservation or get more information please contact one of these co-captains:

Dennis Belcuore	248-891-2730
Peter Schappach	248-363-8853
Terry Webb	248-686-4246



ALL ARE WELCOME TO LEARN!
 Would you like to learn more about basic Catholic Theology?

Join Deacon Tim Pilon on
Wednesday, DECEMBER 11TH
7:30-9:30 pm in room 5

REGISTER in the Garden Lobby, Faith Formation Office or contact: Deacon Tim @ 248-390-5436
 Deacontimpilon@yahoo.com

8 THE CHURCH: PEOPLE OF GOD

THE CHURCH IS the assembly of God's people. United in faith and guided by the Spirit, the Church is an essential part of the mystery of God's saving love as it lives and acts as the Body of Christ in and for the world. The fullness of the Church subsists in the Catholic Church. In this session we hope to awaken and broaden our appreciation of the Catholic understanding of Church.



COMPLIMENTARY COPIES OF booklets on the series **"Building the Domestic Church"** are available in the Parish Information Center in the Narthex as well as in the Information Pockets outside the Library. **EACH MONTHS TITLES** will be available, thanks to the Knights of Columbus, Archbishop Fulton J Sheen Council 7444.

Titles for the month of **DECEMBER:**

"Lord, Teach us to Pray" and "Prayer Time: A Collection of Catholic Prayers" Thank you Knights!

CHRISTIAN SERVICE



THE GIVING TREE TAGS ARE ON THE TREE!

WELL THE TREES are up and the tags are on. Please help those in need in our community by taking a tag from the Giving Tree. After purchasing your gift, please return it to the area in the courtyard lobby.

Please be sure to securely attach the tag to the gift with the gift description facing up.

All gift certificates may be returned to the basket also located in the courtyard lobby, again with the tag securely attached and gift description facing up.

PLEASE PURCHASE ONLY the gift that is on the tag. Many of you like to add items for the children, but please remember most of the children on the tree have siblings. When additional gifts are purchased for one tag, it creates an imbalance of gifts for all the children in the family. If you would like to do more, then please take additional tags.

IF YOU LOSE your tag after purchasing your gift, not to worry, just give us a call and we can figure out what numbers belong on your gift.

**Please return all gifts and certificates by
December 15th.**

IF YOU ARE unable to purchase your gift (there are many reasons why this could happen), lose your tag, or can not return your gift by the due date, please call Val Thompson at (248)685-1482 prior to December 17th.

WE BEGIN PURCHASING all missing gifts on December 17th, so that no Giving Tree recipient is disappointed.

WANT TO HELP WITH SORTING OR DELIVERY?
Call Val Thompson at 248-685-1482



HEALTH MINISTRY

HEALTH TIDBIT

MEDICATIONS: Always keep a current list of all your medications at all times. Be sure the list includes the dose and frequency along with the name of your doctor. This list is not only important when you visit any of your doctors but could save valuable life saving minutes in the emergency room.

***Mark your calendars and save the date for our
Dementia presentation on
January 22, 2020 from 10 am to 12 noon.***

PLEASE CONTACT:

DONNA BINNS-GORDON, 248-933-0941 if you have questions or are interested in joining the Health Ministry.

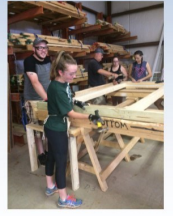
Young Adult Mission (ages 18-35)

May 31st — June 6th, 2020

**Habitat for Humanity -Winston-Salem North Carolina
Informational meeting, Thursday, December 26, 2019, 6pm**



**Questions or unable to
attend contact Val Thompson
248-685-1482 *OR*
stmaryval@comcast.net**



RIGHT TO LIFE CHRISTMAS CARDS

DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES beyond our control, Right to Life Christmas cards will **NOT** be available this year. We are sorry for any inconvenience this causes.

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

Prayer Quilt Ministry Participation

OUR MINISTRY WELCOMES all; machine, hand sewers or non-sewers. We have retirees, full timer, part timer, 'Snow birds' & some members whom can only attend our Saturday workshops. You can decide how 'active' you wish to be and how much time you can give. We meet the first Friday of every month September to June 10am in room 2. We hold three Saturday Work Shops in October, January and May. "Sew Tuesday's" are the 3rd Tuesday of every month for those who wish to hand sew ties or machine sew. Come check us out at any time, see if you would like to join us!

