

# St. Mary & St. Charles St. Mary & St. John Parishes

## We Welcome You

We welcome you to our parishes and our communities. If you would like to become a member of one of our parishes, please contact the parish office (994-2526-Bloomington or 725-5595-Cassville) to register.

For those who are interested in becoming Catholic or returning to the Catholic faith, please contact Fr. John.

## The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Fr. John will be available to hear confessions on Mondays from 4:45-5:30 p.m. at St. Charles, Cassville and from 6:00-6:45 p.m. at St. Mary's, Bloomington.

## Baptism

May God bless our new parents! Please contact Fr. John to schedule the baptism of your child at your church and to attend a baptismal preparation session.

## Marriage

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage! Please call Fr. John at least six months in advance of the wedding. One of the parties must be a practicing Catholic.

## Anointing of the Sick

Whenever someone is seriously ill, hospitalized, or is dying, please contact the Bloomington parish office immediately. If you or someone you know is sick and would like to be included in the Mass prayers, please call the parish office.

## Vocations

Please contact Fr. John if you or someone you know would like to learn more about becoming a priest, brother, sister, deacon, or lay church minister. Please pray for more vocations to the priesthood and all religious ministries!

## St. Charles and St. Mary's School -Faith, Family and Academic Excellence

To register your child, please call Mrs. Kelly Copsey at 994-2435 for St. Mary School or Ms. Dianne Makovec at 725-5173 for St. Charles School. St. Mary and St. Charles Schools admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin.

## Bulletin Notices

Please submit bulletin notices in *writing* to the parish office (sunday7@tds.net) on Monday.

## St. Charles Parish Office Hours

Call parish office at 725-5595 to schedule appointments.

## St. Mary's Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

# ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2020 | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Rev. John Meinholz**

P.O. Box 35

Bloomington, WI 53804

608-994-2526

608-725-5595

sunday7@tds.net (Julie M Jentz)

stchas@tds.net (Cheryl Junk)

Our joint parish website can be found  
at [www.swwicatholicparishes.com](http://www.swwicatholicparishes.com).



**Liturgy Schedule**

Sat.	11/28	4:30 PM	Celly and Leone Richter and Tyis Breuer	(Cassville)
		8:00 PM	All Parishioners	(Glen Haven)
Sun.	11/29	8:00 AM	Mildred & James Sprosty	(Patch Grove)
		9:15 AM	Florence Herbers	(Bloomington)
		10:30AM	Walt Mumm	(Cassville)
Mon.	11/30	8:15 AM	Chris Beesecker and Jordan Beesecker	(Cassville)
		8:45-9:30 AM	Adoration	(Cassville)
Tues.	12/1	8:15 AM	Robert F. & Carol Vogt	(Cassville)
Wed.	12/2	8:15 AM	Carol Mumm and deceased family members	(Bloomington)
Thurs.	12/3	7:30-8:05 AM	Adoration	(Bloomington)
		8:15 AM	Living and deceased members of the Bob & Janet Reuter family	(Bloomington)
Fri.	12/4	8:15 AM	No Mass	
Sat.	12/5	4:30 PM	Al & Florence Errthum and descendants	(Bloomington)
		8:00 PM	All Parishioners	(Glen Haven)
Sun.	12/6	8:00 AM	Leonard & Elsie Neises family	(Patch Grove)
		9:15 AM	Connie Kirschbaum and Tom Hess	(Bloomington)
		10:30AM	Jill Uppena	(Cassville)



**First Sunday of Advent**

Once again we begin the season of Advent, this time of preparation for Christ’s coming into the world on Christmas morning. But this is not the only arrival of Christ for which we can prepare. He comes into our hearts at any time in many ways. He comes to us in the Eucharist. We hope to be welcomed into his arms when we leave this world. Finally, he will come again at the end of time. As we gather in his name today, let us contemplate how we can prepare to receive Christ even when we least expect him.

**GREETINGS**

This Sunday we begin the Advent Season. This year so many things are uncertain, and we try our best to plan ahead, knowing that some plans may have to change. We remember all the traditions that we hold dear around the holiday season. This year I am hoping to have a light in each window of my house. I really need it this season.

