

Parish Staff:

Father Stanley Drewniak, *Pastor*
Linette Hopwood, *Secretary*
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Bridget Hoffman, *CCD Director*

Office Hours: 9-1 Monday—Friday

St. Mary Rectory (815) 237-2230
St. Mary Fax (815) 237-2201

Mass Schedule

Sat.— 5:30 pm
Thurs.—8:30am

Reconciliation:

Before Mass or by Appointment

Sacrament of Baptism – Baptisms are celebrated during the Saturday 5:30p.m. Mass. Please call the Rectory to make arrangements.

Marriages – Diocesan Policy require at least a six month preparation process. Couples who are planning to marry should speak directly with the Pastor before setting a date. No Weddings are scheduled on Sundays.

Hospitalized Parishioners – Due to a change in the privacy law, Father cannot go to the hospital and ask for a list of parishioners for him to visit. As a patient, you must ask the hospital to notify the Rectory that you are requesting a visit. For our homebound parishioners, if you would like Father to visit, please call the Rectory and Father will be more than happy to come and visit you. Thank you!

Mass Intentions:

- 12/24/16 Sat. 5:30pm Parishioners-The Nativity of the Lord**
- 12/29/16 Thurs. 8:30pm +Deceased Members of O'Brien Family
(Don & Norma O'Brien)
- 12/31/16 Sat. 5:30pm Parishioners

If you would like a Mass Intention said, please contact the Rectory. Suggested Donation is \$10.

Remember in Prayer our deceased relatives and friends, the ill of our parish and community, nursing home residents, the homeless, hungry and unemployed, those living alone and our own special intentions we hold deep in our hearts. Keep in prayer all men and women serving our country, the injured and those being held prisoners. Let us not forget all men and women who gave up their lives so that we may live in freedom and peace!

Liturgical Schedule for Lectors/Servers

- 12/24/16 Sat. 5:30pm Lector—Bill /Servers-Volunteers Needed
- 12/31/16 Sat. 5:30pm Lector—Jane/Servers-Miles, Jackson, Elsie

Holy Father's Intention for the month of December:

General Intention: That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

Weekly Income:

Sunday Collection \$ 537.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Prayers for Sick

Bruce Larson, Mary Lou Fox

Christmas Altar Flowers— If you would like to donate toward the Christmas flowers, please make checks payable to St. Mary CCW. Donations can be put in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" and put into the collection basket or please give to Rosemary Brooks. Thank you!

During the months of January and February we will not have Daily Mass. If you would like to attend Daily Mass during these months, please join me in South Wilmington Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 7:30am. Thank you! Fr. Stan

St. Mary's CCD students will be collecting scarves, gloves, and hats for the winter season from December through January 1st. If you would like to donate something, please put them into the marked box placed in the back of the Church. We will be donating the collected items to Catholic Charities for distribution among needy families. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and warm hearts!

Does CHRISTMAS, have a purpose? Yes! The purpose of Christmas is to bring, not the memory, but the PRESENCE of the Christ Child who was born for you on that wondrous night in Bethlehem, into your life to transform it and to empower it. Christ came to: forgive sins, strengthen your weakness, break your wrongful habits, change your relations with other people, heal your sickness, give you knowledge of the meaning of your life, overcome your fear, and give you resurrection at your death. *Is this not good news? Is this not a gift of great wealth?*

Christmas Prayer—O God, our loving Father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesu, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the Wise Men. Close the door of hate, and open the door of love, all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil, by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

IT IS OUR HONOR TO CORDIALLY INVITE YOU (AND YOUR GUEST)
ALL* WHO SACRIFICE TIME AND TALENTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY
to join us to celebrate AN APPRECIATION DINNER
on Friday, January 6, 2017 at 6:30PM at St. Lawrence Parish Hall.
Excellent food and drinks would be offered and nice music for dancing!
Please RSVP signing the list in the back of the church.

(*Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, RE Staff, Ushers, Pastoral and Finance Council Members, Musicians and Cantors, Janitors, Those who care for Altar Linens, Society, Funeral Dinner Chairs, Quilters, and Mobile Food Truck Volunteers)

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) December 24/25, 2016

Amidst the beautiful readings at the Christmas Masses is a reading from a small New Testament letter from Saint Paul to his protégé, Titus, read at Midnight Mass. Saint Paul re-minds Titus that God has given us a gift in the person of Jesus Christ. This gift represents God's active presence in our lives and in our world. This gift redeems us from evil and death. This gift purifies us as God's people. This is a gift that also comes with an expectation: that we receive it with thanks-giving, allow it to transform us into Christ's image; and from it, learn how to live a life "eager to do what is good." Take time the next few days to reflect on the marvelous gift we celebrate at Christmas, and how we might become better stewards of this gift.

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to All from Fr. Stanley!