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS THE COMFORT OF A PRAYER QUILT?

Call the St. Mary Parish office at 248-685-1482 to arrange for that person to receive the benefits of a prayer quilt.



CHRISTIAN SERVICE

KNIGHT NEWS



MY BROTHER KNIGHTS, December 9th is The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This day celebrates the most pure and sinless conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary without Original Sin. Did you know that since 1953, the Pope in his capacity as the Bishop of Rome will visit the Column of the Immaculate Conception in Piazza di Spagana to offer expiatory prayers to commemorate this solemn event? This day was first solemnized on December 6, 1708 by Pope Clement XI. The day was celebrated with a mass, parades, fireworks, processions, ethnic foods and other cultural events native to the country that is celebrating. Have a Blessed Day.

FROM FULTON J. Sheen's Wartime Prayer Book. "If there is a higher love of his mother, the boy will always have a consecrated sense of affection, something for which he will be willing to make sacrifices?"

Enjoy Sunday with your family

Gus LaRuffa - PGK (248) 912-7406
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council 7444



CHRISTMAS TREES!

THE KNIGHTS OF Columbus are selling Christmas trees at the Milford Dairy Queen on Milford Road. There are Con Color Fir, Frazer Fir, Douglas Fir and Balsam Fir. The trees are 7 to 12 feet tall.

THE LOT IS open Monday thru Friday 4pm-8pm and Saturday and Sunday 9am-8pm. Proceeds help fund the Christmas food baskets and Special Olympics.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS

THE CHRISTMAS WAFER (Oplatek)

commemorates a custom many centuries old.

It is a tradition among Polish, Slovak, and Lithuanian families, which has been adopted by many other ethnic groups.

THE TRADITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

AFTER GRACE IS said and before sitting down to the Christmas Eve (or Christmas Day) meal, all present share the wafer as a symbol of love, brotherhood, innocence, and Christ. The father (or oldest person present) breaks the wafer with his wife (or next oldest person) exchanging wishes for health and happiness. Then the Oplatek is broken with others, beginning with the oldest child, also sharing wishes for happiness, health and good fortune. When the wafer is accepted, a willingness to forgive and forget is expressed; when it is offered to another, a willingness to share is denoted.

TO HELP CONTINUE this beautiful tradition of love and peace of the Christmas season, we make Christmas Wafers (Oplatek) available after all Masses.*

~ JV

WORSHIP



EXTRA-ORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

WE ARE IN need of individuals willing to distribute communion to those who are homebound as well as those residing at West Hickory Haven, Medilodge, Milford Senior Living, and American House and those that have been hospitalized at Huron Valley Hospital.

We especially need ministers to assist at Huron Valley Hospital.

IF YOU HAVE questions or are interested in joining this ministry, please contact the parish office at: 248-685-1482 OR Angelo Iaconelli at 248-684-0036 .

WEDDING COORDINATORS NEEDED

WE ARE IN NEED of additional volunteers to assist with the coordination of weddings. As a coordinator you would be present at the rehearsal and provide instruction and directions to the wedding party. You would also be present the day of the wedding to assist. Full training will be provided by current coordinators.



PLEASE JOIN THIS wonderful ministry that helps to prepare those on their most special day.

Please call the office for more information or to volunteer.

CALL CHERIE FOR more information: 248-685-1482

Help Us, Help Others



Please join us
Saturday, January 18, 2020
6:15 pm—8:00 pm
St. Mary Social Hall

Buffet dinner of:

Lamb, chicken, rice, salad, vegetables, and dessert

Cost of dinner is \$20.00 per person

Beer and Wine will be available

Dinner is being co-hosted by the Knights of Columbus and

St. Mary St. Vincent DePaul in an effort to raise funds to help those in need in our community.

