

SAINT MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

203 Fourth St. · Aurora, Indiana 47001 · www.mystmarys.com

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Welcome in God's Name!

Through our loving and praying family may you find friendship, peace and serenity in this, God's house. If you are a visitor interested in joining our parish or the Catholic Faith, please call our parish office for information. If you are returning after being away ... Welcome Home!



Parish Mission

We, the people in the area served by St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Aurora, Indiana, called to faith and salvation in Jesus Christ in the Roman Catholic tradition, strive to live the Gospel by worshipping God in word and sacrament, learning, teaching, and sharing our faith with those in our parish ourselves to stewardship through the generous and responsible use of our spiritual, physical, and material resources for today's and tomorrow's needs.

Holy Mass – Schedule

Wednesday & Friday @ 9:00 AM

Saturday @ 4:00 PM

Sunday @ 4:00 PM (For High Risk Only)

Office Hours

Monday thru Friday from 9:00 AM until Noon

Reverend Ben Syberg, Pastor

Email: frsyberg@sls-apps.org

St. Mary's Office: (812) 926-0060

St. Lawrence's Office: (812) 537-3992

After Hours Emergencies: (812) 537-1297

Anna Townsend, Secretary/C.R.E. – parish.office@mystmarys.com
Office Manager, Ann Hutchinson – ann.hutchinson@mystmarys.com

Tony Vincent, Facilities & Maintenance

Jim Waldon, Director of Music jim.waldon@mystmarys.com

Mollie Leibecke, Bookkeeper mollie.leibecke@mystmarys.com

St. Mary's School – (812) 926-1558 fax (812) 926-2590

Randy Dennis, Principal randy.dennis@mystmarys.com

Emily Hollander, School Secretary emily.hollander@mystmarys.com

Pastoral Council Members

Randy Tyler – Chairman Soleman3@comcast.net

Patty Lohmiller – Secretary patti@lohmilliercontracting.com

Lyndsay Hays Lyndsay_81@yahoo.com

Kathy Simon Kathys1008@gmail.com

Beth Hyde Pizzabeth@msn.com

Rick Schuler Rick.schuler@fastsigns.com

George Schewe gjschewe@gmail.com

Sara Dennis iuschwa@hotmail.com

Finance Committee

Mark Neff, Chairperson markneff52@hotmail.com

School Commission

Beth Legge, Chairperson beth@mccabesflowers.com

Homebound Ministry: Eucharistic Ministers are available to bring Holy Communion to the homebound.

Mrs. Emily Beckman ebeckman1@comcast.net

Anointing of the Sick: Call anytime (812-926-0060 or 812-537-3992) or see Fr. Ben. Given at home, nursing home, hospital or at church.

Knights of Columbus

Bill Ullrich, Grand Knight billullrich@comcast.net

Pregnancy Care Center (812) 537-4357

St. Vincent de Paul Society (812) 926-1637



Mass Schedule

*Aloisia Mattl, *Louis Hill, Jr., *Travis Miller, *Becky Meyer Clark, *Christina Nelms, Gary Manford, Tim Heller, Neil Selley, Caroline Seaver, *Brenda Murr, *Marilyn "Jane" Borth, Hayle Brashears, Jared Hodgkins, Stefanie Veale, Nate Groh, Michael Renner, Larry Hagan, McKayla Schmits, Kelly, Gary Wainscott, Ruth Kern, Colton Mattingly, Agnes Kelnhofer, Tinker Walston, Ron Brunner, Kate Grossmann, Joan Fuch, Karen Kistner, Mark Chase, Rose Donk, B&L Dunseth, Jessica McKittrick, Kristie Bockhorst Gilb, *Candi Elsen, Chris Strautman, *Mary Leyendecker, Rebecca Oelker, Debbie Walker Russell, Dottie Fedroff, Judy, Brenda O'Neal, Liz Day, *John P. Hinrichs, Graham, John Hobson, Tom Brown, Susan Dausch & family, Mike Heller & Family, Ray Brown, Carol Smith, Diane Clark, Violet Larbus, Diane Townsend, Terry Wentworth, Joan Vogelpohl Daniel Geyer, Martha Moffitt, Bill Than, Gary Leasure, Dave Jonee, Tom & Karen, Harriet Fehrman, Paul Minning, Mollie Eldridge, Danny Carter, George Steinfeld.

