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.

Isaiah 61:11
Visitation/Communion Schedule

**Hospital**  December 16-17 Mary Deutsch  December 23-24 Marlene Daniels

**Bay at Burlington** Week: 12/17 Richard Kiekenbush
**Monday Veterans Home** (9:00 AM) Al Raboine, Mary Repke, Mae Fleming

**Tuesday Pine Brook** (11 AM) Homebound Team, Sr. Emma

**Tuesday Riverview** (1:00 PM) Homebound Team
**Wednesday Bay at Burlington** (3:15 PM): Annette Kempken, Bob Zarek, Mary Lou Kretschmer

**Fri. Arbor View** (11 AM): Mae Fleming, Mary Repke, Al Raboine, Ray Andres, Rosary/Chaplet.
**Bay at B** (4 PM) Al Raboine

St. Mary Parish: 262.763.1500
St. Mary Preschool: 763.1501
St. Mary School: 763.1515
225 W. State Street, Burlington
Catholic Central High School: 763.1510  148 McHenry Street

After hours emergency priest phone: 262.210.9988

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Mass Intentions

**12/18 Monday**
8:30 AM Mass (Church) 8:00 AM Rosary
† Gloria Pisca (Richard Pisca)

**12/19 Tuesday**
8:30 AM Mass (St. Joseph) 8:00 AM Rosary
8:30 AM Mass (St. Charles) 8:00 AM Rosary
9:45 AM CCHS Mass (Church)

**12/20 Wednesday**
8:30 AM Mass (St. Charles) 8:00 AM Rosary

**12/21 Thursday**
8:30 AM Mass (St. Charles) 8:00 AM Rosary

**12/22 Friday**
8:30 AM Mass (St. Mary) 8:00 AM Rosary
† Dr. J.D. and Lorraine VanLiere (Family)
1:00 PM SMS Advent Prayer Service (Church)

**12/23 Saturday 4th Sunday of Advent**
4:30 PM Mass (Church)
† Mary Dutkiewicz (Ray and Bonnie Andres)

**12/24 Sunday 4th Sunday of Advent**
8:30 AM Mass (Church)
† Michael Sager (Veronica Powell)

**12/24 Christmas Eve**
4:00 PM Children’s Pageant Mass (Church) and
10:00 PM Mass (Church) 9:30 PM Sacred Music

**12/25 Christmas Day**
9:00 AM Mass (Church) 8:40 AM Sacred Music

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This Week at Saint Mary Catholic Church

**12/18 Monday**
• 8:30 AM Mass (Church) 8:00 AM Rosary
• Eucharistic Adoration closed through January 1st

**12/19 Tuesday**
• 8:30 AM Mass (St. Joseph) 8:00 AM Rosary
• 8:30 AM Mass (St. Charles) 8:00 AM Rosary
• 9:45 AM CCHS Mass (Church)

**12/20 Wednesday**
• 8:30 AM Mass (St. Charles) 8:00 AM Rosary

**12/21 Thursday**
• 8:30 AM Mass (St. Charles) 8:00 AM Rosary
• 6:30 PM Adult Choir (Church)

**12/22 Friday**
• 8:30 AM Mass (St. Mary) 8:00 AM Rosary
• 12:00 PM Parish Office Closed
• 1:00 PM SMS Advent Prayer Service (Church)

**12/23 Saturday 4th Sunday of Advent**
• 3:30-4:00 PM Reconciliation (Chapel)
• 4:30 PM Mass (St. Mary)

**12/24 Sunday 4th Sunday of Advent**
• 8:30 AM Mass (Church)

**12/24 Christmas Eve**
• 4:00 PM Children’s Pageant Mass (Church)
10:00 PM Mass (Church) 9:30 PM Sacred Music

**12/25 Christmas Day**
• 9:00 AM Mass (Church) 8:40 AM Sacred Music

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Advent Wreath: There is one more Sunday left in Advent. If you and your family would be willing to process up to the altar with the presiding priest, please let the ushers know as soon as you arrive at Mass and they will help you.