Tickets available in the St. Mary Parish Offices, 1955 E. Commerce St. Milford, MI 48381. Tickets will also be available after all masses beginning December 28th

EUCCHARISTIC SCHEDULE

CELEBRANT	LECTORS	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	NURSERY	ALTAR SERVERS	SACRISTANS	USHERS	GREETERS	COFFEE SOCIALS
SATURDAY Dec. 14th 5:00 pm Fr. John	Lillian & Bill Lesniak	No Children's Liturgy	Children's Nursery	Elise & Cole Williams	Joe Sapien	Anna Cheney David Cheney Laura Sapien Greg Somervell	Anna & David Cheney	Frank Klingbeil Mary Ann Maciejewski Janet Michalak Jerri Somervell
SUNDAY Dec. 15th, 8:00 a.m. Fr. John	Haley & Jake Riederer	No Children's Liturgy	No Children's Nursery	Avery & Bryn Graskewicz	Teresa Chludzinski	Robert Dyszewski Antoinette Lelek Joan Mills Clarence Mills		Brogan Family Cottingham Family Donna Sens Steurer Family
SUNDAY Dec. 15th, 10:00 a.m. Fr. Dave Harvey	Kristen Calleja & Tamara Deloney	Michael Ciarelli	Children's Nursery	Ethan & Logan Jeannette	Virginia & David Zielinski	Brad Burton Kevin Reside Garrett Rutherford Brad Trombley David Zielinski	Diane & John Turcotte	Pat Greenless Barbara Kuehn Mulder Family Alice Pierce Sandra Quinn
SUNDAY Dec. 15th, 12:00 noon Fr. Dave Harvey	Kate Angeski & Anne Donato	No Children's Liturgy	No Children's Nursery	Maria Donato & Gabrielle Jeziorski	Judy Vereecke	Rick Kerruish Aaron Kowalski Camila Martinez Felipe Martinez		Barbara Kerruish Cherie Makie Kevin Makie Debra Ranger Harlan Thome

NEXT WEEKEND'S LITURGY

Third Sunday of Advent

Introduction

TODAY WE ARE in the rhythm of both gratitude and yearning. Between the two, there is great space for hope. We are learning to be a patient people, continuing on, grateful but also impatient, in hope. We don't give up hoping just because some of the things we long for in God's reign of peace and justice have already happened. We're there, and yet we're not. So much remains unfinished; so many have not yet experienced what has been promised.



"Who are you ...
What do you have to
say for yourself?"
— John 1:22

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 The prophet announces glad tidings and vindication.

Ps Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 My soul rejoices in my God.

1 Thess 5:16-24 Awaiting Christ's promised return.

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28 "There is one coming among you..."

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

AFTER THE INFANCY Narratives of Christ, the Evangelist Matthew recounts the story of John the Baptist preaching in the region of the Jordan River. "Repent", says John, "for the Kingdom Of Heaven is at hand!"

ARCHBISHOP VIGNERON, in his Pastoral Letter, *Unleash the Gospel*, tells us, "To **repent** means to "change one's mind" - to make a life-altering decision to turn away from sin and toward God. There is no true offer of the good news that does not also call for repentance. And calling people to repentance requires that we speak of sin and its consequence, including the ultimate consequence of eternal separation from God.....To speak of repentance is not fashionable today in a world that prefers to ignore sin, yet we who belong to Christ can **testify** that repentance is the way to forgiveness and freedom. It is the key that unlocks the mercy of God!"

THIS IS THE message that we, as Christian stewards must continually proclaim to our family, friends and our neighbors, "meeting them where they are", as Archbishop Vigneron so wisely points out.

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what Advent is all about, for we are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

Please note that ALL MONIES donated to St. Mary St. Vincent de Paul remain in this area, and are used to assist local families in need.