We worry about what we will be able to do, and what events and gatherings we need to forgo this year. Please reflect on the core meaning of the season, the coming of Christ, and give a priority to your prayer and sacramental life for yourself and your children. I hope that many will attend Mass, go to Confession, and pray daily at home during this season. If for your own safety or the safety of others you are unable to come to Church, you can watch a Mass livestreamed or recorded. There are many to choose from. We are sending out a letter with the parish Mass schedules and resources for prayer and reflection during Advent. **HAVE A BLESSED ADVENT**

**What Is the Mass?**

What is the Mass? There is no simple answer to that question. The Church uses many different images and terms to describe our most important prayer. The Mass is the celebration of the Eucharist, a Greek word that means “thanksgiving.” It is the Lord’s Supper. It is the Breaking of the Bread. It is the memorial of the Lord’s passion, death, and resurrection. It is the Holy Sacrifice, in which the sacrifice of Christ on the cross is perpetuated. It is the holy and divine liturgy, the sacred mysteries. It is the source and summit of our Christian lives, the new covenant, the work of the Holy Spirit, the paschal mystery. The many different words and images that we use when we speak of the Mass are not signs of confusion, but of wonder at what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1328) calls the “inexhaustible richness” of the Eucharist. The Mass, our greatest prayer and our deepest mystery, is celebrated every day, many times a day, the world over. The Eucharist is both “bread from heaven” and “daily bread.” The Mass is our everyday miracle.—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**Advent -A Time for Confession**

As we begin the Advent season, I would like to invite everyone to participate in the merciful Sacrament of Reconciliation to prepare for Christmas.

**Times for Private Confession**

Monday’s at 4:45-5:30 p.m. at St. Charles Church, Cassville  
 Monday’s at 6:00-6:45 p.m. at St. Mary Church, Bloomington  
 Saturday’s at 3:45-4:00 p.m. alternating between St. Charles, Cassville and St. Mary’s, Bloomington  
 Saturday’s at 7:30-7:45 p.m. at St. Mary Church, Glen Haven  
 Sunday’s at 7:40 a.m. at St. John Church, Patch Grove

**Communal Reconciliation Times**

St. Andrew Church, Tennyson on Wed., Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m.  
 St. Mary Church, Bloomington on Wed., Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m.

**Scripture for the week of Nov. 30, 2020**

Monday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22  
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24  
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37  
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27  
 Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31  
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8  
 Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

**Great Breakfasts**

Everyone is invited to St. Mary’s School Drive-Thru Santa-Sized Breakfast this Sunday from 8:30-11:00 a.m. There will also be a Christmas Cookie & Candy Sale, and a small gift bag for kids.

Then next Sunday, Dec. 6, you can attend St. Charles Drive-Thru Advent Breakfast at St. Charles School from 9:00 a.m.-noon. There will also be a raffle and treats for kids.



**Saint Andrew Christmas Novena**

*Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold.*

*In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.*

This prayer is often called the “Christmas Novena” because it is prayed 15 times every day from the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (November 30) until Christmas. The novena is not actually addressed to Saint Andrew but to God asking Him to grant our request in honor of the birth of His Son at Christmas. You can say the prayer 15 times together or divide it up as necessary (perhaps five times at each meal).

The Saint Andrew Christmas Novena is a very good way to help focus our attention on the Advent season.

St. Andrew, one of the first of the twelve apostles, brought his brother to join him in following Jesus. We can follow St. Andrew’s example by encouraging vocations to the religious life and priesthood.



**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS**

**Faith, Family and Academic Excellence**

St. Mary's Home & School Association has once again signed up for the Grant County Holiday Project. We have adopted a family of five. If you are interested in purchasing a gift for the family, you can pick an ornament off of the tree in the lobby of the school starting Monday, November 16.

For more information about St. Mary's School, please contact Mrs. Kelly Copsey at school 608-994-2435 or at home 608-732-2572.

**SCRIP:** SCRIP gift cards are a great way to do your shopping and helps support St. Mary School at the same time. We carry cards for national retailers, local gas cards, Piggly Wiggly and Wal-Mart as well as most local vendors. You can purchase SCRIP at Economy Feed Mill and the SCRIP program is online.



**SANTA SIZE Drive-thru Breakfast**

St. Mary's SANTA SIZE Drive-thru Breakfast is this Sunday, Nov. 29, from 8:30-11:00 a.m. and will feature French toast, scrambled eggs, whole hog sausage, cinnamon roll, and milk. \$10.00 per meal. There will also be a cookie and candy sale.

