

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 24, 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:

12/23/23 Sat. 5:30pm +Clarence Moranski (Family)
12/24/23 Christmas Eve 5:30pm Parishioners
12/28/23 Thurs. 8:30am +Donald O'Brien (Francis & Jean Smith)
12/30/23 Sat. 5:30pm Parishioners
1/01/24 Mon. 10am—Solemnity of Mary—Mass in South Wilmington

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

12/23/23 Sat. 5:30 pm-Lector-Mary Kay
12/24/23 Sun. 5:30 pm-Lector-Jane
12/30/23 Sat. 5:30pm-Lector-Melinda



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 \$ 941.00

Thank you, your Offering is most appreciated.

Prayers for Sick

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

Christmas Mass Schedule

Dec. 24th 2pm-Sacred Heart, Kinsman
4pm-St. Lawrence, S. Wilmington
5:30pm-St. Mary's, Reddick
10pm-St. Lawrence, S. Wilmington
Dec. 25th 8am-Sacred Heart, Kinsman
10am-St. Lawrence, S. Wilmington

Dear brothers and sisters
God became man; he came to dwell among us. God is not distant: he is "Emmanuel", God-with-us. He is no stranger: he has a face, the face of Jesus.
Merry Christmas to All of you!
Fr. Stanley

New Years Day Mass (Solemnity of Mary) this is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation in the USA this year. Jan. 1st 10am-St. Lawrence, S. Wilmington There will only be one Mass on this day for all three parishes.

Thank you to those who donated towards our Christmas Flowers in memory of your loved ones. Thank you to Cheryl & Bill O'Brien and Michele Ruder for decorating the inside of our church. Also, thank you to Terry Joyce for decorating the outside. Our little country church looks beautiful!!

No Daily Mass Tuesday, December 26 or Wednesday, December 27th in South Wilmington or Kinsman. There is Daily Mass on Thursday, December 28th in South Wilmington and Reddick. During the months of January, February and March we will not have Daily Mass on Thursday in Reddick. Please join Fr. Stan in South Wilmington during those months for Daily Mass Tuesdays at 6:30pm, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 7:30am.

The Parish Office will be closed on the following Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26 for Christmas. Merry Christmas to all!

2024 Calendars are available. These calendars feature the 75th year anniversary of the Diocese of Joliet. The Diocese has designed the parish calendar to commemorate this important year in the life of the Diocese. On this calendar there are days on which we are asking all the parishes and parishioners to pray for each parish in the Diocese, our many ministries, Institutions, organizations, and various people. Please pick up your **FREE** calendar today.

CHRISTMAS REMINDERS-May the Christmas CHEER remind you of Him who said, "Be of good cheer." May the Christmas BELL remind you of the glorious proclamations of His birth. May the Christmas CAROLS remind you of the song the Angels sang, "Glory to God in the Highest!" May the Christmas SEASON remind you in every way of Jesus Christ, Your King!

I said a Prayer for You at Christmas- I said a special prayer for you, as Christmas Day drew near, That God would bless you richly throughout the coming year. I did not ask for Him to send you gifts of worldly wealth; But prayed that He would fill your life with peace and joy and health. I asked that you would know His love; Be comforted in strife; seek wisdom and His guidance, and have abundant live. God sent His Son at Christmas, That happiest of days, And most of all I pray that you will walk with Him always.

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?*