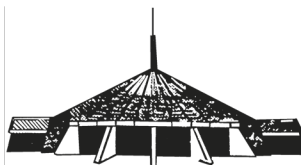
IF YOU HAVE questions or are interested in joining us, please contact Julie Jacobs at (248) 396-2857.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Terri Barbarich	Donna Mercer
Laurel Bedgood	Rae Momberg
Shirley Bible	Earl Moore
Virginia Boomer	Joan Murphy
Carol Brown	Marcel Musci
Jim Brown	Lou Nantias
Vince Brown	Iris Nowicki
Tom Buckley	Walter Nows
Harold Bulgarelli	Joan Opiela
Sarah Campione	Tim Pollard
Brent Canup	Don Ponto
Marguerite Carlise	Fran Rabideau
John Carlton	Cindy Rashid
Terri Chiaz	Betty Redford
Chuck Chidsey	John Rogers
Richard Cole	Marilyn Rogers
Eric Cornell	Henry Rossi
Rosario Criscuolo	Eileen Sausa
Bill Dawson	Dave Scherf
Mary Jane DeCender	Janet Sikora
Russ DeLong	Anne Sordyl
Jacob DiPonio	Graham Squires
Tonya DiPonio	Kimi Stephens
Dolores Donnellon	Connie Stewart
Mary Finnegan	Duane Stibal
George Goeddeke	Christine Tabor
Helen Harcharick	Lynn Tankersley
Kathy Harcharick	Bob Tomczyk
George Hayden	Hai Tran
Christopher Heater	Michael Trupiano
Dennis Henry	Chris Tucker
Diane Henry	Diane Turcotte
Ann Marie Howard	Erin Van Gordon
Virginia Iaconelli	Frank Walcheck
Atlas Lee Jackson	Damon Weaver
Jackie Johnson	Nina White
Fr. Gordon Judd	William Wilkins
Dave Kamish	Ruth Wilson
Patricia Kelly	Arlene Yearn
Rob Kelly	Diana Zerilli
Jason Kirk	Nicole Zapinski
Albert Kossman	Lauren Ziegler
Bruce Krot	Connie Zielinski
Barb Kuehn	Laurie Zielinski
Dorothy LaFave	Paxton Zielinski
Connie Lagodzinski	
Becky Lamb	
Lorraine Latour	
Ron Lemmon	
David Liscinsky	
Frannie Lesniak	
Randy Manar	
Cary Marakovitz	
Suzanne Marzek	
Colleen McCormick	
Duane McFarlane	
Michael McGregory	
Marge McDiarmid	
Kathy McMahan	
Mary McNamara	
Noel Meadows	

*If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please call the Parish Office at 248-685-1482



SAINT MARY PARISH

1955 E. Commerce, Milford, Michigan 48381
 Website: stmarymilfordmi.org
 Email: stmaryscatholicchurch@comcast.net
 Phone: 248-685-1482

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,
 12:00 noon

Children's Liturgy of the Word

10:00 a.m. Masses (except summer)

Nursery

5:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses

Weekday Masses

Monday: 7:00 p.m.
 Tues., Thurs., Friday: 9:00 a.m.

Holy Day Masses

9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 9th, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

10:15 (N.H.) Residents of West Hickory Haven Nursing Home (make up)

7:00pm Jeanine Gregory, req. by: Mom & Dad

Jennifer Sordyl, req. by: Mom & Dad

Tuesday, December 10th,

9:00 am Vocations,

Helen Romanik, req. by: Cliff & Cathy Taylor

10:00 am **MASS AT MEDILODGE** (make up from last week)

Wednesday, December 11th, NO MASS

Thursday, December 12th, 9:00 am

Living & Deceased Members of the Thursday Morning Men's Group,
 Harry Kubisiak, req. by: Mary Rose

Friday, December 13th, 9:00 am

Brian Refalo, req. by: The Refalo Family

The Till Family, (For Peace & Healing) req. by: Maria Sinishtaj

Saturday, December 14th, 5:00 pm

Rita Pace, req. by: Mary Shura & Family

John & Sophie Marzec, req. by: Family

Sunday, December 15th

8:00 am

Ken Rabidoux, req. by: Thad & Mary Ellen Smith

Concetta DiPonio, req. by: Family

10:00 am

Jane Law, req. by: John Law

Mary Minock, req. by: John Law

12:00 Noon

Living & Deceased Members of the Pace & Cassar Families, req. by:

Roseanne Attard

Justin Kelly, req. by: His Family

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE

On behalf of the Parish Family of St. Mary, we would like to extend our deepest sympathies and prayerful reassurances to the family and friends of:

CLAUDE WILLIAMS

OFFERTORY REPORT

Thank you so much for your great generosity and open-hearted support of St. Mary.

Our annual budget is based on contributions each week of \$22,482.00 The contributions for last weekend were \$29,563.00

This amount includes On Line Giving donations.

YOUTH MINISTRY

On November 21-24, some of our high school students had the opportunity to attend NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) in Indianapolis, IN. To say it was a life changing experience, is an understatement. It was an honor and joy for me to watch our kids grow in their faith and their relationship with Christ in just 3 days. Joined with 20,000 other high school students from around the country, we spent our days in concerts, hearing from wonderful Catholic speakers, had large group sessions and breakout sessions, had bible study together, Mass together and Adored our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration in Lucas Oil Stadium. Please read a testimony from Isabelli Nava, a freshmen from Walled Lake Northern High School.



