

St. Mary's Catholic Church

First Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 3, 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.—8:30 am Mass

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:

12/02/23 Sat. 5:30pm +Tim Richie (Dustin & Michele Wright)
12/07 Thurs. 8:30am +Jackie Tobey (Monica Ruder)
12/08 Fri. 5:30pm Immaculate Conception of BVM
12/09 Sat. 5:30pm Parishioners

If you would like a Mass Intention said, please contact the Parish Office. Suggested Donations 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

12/02/23 Sat. 5:30 pm-Lector-Mary Kay
12/08/23 Fri. 5:30 pm-Lector-Melinda
12/09/23 Sat. 5:30 pm-Lector-Bill



Holy Father's Intention for the month of December: *General Intention:* **For persons with disabilities.** We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Weekly Income:

Sunday Collection \$ 840.00
Thank you, your Offering is most appreciated.

Prayers for Sick

Debbie Turner, Emma "Mickey" King, Ann Koehler, Heidi Ehrhardt, Donna Masching, and Michael Mullen

St. Mary's Lectors—If anyone would like to be added to the 2024 St. Mary's lector schedule, please contact Jane Arends at 815-685-4470. Current lectors will be kept on the schedule for the next year unless they indicate otherwise. It would be wonderful to see some of our younger church members take advantage of this opportunity; training will be provided. Being a lector is a great way to serve both our church community and God.

Welcome home Fr. Stan. We hope you had a wonderful time celebrating with your mom in Poland.

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, December 8th.

Christmas Altar Flowers— If you would like to donate toward the Christmas flowers, donations can be put in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" and put into the collection basket or please give to Ruth Schott. Thank you!

St. Mary's CCD students are doing a **Christmas Program** on **December 9th**, following the 5:30 Mass. The Confirmation students will host a soup and sandwich dinner afterwards, which includes a Nativity Scene raffle. 1 ticket for \$1, 6 tickets for \$5, or an arm length for \$10.

Eucharistic Adoration will be held **Wednesday, December 6th from 11am – 1pm** at St. Lawrence Church in South Wilmington. What do I do during Adoration? The Eucharistic Host is displayed in a monstrance on the altar so that all can see and pray in silence in the presence of Christ. You can come for the entire time or just 10—15 minutes. Everyone is invited to come and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. This is one way to add a little extra time for you with Jesus during the ADVENT season.

December 8-Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary this is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass Schedule

7:30am & 7:00pm-St. Lawrence, S. Wilmington
9:00am-Sacred Heart, Kinsman
12-1pm—Hour of Grace-St. Lawrence, S. Wilmington
5:30pm-St. Mary's, Reddick

December 8 Hour of Grace—By request of our Heavenly Mother for the Hour of Grace every year on December 8th from 12 noon to 1pm. Many spiritual graces and physical blessings will be received by those who pray undisturbed during this hour. Please see the insert for more information.



Opening Liturgy Livestream on Monday, December 11 at 6pm at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus, the Diocese will celebrate the opening Mass of the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Joliet. YouTube channel [youtube.com/c/DiocesefJolietIL](https://www.youtube.com/c/DiocesefJolietIL) **75th Anniversary Timeline**—Visit diojoliet.org/75th for the full list of events and activities surrounding the 75th anniversary.

You can help. "Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

The Advent season is a time of **preparation** that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. ©2023 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

