



Akron Clarence Roman Catholic Community

www.AkronClarenceRCC.org

December 17, 2023 | Third Sunday of Advent

Rev. Thomas M. Mahoney, Pastor

Rev. Walter J. Szczesny, Senior Parochial Vicar

Rev. Arthur E. Mattulke, Senior Parochial Vicar

Rev. Joseph N. Franz, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Richard Stachura

Deacon Thomas Friedman

Deacon Ronald Adamczak

Deacon Arthur Sullivan

Deacon Peter Donnelly

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening/Sunday Vigil

4:00 PM St. Teresa & St. Mary's

5:15 PM Our Lady of Peace & Nativity of BVM

Sunday Morning

7:30 AM St. Mary's

8:00 AM Our Lady of Peace & Nativity of BVM

9:00 AM St. Mary's & St. Teresa

10:00 AM Our Lady of Peace & Nativity of BVM

11:00 AM St. Mary's

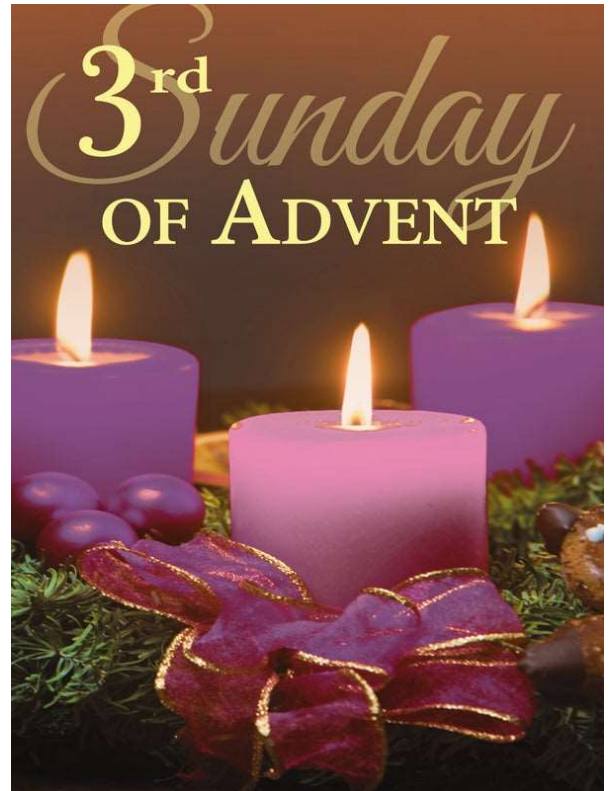
Weekday Masses

St. Mary's: Monday – Saturday 9:00 AM
(Monday-Thursday in Chapel; Friday-Saturday in Main Church)

Nativity of BVM: Monday, Wednesday – Saturday 8:00 AM.
Tuesday 9:00 AM

Our Lady of Peace: Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM, Friday
6:30 AM

St. Teresa: Monday – Tuesday 8:00 AM, Wednesday 5:30
PM, Thursday – Friday 8:00 AM, Saturday 9:00 AM



MAIN OFFICE: 716-688-9380

6919 Transit Road, Swormville, NY 14051

Office hours:

Monday – Friday 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

St. Teresa of Avila Church
5771 Buell Street, Akron, NY 14001

Our Lady of Peace Church
10950 Main Street, Clarence, NY 14031

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
4375 Harris Hill Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221

St. Mary's Church
6919 Transit Road Swormville, NY 14051

Mass Intentions **Third Sunday of Advent** December 17, 2023

St. Teresa of Avila Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil, December 16

4:00 pm Michael Raykowski by *Rich Raykowski*

Sunday, December 17

9:00 am Geraldine Benker by *Estate*

Monday December 18

8:00 am Theresa Mary Dolph by *Flumerfeldt Family*

Tuesday, December 19

8:00 am [Intentions for Fathers](#)

Wednesday, December 20

5:30 pm Gabby Flumerfeldt – Birthday Blessings by *Mom & Dad*

Thursday, December 21 – St. Peter Canisius

8:00 am Alfred Strollo by *Strollo Family*

Friday, December 22

8:00 am Theresa Mary Dolph by *Jim & Jean Dolph*

Saturday, December 23

9:00 am Intentions for Bob Larouere by *Family*

4:00 pm In Memory of Gertrude Bartels & Andrew Korszylowski by *Estate of Gertrude Bartels*

