

# 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](mailto: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

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: Brandy Teders

Youth: Eve Peters

## St. Mary School

Phone: 260-897-3481

Fax: 260-897-3706

Website: [stmaryavilla.org](http://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**

**March 26, 2017  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**March 27-April 2**

**MONDAY**

Is 65:17-21, Jn 4:43-54

**TUESDAY**

Ez 47:1-9, 12, Jn 5:1-16

**WEDNESDAY**

Is 49:8-15, Jn 5:17-30

**THURSDAY**

Ex 32:7-14, Jn 5:31-47

**FRIDAY**

Wis 2:1a, 12-22

Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**SATURDAY**

Je 11:18-20, Jn 7:40-53

**SUNDAY**

Ez 37:12-14, Rom 8:8-11

Jn 11:1-45

**PARISH ACTIVITIES**

**March 27-April 2**

**Monday**

**6:30 pm**

Facilities & Capital Improvement  
Meeting

**Tuesday**

**6:00 pm**

April School Board Meeting  
(because of Spring Break)

**Friday**

**6:30 pm**

Stations of the Cross

**Saturday**

After morning Mass

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

**COLLECTION TOTALS**

**March 18 & 19, 2017**

**Adult** \$4,83.00 **Loose** 361.35

**Total Envelopes Issued:** 210

**# of Envelopes Used this Week:** 100

**Weekly Contribution Budget:**

\$8,508.00

**Special Collections**

**Vigil Lights** \$22.00

**Improvement Fund** \$215.00

**Parish Savings** \$75.00

**Tuition Assistance** \$136.00

**Catholic Relief Services** \$5.00

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**March 27—April 2**

**Monday 7:15 am** Francis Fischer  
**Tuesday 8:15 am** Purgatorial Society  
**Wednesday 7:15 am** Glen & Frances Griffiths  
**Thursday 7:15 am** Purgatorial Society  
**Friday 7:15 am** Herb Myers  
**Saturday 7:15 am** Jim & Retha Remke  
**5:00 pm** Gene Arkwright  
**Sunday 8:00 am** Pam Schmidt  
**11:00 am** St. Mary Parishioners

**MASS MINISTERS**

**April 1 & 2**

**USHERS**

**Sat 5 pm** Jim Boyce and Gerry Schmidt  
**Sun 8 am** Paul Demske and Marion Duehmig  
**Sun 11 am** Ralph Stark and Dennis Dancer

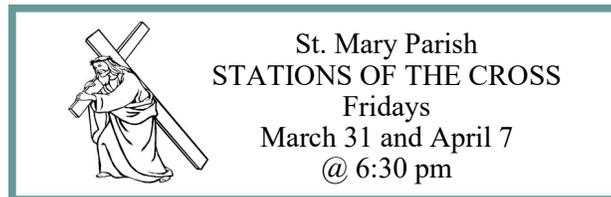
**READERS**

**Sat 5 pm** Grace Cartwright and Rob Diffenderfer  
**Sun 8 am** Steve Christman and Arlene Lewis  
**Sun 11 am** Melissa Cass and Kathy Rorick

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

**Sat 5 pm** Dennis & Jan Hudecek, Jim Schmenk, Elaine Taulbee  
**Sun 8 am** Christine Beck, Nancy Helmer, Bill & Chris Freeman  
**Sun 11 am** Jennifer Litchfield, Bryan Cass, Catrina and Virginia Dancer

The St. Mary Facilities & Capital Improvement Committee (PFCIC) will meeting on Monday, March 27th @ 6:30 pm in the convent. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.



Altar/Rosary Society will be having a Bake Sale on the weekend of April 29 & 30 after the Masses in the back of Church.

St. Mary Parish has been approached with the opportunity to do a Parish Pictorial Directory. Is there someone or a group of individuals who would like to help organize this? If so, please contact the parish office this week at 897-3261.

**Youth Group News** (6th-12th graders)

Last youth Mass for this school year will be April 23rd (the fourth Sunday due to Spring break and Easter). Come join us as we honor our seniors, announce this year's scholarship award winner, and welcome our new group of members (current 5th graders). Mass will begin at 5:30 pm with activities until 8:00 pm. Please call Eve Peters with questions at 897-2828. Visit us on Facebook-StMarysTLC.