Daily Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st/2nd READING</th>
<th>PSALM</th>
<th>GOSPEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/18 Jeremiah 23:5-8</td>
<td>72:1,12,13,18,19</td>
<td>Mt 1:18-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/19 Judges 13:2-7,24,25</td>
<td>Ps 71:3-6,16,17</td>
<td>Lk 1:5-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/20 Isaiah 7:10-14</td>
<td>Ps 24:1-6</td>
<td>Lk 1:26-38</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/21 Song of Songs 2:8-14</td>
<td>33:2,3,11,12,20,21</td>
<td>Lk 1:39-45</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/22 1 Samuel 1:24-28</td>
<td>1 Samuel 2:1,4-8</td>
<td>Lk 1:46-56</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/23 Malachi 3:1-4,23,24</td>
<td>Ps 25:4,5,8-10,14</td>
<td>Lk 1:57-66</td>
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**4th Sunday of Advent**

| 12/24 2 Sam 7:1-5,12,14,16/ Romans 16:25-27 | Ps 89:2-5,27,29 | Lk 1:26-38 |

**Christmas Eve**

**A Message from Fr. Jim . . .**

*Rejoice! – Gaudete Sunday*

Today we celebrate a special Sunday of Advent called Gaudete Sunday. We heard this note sounded by the Prophet Isaiah in the First Reading: “I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul.” St. Paul continues this theme in his Letter to the Thessalonians when he says: “Rejoice always! Pray without ceasing.” And the Gospel also tells us that the people of the time were full of anticipation and joy, wondering whether John might be the Messiah. One commentary on today’s Gospel describes the people as being “on the tiptoe of expectation and joy”. Would a visitor to our parishes here today find us “on the tiptoe of expectation”, radiating joy? Maybe yes, maybe no. Some people do find a great deal of joy in practicing and sharing their faith. Other people find the practice of faith boring or burdensome.

I think this is a good Sunday to ask ourselves: “How freely do we show joy in professing our faith?” Each of us has been blessed in very unique ways and each of us has been given the gift of faith, although some make use of this gift more than others. All of us are called, however, to put God at the center of our lives. Only when God is at the center of our lives will we be able to share that tremendous joy over our faith that our Readings speak of today on this Gaudete Sunday. Only when God is at the center of our lives will our practice of the faith cease to be boring or burdensome. Only when God is at the center of our lives will we begin to dismiss all anxieties from our minds. Only when God is at the center of our lives will we be able to present all of our needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of love and gratitude.

When we view our relationship with God and our faith lives as a gift - a gift that is to be treasured and rejoiced in - then we will be able to experience what St. Paul prays for at the end of our Second Reading: “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.”

Rejoice in the Lord always!
Father Jim Volkert

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**12/24 & 12/25 Mass Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. Mary</th>
<th>St. Charles</th>
<th>St Joseph</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>12/24</strong></td>
<td><strong>12/24</strong></td>
<td><strong>12/24</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>4th Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>4th Sunday of Advent</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM Mass*</td>
<td>8:00 AM Mass*</td>
<td>9:30 AM Mass*</td>
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<tr>
<td>(No 8:00 or 10:30 AM Masses)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>12/24 Christmas Eve</strong></td>
<td><strong>12/24 Christmas Eve</strong></td>
<td><strong>12/24 Christmas Day</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 PM Children’s Pageant</td>
<td>5:00 PM Mass</td>
<td>8:00 &amp; 10:00 AM Masses</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 PM Sacred Music</td>
<td>9:30 PM Mass</td>
<td>9:00 AM Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 PM Mass</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:40 AM Sacred Music</td>
<td>8:00 &amp; 10:00 AM Masses</td>
<td>9:30 AM Mass</td>
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</table>

*Because the 4th Sunday of Advent falls on Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve, the Mass schedule for that morning will be altered. Please note that Masses on that Sunday will be at: 8:00 AM-St. Charles, 8:30 AM-St. Mary Parish and 9:30 AM-St. Joseph. There will be no 10:00 AM Mass at St. Charles and no 8:00 AM or 10:30 AM Mass at St. Mary Parish that Sunday. Mass at St. Mary Parish will be at 8:30 AM. The Saturday evening Masses on December 23rd will follow the usual schedule.

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**5th Grade Catechist Needed**

The Sunday Morning Tri-Parish Religious Education Program™ needs a catechist for the fifth grade. If you are interested, please contact Margie Robers at mrobers@stmb.org or 262-661-9125. Safeguarding All of God’s Family Certification is a requirement.
HELP WANTED:  
SECRETARY FOR PARISH OFFICE  
Part-time, 12-19 hours per week. Monday mornings required. Job entails processing deposits, entering data into our computer system and reconciling batch entry. Ability to work on your own to complete projects on time and Experience working with confidential information is required. Please send resume & cover letter explaining your qualifications to: Sue Vrzan, St. Mary's Parish, 108 McHenry Street, Burlington, WI 53105

BOOKKEEPING NOTE  
As the end of the calendar year approaches, we have been reminded by the Archdiocese that per IRS regulations, charitable contributions must be applied to the year in which they are received or POSTMARKED. If a donor submits a check after year end 2017, no matter what the date is on the check, it may not be attributed to 2017. Contributions not put in the collection basket or postmarked 2017 by December 31th will be for 2018.