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am Howard Tobin by Brian Tobin & Adeline, Henry & Michael Raykowski by Rich Raykowski

St. Mary's Swormville Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 16—Vigil

4:00PM Dorothy Janis by the Janson Family
And Joseph, Elizabeth & Jean Bager by the family

Sunday, December 17—Third Sunday of Advent

7:30AM George & Clara Siefert by the family
9:00AM Ron & Janet Valtin by the family
11:00AM Genevieve Donatelli by daughter Deanna

Monday, December 18

9:00AM People of the Parish by Fr. Tom

Tuesday, December 19

9:00AM Charles T. Militello by the family

Wednesday, December 20

9:00AM Mary Lou Vogel by Jim & Ruth Burkard
And Prayers for the Incarcerated by the Hoffmann Family

Thursday, December 21—St. Peter Canisius, priest and doctor

9:00AM Rita & Carl Braunscheidel by Jim & Sharon
And Lee Vermeulen by Sarah & Brendan Biddlecom

Friday, December 22

9:00AM Anna Slazyk by granddaughter Deanna

Saturday, December 23—St. John Kanty, priest

9:00AM Ron Newton by Lee & Gene Santercole
4:00PM Amanda Slisz by Dad & family

Sunday, December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30AM Nicholas Cornwall by the family
9:00AM Amanda Stockman by Mom, Dad & Sisters
11:00AM Larry Megan by wife, Liz

See St. Mary's page for Christmas Eve & Christmas Mass Schedule

Our Lady of Peace Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 16

5:15PM Mary Cannizzaro – The Family

Sunday, December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent

8:00AM Virginia Wallrich – Wallrich & Ryan Families
10:00AM Hugo & Rita Gentilcore – Lawrence Schwach

Monday, December 18

8:00AM Living and Deceased members of the Scheeler and Wargo families – The Family

Tuesday, December 19

8:00AM Intentions of Maureen

Wednesday, December 20

8:00AM John Parkes – Mom & Dad

Thursday, December 21

St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:00AM Intentions of Sylvia

Friday, December 22

6:30AM Elaine Hess – Brad Hess & David Snelling

Saturday, December 23

5:15PM Our Lady of Peace Church parishioners, living and deceased

Sunday, December 24

8:00AM Intentions of Sylvia
10:00AM Thomas C. Ring – Parents

Christmas Eve. Vigil

4:30PM Living & Deceased members of Schneider Family
9:00PM Paul J. Kreppel – The Kreppel Family

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 16—Vigil

5:15PM Mary Juliano (Living) – Jeff & Connie Silvashy
Lawrence Vito – Dr. & Mrs. Phillip Culliton

Sunday, December 17—Second Sunday of Advent

8:00AM LilyAnn LoTempio – Jennifer LoTempio
Jeanne & Robert Hammer-Tim & Elaine Hammer
10:00AM Darlene Gushue—Sue & Jerry Krug
Susan Caruso—Marie Clark

Monday, December 18

8:00AM All Souls—Nativity Parishioners

Tuesday, December 19

9:00AM Verna Mika—Arlene Nikiel
Lawrence Vito—Linda & Larry Huffman & family

Wednesday, December 20

8:00AM Salvatore Sakorski—Sakorski Family

Thursday, December 21—St. Peter Canisius

8:00AM Michael & Angela Batco—The Family

Friday, December 22

8:00AM All Souls – Nativity Parishioners

Saturday, December 23—St. John of Kanty

8:00AM Richard Kiener—Jim & Karen Conway
5:15PM Special Intentions—The Family
Lawrence Vito— loving wife, Janet

Sunday, December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00AM All Souls—Nativity Parishioners
10:00AM Joseph & Antoinette Valenti & Albert & Rita Silvestri—The Children
4:30PM Andy, Bea & Dave Hoerner—Meg & Ed Goit
7:00PM All Souls—Nativity Parishioners
10:00PM James Downing—wife, Mary
Helen, Alex, James Golombek—Tim & Elaine Hammer

Third Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING [Is 61:1-2A, 10-11](#)

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
to heal the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
to announce a year of favor from the LORD
and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul;
for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
like a bride bedecked with her jewels.
As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise
spring up before all the nations.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM [Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54](#)

My soul rejoices in my God.