**REFLECTIONS from Father Daniel**...You see people in a very different light when they tell you something of what they have lived through. It helps us realize that God is at work in everyone of us and that the most powerful thing any of us has to share is our own story. Because our story is ultimately the story of what God is doing in us.

In all of today's readings, we have images of sight, light, correct vision. Jesus gives glory to God by giving sight to the man born blind. More importantly, Jesus helps the man to gain interior sight, and thus empowers him to accept Jesus and His way of life. Jesus wants us to know that correct vision is a wonderful gift, but what we see with our mind and heart is even of greater value.

The first reading from the first book of Samuel helps us understand this. God does not see as we see. So often we are blind to the potential of others because they do not meet our expectations. We close our eyes to what they might accomplish. Rather, God sees into the heart, the center of our person. Because our heart is living testimony to how we truly live: by the light of God or by our interior darkness. Jesus' invitation today is to be freed from the darkness. That keeps us blind, and, as St. Paul tells us, live as children of the light. God not only made our heart but knows it through and through as well. Living out of our heart, guided by the light of the world, will demand honesty and courage. As the man born blind, we may experience the abuse of those who claim to see, but do not be afraid. A high school religious teacher asked her students: "What is it that you desire most in life?" One student answered, "Somebody I can believe."

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**How is your Lenten intentions going?** Not as well as you would like or you haven't really done any? It's not too late. There's still three weeks before Easter.

Increase your prayer life. Attend Mass every Sunday, and week day Mass as often as possible. Trade an hour of television or computer time each day for an hour of prayer and/or scripture reading.

Pick a bad habit of yours that keeps you from growing spiritually and closer to God and try to change it into a good habit. For example, trade hurtful words about someone with only kind words.

Perform an act of love. Visit with a lonely person or repair a broken friendship.

Even if its only just one change or effort, it could be the beginning of a "life changing experience" that will continue and change your life forever.

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### **St. Mary School News**

There are openings on the St. Mary School Board this year. A representative from St. Mary Parish WITHOUT children at the school and two representatives from any of our sending parishes. The school board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the school. If you wish to run for school board, please contact the school office at 897-3481 on Monday, March 27th.

This summer, discover the career opportunities that exist in the world of healthcare. Students will in hands-on-activities that will introduce them to concepts behind different healthcare professions. The camp will be held at the University of St. Francis on June 6 & 7 for students going into 7th-10th grade in the Fall of 2017. The cost is \$30 per person, but financial assistance is available. Applications are due by May 15 and limited to 72 participants. To sign up call 260-399-7700 ext. 8539 or visit [go.sf.edu/usf-sohs-camp](http://go.sf.edu/usf-sohs-camp).

Dear St. Mary Parishioners,

Accordingly to the calendar, Spring begins tomorrow, March 20th. That means summer is not too far behind and St. Mary Labor Day Festival will be here before we know it, September 4th.

As I look to this year's festival, I would like to find new ways to help it grow financially and people attending the festival, but at the same time, ease the load on St. Mary community families. I have chaired the festival for almost 10 years now and I feel it has become stagnant. I feel that in order to keep the festival alive and profitable, we need to look at revamping the festival and incorporate changes that may help the future of the festival.

As this is still early in the year, we need to start now to think what we can do differently, or add, to possibly make St. Mary Festival even better. Please share any and all ideas that you may have with me, or call the parish office at 897-3261, in the next month or so, hopefully before school is out for the summer, so that we have the summer to work through the details, get workers, get necessary materials, etc.

Thank you and God bless.

Bryan Cass

260-450-4199

[Bryancasselectric@gmail.com](mailto:Bryancasselectric@gmail.com)

### **Happenings In the Area**

Immaculate Conception Church, Kendallville, will be having their annual rummage sale on Friday, March 31, from 9:00 am—5:00 pm and on Saturday, April 1st, from 9:00—11:30 am. \$2.50 Bag Sale on Saturday.

Most Precious Blood Church, Ft. Wayne, will be having their annual Easter Candy & Bake Sale on Saturday, April 8th from 4:00—6:30 pm and on Sunday, April 9th from 8:00 am—12:00 noon.















