

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM SACRED HEART CHURCH
PA Charitable Trust Partnered With ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

**Fr. Thomas Curry, O.S.B, Pastor ~ Fr. Thomas More Sikora, O.S.B. Parochial Vicar
Deacon Bill Gibson, Deacon Andy Froberg, Deacon Ray Ehrensberger**

**Parish Staff of Sacred Heart Church ~ Patsy, Pat, Kathy, & Dave
Parish Staff of St. Mary's Church ~ Kim, Ann Marie, Bonnie, & Ed
Faith Formation Staff and Teachers
Blessings in the New Year!!**



Dec., 23(S): Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. Mary's Church

4:30 p.m. ††† Hal & Pauline Fritz and Frank Fritz
† Donald W. Fleming

Dec., 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sacred Heart Church

7:00 a.m. Mass For The Parishioners

St. Mary's Church

9:00 a.m. Special Intention

Sacred Heart Church

10:30 a.m. † Don Baumgratz (An.)

Christmas Eve Masses

Dec., 24: Sun., Vigil of The Nativity Of The Lord

Sacred Heart Church

4:00 p.m. Patients & Staff of Pine Crest Manor,
Elk Haven Nursing Home & Silver Creek Terrace

St. Mary's Church

4:30 p.m. Mass for the Parishioners

Sacred Heart Church

11:30 p.m. Christmas Music

Christmas Day Masses

Dec., 25:(M) The Nativity Of The Lord

Sacred Heart Church

12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass Intention of the Celebrant
7:00 a.m. Intention of all Volunteers of Sacred Heart
and St. Mary's Parishes

St. Mary's Church

8:30 a.m. Private Intention

10:30 a.m. Private Intention

Sacred Heart Church

11:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Dec., 26(T): St. Stephen, First Martyr

6:15 a.m. †† Frank & Rose Kneidel

Dec., 27(W): St. John, Apostle, Evangelist

6:15 a.m. † Eileen Spence

Dec., 28(Th): The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

6:15 a.m. ††† Joseph, Angela (An.) & George Lynch

Dec., 29(F): Fifth Day In The Octave of Christmas

6:15 a.m. †† Gerald & Dorothy Newell

Dec., 30(S): Vigil of Holy Family

St. Mary's Church

4:30 p.m. † L/D of Alfred J. Bauer Family

Dec., 31: Holy Family

Sacred Heart Church

7:00 a.m. Mass for the Parishioners

St. Mary's Church

9:00 a.m. † Verena Cuneo

Sacred Heart Church

10:30 a.m. L/D of Herman & Catherine Lenze Family



The week of December 24, 2023 the Angel Lamps in the Sanctuary burn for the following intentions:

† Donald W. Fleming
†† Thomas G. & Helen J. Herzing

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASSES

Date: Jan., 9th **Time:** 6:30 p.m. **Place:** Queen of the World
814-834-4701



No New Year's Eve Vigil Mass

Mary Mother of God, Monday, January 1, 2024

NO 6:15 AM Sacred Heart Church
8:30 AM St. Mary's Church
9:00 AM Queen of the World Church
10:30 AM Sacred Heart Church
Jan., 1st is not a Holy Day of Obligation.



**Sacred Heart Church &
St. Mary's Church
PA Charitable Trusts
Partnered Parish Update**



**Mass Time Changes for all
Weekday Masses
beginning Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

**Sacred Heart Church: 6:15AM
Monday, Wednesday & Friday**

**St. Mary's Church: 8:30AM
Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday**

**"Understand what you do, imitate what you
celebrate, and conform your life to the mystery of
the Lord's cross."**

-Ordination Rite of Priests-

Gabriel Kraus and Deacon Brian Meyers Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary 7880 W. Denton Road Denton, NE 68339	Deacon Luke Dagher St. Mary's Seminary 5400 Roland Avenue Baltimore MD 21210
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"31 DAY" VOCATION CALENDAR - Please

consider joining the Parish "31 Club" for Vocations to the Religious Life. Try to attend a Mass, Holy Hour, Pray a Rosary **OR** pray on your chosen date and offer it for:

- Priests/religious who have served our parish in the **past**.
- For those priests, religious and deacons serving **now**.
- To ask the Lord of the harvest for **future** vocations.

- 25th Dutch Wegemer, Cathy Schneider,
Karen Dick, Lois Bauer
- 26th A.J. Feidler, Amy Goman, Linda Safran, Judy Tate
- 27th Pamela Hunt, Marge Gerg, Mary Lou Schutz
- 28th Patsy McAllister, Mark Bauer, Dee Pontzer
- 29th Myra Trgovac, John Kosco, Jerry & Patty Prechtl
- 30th Jeanne Dippold, Gary Lang, Dick Wolfe
- 31st The Steve Fritz Family, Leona Fritz, Janet Wolfe

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed. May God grant them eternal rest and comfort all those who mourn them.