GOSPEL [Jn 1:6-8, 19-28](#)

A man named John was sent from God.
He came for testimony, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
He was not the light,
but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John.
When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests
and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?"
He admitted and did not deny it,
but admitted, "I am not the Christ."
So they asked him,
"What are you then? Are you Elijah?"
And he said, "I am not."
"Are you the Prophet?"
He answered, "No."
So they said to him,
"Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who
sent us?
What do you have to say for yourself?"
He said:
"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,
'make straight the way of the Lord,'"
as Isaiah the prophet said."
Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him,
"Why then do you baptize
if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?"
John answered them, "I baptize with water;
but there is one among you whom you do not recog-
nize, the one who is coming after me,
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."
This happened in Bethany across the Jordan,
where John was baptizing.

SECOND READING [1 Thes 5:16-24](#)

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks,
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.
Do not quench the Spirit.
Do not despise prophetic utterances.
Test everything; retain what is good.
Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful,
and he will also accomplish it.

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him." The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

Father John Muir



Weekly Events Calendar
Posted on the Bulletin
Board in the vestibule and
on the Website.

Christmas Eve Masses
Sunday, December 24th
4:30 pm & 8:00 pm

Christmas Day Masses
Monday, December 25th
9:00 am



New Year's Day
*Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**



Sunday, December 31st, 2023
5:30 pm
Monday, January 1st, 2024
9:00 am

*(The 5:30 PM Mass is offered for our Deceased
family and friends in 2023)*

Please Note: Mary, Mother of God is not a Holy Day of Obligation



Our first Christmas Advent-ure was a huge success! Thank you to all of the families who joined us for this faith filled event! Special thanks also go out to Fr. Art, Margie Wood, Christina Eggleston, the K-5 catechists and Jean Bacon for their all of their help. It was terrific to see the children and their families having fun together while learning about the true meaning of both Advent and Christmas!

Don't Forget the Oplatki! At the Christmas Eve meal, each person has an Oplatki wafer. A parent offers a piece of wafer to another exchanging words of bless, of love, perhaps telling what they admire or respect. The ritual continues as each person eats the piece of wafer they have been given and offers their own wafer to others. The wafers are on the altar rail and a donation is suggested.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Join Us in the Parish Hall following each Mass this Weekend to Congratulate Sr. Ruth on her change of Ministry here at St. Teresa's and in appreciation for her many years of service as the Director of Religious Education guiding the youth of St. Teresa's. Refreshments will be served.

Warrior Retreat

7th - 12th Graders Please join us for a retreat at Camp Asbury, Silver Lake, 5 PM Friday, January 5 - Sunday, January 7, 12 PM. Sign-up by December 18 to reserve your spot via Flock Notes or contact Theresa Zielinski 585-322-3880, theresazielinski8@gmail.com. Presented by Wyoming Association of Catholic Youth.

Classes for Sunday, December 17:
10- 11 am Grades K-6, 10 - 11:15 am Grades 7-10



**No Classes on Sunday,
December 24th & 31st**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Salvation Army collection at Pixley's! All of the monies collected will stay in the Akron area to help those in need.

Prayer for Vocations - God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers and religious priests. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Retirement Fund for Religious - Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.



A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom as the children drew pictures. The teacher would occasionally walk around and see each child's artwork. As she approached one little girl who was working especially hard, she asked what the drawing was. The little girl told her: "I'm drawing God!" "But sweetie," the teacher replied, "no one actually knows what God looks like." Automatically, the little girl continued drawing and said: "well, they certainly will in a minute!"



Our Lady of Peace Church

10950 Main St., Clarence, NY 14031

Telephone: 716.759.8554 office@olpclareance.org

Fax: 716.759.8537 ~ Office@olpclareance.org Web Site ~ www.olpclareance.org

A Message From Father Walter

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Again, in today's Gospel, we hear the preaching of John the Baptist, this time from John's Gospel. When the priests and Levites question John about his identity, he points instead to one who is coming after him, one whom they "do not recognize." As mysterious as these words must have been for the people who first heard them, they also hold a mystery for us. Near the end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus offers a parable about the end of time when he will confront his followers telling them, "What you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me." How is Christ in our midst, right here, right now, and we do not recognize him?

