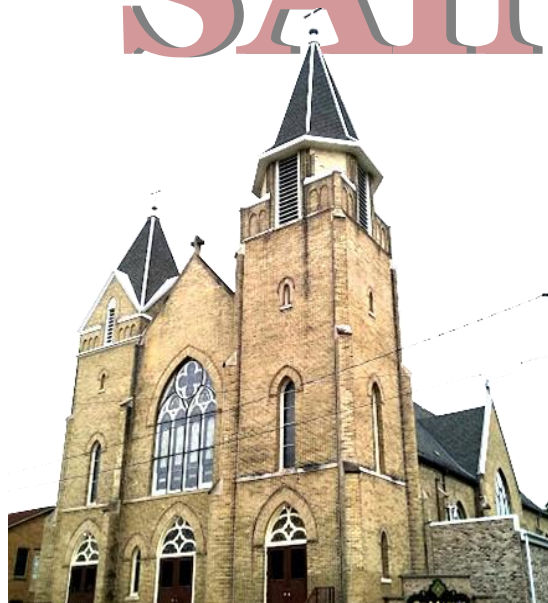


December 17, 2023

SAINT MARY'S



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Parish Mission Statement:

The family of St. Mary's of Lyndon Station, Wisconsin is a welcoming community of the Catholic faith united in Catholic tradition and growing in the spirit of Vatican II. We come together at Liturgical and Sacramental celebrations to be nourished so we may respond to the gospel mission of Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We strive as a Christian community and in our personal lives to serve God and all of His people, especially the poor.

PARISH OFFICE

Pastor

Fr. Cryton Outschoorn
608-386-7378
coutschoorn@diolclergy.org

Deacon Tom Hale

608-415-1165
deacontomhale@gmail.com

Priest Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Secretary Office Hours

Tuesday 8:30 am - 2:15 pm
Thursday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Phone

1-608-666-2421

Mailing Address

St. Mary Parish
P.O. Box 303
Lyndon Station, WI 53944

Website

www.stmaryparishlyndon.com

Email

office@stmlys.diolcparish.org

Facebook

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101508284817397/

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays

Tue, 5:30 pm
Wed, Thurs, & Fri, 8:30 am

Weekends

Saturday 7:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am & 1:00 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed, Thurs, & Fri 8:00 - 8:25 am

Confessions

Tues 5:00 pm & Saturday 6:00 pm
Also by appointment

Rosary

Saturday 6:35 pm
Sunday 8:35 am & 12:35 pm

THIRD SUNDAY OF

ADVENT



John answered them,
"I baptize with water;
but there is one among you
whom you do not recognize,
the one who is coming after me,
whose sandal strap I am not
worthy to untie."
Jn 1:26-27

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 19
5:30 pm † Roseann Pecore
By: Dennis Pecore

Wednesday, December 20
8:30 am † Ralph Hamm
By: Family

Thursday, December 21
8:30 am † Eddie Walsh

Friday, December 22
8:30 am † Don & Mary A Strack
By: Jim & Judy Hall

Saturday, December 23
7:00 pm † George Smith

Sunday, December 24
9:00 am † Marjorie Senzig
By: Jerry & Barb Rogge

7:00 pm Parishioner Mass
(Christmas Vigil Mass)

ST. PETER
CANISIUS,
PRIEST &
DOCTOR of
the CHURCH

*"If you have much
to do, with God's
help you will find
time to do it all."*

Feast day: December 21

Upcoming Events

**Decorating the church for
Christmas**
December 21st - 6:30 pm

Christmas Masses
December 24th - 7:00 pm
December 25th - 9:00 am & 1:00
pm

**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy
Mother of God**
(Not a holy day of obligation this
year)
Mass on January 1st - 9:00 am

Fr. Cryton on Vacation
January 8th-February 9th

If you have not already received
it, you can pick up
your family's gift
from St. Mary's, the
book *Beautiful
Eucharist*, available
on a table in the
vestibule.



A Message from Fr. Cryton,

The Joyful Sunday

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT IS CALLED **GAUDETE SUNDAY**, referring to the opening Antiphon often sung at Mass, Rejoice in the Lord always. It is a day that signals the upcoming conclusion to the Advent season. For this reason, the Church urges the faithful to "rejoice," as the time of penance and fasting is drawing to an end, making way for Christmas, a season of joy and feasting.

