



# ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Forming Saints for Christ and the Church*

DECEMBER 3, 2017  
FIRST SUNDAY  
OF  
ADVENT

512 North Perkins Street ✘ Rushville ✘ Indiana ✘ 46173  
Parish: 765-932-2588 ✘ School: 765-932-3639 ✘ [www.stmaryrush.org](http://www.stmaryrush.org)

Happy New (Liturgical) Year! With Advent, not only do we begin our spiritual preparation for Christmas, we begin another new year in the Church. Just as the years of our calendar number from the birth of Christ, our liturgical year starts afresh as we prepare and anticipate the coming of the Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. I challenge you to really take this new beginning to heart, to try to be more watchful, more attentive to Christ present in those you encounter, to be more patient!. This can be a great time to renew your walk with Jesus. It can be a great time to renew your faithfulness. It can be a great time to await the very center of our lives – Jesus.

With the new Liturgical Year, we start to move from the Gospel of Matthew to the Gospel of Mark for most of our Sunday Gospels. A great way to prepare for Christmas and the Liturgical Year would be to spend Advent prayerfully reading the Gospel of Mark... it's also the shortest Gospel with only 16 chapters! Anyone can read that... in fact, everyone should read that! The Gospel symbol for Mark is the Lion, as Jesus is portrayed as the Lion of Judah.



**"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. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"**  
**(Mark 13:35-37)**

**Reflection:** It is the first week of Advent. Ready or not, the time of preparation has begun. The Gospel of Mark on the first Sunday of Advent sets the tone for our pilgrimage: Watch! We have been busy about God's work in the vineyard; we dutifully care for our own, and our families' affairs; we make lists and check them twice... but God's message to us as we begin this season is to make time to keep watch with Holy Mother Church and to listen in silence as our hearts cry out once more, "O come, O come, Emmanuel!"

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we offer you our hearts that cry out for our Savior. We ask your Holy Spirit to guide us through this pilgrimage of the season of Advent, just like you guided the Holy Family to Bethlehem. May we keep watch with Mary and Joseph, and prepare to welcome Our Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas day. Amen.

(Reflection and Prayer by the ArchIndy Office of Worship)

Reminder for all Kindergartners to Sixth graders, the Inaugural **St Mary Parish Christmas Art Contest** deadline is this coming Tuesday, December 06, 2017 – Feast of St Nicolas. Submissions can be made to either the St Mary Parish Office or St Mary School Office. I'm looking forward to reviewing the children's reflections on "*Today, in the city of David, a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord*" (Luke 2:11).

*St Mary, Expectant Mother, pray for us. ~ Fr. Gries*

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Class TODAY, December 3. Topic: Sacraments of Healing; Reconciliation & Anointing of Sick.

### YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

December 10 at 10a.m. - Youth Mass & Choir;  
11a.m. - Lunch; 1p.m. - Ring Bell for Salvation  
Army

Family Formation Parent Child Session K-6th Grade  
Sunday, December 3 from 8:40-9:50a.m.

The Children's Choir will be singing on December 24 at the 4p.m. Mass. All children are welcome. Practice will begin at 3p.m.



St. Mary Catholic School no longer receives money from the recycling dumpster. The recycling dumpster will remain free of charge, so you can continue to recycle, We may not make money, but we can still help the earth!

Food Pantry items for December are: Pork and Beans and Cereal. The St. Mary Food Pantry is in **need of three new volunteers** to work the pantry. Please call Susan Hoeng at 561-1040. The pantry currently needs meat. If you can donate meat, please call Susan Hoeng to make delivery arrangements.

The family of Betty Eder extends our most sincere gratitude to all of the people that contributed to her beautiful funeral Mass: Fr. Gries, Annette, Cindy, Gina, Bob, Jeanie, Katie, Eliza, Megan, Jane and Rosie. We appreciate the delicious meal that was prepared for our family and friends by the gracious funeral dinner committee. We would also like to thank all those parishioners who remembered Betty in their prayers and all those lay ministers who took communion to her over the years. May God bless all of you for your kindness and continued prayers for our family. *Steve, Jane, Karen, Frank, Lisa and families.*

**SLEEPING MATS FOR THE HOMELESS:** Plastic bags (Kroger, Walmart, etc.) are needed for this project which is being done by several Rush County residents! Bags can be dropped off at the parish office. Anyone interested in joining this group can contact Ruth Koelmel 765-969-6757 or Linda Shanahan 765-645-5279.



