

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019

200 Front Street  
Pierce City, Mo. 65723  
Office 476-2827  
E-mail address: [st\\_marys@live.com](mailto:st_marys@live.com)  
Online Bulletin: [www.catholicdirectory.com](http://www.catholicdirectory.com)  
School Web Page: [www.stmaryschoolpc.org](http://www.stmaryschoolpc.org)

Pastor: Fr. Matt Rehrauer 476-2827  
PCP: Cody Washam 489-5450  
DRE: Martha Randall 489-4589  
Principal: Jason Kramer 476-2824  
St. Mary's School 476-2824

**SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> -DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>**

**ST. MARY'S**

Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+Gene & Rose Marie Gasser & Jeannie McInnis
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	St. Mary's Parish Family
Monday	8:15 a.m.	Rosary & Communion Service
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	+Suzanne Schiska
Wednesday	8:15 a.m.	+Stan Kahre
	7:30 p.m.	+Robert & RoseAnn & Bob & Ronnie Knott
Friday	8:15 a.m.	Justice & Peace
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	St. Mary's Parish Family
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	St. Mary's Parish Family

**ST. AGNES**

Tues.	8:30a.m.
Thurs.	8:30a.m.
Sun.	10:30a.m.

**EVENTS OF THE WEEK:**

Monday, December 2	8:15 a.m. Rosary & Communion Service
Tuesday, December 3	PCCW Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the C.R.
Wednesday, December 4	Knights of Columbus Meeting at 8:00 p.m. in the C.R.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Monday, December 9	8:15 a.m. Rosary & Communion Service
Tuesday, December 10	St. Mary's School Christmas Program at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. Everyone is welcome to attend.
Wednesday, December 11	8:15 a.m. Mass No St. Mary's Parish Council Meeting
Friday, December 13	8:15 a.m. Mass
Saturday, December 14	Fr. Matt's Birthday Celebration after Mass: Please join us in a Pot-luck dinner celebrating Father Matt's birthday on Saturday, December 14, 2019 following 4:00 Mass. It will be held in the cafeteria. Drinks and paper products will be provided. If your last name begins with A-F, please bring a vegetable, G-L please bring a dessert, M-R please bring a vegetable, and S-Z bring a bread. Every family will provide a meat dish. We hope to see you there.
Sunday, December 15	Setting up the Christmas trees for Christmas after Mass. This is a lot of work, so if you are able to stay and help it will be greatly appreciated.

**YOUR GIFT TO GOD LAST WEEK:** Collection Counters in December: Ralph & Mary Abramovitz  
Our weekly budget is \$7,800.00 Last Week's Collection: \$ 5451.60

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**NEW CHURCH WEBSITE:** We are working on the church website and are going to put the church roster on the website. If you wish for your address and phone number not to be published please sign up on the sheet in the back of church. The dead line to sign up for this will be December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER INTENTIONS-**We have ordered 50 poinsettias for Christmas this year. All money donated in excess of what is needed to purchase these will be used for other decorations for the church. Once again this year you may put your intentions in an envelope marked Christmas flowers, along with \$12 and your intentions and place it in the offertory basket. You may also email your intentions to [st\\_marys@live.com](mailto:st_marys@live.com) and put your \$12 in the offertory basket marked flowers, or mail your money to the church office. Your special intention will be published in the bulletin of December 22. Please send in by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> if you would like your intentions in the bulletin.

**THE PCCW LADIES** are selling pecans during the month of November and part of December. We will sell after both weekend Masses. You may also contact an officer to purchase them. The price is \$12.00 a bag. We appreciate your support. Thank you.

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Mass 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary's  
Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Mass Midnight (12:00 a.m.) St. Mary's  
Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Mass 9:00 a.m. St. Agnes

## NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

We are now collecting items take to the Veterans Home in Mount Vernon. We will be taking the students to sing at the Veterans Home later in December. When we go we will be taking the gifts with us. In order to do this we will need the items by December 2nd so we can wrap them during our Deck the Halls night. If you would like to help with this project, your contributions will be appreciated. We will be collecting fleece gloves, warm socks, and/or men's Dove body wash as the main items for the gift packages for the Vets. We will buy chapstick and lotion in bulk on Amazon to add to the gifts also.

The school is looking for a part time janitor to handle the cleaning duties of the school. If interested please contact Jason Kramer at 417-476-2824.

I sincerely hope everyone at St. Mary's had a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Thanks, Jason

### St. Mary's School Board

#### Meeting Minutes 9/26/19

Members of St. Mary's School Board met on Wednesday, September 25th, 2019 at 7:05 p.m. in the Rectoryconference room. Present were: Father Matt, Adam Boman, Andrew Eckhart, Jason Kramer, Amber Heidlage-Cole and Jennifer Garner and teacher, Sierrah Summers. Fares Masriwas absent.