NCYC is an experience that I will never forget. It made me see who Jesus and God were in just 3 days. It made me see why we believe in our Catholic faith. I remember Olivia telling me about this trip and how it was a great opportunity for any Catholic to go. At first, I didn't want to go to this trip. I thought: "I rather go to a completely different place for 3 days". I didn't know what I was doing but something in me told me to go. So I said "yes". When it was the big meeting before the trip everyone was really excited and couldn't wait to go on this trip. When my mom and I walked in that meeting I was honestly scared and wondering why what is exciting about this trip. During the meeting I met another person from St. Mary's that was going but right before we hopped on the bus, he couldn't make it. I got scared at not knowing what was the path ahead of me. Olivia and I were with the St. Pats kids so we could travel in a whole group and not by ourselves. The day finally came. We took a 4 hour bus ride to Indiana. When we arrived we walked in the Lucas Oil Stadium and it was the biggest thing I've ever seen! More than 20,000 kids were there from all over the country. The first thought that came in my head was: "Do all of these kids share the same faith?" There were bands playing songs on the stage and many kids surrounding the stage as if it were a concert and introduced us to NCYC 2019. The first night passed and I felt excited to know what was going to happen. The next few days was the craziest thing I've ever seen, there were people wearing the most crazy hats ever. There were speakers that came from all over the world to give their testimonies on how God changed and impacted their lives. I was in awe on how God changed them and how they were here to share their life with God. Speakers came to the stadium and told us their stories as well. I felt amazed and I realized how God can have such a great impact in our lives. Then came the night of adoration. Seeing Jesus right there on the stage I was praying on my knees and I started to thank Him. I kept thanking Him and I remember asking: "It was You who sent me here wasn't it?". Before I knew I felt tears in my eyes. I started to cry quietly and just kept thanking Him for everything I had and owned. Then I heard His voice. And I knew from there that He was real. This is why every teen should go on this trip. To see, to learn, and to understand why we believe in our faith. Even when you think that this won't change your life it will! I was a teen who never really believed until I went on this trip. I want every teen to join me on the NCYC of 2021. Let God continue to change lives forever!

-Isabelli Nava





JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

CHILDREN'S VILLAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Students in grades 9-12 are invited for pizza,
games and gifts with the kids at Mandy's Place

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

6:00 - 8:00 PM

We will be carpooling from st. mary, leaving at 5:15 pm

Please RSVP to Olivia by December 13th at
youthministry@stmarymilfordmi.org



A VINCENTIAN DIARY

THE FAMILY OF five had no choice but to leave and drive north, packing everything that would fit in the old car and begin the journey from their southern state life. The uncomfortable living conditions they had endured had become untenable, exposing them to physical and emotional duress. Fortunately, a single family member lived in the Milford area, and offered them safe harbor and a shared home, and they looked forward to a new beginning in Michigan.

SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVING, their car broke down, and repairs exceeded the low value of the vehicle and the vehicle was scrapped. Undeterred, Emily got a part-time job with a retailer located 8 miles away. Brian also obtained a job within a 30 minute drive. The lack of a vehicle imposed challenges which could not easily be met. When Emily could not get a ride, she walked half way (one hour), and took Lyft the second half, unwilling and unable to pay the cost for the full trip. Brian found rides until he couldn't, and then lost the job due to reliability.



THAT IS WHEN God came to the rescue, via a donated car to St Vincent de Paul. The car was in really good condition, but still required \$800 of service and repairs. Funded by donations of parishioners and St Mary Church, the car was presented to Emily at the church lot, where she is shown above with one of her three children (ages 4, 5, and 7).

SHORTLY AFTER GETTING the car, Brian was able to secure a full time job at good pay.

FOR MANY OF us, a car is taken for granted; for many in need, not so. While they can carry the expense of an operational vehicle (gas, insurance and registration), they are unable to fund the purchase of a reliable used car, and the family faces job and income loss, with the possibility of eviction and homelessness without that transportation.

IN THE WORDS of Emily in reply to her permission to tell her story, "I hope this helps the church and others like me. Thank you so much for everything and I pray you help so many more people to come".

IF DONATION OF your vehicle is considered and you want to make a real difference in the lives of others, please call St Vincent de Paul at St Mary Church.