THE GREATEST GIFT

As humans we're conflicted,
The messages are skewed,
This world is brash and angry,
We feel beaten, worn and used.
There is another message,
From One greater than the earth,
Come prepare your weary heart,
To welcome Jesus' birth.

Poem: Susan Kneidel Werner
Art: Greg Olsen

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**GLASSES FOUND IN
SACRED HEART CHURCH~**

If you lost these, they are in the
Parish Office.



PRAYER LIST - Let us remember all the sick especially Chrissy Aikens, Henry James Farkas, Alice Feldbauer, Don Geci, Sara Geitner, Irene George, Louise Georgevich, Kathleen Glatfelter, Dennis Maffei, Darlene Nappe, Dave Nellis, Tammy Pearsall, Asher Quinn, Kathleen (Daisy) Rowley, Emily Saline, Dave Schneider, Matthew Sharrow, Ruth "Pug" Sloff, Mary Jo Wheeler, and Dominick Herbstritt, Brooks Murphy and Lucy Weis.

SPECIAL ENVELOPES FOR THE MONTH OF

Dec., 25 Christmas Offering
Jan., 01, 2024 Solemnity of Mary

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mondays Praying the Rosary in Church **4:00 p.m.**
Fridays Rosary in Church **1:00 p.m.**
Fridays Divine Mercy Chaplet in Church **3:00 p.m.**
Dec., **NO** Parish Council Meeting

AREA NEWS

ADORATION AT SACRED HEART
every **Friday** following the **6:15 a.m. Mass.**
At **3:00 p.m.** the Divine Mercy Chaplet
Closing: Benediction at 4:00 p.m.



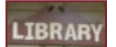
ADORATION AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH
every **Tuesday** following the **8:30 a.m. Mass.**
Closing: Benediction: 4:00 PM.



ADORATION AT QUEEN of the WORLD
every **Thursday** following the **7:00 a.m. Mass.**
Closing: Benediction: 5:00 PM.



RELIGIOUS AND PRO LIFE LENDING



Located on the main floor, of the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Opened Mon., thru Fri., 9 am to 4 pm. It's a nice quiet place to sit and read a book or take out a book or items for you to read or view in your own home. Sorry, not open on weekends, Holidays or Holy Days.

THE BENEDICTINE GIFT SHOP~

139 Church Street in St. Marys is your one-stop shop for Religious Items. Carrying on the tradition of the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County, they strive to provide quality merchandise at the lowest price possible. Check out their Facebook page to see what is new. Open Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed on Sundays, Mondays & Holy Days.



PHE PEPPERMINT STICK GIFT SHOP

Hours: Mon., thru Thurs., 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Stop by and check it out!



MERRY WIDOWS Luncheon & Meeting

Mon., Jan., 8th Sacred Heart at Noon.
Cost will be \$10.00. Widows please come and join us for lunch and an afternoon of fun.



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HIRING**

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St. Marys Inter-Parish



Faith Formation Calendar

All classes are held at the St. Mary's Church Parish Center (Former Catholic Middle School), 325 Church Street, unless otherwise noted.

Schedule changes as the school calendar changes because of CDC guidelines. You can also refer to the sminterparishfff.com website for updated schedules

Wed., Dec. 27 No Elementary Faith Formation (Christmas Break) NO Grade 1 CGS at Sacred Heart Atrium (Christmas Break)

Wed., Jan. 3 Elementary Faith Formation (grade 1-5) 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM Grade 1 CGS at Sacred Heart Atrium (5:50 PM– 7:20 PM)

Sun., Jan. 7 St. Boniface Whole Family Catechesis 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM Middle School Faith Formation 6:00 PM- 7:45 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM – 7:45 PM

Tues., Jan. 9 Confirmation class for SMA students after 3rd Period in Room 205

Wed., Jan. 10 Elementary Faith Formation (grade 1-5) 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (4th and 5th grade Family Night) Grade 1 CGS at Sacred Heart Atrium (5:50 PM – 7:20 PM)

SAVE THE DATES

First Reconciliation

Tues., Feb., 27 Queen of the World Students at 6:00 PM at Queen of the World

Tues., Feb., 27 St. Boniface Students at 7:00 PM at St. Boniface

Wed., Feb., 28 Sacred Heart & St. Mary's Students at 6:00 PM at St. Mary's Church



Where: Dunkin Donuts on the Million Dollar Highway, St. Marys When: Jan. 3, 2024 Time: 6:45pm—8:15pm Who: Students in grades 6-12 The drinks are on us!! Sponsored by: Rooted Youth Ministry



From the Pastor's Desk



Hearts Overflowing with Gratitude!

Many thanks to the organizers, announcers, bakers and all of the volunteers for the recent Bah Humbug Festival. One of the volunteers offered a comment about the Rueben sandwiches that are served at this festival, "They are better than the Rueben sandwiches in Times Square!" I must agree, I ate two of the famous Sacred Heart Ruebens at the Bah Humbug back-to-back and they tasted fantastic! Please try those again soon. Speaking of Times Square, please have a Happy New Year.