In Fares Masri's absence, the meeting was called to order by Vice-President Adam Boman.

Opening prayer was led by Father Matt.

Minutes of last meeting were reviewed. Jennifer Garner moved to approve minutes, Adam Boman 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

#### Finance Report

Finance report for the month was reviewed. Mr. Kramer reports to date, \$54,000 has been collected for tuition. Approximately \$50,000 remains outstanding. At first quarter, he plans to send a reminder to those families who have not yet paid. Adam Boman moved to approve minutes, Jennifer Garner 2nd motion. Motion passed.

#### Father's Report

- Father reported he is both "pleased and impressed" with the school masses and the children's participation in the celebration.
- He was pleased with the turnout for the first Home and School meeting and is looking forward to the activities during the year.
- He noted teachers are bringing him ideas and seeking input for students in religion class. He specifically noted All Saint's Day and the rosary during the month of October.

#### Teacher's Report

- Mrs. Sierrah Summers presented on activities her class has participated in.
  - Project on habitats: each child researched a different ecosystem and had to create both a model and slideshow on the content.
  - They have a non-fiction book project coming up,
  - The class field trip to Crystal Bridges is September 27.

#### Principal's Report – Jason Kramer

- Mr. Kramer provided updates on the school.
- He would like and appreciate feedback on activities the school is hosting. There are several upcoming activities planned:
  - Field trips
  - Urban Rodeo: fundraiser for the school
  - Bring your bible to school day, living rosary, and celebration of godparents
  - Halloween carnival
- There was a fair turn out for the all-school mass. He anticipates spacing out the celebrations at both St. Agnes and SS. Peter and Paul.
- Sister Cecilia made a visit to the school and was happy with what she saw.
- Parent/Teacher conferences and diocesan meeting are scheduled October 17 and 18, respectively.
- Ultimately, he wants the school to decrease the burden on the church, working toward more financial stability.
  - Brief discussion regarding a tuition increase for next year, but this will be put on hold until the diocese sends out the cost of living increase in the spring.
- I-Ready Assessments
  - First year implementing these tests. Preliminary results obtained in both reading and math.
  - These tests provide good data as they are both easier to break down and understand. They gauge students toward the end of the year and progress can be monitored.
  - Red indicates 2 or more grades levels below current level, yellow indicates approaching grade level, and green means a student is at or above grade level.
  - Reading Results: Seeing good things without many red areas. Deficits are starting to be addressed.
  - Math: Decreased green, more yellow. Seeking improvements in this area.
- Website: No updates.

#### Old Business

- Adam Boman reported on Mercy Monday; will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss.
  - Looking at a November or December project, possibly working with a missionary or food bank.
  - Would like to make Camp Barnabas an annual project.

#### New Business

None to report.

#### Closed Session

Andrew Eckhart made motion to move into closed meeting Adam Boman. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm, with Amber Heidlage-Cole moving to end and Jennifer Garner seconding. Motion passed and next meeting set for October 30, 2019; mass at 6:30, meeting 7:00.

Respectfully,  
Jennifer Garner, Secretary

## APPOINTMENTS

If you are unable to make your appointment, please find a replacement  
Please note that E.M.: Stands for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

### Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. Mass

Readers: Madline Ceselski, Beverly Miller  
E.M.: Cathy Brown, Lora Saffer, Shelly Stellwagen  
Servers: Kallie Taylor, Marley Gripka, Nolan Gripka  
Ushers: Michael Abramovitz, Terrance Campbell, Larry Carver, Bryan Stellwagen

### Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m. Mass

Readers: Rachelle Brown, Jennifer Eaton  
E.M.: Cari Caddell, Mellanie Carder, Rachelle Brown, Jennifer Eaton  
Servers: Cruz Torrez, Cael Torrez, Hadley Barchak  
Ushers: Dereck Washam, Rick Washam, Cody Washam, Jim Barchak

### Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. Mass

Readers: Garrett Schmidt, Beverly Miller  
E.M.: Bonnie Parrigon, Debbie Parrigon, Jim Parrigon  
Servers: Aiden Kirch, Cameron Kirch, Garrett Parrigon  
Ushers: Larry Gasser, Doug Slaon, Michael Sloan, Kalem Parrigon

### Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m. Mass

Readers: Heather Gripka, Cody Washam  
E.M.: Brad Gripka, Heather Gripka, Joe Parrigon, Debbie Seufert  
Servers: Max Brown, Evy Eckhart, Dane Gibbs  
Ushers: Ian Brottlund, Richard Cochran, Ellis Motley, Darren Brown

### Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 4:00 p.m. Mass

Readers: Madline Ceselski, Garrett Schmidt  
E.M.: Richard Ceselski, Carolyn Gollhofer, Phil Gollhofer  
Servers: Layla Jones, Lincoln Jones, Maggie Jones  
Ushers: Tom Cahalan, Tommy Cahalan, Doug Witt, Leonard Fenske

### Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 8:30 a.m. Mass

Readers: St. Mary's School Children  
E.M.: Mary Abramovitz, Ralph Abramovitz, Dale Jasumback, Jerri Jasumback  
Servers: St. Mary's School Children  
Ushers: St. Mary's School Children

### Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass

Sign-up Sheets will be in the back of Church

### Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Midnight Christmas Mass

Sign-up Sheets will be in the back of Church

### Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. Mass

Readers: Beverly Miller, Madline Ceselski  
E.M.: Danny Witt, John Witt, Cindy Witt  
Servers: Olivia Shewmake, Henry Shewmake, Anna Hogenmiller  
Ushers: Phil Gollhofer, Bill Seufert, Michael Abramovitz, Terrance Campbell

### Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m. Mass

Readers: Joe Crowell, Denise Crowell  
E.M.: Joe Crowell, Denise Crowell, Julie Witt, Randy Witt  
Servers: Addison Avondet, Kellen Avondet, Zoe Gurley  
Ushers: Levi Cooper, Jesse Cooper, Dustin Avondet, David Elbert

Monthly appointments will run in the bulletin once a month. Then we will run them weekly as we have done in the past. The monthly list will also be on the bulletin board in the back of church

## First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Ps 122:1-9  
Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 24:37-44

### Monday December 2

Isaiah 4:2-6  
Ps 122:1-9  
Matthew 8:5-11

### Tuesday December 3

#### St. Francis Xavier

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17  
Luke 10:21-24

### Wednesday December 4

Isaiah 25:6-10a  
Ps 23:1-6  
Matthew 15:29-37

### Thursday December 5

Isaiah 26:1-6  
Ps 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27  
Matthew 7:21, 24-27

### Friday December 6

Isaiah 29:17-24  
Ps 27:1,4,13-14  
Matthew 9:27-31

### Saturday December 7

#### St. Ambrose

Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26  
Ps 147:1-6  
Matthew 9:35--10:1,5-8

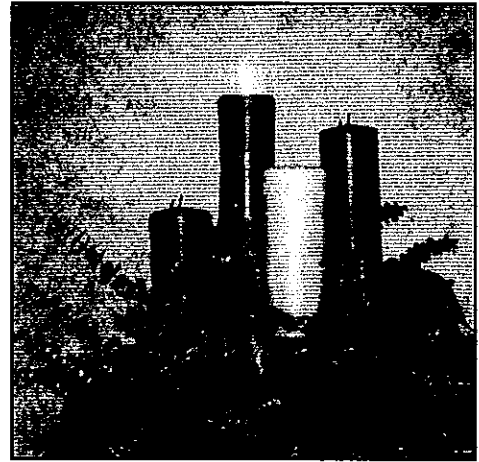
ministries to help others make hardships very valuable.

Although Isaiah was speaking of the coming of the world's Messiah through the Jews, these verses remind us that when we respect God's authority and make imitating Christ our highest priority, all is well for us. Our battles against evil aren't over yet, but Jesus has already won the victory for us. Our hope is not based on a wish for peace; our hope comes from the reality of what Jesus has already done and what he will do. So,

Hope is the theme of the First Sunday of Advent. Isaiah describes a future in which all is well because (1) God is recognized as the highest authority and (2) obeying him is the people's highest priority.

This vision gave great hope to the oppressed Israelites. Today if we look at this as a description of heaven, it gives great hope to us, too. When we die, "terms" will be "imposed" upon us (i.e., purgatory) because we did not stay entirely on the paths of God, but we will be living in the light of the Lord after death and there will be no more wars to battle.

Knowing that this is our future, we can look at our present trials as preparations for heaven. The weapons that we use now to defeat and overcome the powers of darkness can be used as plowshares for enriching our soil (our earthly life), bringing us into new growth and producing a harvest in ministry. Sufferings that are turned into



"let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord!" (Psalm 122).

The Gospel reading tells us that our hope is realized only if we stay awake and alert to the activities of Christ. What are you despairing about? Despair and worry are merely distractions that make us forget that Christ has already won the battle. If we stay alert to the presence of Christ, recognizing his authority and following his ways, we live in hope – not wishful thinking, but a hope that's based firmly on reality.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. What are you despairing about?
2. What would it take for you to feel hopeful? In what way do you need Jesus to come to you now? What can you do to become more aware of his presence at your side?
3. How do you find hope in difficulties?
4. Describe a time when you nearly lost all hope. How did Jesus rescue you from this?