

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Dec. 8	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of the Trentz Family
	12:10pm	† Ben Cullen
	7:00pm	† Angelina Wedgie
Tuesday, Dec. 9	8:00am	† Eugene Splinter
Wednesday, Dec. 10	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of the Leo Doser Family
Thursday, Dec. 11	8:00am	Bill & Rose Baker Family
	10:30am	Perpetual Care Adoration, Fennimore Manor Care Nursing Home
Friday, Dec. 12	8:00am	† Miriam Ferguson
	11:00am	Perpetual Care Adoration, Fennimore Park Place
Saturday, Dec. 13	8:00am	Perpetual Care Adoration, Fennimore (TLM)
WEEKEND LITURGIES		
Saturday, Dec. 13	4:00pm	† David & John Klaas
Sunday, Dec. 14	9:00am	† Loren Junk
	12 noon	Misa



REFLECTION—“Prepare the way of the Lord...” - Mark 1:3.
We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that – it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.

Private Reconciliation—every day, one hour before each Mass & Thursdays after morning Mass until 9:30am.

Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays beginning after 8am Mass and concluding with Rosary and Benediction at 8pm.

Bless Our Priests Collection for Diocese of Madison Retired Priests—The Diocese of Madison is holding a special collection specifically for the retired priests of the 11 counties of the diocese next weekend. All funds received through this collection will be used to directly support the retirement needs, including rising cost of healthcare, for those priests who have faithfully served, and the many retired who continue to serve in our parishes. Please consider making this collection a part of your year-end giving. Your donation will help serve those who have faithfully served us!

You may send your donation directly to the Diocese in the envelope provided. Thank you.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

We celebrate the **Immaculate Conception of Mary** this Monday, December 8th. According to church teaching, Mary was conceived by normal biological means but her soul was acted upon by God so that she was immaculate at the time of her conception. This doctrine of the Church was officially defined in 1854 by Pope Pius IX. All Catholics are required to attend Mass on this Holy Day of Obligation.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Friday, December 12th

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego in 1531. She is revered by the Hispanics. Our Lady of Guadalupe is patron of the Americas.

St. Lucy on Saturday, December 13th

Lucy's name means “light”. This brave woman who lived in Syracuse lost her life in the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Lucy is the patron saint of the blind and those with eye trouble.

Christmas Decoration Donations—Envelopes are on the table near the center entrance of church for donations for Christmas flowers, wreaths, etc. for our church. You may donate for the cost of a specific item or any amount. The donation may also be given as a memorial to a deceased loved one. Be sure to indicate the name if it is a memorial. Thank you for your great response every year!

With Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Diane Obershaw, whose sister-in-law, Deb Obershaw died last week. And to Judy O’Neil whose husband, Jack, died Saturday, November 30th.

Eternal rest grant on to them Oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

2nd Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11—2 Pt 3:8-14—Mk 1:1-8

Monday: Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Tuesday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin.

Is 40:1-11—Mt 18:12-14.

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31—Mt 11:28-30.

Thursday: St. Damasus I, Pope

Is 41:13-20—Mt 11:11-15.

Friday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17—Lk 1:26-38 or any readings from the Lectionary for Ritual Masses, the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Saturday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11—Mt 17:9a, 10-13.

3rd Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11—1 Thes 5:16-24—Jn 1:6-8, 19-28.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

St. Augustine Mass times

8:00am (TLM) & 5:30pm



Anyone requesting prayer may call 348-6041. Please call in the morning between 8am & 9am. If no answer please leave your prayer.

ST. MARY PARISH GIVING

November 30, 2014

Weekly Envelopes.....\$ 3,402.00

Offertory.....\$ 467.00

Weekly Average Electronic Funds \$ 900.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Saturday, Dec. 13

4:00 pm

David Drefcinski

John Drefcinski

Ben Drefcinski

Altar Servers

Sunday, Dec. 14

9:00am

Garrison Tashner

Gabe Tashner

Andy Eggers

Lector & Leader of Prayer

Kent Scheuerell

John Pluemer

Sue Momot

Chris Brunette

Lee Eggers

Sacristan

Christine Del Priore

Karla Melssen

Musicians

Kim & Youth

Classic Choir

Greeters

Tammie VanNatta

Terry & Dee

Woolf

Rosary

Rose Kuhn

Joel Schaefer

Mini-Retreat at St. Mary's-

Join us for a morning of prayer on Wednesday, December 17th.