Christmas Blessings, Fr. Tom



FOREIGN MISSION SERVICE TRIP GUIDELINES:

Awards are contingent on the application of college age students (ages 18-25) who are members of a Benedictine

parish staffed by a monk of Saint Vincent Archabbey. Awards will be evaluated by order received and will be given on a case-by-case basis.

A limited number of awards will be granted for flight related expenses to and from Saint Vincent Archabbey's foreign mission location. The limit of the award is 50% of those costs.

The awardee is expected to raise the remaining funds (\$1,250.00) for the support of missionary activities while on the trip. Any funds raised above these amounts will go towards the promotion of the Archabbey Wimmer Fund. The awardee is also required to:

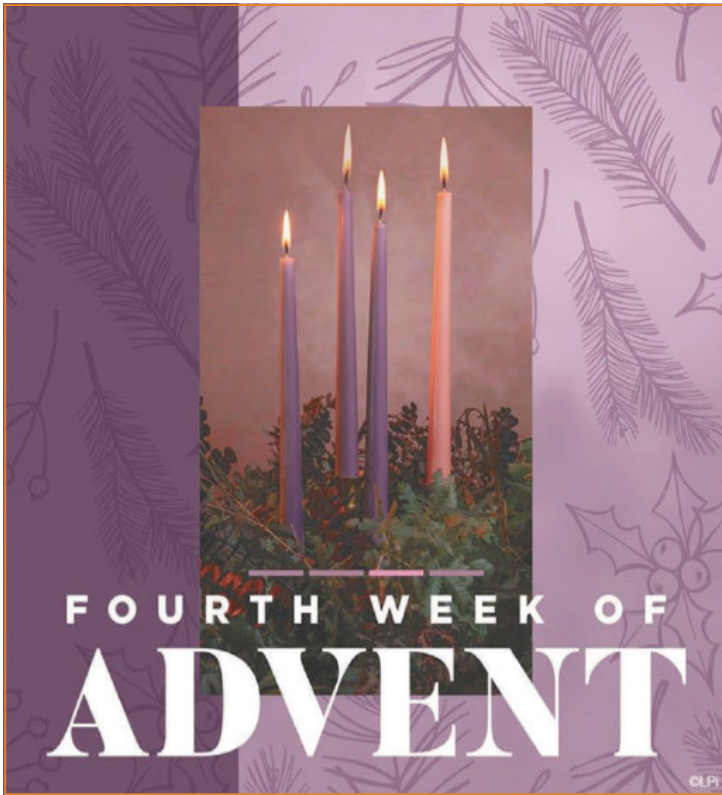
- Participate in service activities throughout the mission trip.
• Journal their experience, via social media, while on mission.
• Be available and participate in follow-up activities including writing articles, making presentations, providing photos, and other awareness activities.
Applicants must have a letter from their pastor addressing their character.
All applications are due by January 3, 2024.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact

Br. Bosco Hough at his email (bosco.hough@stvincent.edu) or by calling him at 724-532-6738).



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Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, "**But she was greatly troubled at what was said.**" An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her *precisely when she is troubled*. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, "**Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God.**"

— Father John Muir

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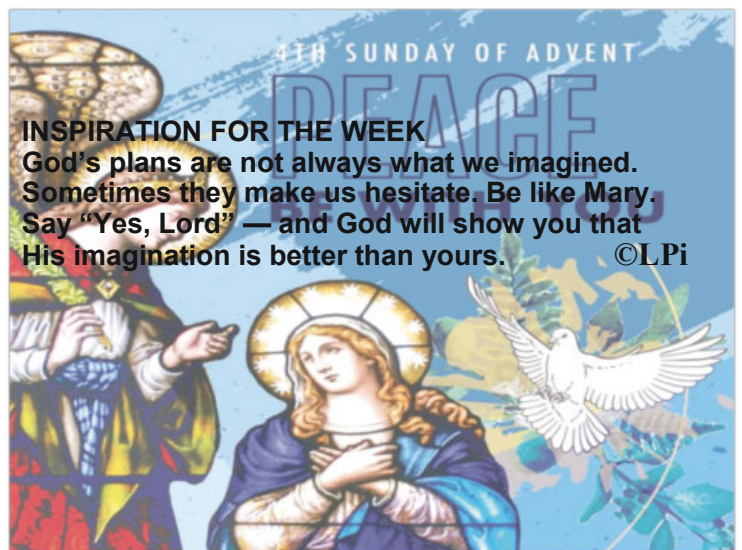
FATIMA PRAYER GROUP

Monday Night Apostolate of Fatima Rosary at Sacred Heart Church will be held at **4:00 p.m.** "Pray the Rosary everyday for Peace in the World".



The Nativity of the Lord

Our hearts are aglow with the joy of Christmas! Our senses are alive with the season, from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one's embrace. At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet. In the silence, reflect on the other senses of the season. Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthy smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing in softly. Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father. Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms. Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas.



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