BOOK CLUB MEETING WED., JAN. 10 AT 10 AM  
We will meet at the coffee house on Pine Street to discuss “The Priest Barracks Dachau 1938 – 1945” by Guillaume Zeller. Just when you thought you knew about WWII, along comes along a book to expand the story. At the Nazi concentration camp Dachau, three barracks out of thirty were occupied by clergy from 1938 to 1945. The overwhelming majority of the 2,720 men imprisoned in these barracks were Catholics – 2,579 priests, monks and seminarians from all over Europe. More than a third of the prisoners in the priest block died there.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS  
We wish to acknowledge the special members of our Parish community who will be celebrating their 90th birthday and up!  
On the 6th Daniel Bates will be 90
On the 14th Joan Yanny will be 90
On the 22nd Gloria Forrest will be 90
On the 23rd Jane Delaney will be 90
On the 30th Betty Jo Pihringer will be 94

In Loving Memory  
We wish to extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Dorothy M. Phillips and Mr. Hilary J. Naborowski. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:  
CHURCH CLEANING GROUP  
One of our volunteers who helps vacuum the church is unable to continue. We are looking for volunteers to join us on the first Thursday on the month. If you would like to volunteer, please call 763-1500. Thank you.

T’was the morning of the St Nick Breakfast, December 3rd to be exact, The St Mary elves made sure the yummy food was ready, and all the Christmas decorations were intact. The eggs and bacon were hot and the orange juice was made, Pancakes were on the griddle, all being served by St. Mary 7th grade. The breakfast is now over, and went on without a hitch, complete with Christmas cards for our military, and a treasured visit by Ole St. Nick. The day was full of memories and lots of Christmas cheer, St Mary Home and School thanks all who were involved, and can't wait to see you all again next year!
God Bless Our Troops
Please pray for the safety of all military personnel who are serving our country, especially the following parishioners, relatives or friends of our parish:

- Nicholas Callahan, U.S. Navy
- LCpl. Katie Cash, U.S. Marine Corps
- Caroline, Bill & Peter Coppernoll
- Jim & Beth Graves, U.S. Air Force
- James Graves, U.S. Air Force
- Steven Kojis, U.S. Air Force
- Toby May, Spc. Army National Guard
- John S. Krause, U.S. Navy
- Gregory A. Roberts, U.S. Army
- Second Lieutenant Jacob Schiltz, U.S. Marine Corps
- Devon J. Seitz, U.S. Navy
- Second Lieutenant Kyle Smith, U.S. Air Force
- Jacob A. Thorpe, Private, US Marine Corp, Infantry

Christmas Memorial Cards and envelopes are available in the church pews. If you would like to remember someone with a memorial, please use the envelopes provided. Please return them by Monday, December 18th.

Mass Time Assistance: Wheelchair available in the closet of the Good Shepherd Chapel that is for your use if you need assistance getting in or out of Church. Hearing Assistance Available: Please contact ushers.

School Unification Steering Committee
Join the Steering Committee for the final open forum on Monday, December 18 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in St. Charles’ Andre Hall. Additional unification information can be found via each school’s website.

Tri-Parish Pro-Life Meeting
The Tri-Parish Pro-Life Committee will be meeting Wednesday, December 20 at the Coffee House on Pine Street at 6:30 PM to discuss all the activities that we will support for Jan.-June of 2018. Please call Mary D with any items you want on the agenda, 262-206-6927.

Parish Ornaments and Cookbooks for Sale

- $2. Cookbooks
- $7. Ornaments

Available in the Rectory Office.

Great Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers. Our beautiful St. Mary ornaments and cookbooks are available at the rectory for pick up this Christmas Season. Please stop in and pick up a few.