Fr. Walt

Advent Opportunities for Reconciliation

--Confessions will be available on the following
Wednesday, December 20, 4 - 6 PM

CHRISTMAS WAFERS / "OPLATKI"

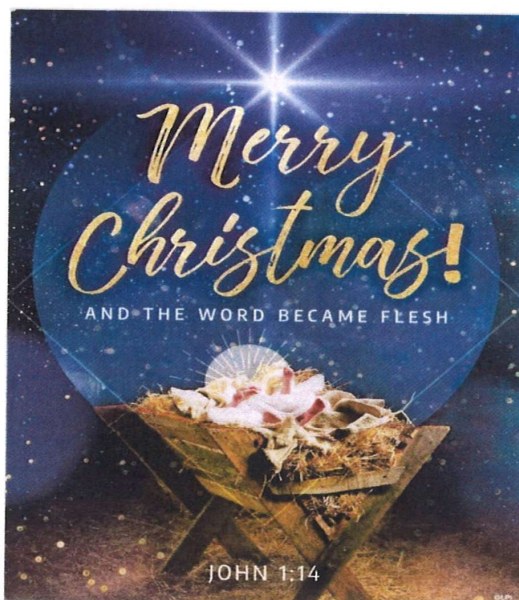
In many homes throughout the world, a most beloved family tradition is the breaking of the "Oplatek" on Christmas Eve. The Oplatek is a thin wafer similar in consistency to a communion host that is often stamped with an elaborate Christmas scene. Historically, these would be distributed by religious to parishioners' homes during the Advent Season. The Oplatek is meant to remind families of the Eucharistic bread at Mass and makes a further connection between Christmas and the gift of the Eucharist, the presence of God among us. On Christmas Eve, the family eagerly awaits the first star in the night sky, recalling the star of Bethlehem that signaled the birth of the Savior. Once the star has been spotted, the Christmas Eve meal begins. The father, or eldest member of the family, begins the ceremony by taking the Oplatek and breaking a piece off to give to another. When he does so, he may say what he is thankful for, wish good health, or ask for forgiveness. After this initial sharing, the Oplatek is then shared with each member of the family in a similar manner. It is a touching ceremony, one that can help heal hurts from the past year. It is a beautiful tradition, one that keeps the true "Spirit of Christmas," and unites a family to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. *** Oplatki Christmas Wafers are available in a basket near the Baptismal Font in our Church. You are welcome to leave a free-will offering

Collection Total

12/3/2023 \$7,809.00

2024 Calendars

The 2024 Calendars that have been donated by Shepard Bros. Funeral Home are here. They will be at the church entrances. Thank-you to Shepard Brothers.



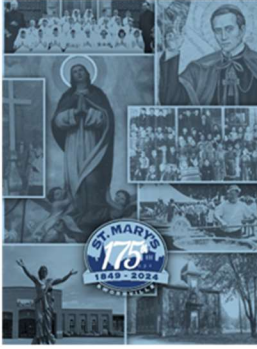
The Knights Of Columbus

Council # 13661



The Knights of Columbus meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30PM. All men are welcome!

The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring our annual Weekend Getaway again this year. Tickets are available at a cost of \$5 each weekend after Mass. The drawing will be held on Tuesday, December 19 and will include: Dinner for 2 at Russell's Restaurant. Deluxe Sweetheart room at Salvatore's Grand Hotel with Continental Breakfast and \$100. All funds raised will be used for many Knights Charities. Please make checks payable to Knights of Columbus. Thank-you!



**Commemorative
175th Anniversary Booklets**

Will be distributed to at all Christmas Masses. We hope you enjoy this snippet of St. Mary's rich history as we enter our 175th year in 2024!

Readings during the week Dec. 17, 2023

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/
1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17
Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,
20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd
Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/
Lk 1:57-66
Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27,
29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38 © LPI



ALL YOU CAN EAT Pancake Breakfast at A. J. Jurek Legion, Smith & New Roads, E. Amherst, **Sunday, December 17th**, 8AM-12:00PM. Includes: pancakes, eggs, sausage, beverage. Adults \$10, 12/U \$4, U/5 free.



