

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

228 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 700
Avilla, IN 46710-0700
Phone: 260-897-3261
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email: stmaryassump-
tion@embarqmail.com
Pastor: Father Daniel Chukwuleta
Secretary: Beverly Edwards

Ministry Contact Persons

Ushers: Bryan Cass
Lectors: Arlene Lewis
Eucharistic Ministers: Pat Hoover
Servers: Melissa Cass
RCIA: Katie Herendeen
Religious Education: Barb Braley
Music: Barb Braley

Parish Organizations

Rosary/Altar Society: Henrietta Harris
Finance: Jonathan Ormiston
Pastoral Council: Michael Edwards
Cemetery: Bryan Cass
Bldg. & Grounds:
Mark Bush and Tom Sherwood
Knights of Columbus: Tom Peters
Scrip: Kathy Rorick
Youth: Eve Peters

St. Mary School

Phone: 260-897-3481 Fax: 260-897-3706
Website: stmaryavilla.org
Principal: Mrs. Jane Sandor
Secretary: Sara Lake
School Board: Jill Dunkel
HASA: Kim Heshner

SACRAMENTS

Marriage: Active registered parishioner(s) arrange for an appointment with the pastor six months prior to wedding date. A wedding must be celebrated in church.

Baptism: Call pastor to provide information, sacramental preparation and schedule the date & time of the Baptism.

Ministry to Sick and Shut-ins: Notify the pastor to arrange for visits to the sick or shut-ins, the reception of Communion and/or the Anointing of the Sick. If you are going to the hospital for surgery, the Anointing of the Sick can be received. If you are sick or undergoing surgery, let us know and we will include you in our prayers at Mass and on the parish Prayer Chain.

Reconciliation: Sat. 4:00-4:45, by appointment and scheduled Penance Services.

**ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
AVILLA, INDIANA**

December 4, 2016—SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS

Immaculate Conception and December 10 & 11

Monday 7:15 am In Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered
Tuesday 8:15 am Ed & Jean Ryan and Family
Wednesday 7:15 am Purgatorial Society

**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Holy Day of Obligation)**

Wednesday, December 7 @ 6:00 pm—Eric Teders
Thursday, December 8 @ 8:15 am—St. Mary Parishioners
Thursday, December 8 @ 7:00 pm—LeRoy & Loretta Sherwood

SCRIPTURE READINGS

December 5-11

MONDAY

Is 35:1-10, Mt 3:1-12

TUESDAY

Is 40:1-11, Mt 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY

Is 40:25-31, Mt 11:28-30

THURSDAY

Gn 3:9-15, 20, Eph 1:3-6, 11-12

Lk 1:26-38

FRIDAY

Is 48:17-19, Mt 11:16-19

SATURDAY

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11, Mt 17:9a, 10-13

SUNDAY

Is 35:1-6a, 10, Jas 5:7-10, Mt 11:2-11

Friday 7:15 am Francis Meyer
Saturday 7:15 am Purgatorial Society **5:00 pm** Doloris Ely
Sunday 8:00 am Glen & Frances Griffiths **11:00 am** George Clifford
5:30 pm St. Mary Parishioners

MASS MINISTERS

Immaculate Conception and December 10 & 11

USHERS

Wed 6 pm Paul Demske and Dan Griffiths
Thurs 7 pm Marion Duehmig and Jim Boyce
Sat 5 pm Mark Bush and Brian Myers
Sun 8 am Ed Smith and Joe Litchfield
Sun 11 am Todd Carteaux and Joshua Edwards

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Wed 6 pm Dennis Hudecek, Stewart & Arlene Lewis, Chuck Rhodes
Thu 7 pm Craig & Linda Van Gessel, Barb Sherwood, Julea Diffenderfer
Sat 5 pm Theresa Meyer, Michelle Myers, Julea Diffenderfer, Pat Hoover
Sun 8 am Nancy Helmer, Chad Helmkamp, Ben & Brenda Helmkamp
Sun 11 am Ginny Hatfield, Katie Herendeen, Chris Passino, Kathy Rorick

READERS

Wed 6 pm Steve Christman and Nancy Helmer
Thu 7 pm Tom Sherwood and Rob Diffenderfer
Sat 5 pm Sara and Grace Cartwright
Sun 8 am Bridget Breckler and Christine Beck
Sun 11 am Melissa Cass and Brenda Weber

COLLECTION TOTALS

November 26 & 27, 2016

Adult \$5,109.00 Loose \$378.00

Children \$23.75

Total Envelopes Issued: 220

of Envelopes Used this Week: 101

Weekly Contribution Budget: \$8,508.00

Special Collections

Vigil Lights \$23.50

Improvement Fund \$2.00

Bishop's Home Development \$21.00

Parish Savings \$30.00

Thanksgiving \$597.00

Tuition Assistance \$147.00

Happenings in Parish this Week

**St. Mary Parish
Advent Penance Service
Monday, December 5, 2016 @ 7:00 pm**

Tuesday, Dec. 6 @ 6:00 pm—St. Mary School Board Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 7 @ 6:00 pm—Immaculate Conception Eve Mass

