

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 13TH, 2015

The Gospel today is very clear!

Everyone is asking John the Baptist: "What should we do?" [See Luke 3:10-18.] That is the perfect question as we wait for Jesus Christ to come the second time. Let us be found doing the **Corporal Works of Mercy**: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, visiting the prisoners, burying the dead, and giving alms to the poor.

- Who needs my second coat or blanket or boots?
- Who needs a tithe of my food budget, of my time, of my conversation?
- Who needs to hear good news? How can I proclaim it by word and by deed?

Liturgies for the Week of December 13th

***Sunday, December 13th – 4:30p.m.**

~Deceased Members of the DePatis Family by Don & Phyllis Savoie

~Teresa Regnier by Patrick Finegan

***Tuesday, December 15th – 8:00a.m.**

~ Communion Service

***Thursday, December 17th – 8:00a.m.**

~ Virginia Lafond by Mary Jean Hartlep

***Sunday, December 20th – 4:30p.m.**

~Harold & Jean Loy by the Loy Families

***Tuesday, December 22nd – 8:00a.m.**

~ Communion Service

***Thursday, December 24th – 8:00p.m.-Christmas Eve Mass**

~ Frank, Gary, & Diane Ruda by Virginia Ruda

~Virginia Lafond by Joe & Cindy Lafond

PASTORAL CARE

Please Pray For:

Our Service Members: Nick Meyr son of Larry & Julie Meyr who is joining the Marines

Intentions: Kathleen Lanoue, Savannah Stucki, Delmar Skeen, Barb Arseneau, Megan Seggebruch, Debra Silcox, Lauretta & Roland Lafond, Ruth Lesch, & Mike Caise.

Our Departed: Vivian Fortin Lovelass & Marvin Mueller

*Please notify the Parish Office at 815-435-2432 if a loved one is admitted to the hospital, rehab center, nursing home, or is homebound. The hospitals do not always let us know if you or a loved one are admitted. If you need someone to bring you communion at home, please let us know so we can arrange this.

Decorating Help Needed

We are looking for help on Monday, December 21st to finish decorating the church for Christmas. We will have 2 different times that day that we will be setting up. The first shift is from 9a.m. to 1p.m. and the second shift is from 4p.m. until we finish. There are sign-up sheets in the back of church for what time you can help out and beautify the church.

CO-MINISTERS FOR THE WEEK

December 20th~ 4th Sunday of Advent 4:30p.m.

READER: Julie Shortsleeve

SERVERS: Piper, Haven

E.M.: L) Mary Jo Wingerter, Kathy Webster,
Jennifer Dixon

USHERS: Tom, Pat, Delaney

****We are in need of Eucharistic Ministers!!
If you are willing, please talk to Ryan Loy.**

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekly Parish Need for Operation: \$ 900.00

Offering for Sunday, December 6th - **\$894.00**

Deficit for the Week: - \$(6.00)

33 Envelopes in Offering

Restoration-\$632.00

~Sunday Offertory Budget Amount for Fiscal Year July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 is \$46,000.

~Sunday Offertory Actual Money Donated as of December 6th is **\$25,289.75**.

PARISH ACTIVITIES....

Upcoming St. Mary's Events...

- **Sunday, Dec. 13th- Religious Ed 3p.m.-4:15p.m.**
- **Sunday, Dec. 13th-Taize Choir Practice after Mass**
- **Wednesday, Dec. 16th-Taize Prayer Service at 7p.m.**
- **Sunday, Dec. 20th-Tree Lighting/Children's Program following 4:30p.m. Mass**
- **Thursday, Dec. 24th-Christmas Eve Mass at 8p.m.**
- **Wednesday, Dec. 30th-New Year's Service at 7p.m.**
- **Saturday, February 13th-Texas Night in the Hall**

****Congratulations to Mason Cole Meehan****

Mason Cole was baptized yesterday!! His parents are Danielle (Loy) & Matt Meehan. Please welcome him into our church community!

Christmas Poinsettias for Sale

You can purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one to be used as part of our Christmas decorations on Sunday, December 13th and 20th. The cost is \$12 each.