Reasons for Joy: There is joy in looking forward to the annual celebration of Christmas, but there is also joy in recalling the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas. The joy is heightened because he was born to save us from our sins (Mt 1:21b). The joy also extends to anticipation of the Second Coming, either at the end of physical life or the end of the world, the time when believers will be given the crown of righteousness (2 Tm 4:8) and a place in the Father's house (Jn 14:2) to dwell with God and his angels and saints for all eternity.

What is True Joy: *Pope Benedict XVI* explains what is true joy is all about. As per him, True joy is linked to something deeper. Of course, in the all too often frenetic pace of daily life it is important to find time for rest and relaxation, but true joy is linked to **our relationship with God**. Those who have encountered Christ in their own lives feel a serenity and joy in their hearts that no one and no situation can take from them.

Pope Benedict expands on this definition of joy, explaining how "True joy is not merely a passing state of mind or something that can be achieved with the person's own effort; rather it is a gift, born from the encounter with the living Person of Jesus and, making room within ourselves, from welcoming the Holy Spirit who guides our lives. This means that Christian joy is not something we can grasp at or invent, but something we receive from a personal relationship with God & encountering with the living Person of Jesus."

Christian Joy: "Joy is what Christians breathe", said Pope Francis. He further explains, it can't be purchased or forced, and it's not living from pleasure to pleasure or laugh to laugh. For him, the one who puts joy in our hearts is the Holy Spirit. Joy does not mean living from laugh to laugh. No, it's not that. Joy is not entertainment. No, it's not that. It is something else. Christian joy is peace, peace that is deeply rooted, peace in the heart, the peace that only God can give. This is Christian joy. Pope Francis lamented that today's culture contents itself with fragments of pleasure that never completely satisfy. Since joy, instead, is a gift of the Spirit, it vibrates even "in turbulent moments and in the moment of trial."

St. Augustine understood this very well; in his quest for truth, peace and joy, after seeking them in vain in many things he concluded with his famous words: "Our heart are restless until it rests in God".

Mass times for Christmas @ St. Mary's are as follows:

Vigil Mass - Sunday, Dec. 24th @ 7:00 pm

Monday, Dec. 25th @ 9:00 am & 1:00 pm

****The Sunday obligation is still in effect for Sunday, the 24th. Attending either the Saturday Vigil Mass @ 7:00 pm or the Sunday Mass @ 9:00 am will fulfill that obligation. There is NO 1:00 pm Mass on the 24th****

There is a sign-up in the
vestibule for ministries for the
Christmas Masses. Thank you to all
who help out!!!

Don't forget to grab your 2024
offertory envelopes and 2024
Calendar! Those who don't have
an assigned box of envelopes and
would like one, please contact the
parish office.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

If you would like to donate to the flowers in memory or honor of someone, we are now taking donations. Be sure to have your donation into the parish office by **December 17th**. This will give the office time to compile the list of donors and get it in the Christmas Bulletin.

Upcoming Area Advent Penance Service:

St. Patrick's - Mauston - Thurs, Dec. 21st at 7:00 pm

St. Mary's Prayer List

Vinnie Bellock, Braun Family, Joan Burch, Rick Bornemeier, Mary Jean Cauley, Chris DeLange, Fr. Clayton Elmhorst, Jim & Adela Hagen, Chuck Huber, Roseanne Kenneth, Gloria Kramer, Noah, Mary Claire Marshall, Lizzie Mitchell, Pat Mitchell, Tony Oldigs, Karen Patton, Charlotte Rybicki, Marie Senzig, Preston Shields, MV, those who are sick, unemployed, in need, & all families who are suffering in any way; from illness, cancer, uncertainty, & anxieties; Families & Friends, please... **PRAY THE ROSARY!!!**

A Message from Bishop Callahan

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As the year draws to a close and the hopes for 2024 dawn, I am grateful to have the opportunity to pass along my own Advent greetings to you.

This year's thoughts of our Lord's miraculous birth in Bethlehem, the singing angels announcing his birth, and the star-guided Magi cannot be separated from the heart-rending war on the very soil from which our faith has grown. Truly, the angels' announcement of "peace on earth" seems only a faint memory today.

It is by the birth of Christ that peace is restored between heaven and earth in the meeting of the angels and the shepherds; that a new brotherhood is born in the coming of the Magi from the east; that unity is fostered in all of creation in the gathering of man and beast together around the manger.