The day begins with Mass at 8:00 am and is followed by a short time of fellowship with juice and rolls. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 9:00 am and we will enjoy both private prayer and communal prayer. Ends at noon with Benediction and everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at a local restaurant. Advent is a beautiful time to spend more time with our Lord Jesus. Please contact Ruth Becker at 563/580-3565 or Trina Hingtgen at 563/543-0089.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Wednesday—Bible Study, 2:30pm.

Religious Education see below.

Thursday—Finance meeting, 5:30pm.

Sunday—KC Pancake Breakfast.

PASTORAL COUNCIL COLUMN

Straighten the Path

Our God is coming. The time of exile - the long separation of humankind from God due to sin - is about to end. This is the good news proclaimed in today's liturgy.

Isaiah in today's First Reading promises Israel's future release and return from captivity and exile. But as today's Gospel shows, Israel's historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God - the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to gather them up and carry them back to God.

God sent an angel before Israel to lead them in their exodus towards the promised land (see Exodus 23:20). And He promised to send a messenger of the covenant, Elijah, to purify the people and turn their hearts to the Father before the day of the Lord (see Malachi 3:1, 23-24). John the Baptist quotes these, as well as Isaiah's prophecy, to show that all of Israel's history looks forward to the revelation of Jesus. In Jesus, God has filled in the valley that divided sinful humanity from himself. He has reached down from heaven and made His glory to dwell on earth, as we sing in today's Psalm.

He has done all this, not for humanity in the abstract, but for each of us. The long history of salvation has led us to this Eucharist, in which our God again comes and our salvation is near. And each of us must hear in today's readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in today's Epistle.

Like Jerusalem's inhabitants in the Gospel, we have to go out to Him, repenting our sins, all the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. We have to straighten out our lives, so that everything we do leads us to Him.

Today, let us hear the beginning of the gospel and again commit ourselves to lives of holiness and devotion.



Alone for Christmas? - Free Christmas Dinner - Will you or your family be alone for Christmas? Several Platteville churches have joined together to serve a free turkey dinner with all the trimmings at 12 noon on Christmas Day at First English Lutheran Church. Crafts and activities will be available for children while adults socialize after dinner. Music and caroling will make the Christmas spirit come alive. In town transportation for those in need and for shut-ins to have your meals delivered, please call the parish office (348-3022). Reservations are not necessary. All are welcome.

Please check the bulletin board for the items our parish is responsible for.

Jamaica Building Material Collection

On 21 through 30 January I will once again lead a group of missionaries from the Platteville and Cuba City faith communities to Jamaica to build and repair the homes of the very poor in the Diocese of Mandeville. A special collection will be conducted the Sunday of 21 December. All of the money collected will be used to buy building materials and supplies when our parishioners are in Jamaica. Each parishioner pays for their own airfare, food and lodging. Please place your check (addressed to St. Mary's or St. Augustine's) or cash contribution in an envelope clearly marked "Jamaica Building Material Fund". Thank you for your past and present generous support of the very poor in Jamaica! Christ's peace to you always. Deacon Bill

CCW NEWS

Many thanks to all who gave of time, talent and treasure for the CCW Christmas Bazaar. A final wrap up of the bazaar will be part of the December 11th CCW Dessert Social at 6pm in the Hospitality Room. At this time both the offices of president and treasurer are available to interested candidates. Please contact Dee Woolf at 348-7403 and leave a message.

Mobile Pantry News—Our November pantry recorded 167 families, a record number, in attendance. The families included 468 individuals, 254 adults, 151 children and 63 seniors. Thirty-eight of the families were first time visitors. The parish received a thank you note from the pantry participants signed from "Everybody", I will pin it on the north end bulletin board. Thank you again for your continued support of the mobile pantry. Linda

Christmas Gift Certificate Money

If you can spare a few dollars toward the Christmas Gift Certificate Fund you will find envelopes on tables for this donation or you can use your own envelope marked for Christmas Basket Fund. Thanks for your help!

Religious Education News

Classes Wednesday

Grades 1-5 (6-7pm) —Grades 6-11 (7:15-8:25pm).

Reminder for 1st—5th grade families that the Christmas Play is Wednesday, December 17 at about 6:10pm.



Looking for additional singers for the Youth Choir. Must be 3rd grade or older and able to read music. Available to sing on Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. Mass. Call Dana at 348-9134.

Parish Fundraising Update—A check for \$15,500.00 was presented to the parish as a result of the September 2014 Parish Festival.

A Fish Fry for Lent is in the planning stages. Interested volunteers may contact Linda at the parish office.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

Four Seasons

Landscaping & Nursery

348-6617

Thanks to our advertisers for their support.