The Third Sunday of Advent is **Bambinelli Sunday**. Bring Baby Jesus from your manger to Mass on December 16th or 17th for a special blessing.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING THROUGH ANN MARIE ZON'S NICARAGUAN MISSION For a \$100 donation you can give a pregnant cow to a needy family. The cow's first calf will be given to another family. The cow will serve the family for seven years providing milk, cheese and calves. **For a \$50 donation** you can give a pig which will birth 6-12 piglets twice a year. Or you can send a child to school for a full year. **\$30 supports** an elementary student, **\$50 a middle-schooler**, and **\$100 a high school student**. A **\$600 donation** will send a student to college for a year. Gift cards will be provided for your recipients. **Send your check made out to NICARAGUAN MISSION, mail to 100 Sundown Trail, Williamsville, NY 14221 For further information call Joe Testa at 688-8357.**

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection—Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to the collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous. You may place your donation in any collection basket during the month of December.

Anniversary Mass—The Diocese of Buffalo wishes to honor and recognize couples who observe(d) their **25th, 50th, 60th and 70th** wedding anniversaries in 2023 and 2024. All couples who celebrate(d) their Silver, Golden, Diamond and Platinum Anniversaries in 2023 or 2024 are invited to a special Mass in St. Joseph's Cathedral on World Marriage Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 10:30AM. During the Mass couples will renew their marriage vows. Following Mass, Bishop Michael will be available to take photographs with the couple in the Lady Chapel. In addition, a brunch will be served after Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church Center on Court Street, behind City Hall. Family members are most welcome to attend both the Mass and the brunch. Please complete the following form and return to the parish office by January 8th, as reservations need to be turned into the Diocese. (We ask that you fill out the form whether or not you plan on attending the cathedral celebration as the diocese provides a certificate for all anniversary couples.) Contact Donna Allan at the Parish office if you have any questions.

We celebrate(d) our 25th, 50th, 60th, 70th anniversary in 2023 or 2024

Last-Name _____
First Names _____
Mailing-addr _____
Month/date/year of marriage _____
We will attend the celebration yes ___ no ___
Number attending (including guests) _____



We invite all women to the **Daughters of Mary** Christmas Celebration - **Monday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.** in room 110/111. Our theme is "The Transformative Power of Christmas Carols". Come experience an evening of music, food, and friendship. Please bring a snack or dessert to share, along with a religious themed Christmas ornament for a fun ornament swap game. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend to experience the warm fellowship at St. Mary's. Contact Elizabeth Forman at (716) 691-6554 or daughtersofmary815@gmail.com to be added to our email list *Daughters of Mary... A women's ministry to encourage each other in living out our Catholic faith. Dedicated to honoring Mary while growing in our relationship with her Son, Jesus*

**St. Mary's Christmas Mass Schedule
Christmas Eve**

All Masses in the main church unless otherwise noted
4:00pm (chapel)
4:15pm -children's Mass
6:30pm & 10:00pm
Christmas Day
9:00am & 11:00am
Solemnity of Mary, January 1st 9:00am (chapel)



To understand more fully how to defend and protect human life, we must first consider who we are; we were created by God in His image and likeness. The essence of our identity and worth, the source of our dignity, is that we are loved by God. When we encounter Christ, experience His love, and deepen our relationship with Him, we become more aware of our own dignity and also the dignity of others. God's love for each person is cause for great joy. Growing a better understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share His love for all human life, from conception to natural death, with others. What will you do to advance respect for all human life today?



SERVICE

Ministry to others is part of every student's day at St. Mary School Swormville. Schedule a tour today to see why we're more than just a school.

716-689-8424 | stmaryschoolswormville.org



DEDICATED TO THE WHOLE CHILD...
SERVING THE ENTIRE FAMILY.



SNOW ME THE MONEY!

ST. MARY SCHOOL HSA RAFFLE

ONE \$25 ticket could win you \$15,000 in prizes!

\$250 EARLY BIRD DRAWING
Mon., 1/1/24, 10 am

Tickets must be received by
10:30 am on Thurs., 12/28/23.

\$10,000 FINAL DRAWING
Fri., 1/19/24, 8:30 pm
at HSA Casino Night

Tickets will be sold up until
the drawing!

\$25 per ticket

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
ST. MARY'S PARISH OFFICE

Funds raised are restricted to St. Mary School Swormville HSA



The "O Antiphons" of Advent

Think of your favorite Christmas song? What does that song share about the season? Our Church has special prayers that are sung during the 8 days that lead up to Christmas. They call to mind the different titles given to the Messiah. These prayers are called O Antiphons: O Wisdom of our God most High, O Leader of the House of Israel, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O King of All Nations, O Emmanuel.