COOKIE WALK AND HOLIDAY FAIR
SUNDAY, DEC. 17TH 9-1 IN TOPPER HALL
No time to bake Christmas Cookies?
Do you need some last minute gifts?
No problem! Come visit us at Catholic Central High School’s 2nd Annual

Cookie Walk & Holiday Gift Fair
Purchase an assortment of Home-made Christmas Cookies ($6 per pound) for your family to enjoy during the Holiday Season and visit our many vendors to finish your holiday shopping.

Special performance by the CCHS Christmas Choir at 11:30 am
Mission Statement:
St. Charles Borromeo, St. Joseph, Immaculate Conception, (St. Mary), united in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through His saving death and resurrection, by calling, forming and sending disciples to go out and make new disciples. As a people, we are called to encounter Jesus, and grow as disciples through the sacramental life of the church.

Tri-Parish Pastoral Council Members
Brian Daniel (Chairperson, 763-7317), George Whitehead (Vice Chairperson, 414-870-1980), Marilyn Putz (Secretary, 763-9075), Pam Aldrich (262-716-6324), Mark Ehlen (763-8194), Geri Henningfield (767-1854), Mary Ann Johnson (262-812-7547), Jacki Scholze (763-4611), Randy Tritz (312-310-4306).

We warmly welcome new members to our faith community. If you would like to join our parish, registration forms are available in church. Please complete the form and return it to the church office.

Sacraments: Marriage-Couples should call St. Mary Catholic Church’s pastor 6 months to one year before the wedding date. Baptism—Call the office prior to your child’s baptism. A preparation class for parents is required. Baptisms are held the first and third weekend of the month. Reconciliation—is held the second, fourth and fifth weekend of the month from 3:30-4 PM in the chapel. Communion, Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick—Call the office. If it is after hours, listen for the emergency number.

Please bring a non-perishable food item to Mass each week for the local food pantry.

Please Call 763-1500: If you are at the Hospital, Shut-in, or Homebound & would like to receive Holy Communion.

Ministers
4:30 PM Dec. 23 8:30 AM Dec. 24 4:00 PM Dec. 24 10:00 PM Dec. 24 USHERS
Greeters: McHenry N McHenry S Heck Koenen Porubsky Porubsky C. Reesman K. Reesman Delay Delay 4:30 PM - Dan Creek, Eric and Matt Daniels, Ralph Heck, Glenn Lois 8:00 AM - Joseph Aldrich, Andrew & Kathy Dorn, Joyce & Les Mastalir, Tim Vos 10:30 Wayne Bush, Chad Novasic, Aaron & Rick Reesman, Mary & Ralph Rice

Lector
1 M. Weigler M. Robers D. Glessner B. Korducki J.R. Lynch B. Montee D. Chernouski A. Chernouski

Parish Festival Contact Information
Brooke & Dylan Beck - Parish Festival Chairpersons brookealdrich22@gmail.com or 262-210-8361

Please pray for the men and women serving in the armed forces.

Stewardship Report
Amount collected 12/10 from 151 envelopes $11,993.52
Offertory 557.42
We Share 28 contributors 2,143.66
Total 14,694.60
Holy Day 12/08/17 139.00
Amount Given Fiscal Year to Date 411,463.51
Amount Budgeted to Date (24 week) -459,270.00
Difference 47,806.49
Amount Budgeted for fiscal year (52 weeks) 983,621.49
Amount still needed for this fiscal year 583,621.49
Amount needed per week to reach budget (28 weeks) 20,843.62

Finance Council: Dan Creek (Chairperson 763-2604), Stacy Alan, Tyler Galstad, Loretta Jackson, Jim Schuster, Tim Spiegelhoff, Randy Tritz & Fr. Jim Volkert.

Tri-Parish Pastoral Council Members

Parish Trustees
Terri Newbury, Phone: 262-210-0234
Jim Schuster, Phone 262-763-0897

Parish Staff Directory (262) 763-1500
Fr. Jim Volkert (Pastor); Fr. Carlos Zapata (Associate Pastor); Susanne Snyder (Director of Music); Sue Vrzan (Director of Administrative Services); Dianne Smetana (Pastor Secretary); Cheryl Theigs (Pastoral Minister to the Aging, Sick and Homebound); Loretta Jackson (School Principal); Deb Butler (Assistant Principal); Denise Morrissey (Preschool Director), Margie Robers (Director of Religious Education); Kathy Martin Youth Ministry (Life Teen).
CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS
St. Mary Church #542590
108 McHenry Street
Burlington, WI 53105

TELEPHONE
   262 763-1500
   Cell 262 325 8505

CONTACT PERSON
   Sara Smith

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS