

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 8, 2023

Parish Staff:

Father Stanley Drewniak, *Pastor*
Linette Hopwood, *Secretary*
Email: stlawrenceswilm@yahoo.com
Web Page swkrcatholics.org
Bridget Hoffman, *CCD Director*
Hall Rentals—Norma O'Brien 365-2590

Office Hours: 9-1 Monday—Friday

St. Mary Rectory (815) 237-2230

Mass Schedule

Sat.— 5:30 pm Mass

Thurs.—No Daily Mass December-March

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:

1/7/23 Sat. 5:30pm +Verneal Fritz (Tim, Terry, Mary Alice and Marge Buckley)
1/12/23 Thurs. 5:30pm NO MASS
1/14/23 Sat. 5:30pm Parishioners

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

1/7/23 Sat. 5:30 pm-Lector-Mary Kay
1/14/23 Sat. 5:30 pm-Lector-Jane



Holy Father's Intention for the month of January: *General Intention:* For educators. We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fellowship rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Weekly Income:

Sunday Collection	\$ 530.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 130.00
Initial Offering	\$ 145.00
Your Offering is most appreciated!	

Prayers for Sick

Bill Masching, Heidi Ehrhardt, Donna Masching, and Michael Mullen

Welcome all individuals, couples and families to St. Mary's Parish.

Daily Mass -During the months of January through March, we will not be having Daily Mass on Thursday mornings in Reddick. If you would like to attend Daily Mass during these months, please join me in South Wilmington on Tuesdays for 6:30pm Mass. Wednesday and Thursdays Mass at 7:30am. Thank you! Fr. Stan

The Parish Office will be closed January 9-20. However, someone will be checking phone messages during this time. Fr. Stan will be available.

Statistical Parish Data for the year 2022

Baptisms - 2, Weddings - 0, Funerals - 0

"A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."

—St. Basil the Great

Rest in Peace-Joseph Ratzinger, (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI) April 16, 1927-December 31, 2022

PRAYER FOR A DECEASED POPE- *God, Who, in Thine ineffable providence, didst will that Thy servant, Pope Benedict XVI, should be numbered among the high priests, grant, we beseech Thee, that he, who on earth held the place of Thine only-begotten Son, may be joined forevermore to the fellowship of Thy holy pontiffs. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen*

Blessing of a Home—Although there are fine texts for the blessing of homes, neither the *Book of Blessings* nor *Catholic Households Blessings and Prayers* explains the traditional method for blessing homes this day using incense, chalk (an incarnational image because it reminds us of the dust of the earth from which we were made), and "Jordan water." The chalk is used to mark over doorways. The numerals consecrate the new year. The initials remind us of the legendary names of the magi—Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar—and also stand for the Latin motto *Christos mansion benedict* ("May Christ bless the house"). We have available to you Epiphany Kits and instructions so you can bless your homes or Fr. Stanley is happy to come and bless your homes. If you are interested, please call the rectory to set this up.

The 2023 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal is now underway. As the Diocese of Joliet launches the 2023 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), we are asking all parishioners to pledge their support to this important effort for our community of faith. This year's CMAA theme is *We Belong to God*. Through our support, we ensure that the mission and ministries of Christ's Church are available to everyone. Together, we help the poor and vulnerable, increase vocations and educate people of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities in the faith. Our parish could not accomplish all of this on its own. Our parish's goal for the 2023 CMAA is \$3,700 and 70 percent of any amount we raise over our goal will be returned to us. Please review the materials you receive in the mail from the Diocese of Joliet this month and prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's annual appeal. If you do not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact the parish office.

Epiphany of the Lord—"The Magi set out because of a deep desire which prompted them to leave everything and begin a journey. It was as though they had always been waiting for that star" (Pope Benedict XVI). Our response to the Father's offer of salvation is that of the Magi: "To offer gold is to proclaim Christ's kingship, to offer incense is to adore his Godhead, and to offer myrrh is to acknowledge his mortality" (Saint Odilo of Cluny). Creation responds as well: "When the king of heaven was born, the heavens knew that he was God because they immediately sent forth a star; the sea knew him because it allowed him to walk upon it; the earth knew him because it trembled when he died; the sun knew him because it hid the rays of its light" (Saint Gregory the Great). The manifestation of the Son of God to the world begs belief from us by which we will be led home by another way.

Word of Life—"Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him... Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"