A Message from the SMS 150 Committee  
We are trying to put together an updated alumni list for St. Mary School. If you or any member of your family attended St.

Mary School at any time in the past 150 years, please send your information to Cheryl Riggs at CLRXXRAY@yahoo.com. The committee needs old school pictures, class composite pictures, and any memorabilia you might have.

Two members of the committee, Marilyn Spilman and Marty Connerly, are looking for alumni to interview. We would love to hear about and record your personal connection to St. Mary Catholic School. Contact Marty Connerly at 317-402-3719; meo49.connerly@gmail.com or Marilyn Spilman at 765-561-6986; marilyn.spilman@farmcredit.com.

St. Mary Catholic School and Preschool is looking for a part-time music teacher to cover a maternity leave. All classes are in the afternoons and include music and 6th grade writing. Call Mrs. Kirschner at 765-932-3639 or e-mail her at skirschner@stmaryrush.org, if you are interested.

St. Mary Catholic School and Preschool would like to thank **Theresa Komlanc** for her many years of service and dedication to our students and families. She has touched many lives, given out many band aids and ice packs, comforted many students, and helped the administration and staff in more ways than can be listed. We wish her well as she starts a new journey in her professional life.



St. Mary Catholic School and Preschool will once again be having a Christmas Giving Tree. Tags will be in baskets in the back of church. All unwrapped items need to be returned to church, school or the parish office by **December 11th**.

Thank you, in advance, for helping some deserving families have a very Merry Christmas!



### **December Birthdays-Nursing Homes and Homebound**

December 7 - Kathryn Smiley  
December 11 - Dorothy Snyder

**Sunday Offerings**  
November 19, 2017



Adults (124 Envelopes + 11 Loose Checks)	\$ 8,037.00
Youth (6 Envelopes)	\$ 10.78
Loose	\$ 524.25
Total	\$ 8,572.03
Weekly Budget (2017/2018)	\$ <del>8,000.00</del>
Surplus (+) / Deficit (-)	\$ +572.03 ☺
Sunday 11/19/17	\$ 8,572.03
Regular Maintenance & Utilities	\$ 360.00
Votive Candles	\$ 21.00
Food Pantry	\$ 290.00
Calvary Cemetery	\$ 85.00
All Saints/All Souls	\$ 10.00
Catholic Campaign Human Development	\$ <u>675.00</u>
TOTAL 11/19/17	\$ 10,013.03

Mass Attendance - 11/19/17 - 682

**November 26, 2017**

Adults (132 Envelopes +15 Loose Checks)	\$ 7,780.00
Youth (3 Envelopes)	\$ 2.40
Loose	\$ 381.75
Total	\$ 8,164.15
Weekly Budget (2017/2018)	\$ <del>8,000.00</del>
Surplus (+) / Deficit (-)	\$ +164.15 ☺
Sunday 11/26/17	\$ 8,164.15
Regular Maintenance & Utilities	\$ 60.00
Votive Candles	\$ 7.00
Food Pantry	\$ 569.00
Calvary Cemetery	\$ 135.00
Preserving Our Heritage	\$ 30.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 1,295.88
Catholic Campaign Human Development	\$ <u>40.00</u>
TOTAL 11/26/17	\$ 10,301.03

Mass Attendance - 11/26/17 - 649

**UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL**  
*Christ Our Hope*

Date	Pledge Cards	Pledge Amount
11/22/17	126	\$26,565
<b>Goal</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>\$19,541</b>
<b>% of Goal</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>136%</b>

**Father Gries would like to see 50% participation!**  
Using the envelope provided, please mail your 2017/2018 pledge card directly to the Archdiocese or drop into the Sunday collection. Thank you!

**Mass Schedule: December 3 - 10**

<b>Monday</b>		No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30p.m.	Bob & Betty Eder
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30a.m.	Vernie Comer
<b>Thursday</b>	8:30a.m.	Betty Shanahan
<b>Friday</b>	7:00a.m.	St. Mary Parish
	8:30a.m.	Marjorie Niehoff (Sodality)
	6:30p.m.	Bob Meyer
<b>Saturday</b>	5:30p.m.	St. Mary Church
<b>Sunday</b>	7:30a.m.	Joe & Myrtha Moran Family
	10:00a.m.	Gus & Clara Niehoff