Please remember our Police Officers, Military Troops, Doctors, Nurses, First Responders and their families in your prayers.

March 6 & 7, 2021

Weekly Collection	8,589.31
School	70.00
SVDP	175.00
Flowers	20.00
Right To Life	5.00
Mass Attendance	- 165

Thank you for your generous donation!

Confession Hours:

Tuesdays after the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Lawrence
 Fridays after the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Mary
 Saturdays after the 4:00 PM Mass at St. Mary

Please maintain social distancing while waiting for your turn. Thank you.

Sunday Mass Dispensation

Due to the continuing COVID-19 cases in our state, the Indiana bishops have decided to extend the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days beyond November 1, 2020, until further notice. Please be aware that COVID protocols of mandatory mask wearing & social distancing should be followed.

March 13, Saturday

4:00 PM @ St. Mary (Intention: †Christopher & Viola Powers)

March 14, Sunday (3rd Sunday of Lent)

9:00 AM @ St. Lawrence (Inside)

11:00 AM @ St. Lawrence (Inside)

4:00 PM @ St. Mary (High Risk Only)

(Intention: † Randall Iverson)

March 16, Tuesday

9:00 AM @ St. Lawrence

March 17, Wednesday

9:00 AM @ St. Mary (Intention: †William Currence)

March 18, Thursday

9:00 AM @ St. Lawrence

March 19, Friday

9:00 AM @ St. Mary (Intention: †Christa Armbruster)

2:00 & 6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

3:00 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet & Sorrowful

Mystery Prayer & Reflection

4:30 -7:30 PM Fish Fry

March 20, Saturday

4:00 PM @ St. Mary (Intention: †Ernst & Elsie Borgman)

March 21, Sunday (4th Sunday of Lent)

9:00 AM @ St. Lawrence (Inside)

11:00 AM @ St. Lawrence (Inside)

4:00 PM @ St. Mary (last 4:00 PM Mass)

(Intention: † Billy Joe Strochinsky)

Please check our parish website @

www.mystmarys.com for up to date information

For Mass schedule in our local community go

to <http://masstimes.org>

EASTER FLOWER COLLECTION



We are now accepting donations for Easter flowers for the church. Envelopes are in the pews, or you may use your own; please print names clearly on the envelopes if your gift is being made as a memorial. Memorial donations made by March 31st will be published in our Easter bulletin; donations made

later than March 31st will still be gratefully accepted. As always, thank you for your generosity!

From the Desk of Fr. Ben,

I've recently read the book / watched the adapted film called *Silence*. Written in the 1960s by a Japanese Christian, Shukaku Endo, the story is a fictional but very realistic account of life for Japanese Christians and Jesuit missionaries in the 1600s. For decades, Christianity flourished (in a unique way) throughout Japan due to the heroic effort of European missionaries, and over time hundreds of thousands of the Japanese converted to the faith. One city in particular, perhaps you've heard of it, Nagasaki, became the home of 200,000 Christians. (The Cathedral Church in the city was destroyed in the bombing, to be beautifully rebuilt with a memorial park today). But many churches and Catholic communities could be seen throughout Japan, stirring concern among the country's leadership. Eventually, Christianity was utterly outlawed. A famous church in Nagasaki commemorates the martyrdom of 26 Christians, tortured and crucified. 9 were European missionaries, and 17 were Japanese.