See Pat Brown in the back of church.

***Please call Ryan at 486-7144 if you still have names**

you want included for the Love Light Tree.

***Our Christmas Mass will be on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th at 8p.m. Come and celebrate the birth of our Lord!!

*We are looking for volunteers for snow removal around the church this winter. If you are able to help, please contact Ryan Loy(486-7144) or Tom Frye(486-7240) .

St. Mary's Year of Mercy Events

Confession

Each Sunday of Advent there will be confession at 3:30p.m. before Mass.

Tree Lighting Ceremony & Children's Program

On Sunday, December 20th following 4:30p.m. Mass we will be having our 10th annual Tree Lighting ceremony followed by our Religious Education Children's Program.

Please join us in the parish hall afterwards for a soup and sandwich supper. You may bring a side dish or dessert to share if you wish. We also ask that you bring a canned food item to give to the food pantry.

ASSISTANCE FUND

We are going to start a fund to help assist families in our parish and community who may be in need. There are envelopes in the back of church that say Assistance. Please place your donation in them and put them in the collection basket. With the holidays coming up it can be very hard for struggling families to make ends meet. Please help if you can.

TREASURES OF ITALY PILGRIMAGE

JUNE 14 - 24, 2016

hosted by Rev. Dan Belanger, C.S.V.

Visiting Florence, Assisi, Lancia, Monte Sant'Angelo, San Giovanni Rotondo and the Shrine of Padre Pio, Sorrento, Pompeii, the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino and Rome with Vatican City and a PAPAL AUDIENCE!!

Only \$3799 per person from Chicago

For a brochure & more information contact

Judy Peerbolte at (815) 935-2500 or email at

jpeerbolte@questtravel1980.com

***There was a watch left in the kitchen of the parish hall on Founders' Day. If it is yours, please let us know.**

THANK YOU....Sandy Doll would like to thank everyone for their continued prayers and thoughts over the past year. A special thanks to Carol, Chris, Ryan & Melisa. God Bless You All!

AROUND THE DIOCESE...

2015/16 CATHOLIC EVENTS IN AREA

2016

January 23	Bishop Mac Trivia Night
January 30	Kankakee K of C Cash Bash
February 6	St. George Winter Dance
February 13	St. Mary's- Texas Night in hall
March 5	St. Joseph School Las Vegas night
April 30	St. Martin "Turkey" Cash Bash
March 12	ACA 5K Run
May 13	Bishop Mac Auction
June 5	St. George Holy Name Golf Outing
June 24	Kankakee K of C Golf Outing

--GRIEF SUPPORT SEMINAR - CHANGING SEASONS

A time of reflection for loss of a loved one.

Sister Anne Jaeger SSCM is an accredited chaplain and has journeyed with people who are dealing with the loss of a loved one. She will continue her bereavement seminar in a Parish Hall classroom on Wednesdays, January 6th & 13th from 6:00 to 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend. There is no charge for this seminar. For questions, please contact Jean Beck, at 815-210-6167.

MEMORIAL MASS

January 10 is the anniversary of the death of Bishop Romeo Blanchette. Bishop Conlon will celebrate the Mass at the Cathedral on January 10 at 11:00 a.m. in memory of Bishop Blanchette and all the priests & deacons who died during this past year.

PILGRIMAGE WITH BISHOP CONLON

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis calls on Catholics to rediscover the merciful love of the Father. This worldwide celebration provides us with the opportunity to experience our faith through prayer and the Sacraments. In a special way, the opportunity for pilgrimage offers Catholics a chance to experience God's grace.

From April 2-7, 2016, including Divine Mercy Sunday, Bishop R. Daniel Conlon will be the spiritual director for a pilgrimage journeying to some of the shrines of Mexico, including Our Lady of Guadalupe. The cost of the six-day pilgrimage (including air, fees, accommodations and most meals) will be \$1,328 (double-occupancy). For more information, please visit the bishops' website at <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/bishop> or contact Alex Rechenmacher at arechenmacher@dioceseofjoliet.org or (815) 221-6180.