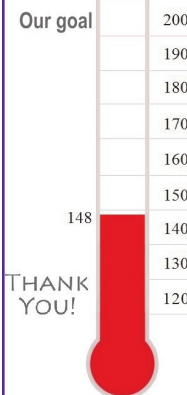


December 3 - Session 12  
December 10 - Session 13



Adult Faith Opportunity  
**BIBLE STUDY**  
Psalms: The School of Prayer

Dec. 6 3. Learning to Pray with the Psalms  
Dec. 13 4. Responsorial Psalms  
Wednesdays 7-9p.m. School Multipurpose Room.  
Bring your Bible & Catechism!  
Faith + Fellowship + Fun



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**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
512 North Perkins Street, Rushville, IN  
Parish: 765-932-2588 † School: 765-932-3639

**Staff**

**Rev. Jeremy M. Gries, Pastor**

frgries@stmaryrush.org

**Debbie Spaeth, Administrative Assistant**

dspaeth@stmaryrush.org

**Jill Kuntz, Administrator Religious Education**

jkuntz@stmaryrush.org

**Amaranta Kemple, Youth Group Coordinator**

akemple@stmaryrush.org

**Sherri Kirschner, Principal**

skirschner@stmaryrush.org

**Ashley Busald, School Secretary**

abusald@stmaryrush.org

**Parish Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday.....8:30a.m.-4:30p.m.

Friday.....8:30a.m.-Noon

**Our St. Mary Prayer Line**

Regenia Ripberger 765-561-1179

Lisa Wagoner 812-593-0790 - 765-663-2444

**Parish Council** - Chair: Shawn Adkins

**Finance Council** - Chair: Elbert Gordon

**School Commission** - Chair: Susan Spaeth

**Baptism**

Call the parish office for scheduling.

**Reconciliation/Confession**

Saturday...4:30p.m.- 5:15p.m.

Tuesday.....6:00p.m.6:25p.m.

**Marriage**

Engaged couples must meet with the Pastor to complete initial marriage paperwork at least 9 months before the anticipated wedding date *and prior to making any other arrangements concerning the wedding.*

**Abortion Alternatives**

Birthline Mon.-Fri. 317-635-4808

Option Helpline 24/7 1-800-712-HELP

**New Parishioners**

Welcome to St. Mary Parish! You are invited to stop by the parish office and register to become a part of our parish family.

**Ministry Schedules**

**Servers - Dec. 8 - Immaculate Conception**

7:00a.m. Mitchell Cowan

8:30a.m. School

6:30p.m. Bradley Krieger, Sofia & Clara Kemple

**Lectors - Dec. 8 - Immaculate Conception**

7:00a.m. Ruth Koelmel

8:30a.m. School

6:30p.m. Tom Giesting

**Extra-Ordinary Ministers - December 8**

7:00a.m. Kevin Dolan, Jerry Rudolf, Susie Odum

8:30a.m. School

6:30p.m. Rita Corn, Doug Krieger,  
Amaranta Kemple

**Servers - December 9 & 10**

Sat. 5:30p.m. Emma Tressler,  
Macy & Nick Hoeing

Sun. 7:30a.m. Glen Harpring & Bradley Krieger

10:00a.m. Clara & Sofia Kemple,  
Savanah Snow

**Lectors - December 9 & 10**

Sat. 5:30p.m. John Blankman

Sun. 7:30a.m. Lori Hoeing

10:00a.m. Steve Sickbert

**Extra-Ordinary Ministers - December 9 & 10**

Sat. 5:30p.m. Denise Small, Rita Corn,  
Barb Musgrave

Sun. 7:30a.m. Gary Nigh,  
Ken & Nancy Schroeder

10:00a.m. Kevin & Debbie Banks,  
Amaranta Kemple

**Ushers for December, 2017**

Sat. 5:30p.m. Steve Schwering & Volunteer

Sun. 7:30a.m. John Niehoff & Volunteer

10:00a.m. Kevin Mahan & Eric Wagoner

**Ministers-to-the-Sick**

Dec. 4 Janet Pike Dec. 11 Linda Jenkins

**Money Counters:**

Dec. 4 Kathy Dean, April Yager, Royanna Eck,  
Mary Ann Harpring

Dec. 11 Jeanie Spaeth, Debbie Banks, Robin Land,  
Sheila Zwickey

**Food Pantry Volunteers:**

Dec. 4 (Restock) Marilyn Spilman & Danny Hoeing

Dec. 6 Jody Carmony & Sons

**Christmas:** December 24 - Mass at 4:p.m.,  
6:p.m.and 12 Midnight. December 25 - 9a.m.  
**New Year's:** January 1 - Mass at 8:30a.m. and  
6:30p.m.