The story *Silence* covers the later part of Christian persecution, when believers went essentially underground. There were no priests and outside of baptism, no sacraments. They had little by way of Christian teaching, save the basics. All Christian images were banned from the country, no scriptures could be read. The Japanese officials routinely forced suspected Christians to step on an image of Mary or Jesus (called the fume'). This act would be a public denouncement of the Christian faith. Thousands of brave Christians faced torture and death, rather than step on the face of Jesus. Many thousands more were not so brave. The book *Silence* describes the fume' as tattered and worn down, trampled by so many feet. The main character of the story, Father Rodriguez, is the last priest in Japan, fleeing persecution and trying to minister to the Christians. The Japanese officials want him to apostatize (denounce the faith by stepping on the fume') but he would never give in to torture. But the officials are smart - they don't torture him. They torture the peasants. And again, while this story is fictional, it is well grounded in history.

Father Rodriguez is placed in an impossible situation, which is in many ways the whole point of the story. What are we supposed to do, what can anyone do, when the answers from God don't come? How can we live in the *Silence* of God? God's Silence, as they say, is deafening. The priest often prays: *Lord, why are You silent? Why are You always silent?!* In these days of Lent, one cannot help but remember Pontius Pilate looking at Jesus on Good Friday, who says nothing. *Pilate: do You not speak to me? But Jesus gave him no answer, such that Pilate was amazed.*

Lent is certainly a time to enter the Silence of God. But I must say, reading the book and watching the film convicted my heart in another way. Encountering the suffering and persecution of Christians, and realizing that Japan only officially allowed Christians to be free in **1876**, I feel some shame. I ponder that it doesn't cost me much to practice my faith. It costs me basically nothing. How much we take our faith granted; how much we take the freedom to practice openly as a given. Japanese Christians went underground for over two hundred years and survived by memorizing prayers and drawing crosses on the wall. In so many ways it is easy for us, yes easy, to be Christians, and we should thank God for that. And we must live it openly. Even if God is silent, we need not be.

God Bless.

March 15, Monday @ 6:30 PM
inside St. Mary's Church
Presentation followed by Question &
Answer on the future of St. Mary's School.
Parishioners are invited!
Social distancing will be strictly observed.

The Word This Week

Fourth Sunday of Lent "Laetare Sunday"

There were two remarkable moments in the story of the Old Testament where God saved his people; one was in the escape from Egypt – we'll keep that for the Easter Vigil. The other was the end of their second exile, this time in Babylon, which we hear of today. Of course, there was an even greater moment when God saved his people: the work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God – and we hear Jesus tell Nicodemus about that today. So, today's theme is "salvation": but to understand "being saved", we must ask "What from?" Saved from slavery, from exile, from human enemies – these are all clear. But the last and greatest salvation brought by Jesus is harder to understand: saved from sin and death. These threaten us as much as any other enemy, and our salvation in Jesus is as real as any other."

Source: <https://www.salfordliturgy.org.uk/advent3b.htm>

Catholic Relief Services Weekend

We will have a second collection this weekend to support the Catholic Relief Services. You can support CRS'S Mission by making a donation today. Thank you.

Welcome to St. Mary's Church
Flocknote!

Simply text **STMFLOCK to 84576**
to join! Please Sign-up! **Keep
informed. Stay informed. Remain
informed.**



April 1 - Holy Thursday
(The Lord's Last Supper)
7:00pm @ St. Mary

April 2 - Good Friday
(The Passion of the Lord)
3:00pm @ St. Mary
6:30 pm @ St. Lawrence (Solemn Station
and Veneration of the Cross)

April 3 - Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil - 8:30pm @ St. Mary

April 4 - Easter Sunday
9:00am & 11:00 AM @ St. Lawrence
(Outside) St. Lawrence

**Batesville Deanery
CONFESSION SCHEDULE
12-hours of confession
(every Friday this Lent)**

March 19 – St. Joseph
(228 E. Henricks, Shelbyville, IN 48176)

March 26 – St. Lawrence
(542 Walnut Street, Lawrenceburg, IN
47025)

April 2 – All Saint
(St. Martin Campus 8044 Yorkridge Rd.,
Guilford, IN 47022)

*“Abortion and racism are both symptoms of a
fundamental human error. The error is thinking that
when someone stands in the way of our wants, we
can justify getting that person out of our lives.
Abortion and racism stem from the same poisonous
root, selfishness” ~ Alveda King*

**Let's Face the Facts and Tell the Truth about
Abortion (Part 1)**

***“Don't look for the applause, but look to obey the
truth. Speaking just to find applause or to tell
people what they want to hear . . . is like
“prostitution” – Pope Benedict XVI***

The truth about abortion is repugnant and abhorrent. It is therefore not easy and requires courage to speak out about abortion. However, as Catholics, we must boldly speak the truth and contradict the untruths and misleading rhetoric which surrounds the issue.