**Thank You's**

We are deeply grateful for the very generous donation to St. Mary Parish in memory of Roger and Phyllis Osterhaus and for the generous donation to St. Mary's Cemetery Association from the Roger Osterhaus Trust Fund.

**Dumpsters at St. Mary's**

Unfortunately, we have had an ongoing problem with people filling and over filling the dumpsters at the edge of our parking lot with trash and construction materials. Often there has been no room to dispose of items from the church and school.

St. Mary's Parish pays to have the dumpsters and the dumpsters are to only be used for the church and school.

**Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service Next Year**

Since COVID keeps it's grip on our whole area, we are saddened to NOT hold our joint Thanksgiving worship this year with St. Mary's Parish and the Bloomington BMZ Regional UMC. We will plan to host in 2021 so we can again share in worship and fellowship together. We will look forward to this good time together again! Thanksgiving blessings to all! -Pastor Mary Ann and Pastor Stan



**2020 HARVEST FUND:**

It's harvest time again which means St. Mary's Harvest Fund has started. We are very gratefully to the families who have given donations totaling \$18,547.10. We hope all of our parish members will be able to share their bounty and blessings to help with fall and winter expenses for the parish. We appreciate all contributions large or small and thank the many generous parishioners for their continued support.

Goal:	
Goal:	\$50,000
	\$45,000
	\$40,000
	\$35,000
	\$30,000
	\$25,000
	\$20,000
	\$15,000
	\$10,000
	\$5,000
	\$0



**St. Mary's Religious Education**

**Wednesday, December 2, 2020**

Grades 2,3,5,6: 5:45-7:00 p.m. – Purple  
Grades 7-10: 7:15-8:45 p.m.— Purple



**Mass Intentions for St. Mary's & St. John's**

Due to the uncertain times that we are living through, we will not be scheduling Mass intentions for 2021 until January or later.



**CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS**

It is time again to think of decorating our churches for Christmas, and we are asking the members of St. Mary's and St. John's churches to help by purchasing poinsettias in memory of their loved ones. The prices for the flowers are \$16.00 for a small poinsettia, \$28.00 for a medium poinsettia, and \$40.00 for a large poinsettia. Parishioners also have the option of making a donation to help offset the cost of decorating the churches.

Memorials may be dropped off at the parish office or put in the weekend collection before December 18. Please indicate on the envelope what size plant, which church it is being given to, the name of the person(s) it is being given in memory or honor of, and your name.

**PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATES**

**PLEASE HELP US PAY OUR EXPENSES**

**St. Mary's Collections for the period ending November 20, 2020**

Church Support.....	\$1,927.00
Offertory.....	\$74.00
Harvest Fund.....	\$972.09
St. John's Reimbursement for Expenses.....	\$977.33
3K Program Fees.....	\$1,337.10
School Tuition.....	\$97.61

St. Mary's families are asked to generously contribute toward the support of parish expenses. It is suggested for a family to give \$900.00 and a single person \$450.00 per year.

**St. John's Collections for the week ending on November 20, 2020**

Church Support.....	\$155.00
Offertory.....	\$89.00

St. John's families are asked to generously contribute toward the support of parish expenses.

**Live today the way you will wish you had lived when you stand in judgment before God.** —Anonymous

**St. John's Ministry Schedule for December 6, 2020**

<b>Sunday 8:00 a.m. Mass</b>	
Lector:	Bob McLimans
Ushers:	Charlie Martin, Tom Breuer
Servers:	Servers needed

**St. Mary Ministry Schedule for December 5 & 6, 2020**

<b>4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass</b>	
Lector:	Mary Sue White
Ushers:	Charley Errthum, Gary Mumm
Server:	Conner & Ava Hoyer

<b>9:15 a.m. Mass</b>	
Lector:	Marcia Hampton
Sacristan:	Marcia Hampton
Ushers:	Daniel Herbers, Joe Mergen



**Restoration/Accessibility Campaign**

The Redecorating Committee would like to thank all parishioners whom have returned pledge cards for support of our Restoration/Accessibility Campaign. . We have currently \$298,620.00 pledged, \$288,747.94 collected and 228 pledges committed. If you have questions, call Cheryl at 725-5595.

VanDerhoff Studios have installed storm windows. Restoration on the 4 windows are in in progress and due to an injury will take longer than expected. New entry doors and auto openers will be installed before winter. Fundraising will continue to complete window project through **October 2021. Thank you** for your support and generosity. Our campaign is successful due to our wonderful parish family.