"The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but

present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah." USCCB

Faith Challenge: In the days leading to Christmas, from Dec. 17th through December 23rd pray and reflect on the O Antiphons. You will find reference to each in the book of **Isaiah: 11:2-3; 11:4-5; 11:10; 22:22; 9:1; 9:5; 7:14.** You may also choose to listen to the song, O Come Emmanuel and meditate on the words as you listen.

The Catholic Education Team at St Mary's Parish can be contacted by phone (716) 688-0599 or email familyfaith@stmaryswormville.org

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

ADVENT CANDLES

As the commercial world is already saturated with red and green, it's easy to lose sight of the true colors of the season—the Advent season. This week the color pink represents joy. It turns out, the Church has a good reason for putting one pink candle in the Advent wreath.

To discover the story of the pink candle, we first have to look at the origins of the season and the wreath. Until Advent was instituted toward the end of the fifth century, the only season Christians observed was Lent. As preparation for Christmas, the Church established Advent in the spirit of Lent—as a season of reflection and penance.

A wreath of hope

The custom of the Advent wreath originated with pre-Christian Germanic peoples whose ever-green wreaths and fires signified hope in the darkness of December. Christians maintained the tradition and by the 16th century German Catholics and Protestants used the wreath to symbolize hope for Christ's coming. The practice spread through the Christian world. By one interpretation, the wreath's four candles represent the first Advent before Christ's birth, with each week commemorating 1,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Nativity. Purple candles stand for prayer, penance, and sacrifices and good works done during the Advent season, as we also wait for the Lord's second coming.

~ Christmas Mass Times ~

AKRON CLARENCE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St. Mary's Church

6919 Transit Rd . Swormville NY 14051

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

4:00pm (Chapel)

4:15pm, 6:30pm and 10:00pm (Main Church)

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00am and 11:00am (Main Church)

* * * * *

Our Lady of Peace Church

10950 Main St . Clarence, NY 14031

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

4:30pm and 9:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

6:30am and 9:00am

Nativity of the

Blessed Virgin Mary Church

4375 Harris Hill Rd . Williamsville, NY 14221

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

4:30pm, 7:00pm and 10:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am and 10:00am

* * * * *

St. Teresa of Avila Church

5771 Buell St . Akron, NY 14001

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

4:30pm and 8:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00am

Knights of Columbus Thoughts

"Could you possibly imagine a better way to explain evil to children than to give them a figure who makes it always winter and never Christmas."

Leonard J. DeLorenzo on

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe in the book

The Chronicles of Transformation

John the Baptist urged his followers to turn away from sin and renounce anything that was keeping them from doing God's will. What can you turn away from in order to hear God's call more clearly and answer more readily?

If God is calling you to a Church vocation, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org



NATIVITY OF MARY SCHOOL'S OPEN HOUSE



SUNDAY 1.28.24

11:00AM – 1:00 PM

AGE 3 – GRADE 8

8550 MAIN STREET, WILLIAMSVILLE

WWW.NATIVITYOFMARYSCHOOL.ORG

Parish Family Mass

Sunday, December 17
10:00 am Mass



**Blessing of the Baby Jesus
Figurines - A Nativity BVM
Advent Tradition!**

Featuring the Nativity

Children's Choir!

Bring the baby Jesus figurine from your home Nativity set to be blessed during Mass. This Advent tradition is a way for children and families to connect their Nativity scene at home to the celebration of Christmas at church!

Prayer List—Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

St. Teresa of Avila
5771 Buell St., PO Box 168, Akron, NY 14001
Phone: 716-542-9103
stteresasofakron@verizon.net

Eucharistic Adoration: First Friday, 7:30-8:30 pm
Confession: Saturday 2:30-3:30pm
Also the 1st Saturday of the month 8:15-8:45 am &
Vigil of Holy Days 3:30-4:15 pm
Rosary: First Saturday Prior to 9 am Mass

Family Faith Formation 716-542-9103 Ext. 2
Margaret Wood

Parish Council
Dick Campbell & Wally Smith

Please Keep In Your Prayers: Barbara Ford, Susan Hegetsweiller, Bob Larouere, Linda Chaffee, Richard Jordan, Mary Prentice, Ita Steele, Jim & Joe Vasi, Sterling McCarriagher, Jean Ottney, Shirley Lantz, Rita Whelan, and Laura Gray.