It is at the birth of Jesus that a new light "breaks upon us" (Luke 1:78). Just when the world seems to be engulfed in darkness—it is no mistake that we celebrate Christmas so close to the winter solstice—a new "light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has come and cannot overtake it" (John 1:5).

We don't need to watch the evening news to know that sin, suffering, and sadness still abound in too many war-torn regions: many of us can look no further than our own homes and hearts. But we need to watch for the coming of Christ during these Advent days and celebrate all he offers us—salvation, peace, and joy—at his birth.

Let us return, then, to the Holy Land, and let us focus our minds and hearts not only on the suffering of its current inhabitants—which cannot be ignored—but on Christ who is born in its midst. If there is to be peace in our world, in our homes, and in our hearts, it will only be found in him.

Thank you!

\$561 was collected which The Bank of Mauston doubled to equal **\$1,122 total for the Food Pantry**. This goes a long way to help those who need it the most!

Please come help decorate the church for Christmas this **THURSDAY, December 21st @ 6:30 pm**. Many hands make light work!

Did You Know/Tour of the Church By Deacon Tom

The red light by the tabernacle is called a Sanctuary Lamp. It is kept burning day and night whenever the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in Catholic churches or chapels. It's an emblem of Christ's abiding love and a reminder to the faithful to respond with living adoration in return.

While red is considered the traditional color of a sanctuary lamp, there is no liturgical law regulating the lamp color. What is required is that the lamp be near the tabernacle fueled by oil or wax, and be kept alight to indicate and honor the presence of Christ.

The history surrounding the use of these lamps is difficult to determine. Often the origins are linked to references in the Old Testament. God gave directions for the building of the tabernacle that included a lamp stand (Exodus 25:31-40) and told the Israelites to have oil burning lamps in the meeting tent "from evening to morning" as a perpetual ordinance. (Exodus 27:20-21)

Modern sanctuary lamps used in Catholic worship spaces are linked to the Roman Catholic practice beginning in the 12th century, of burning a light in front of the reserved sacrament.



Financial Stewardship

December 10th, 2023

Adult Envelopes.....	\$1931.00
Student Envelopes.....	\$3.00
Offertory.....	\$330.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$361.00
Christmas.....	\$545.00
Votive Candles.....	\$32.00
Total	\$3,202.00

(156 registered families)

Fiscal year-to-date

Contributed.....\$66,099.41

Prayer Chain Assignments this Week:

- December 18** Matt McGowan
- December 19** Frances Miller
- December 20** Carl Miller
- December 21** Claudia Virsnieks
- December 22** Elizabeth Mitchell

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, December 23, 7:00 pm

- Lector**.....Steve Hesprich
- EMC**.....Steve Hesprich
- Servers**.....Stella Finucan
.....Beckett Finucan
- Ushers**.....Gary Fuller
.....Jim McGowan
.....Matt McGowan
- Gift Bearers**.....McGowan Family
- Musician**.....Heidi Finucan

Sunday, December 24, 9:00 am

- Lector**.....Mick McCormick
- EMC**.....Joan Holig-McCormick
- Servers**.....Larry Mueller
.....Nicole Dethloff
.....Brian Fox
- Ushers**.....Tom Kowalke
.....Mark Walsh
.....Bob Dethloff
.....Fran Dethloff
- Gift Bearers**.....Senzig Family
- Musician**.....Jade Pusel

**Sunday, December 24
NO 1 PM MASS**

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Let's take a look at the meaning of the Advent Wreath and Candles! (Part 3 of 4)

Traditionally, the Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen branches. It is often decorated with berries and pinecones. Both the evergreen branches and the circular shape symbolize the passing of time and eternal life. The shape of the wreath, with no beginning or end, reflects the complete and endless love that Jesus has for us. The Advent wreath holds the four Advent candles. The candles represent Jesus coming as the light in darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness. Sometimes a white candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to symbolize that Jesus is with us. This can be referred to as the "Christ candle."

The third week's candle is called the Shepherd's Candle, is the color pink, symbolizes rejoicing, and represents **joy**. During this third week of Advent we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. This Sunday is often called "Gaudete Sunday" as we reflect on the joy the shepherd's felt at the birth of Jesus.