Goal:	
\$300,000	
\$275,000	
\$250,000	
\$225,000	
\$200,000	
\$175,000	
\$150,000	
\$125,000	
\$100,000	
\$75,000	
\$50,000	
\$25,000	
\$0	



**ST. CHARLES DRIVE-THRU ADVENT BREAKFAST**

**Sunday, December 6, from 9:00 a.m.-noon**

Come and enjoy scrambled eggs, sausage, cheesy hash brown casserole, cinnamon swirl coffee cake, and apple sauce. \$9 per breakfast. Santa will be at the breakfast and have a treat for the children riding along to pick up breakfast. There will also be a raffle with top prize of \$100. The breakfast is hosted by St. Charles School families and St. Charles Religious Education families.

[St. Charles Drive-thru Advent Breakfast is looking for Raffle Prize Donations. Anyone with an item to donate, please contact Angela Adams at 794-2107.](#)



**St. Charles School News**

Please call St. Charles Parish office at 725-5595 for more information about enrolling your child at our school.

**MARK'S JESUS**

Mark's Gospel is the shortest and tersest of all four. The discourses of Jesus tend to be terser as well. Mark's portrayal of Jesus has none of the poetry of the Sermon on the Mount or the Sermon on the Plain as in Matthew or Luke, nor the extensive, reflective "I Am" discourses as in John. Mark's Jesus "cuts to the chase," we would say today. This is reflected quite well in today's passage.

It is no accident that the dialogue of Jesus at this point in the Gospel according to Mark—the concluding words about the end of the world—immediately before his passion, is riddled with exclamation points and an overall sense of urgency.

We would do well to re-tool our own way of living this Advent, for we live in a world urgently in need of hearing the message of Jesus proclaimed. It's time for us to "wake up!" and get out into the world to do it. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**ADVENT IS HERE. WHAT A MARVELOUS TIME IN WHICH TO RENEW YOUR DESIRE, YOUR NOSTALGIA, YOUR REAL LONGING FOR CHRIST TO COME — FOR HIM TO COME EVERY DAY TO YOUR SOUL IN THE EUCHARIST.**

*St. JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA*



**Reflection**

*"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come." - Mark 13:33*

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our time, our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

**PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATES**

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the bulletin had to be sent in before the weekend collections were counted.

**St. Mary's, Glen Haven for November 21, 2020:**

Church Support.....\$NA  
Offertory.....\$NA

**St. Charles, Cassville for November 22, 2020:**

Church Support.....\$NA  
Offertory.....\$NA

**PLEASE HELP US PAY OUR EXPENSES**

*St. Charles suggested giving is \$1,400.00 a year for a married couple and \$700.00 a year for a single household*

**St. Mary's, Glen Haven Schedule for Dec. 5, 2020**

**8:00 p.m. Saturday Mass**  
Lector: NA  
Ushers: NA

**St. Charles' Ministry Schedule for Dec. 6, 2020**

**10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass**  
Lector: Sue Munro  
Sacristan: Cheryl Junk  
Ushers: Rick & Cheryl Junk

*Love God, serve God; everything is in that.*  
*- St. Clare of Assisi*

**NEW TAX BENEFITS FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS**

A recently passed law includes several charitable tax provisions to potentially benefit you and encourage giving!

**If you do not itemize on your tax return -** but make a gift, you will be allowed to take a special tax deduction, up to \$300, to reduce your tax liability.

**If you do itemize on your tax return -** an increase in the deduction limit up to 100% of a donor's annual income for cash gifts (previously the deduction was capped at 60% of annual income).



## Celebrate Life

Advent leads the Church to the Silent Night when God Himself is revealed as one of us. This season leads us to the joy of His birth. If God has joined

His nature to ours, how can we ever allow our nature to be despised? If He has come to bring us Divine Life, and will return to take us to the skies, how can it be all right to throw people in the garbage? May His birth shed protection on all about to be born, and as we work to end abortion, may we "wait in joyful hope for the coming of Our Savior, Jesus Christ."

## Help is Available

If you need support for an unplanned pregnancy, please contact the Clarity Clinic of SW Wisconsin at 608-348-5787 or email at [clientservices@claritywi.com](mailto:clientservices@claritywi.com) or the Women's Care Center in Madison, WI at 608-241-8100. For more information on pro-life issues, visit [www.WisconsinRightToLife.org](http://www.WisconsinRightToLife.org).

