

St. Mary's Catholic Church

The Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 7, 2024

Parish Staff:

Father Stanley Drewniak, *Pastor*
Linette Hopwood, *Secretary*
Email: stlawrenceswilm@yahoo.com
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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 Mass January-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!

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, please call the Office to set this up.

Program for NEW YEAR—DAILY PLAN—LIFE God’s man lives, moves, has his being in God. The Christian who would live Godly always must have a rule or pattern of life. Here is a suggestion: **Participate daily** in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. **Make everything**—work, play, prayer—share in It: *Ite, Missa Est!* **Feast daily** in the Eucharist—Christ is your Great Friend—take Him with you. **Make daily conversation with Christ**—mental prayer—aim for 15 minutes, settle for no less than five, on busiest days. **Receive the Sacrament of Penance biweekly**, with a regular confessor if possible. Seek spiritual direction. **Pray Our Lady’s Rosary** daily, devoutly. **Use opportunities** to increase knowledge of our Holy Faith: courses, lectures, discussion clubs, books, sermons.

Month of the Holy Name of Jesus—The month of January is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. After the Blessed Virgin Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit, the angel Gabriel appeared to St. Joseph and told him that the Child’s name should be called Jesus, meaning “God Saves.” According to Jewish law, on the 8th day after his birth a male child was to be circumcised, receive his name, and become a full member of God’s covenant people. According to the old Roman liturgical calendar, the Feast of the Circumcision of Jesus was celebrated on January 1st, eight days after Christmas, the same day that He was given His sacred name. Currently we celebrate the Solemnity of the Mother of God on January 1st and honor the Holy Name of Jesus on January 3rd. For Catholics, Jesus’ sacred name is the object of a special devotion symbolized by the monogram “IHS,” (sometimes called a Christogram), which is the first three letters of the Greek spelling of His name.

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.

Mass Intentions:

1/06/24 Sat. 5:30pm +Lucille Christensen (John & Glenda Forneris)
1/11/24 Thurs. No Mass
1/13/24 Sat. 5:30pm +Zephyr Benoit (Joyce Shear)

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

1/06/24 Sat. 5:30pm-Lector-Bridget
1/13/24 Sat. 5:30pm-Lector-Mary Kay



Holy Father’s Intention for the month of January: *General Intention:* **For the gift of diversity in the Church.** We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

Weekly Income:

Sunday Collection	\$ 714.00
Initial Offering	\$ 40.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 45.00
Thank you, your Offering is most appreciated.	

Prayers for Sick

Debbie Turner, Emma “Mickey” King, Heidi Ehrhardt, Donna Masching, and Michael Mullen

Daily Mass –During the months of January through March, we will not be having Daily Mass on Thursday mornings in Reddick. Please consider joining me in South Wilmington on Tuesdays at 6:30pm or Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 7:30am. However, No Mass on Tuesday, January 9th.

The Parish Office will be closed January 8-21. However, someone will be checking phone messages during this time. Fr. Stan will be available.

REMINDER– Please pick up your box of 2024 Offering envelopes . If you do not see a box with your name on it, there are some blank boxes available. Please write your name on the envelope. Thank you!

Statistical Parish Data for the year 2023

Baptisms - 4 Weddings - 0, Funerals - 3



The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord is on Monday, January 8th. This feast brings to an end the season of Christmas. Ordinary Time lasts from the day after this feast to the Tuesday before Lent.