Thursday, Dec. 8 @ 8:15 am and 7:00 pm—Immaculate Conception Masses

**2017 CALENDARS
are available on the table in the back
of Church for anyone who
would like one.**

St. Mary Altar/Rosary Society
CHRISTMAS PARTY
Friday, December 9th @ 6:30 pm
St. Mary Community Center (old convent)
All parish ladies and daughters invited
*Please bring a dish to share and a \$5.00 gift exchange for
everyone who comes if you would like to be in exchange.*

Saturday, Dec. 10 after morning Mass—St. Vincent de Paul Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 11 from 9:15—10:45 am—Religious Education Classes

REFLECTIONS from Father Daniel... The words of John the Baptist are loud and clear today: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" He excoriated the religious leaders of Israel; the Pharisees and the Sadducees for their hypocrisy. Repentance, change, turning from evil to God is what John preached. It is likely that those whom he addressed felt themselves to be ready. John's challenge invites them to see that something more radical is needed than just the rigid adherence to the law.

How much are we like the Pharisees and Sadducees, assuming that all is well since we follow the law not realizing that more is required of us? Today's gospel invites us to take seriously our preparation; to take responsibility for the faith we have been given, and to see the deep-rooted change that needs to take place if we are to truly be made ready for the Lord's coming.

In the first reading, prophet Isaiah's vision, in which that wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, is a testimony to the radical nature of the change that is required on our part. We are called to live in perfect harmony with those around us.

A sizable fishing boat with fifteen men on the boat suddenly capsized in the storm and only one survivor. Upon being asked how he survived that storm he told the story about his strong will to live because of the fact that he was due to be married the following week. So he threw a gas barrel into the sea to use as a float and hoped for the best since he did not know that the coast line was so near. The rest of the crew felt it was hopeless since they could not see the shore and didn't even try to survive.

On our spiritual journey, we too, need strong will and radical change, if we are to truly reform our lives.

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We continue to need YOUR help to reach our parish's Annual Bishop's Appeal goal. No pledge is too small or too large. Remember, any amount over our goal comes back to our parish. Please consider making your pledge this week if you haven't do so already. Thank YOU!

This is a reminder that if you have been getting **THE WORD AMONG US** monthly from the back of Church the December issue will be that last issue that the parish will be providing. There are different order forms in the front and back of the December issue for you to subscribe to the publication yourself to be delivered to your home each month.

Youth News—Youth Mass is next Sunday, December 11th. We will meet at Sacred Heart Home at 4:30 pm. We will share our gifts and carol for the residents before Mass. Mass will then begin at 5:30 pm with dinner and fellowship until 7:30 pm. (Please note that these are not our usual times). Feel free to bring a dessert to share. Call Eve Peters with any questions at 897-2828.

St. Mary School is still in need of **recycled paper**, clean on one side, for our everyday use, preferably with no staples or bent edges so it goes through the copier. Any amount would be greatly appreciated. Please call the school office at 897-3481 if you have any to donate.

Give the gift of faith this Christmas by going to <http://bit.do/promotion-bulletin> to purchase Our Sunday Visitor's best-selling Bibles for youth, teens and families at 40-60% off. Sale ends December 9th.

A Ray of Hope: Coping with Grief During the Holidays is being offered at the Community Center, Presence Sacred Heart Home, Avilla, for all who are suffering from grief following the death of a loved one whether recently or longer on Saturday, December 10th at 3:30 pm. There will be a DVD, handouts, and sharing from any participants who wish to do so. There is no fee, but registration is requested so sufficient handouts are available by calling 260-582-6564. If there is no answer please leave your name and number. Should anyone wish help with grief but is unable to attend this seminar, please call Sister Joanne (260-582-6564) to arrange to meet at another time. Sister Joanne will be in Appalachia from December 14-20 helping provide the needy people of Mingo County, West Virginia, a joyous Christmas. Please know that you are in Sister Joanne's daily prayers.

Join redeemer Radio in a **Mass of Thanksgiving** with Bishop Kevin Rhoades to celebrate it's 10 years of the air. Bring your family and friends and join Redeemer Radio at St. Mary, downtown, Ft. Wayne, on Friday, December 16th at 5:30 pm. Reception to follow Mass. We want to thank God for the bountiful gifts that He has shared with the station.

Join **Redeemer Radio Odysseys on a Pilgrimage** as we peacefully protest legalized abortion in our country at the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. on January 26-28, 2017. We'll join with tens of thousands of likeminded people as we witness on behalf of all unborn babies. We will also have time to tour the Capitol Building, spend time with our diocesan seminarians at Mount, St. Mary, and visit the Smithsonian museums. This is a trip you won't want to miss! Visit Redeemerradio.com/travel for more information and to download the registration form. You can also email Tina at travel@redeemerradio.com or all 436-2482.