## Project Rachel - Healing from Abortion

Are you or a loved one carrying the sorrow and regret from abortion? Whether recent or long ago ... God is waiting ... Healing is possible. For confidential help, please contact Mary at 608-221-9593 or [rachel@straphael.org](mailto:rachel@straphael.org) [www.madisondiocese.org/rachel](http://www.madisondiocese.org/rachel)

## Natural Family Planning

Register for in-person education courses or for a self-paced online course: <http://www.madisondiocese.org/classes-andregistration> Questions? Call 608-495-6117 or email: [nfp@straphael.org](mailto:nfp@straphael.org)



## WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

*"Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning."*

Don't wait – take time now for your marriage by participating in a virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend from the comfort of your home on Dec. 4-6. There is also a virtual experience Jan. 12 to Feb 2, in a series of two sessions per week for three weeks of roughly 2 hours each. Visit our website at: [alifetimeoflove.org](http://alifetimeoflove.org) or call (888) 574-5653.

Para un fin de semana en español por favor llamen a Candelario y Emilia al 815-375-4250.

## AA and Al-Anon Meetings in Bloomington

Open AA meetings for anyone who is struggling with addiction **are held every Thursday from 7:00-8:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the American Legion, 212 Congress St., Bloomington, WI. Please call Peggy at 317-690-9241 for more information.

## Survivors of Suicide (SOS) Support Group

This support group is meant to help those who have lost a loved one to suicide and to give hope. More information at <http://www.bens-hope.com>.

**National Suicide Prevention Life Line – 1.800.273.8255** 24 Hour assistance.

## Meetings

\*December 1—St. John's Parish Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

## EVENTS

\*November 29—St. Mary's SANTA SIZE Drive-thru Breakfast

\*December 6– St. Charles Drive-thru Advent Breakfast

\*December 8 - St. John's Food Pantry at 1:00 p.m.

\*January 14, 2021– St. John's Food Pantry at 1:00 p.m

## Message from Fr. Paul

Thank you for your support and prayers. I am truly blessed! **You may continue your support of my work by sending donations to Roads to Life Tanzania and sending it to PO Box 157, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821.** You are always in my prayers and Masses.



## OPERATION SANTA CLAUS IN THE RIVER RIDGE AREA

Operation Santa Claus is sponsored by the West Grant Lions Club to help those families in need to have a Merry Christmas. The club serves the Bagley, Bloomington, Glen Haven, Mt. Hope and Patch Grove areas.

Money donations which are also needed for the purchase of food items may be mailed to the West Grant Lions Club Treasurer, Jim Kachel, 10037 Kishwaukee Trail, Bagley, WI 53801. The deadline for money donations is Dec. 4.

If you have any nonperishable food items (especially canned goods), please bring them to one of the collection locations. Also please mark the bags or boxes as being for the West Grant Lions Operation Santa. Sometimes there are other organizations or classes who are gathering food items for a different project.

The Lions Club cannot distribute home canned foods or home baked items. Please donate new stocking caps or hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. The Lions Club cannot distribute used clothing.

Names for Operation Santa Claus deliveries may be mailed to the Lions Club at P.O. Box 38, Bloomington, WI 53804 before Dec. 1. Please try to do this as early as possible for planning and ordering purposes. Include a street or road address, phone number, number of adults, and number of children (by age, if possible).

## Cassville AA and Al-Anon Meetings

The AA meetings are every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building in Cassville.

## Courage & EnCourage

Courage, an apostolate of the Catholic Church, ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. They also have an outreach called EnCourage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. In recognition of the irreplaceable role of the family in attaining an understanding of the homosexual condition and embracing a life of chastity. If you are looking for acceptance for yourself-same-sex attraction and all-while embracing the truth about sex as God means it to be, you may call (608) 821-3018 or contact [courage@madisondiocese.org](mailto:courage@madisondiocese.org) for more information.

*What we do in life echoes in eternity.*



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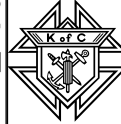
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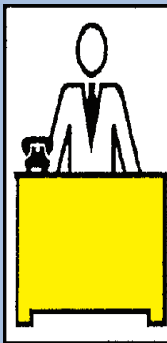
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