

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

228 N. Main Street, PO Box 700

Avilla, IN 46710-0700

Phone: 260-897-3261 Fax: 260-897-2284 email: stmaryassumption@embarqmail.com

Pastor: Father Daniel Chukwuleta

Ministry Contact Persons

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

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: Brandy Teders
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 18, 2016
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SCRIPTURE READINGS

December 19-25

MONDAY

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a, Lk 1:5-25

TUESDAY

Is 7:10-14, Lk 1:26-38

WEDNESDAY

Sg 2:8-14, Lk 1:39-45

THURSDAY

1 Sm 1:24-28, Lk 1:46-56

FRIDAY

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24, Lk 1:57-66

SATURDAY

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16, Lk 1:76-79

SUNDAY

Dawn—Is 62:11-12, Ti 3:4-7, Lk 2:15-20

Day—Is 52:7-10, Heb 1:1-6, Jn 1:1-18

PARISH ACTIVITIES

December 19-25

Monday @ 6:30 pm

Facilities & Capital Improvement
 Committee meeting in the convent

Tuesday @ 7:00 pm

Parish Council Meeting

COLLECTION TOTALS

December 10 & 11, 2016

Adult \$4,747.00 **Loose** \$151.00

Children \$35.06

Total Envelopes Issued: 220

of Envelopes Used this Week: 102

Weekly Contribution Budget: \$8,508.00

Special Collections

Vigil Lights \$28.00

Improvement Fund \$201.00

Parish Savings \$53.00

Christmas Flowers \$30.00

Christmas \$1000.00

Immaculate Conception \$455.00

Religious Retirement \$2,735.00

Human Development \$25.00

MASS INTENTIONS

December 19-23 and Christmas

Monday 7:15 am Purgatorial Society

Tuesday 7:15 am Herb Myers

Wednesday 7:15 am Deb Stoner

Thursday 7:15 am Special Intentions of D.G.

Friday 7:15 am Purgatorial Society

Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

5:00 pm—Paul & Brunetta Sible

Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

Midnight—Virginia Drill

Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day

8:00 am—Ralph & Leona Fortman

11:00 am—St. Mary Parishioners

MASS MINISTERS for CHRISTMAS

USHERS

Sat 5 pm Jim Schmenk and Brian Myers

Sat Midnight Dennis Dancer and Joe Litchfield

Sun 8 am Dave Roesener and Dan Griffiths

Sun 11 am Ralph Stark and Josh Edwards

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat 5 pm Tom & Barb Sherwood, Theresa Meyer, Michelle Myers

Sat Midnight Pat Hoover, Catrina Dancer, Chuck Rhodes, Jenny Litchfield

Sun 8 am Craig & Linda Van Gesse, Bill & Chris Freeman

Sun 11 am Kim Heshner, Beverly Edwards, Katie Herendeen, Kathy Rorick

READERS

Sat 5 pm Tina Ball and Sarah Cartwright

Sat Midnight Nancy Helmer and Chad Helmkamp

Sun 8 am Jim Breckler and Steve Christman

Sun 11am Melissa Cass and Brenda Weber

New Year's Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Saturday, December 31—5:00 pm

Sunday, January 1— 8:00 & 11:00 am

Here at St. Mary Parish we are starting to plan for a **Lenten Mission on March 5-7, 2017**. Would you like to help plan and work on the committee? Anyone is welcome! Anyone who would like to please call Katie Herendeen at 260-582-9773 or contact Sarah Cartwright.

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

If you have that one person left on your Christmas list that you don't know what to get them SCRIP gift cards make great gifts. SCRIP will be available in the teacher's lounge on Monday, December 19th from 8:00—9:00 am.

REFLECTIONS from Father Daniel... When the Israelites were scattered by war and disheartened by oppression, the prophets, especially Isaiah and Micah wouldn't let them forget God's promise of a Savior: a little child, from a tiny town, who would save the world. As Advent progresses, the Church is reminding us of the dignity of the child whose birth we are about to celebrate. He was conceived in a unique way, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and the obedient response of Mary and Joseph.

Our inclination might be to view this story of Jesus' birth from one dimension, to focus exclusively on the Virgin birth. Were we to do this, we would miss the perspective that Jewish faith brought to this moment. For the Jewish faith saw the Spirit as the source of God's action in the world. It was the Spirit that taught the prophet what to say and brought God's truth to the people of Israel. It was the Spirit that enabled God's people to recognize the Word of God when they heard it and the hand of God when they saw it.

In Jesus, the Holy Spirit was so present as to manifest God to the world. It is Jesus who now brings God's truth to all who open their hearts. This truth, once received, would transform us as it transformed Mary who conceived the Child Jesus, and Joseph, her faith filled husband. Thus transformed, Paul reminds us that we are favored with apostleship, so that we might spread His name and bring to obedient faith all who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ.

If we keep faith with the truth that God can accomplish all things, through the power of the Holy Spirit, just as a mother feels the child grow in her and is not surprised on the day of the birth, but joyfully receives the one she learned to know during her waiting, so Jesus can be born in my life slowly and steadily and be received as the one I learned to know while waiting.

+ + + + + + + + + +

Come lend a helping hand **decorating Church for Christmas today, Sunday, December 18th @ 1:30 pm.**
Everyone is welcome and greatly appreciated!

Are you or anyone you know in need of a **lift chair recliner** and/or **massage chair**? The lift chair recliner is old but in "new like" condition and the massage chair is old but works very well. The person who has these items does not want anything for them but would like for someone who is need to have them and benefit from them. If interested please contact Nan Brinker at 260-705-9982.

St. Mary School is still in need of recycled paper, (8.5" x 11") for their everyday use. The paper needs to be clean on one side, preferably with no staples or bent edges so it will go through the copier. If anyone has a source to collect please contact the school office at 897-3481. (Closed for Christmas December 20- January 2). Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Sister Theresa requests that as you are cleaning up from Christmas, or if you happen to be shopping the clearance sales, she is in need of more ornaments for next year when the students recite the Christmas Story. The ornaments do not have to be new or expensive, just in nice condition so that a student might like to choose it as his or her own. Thank you!

2017 Diocesan Directories of Ft. Wayne-South Bend are now available from the Office of Communications for anyone who wishes to purchase one. Orders can be placed online at www.diocesefwsb.org/directory. You can also purchase them at the Cathedral Bookstore. For questions or to request an order form, please call Geoff Frank at 260-422-4611.

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. Join with tens of thousands of like-minded 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 atravel@redeemerradio.com or call 436-2482.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend January 27-29, 2017. Take a moment...look at your spouse. Are you passing through life like two ships passing in the night? Are you operating as a family unit and not as a couple? Do they spend more time on the internet that with you? Rediscover that love within you. It never left. Spend a weekend to rekindle the spirit that brought you together. For more information go to wwme-ni.org or call Greg & Jen Richard at 260-422-0803.

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. Thank YOU!