Some of the myths are discussed below:

† The government should not interfere with someone's personal choice.” This is neither practical” desirable or correct. If there is only one legitimate function of government, it is the protection of innocent human life and to prevent one individual victimizing another. The word “choice” might sound good, but the reality is that some “choices” are crimes and all crimes are “choices”.

† Abortion advocates try to use smokescreen language to conceal the truth about abortion. A good example is the term “Women's reproductive rights”. The biological reality is that when a woman is pregnant, reproduction has already occurred. If that were not true, there would be nothing for the abortionist to abort.

† Another deliberately term is “women's access to healthcare”. Healthcare relates to the treatment of diseases, injuries or illnesses. Since pregnancy is none of these, abortion is definitely not “healthcare.” ~ Pro-Life Articles

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

***Feed your Soul with the Word of God
and Prayers***



St. Mary's Lenten Fish Fry

Dates: March 19 & March 26.

- TIME: 4:30 until 7:30 PM

- 2 Drive-Thru Lanes & Alley
- Or Pre-Order Online @ www.mystmarys.com

Meals includes:

Fish of your choice

- Hand-dipped
- Breaded
- Baked or Grilled Cheese

- Macaroni & Cheese
- Green Beans
- Cole Slaw
- Apple Sauce
- Dessert – Apple Crisp, Chocolate Cake

COST of Meal is \$10.00



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

Good Friday Drive Thru Fish Dinner
**At The Hall - Home of the Knights of Columbus
(624 Delaware Rd, Batesville)**

Friday, April 2; Serving 4:30 - 7:30

Fish Dinners \$10 (Pollock, baked potato, green beans, coleslaw)

Pizza Dinner \$5 (Pizza, green beans, apple sauce)

For more information, please call 812.934.2729



All Saints Parish is launching a new ministry/small group called Embrace Grace. This group provides emotional, practical, and spiritual support for single, young pregnant women who find themselves in an unexpected pregnancy. The primary goal of Embrace Grace is to empower the church to be a safe and nonjudgmental place for these young women to run to when they find out they are pregnant. Instead of feeling shame and guilt we want them to be welcomed into the arms of His Church. Embrace Grace is a 12-week program that teaches young women about God's love and grace.

Each participant will earn a baby shower to honor them for choosing life and to help provide for their baby's needs. All unmarried women experiencing an unexpected pregnancy are welcome, being Catholic is not a requirement. Please help us spread the word! Our first meeting will be Thursday March 25th in the Good Shepherd Center at the St. Joseph campus. Questions or want to help? Please contact Jennie Chafin by texting or calling: (812)307-8631 or email our team at embracegraceasp@gmail.com

Check out an Embrace Grace promo here: <https://youtu.be/Y7P6HLW4I-c> Learn more about the value of a Love Box: <https://youtu.be/ilewuPkzRJE>

The Seven Last Words of Christ *Wisdom in His final Words*



Join Fr. Dan Bedel
Sunday, March 21
5:00 pm
St. Mary Parish
Greensburg, IN

Social Distancing and masks required.

**Support St. Mary's
Adopt-A-Student Program**

Call 926-1558 today
to learn how you can help.



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Knights of Columbus #2111
Meetings are on the 1st Tuesday each month
7:30 pm in the St. Mary Parish Office
We support Church, School, Youth and Community!
Join us in "Charity, Unity and Patriotism".
Contact Grand Knight, Bill Ullrich
812-584-4498 or billullrich@comcast.net