Please Also Pray for the Repose of the Soul of: Robert Sicker

St. Mary's Swormville
6919 Transit Road, East Amherst, NY 14051
Phone: 716-688-9380 Fax 716-688-6025
rectory@stmaryswormville.org

Eucharistic Adoration: First Friday, 9:30am-noon
Confession: Saturday 2:30-3:30pm
Also the 1st Saturday of the month after 9:00am Mass
Anointing: Last Saturday of month after 9:00am Mass
Rosary: Mon,-Sat. 8:30am,Wed.7:00pm (Chapel)
St. Mary's School Pre K-8 716-689-8424
office@stmaryschoolswormville.org
Tristan D'Angelo principal@stmaryschoolswormville.org

Family Faith Formation 716-688-0599
Christina Egleston - Director
familyfaith@stmaryswormville.org

Kristen Saurer & Melissa Kent
parishcouncil@stmaryswormville.org
Stephanie States

communications@stmaryswormville.org

Please keep in prayer the following on our sick list:

Richard Kubiak, Doug Motz, Reid Hausrath, Linda Brown, Rita Manno, Denise Grande, Kathy Venezia-Will, Tom Archer, Kathy Kent, Elizabeth Lafferty, Jessica Bietz, Dr. Bob Derr, Baby Franco Joseph Licata, Brandon Elie, Andrew Reed, Gene Santercole, Delphine Levesque, Roseanne Hofner, Ashley Meinhold, Kim Fassel, Paul Kluczynski, Tess Kuhlmann, Joyce Zoerb, Josephine Castiglia, Hilary Konitsch, Rosario Castiglia.

Our Lady of Peace Church

10950 Main Street, Clarence, New York 14031

Phone: 716.759.8554 ~ Fax: 716.759.8537
www.olpclarence.org ~ office@olpclarence.org

Eucharistic Adoration: Every Wed. 7AM-6PM

Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet:

Every Wed. 5:30-6PM

Confession: Saturday from 3:45-4:45PM

Let us pray for the following people on our sick list:

Maria A., Mary Celine Aaron, Chuck M., Joan Antonicelli, Eleanore Cammarata, Austin Beatty, Brandon, Jack Blodgett, David Bogden, David Burke, Rosemary Caito, Charisse Callahan, Joan Chatman, Christi Carson, Theresa Chapman, Lauren Conrad, Daniel Cortese, Sharon Covert, Rick Cousineau, Peg Cummings, Jim Cummings, Daryl & Dennis, Donald, Jack, Darlene Feinen, Carol & Ken Fox, Kevin G., Gabe, Gary Grapentrog, Heidi, Ian Harden, George, Mark Hilbert, Jackie, Jackie S., Kay Jelfer, John Kuloszewski, Mark Korpanty, Mary Lidkea, Sister Marcia Klawon O.S.F., Sister Ann Helene Koenig OSF, Steve L., Al Meister, Kathy McHugh, Kevin McNamara, Candace Morse, Pam Murray, Peter Rizzo, Joan O'Brien, Carmine Purdie, P.A.T., Paulette Sadus, Ron Sarafin, Eleanor Smith, Steve, Thomas L., Frank & Dolores Tobin, Vince, Judy Vogt, Mary Ellen Wagner, Paul Willard, Ron Weiss, Msgr. Wetter & Genevieve Wojcik.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
4375 Harris Hill Road, Williamsville, NY 14221
Phone: 716-632-8838 Fax 716-632-7898
nativityoffice@nativityharrishill.org

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesdays 7:30-8:30
with Divine Mercy Chaplet @ 8:00pm
Confession: Saturday 3:45-4:45pm

Nativity of Mary School Pre K-8 716-633-7441
office@nativityofmaryschool.org
Mrs. Nicole Richard – Principal
nrichard@nativityofmaryschool.org

Family Faith Formation 716-634-3130
Debbie Daigler – Director
ddaiglernbvm@gmail.com

Please keep in prayer the people on our sick list:

Bruce Connolly, Cathy Groat, Michael Hartman, Patricia LaVell.

Effective December 3, 2023 : Prayer names will be posted for one month unless special circumstances exist. For reasons of privacy, only family members will be allowed to request the publication of names for the prayer listing in the bulletin.