They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11
Lay Peer Ministry in Life Transitions
Part 1: Marriage Preparation and (Child) Baptism Preparation

One of the changes that gradually occurred in St. Mary of Gostyn Parish following Vatican II was the involvement of lay parishioners in pastoral or mentoring roles for other parishioners at different milestones of the life journey. This article focuses on the early years of family life.

Accompanying an engaged couple in their preparation for the sacrament of Marriage has traditionally been the role of the priest who later officiates at the rite. In the 1980’s, St. Mary’s started implementing the newly-developed FOCCUS pre-marital inventory to assist couples in learning more about themselves in their unique relationship, and in discussing topics important in building a lifelong marriage. At that time, it was a pencil-and-paper objective questionnaire which each fiancé(e) answered individually. The priest or permanent deacon would review the responses especially for areas in which the couple had wide variation in their responses. He then met with the couple to discuss their answers and help them move forward.

In 1981, pastor Father Stan Orlikiewicz personally asked several married couples to prepare a parish-based “Afternoon for the Engaged” which would condense the format used in diocesan-based Engaged Encounter weekend. Each of the three team-couples gave one or more presentations on key topics, illustrated with personal experience: expectations, conflict, sexuality, and sacrament. After each presentation, couples would reflect on focus questions and privately share with each other their own responses.

After his arrival at St. Mary’s, Father Don Kenny introduced a “sponsor couple” format as an option for a diocesan pre-Cana or EE weekend. The FOCCUS survey continued to be reviewed with pastoral staff. An engaged couple would commit to meet for four evenings (usually consecutive weeks) in the sponsor couple’s home, using a published program For Better and Forever. The evening was divided into individual time to read and answer questions on a key topic (as above), time for private sharing with fiancé(e), and time for dialogue with the sponsor couple. Diane Massura recalls that she and husband Jim would also reflect and write responses, and talk as a couple, before rejoining the engaged pair.

The Marriage Preparation team grew as more engaged couples chose this option. This format continued into the mid-1990’s.

In 2016 at St. Mary’s, it is married couples (trained either in diocesan workshop or by the pastor), who follow up on the FOCCUS questionnaire with the engaged. If you would like to assist couples preparing for the sacrament of Marriage in this way, please contact Deacon Bob at 630-969-1063, x244. Share your practical wisdom and encouragement!

St. Mary’s parishioners also accompany young families through the Baptism preparation program for parents of infants and young children. Couples on the team share responsibility for monthly Baptism preparation sessions held at the Parish Center; they also serve as hosts and assistants for the group Baptisms held twice a month on Sunday afternoons. The 1-1 ¼ hour session includes input from both video and print resources, as well as personal experiences shared by the team couple and by the attending couples. It includes reflection on the meaning of Baptism, its ritual and symbolic elements, and faith formation within the family. It is a wonderful opportunity to encourage and support new parents.

Cathy and Tim Meaney were among the couples who began assisting Deacon Jim Donahue in the 1980’s by handling paperwork and setting up for classes and Baptismal rites. Volunteer parishioners made the keepsake “white garment” to be presented during the rite. Over the next years, additional couples began to assist, working as a team, filling in as needed and taking on an extra assignment if asked. Eventually the team couples themselves became responsible for presenting the preparation sessions. There is respectful support given for special situations such as Baptism of an older child (up to age 6 or 7), interdenominational or interfaith couples, etc. Cathy recalls making a special trip to present the video to a couple in a hospital—the mom was on very strict bed rest! She adds that she enjoyed sharing Meaney family traditions that grew out of the Baptismal ritual, such as blessing their children with the Sign of the Cross on their foreheads when putting them to bed.

Current Baptism Preparation Team coordinators are Steve and Rosie Wolf, who have been participants for nearly twenty years in this ministry. There is an opportunity for interested persons/couples to sit in on a Baptism preparation session to see what is involved. Contact the Rectory office at (630) 969-1063 to be part of this welcoming outreach in our parish.

How is your sense of direction? Do you ever ask for directions? When you go somewhere, do you always return the way you came?

To live in a major city and do so successfully, it is helpful to have a good sense of direction, which is an important “tool” for getting around in unfamiliar surroundings.

Usually, American cities are fairly logically laid out, but anyone who has ever been a tourist abroad knows that this isn’t always the case: the older the city, the more haphazardly it came about, and the more confusing it is to make sense of at first. When things are new and unfamiliar, you tend to be more willing to ask directions, and you also play it safe by returning the way you came. After a while, though, you will deliberately take a different, unfamiliar turn here and there, since this is the only way to really get to “know your way around.”

Today’s gospel tells us of three learned individuals who, while looking to the heavens for a sense of direction, were not afraid to ask for directions, and who, while making a trip they’d never been on before, were not afraid to return by a route other than the one by which they had a tradition we have called them “wise” because they were searchers for truth, and a true searcher is one who knows that he or she still has much to learn, that there’s more to life than meets the eye, and that one never outgrows the need to ask for help and direction.

Matthew teaches us a special lesson when he says that they “departed for their country by another way.” Learning to be wise in our faith requires that we are willing to change our ways, points of reference, and direction in life after we have encountered the Lord. As Saint John Chrysostom puts it: “It was not possible that having come from Herod to Christ, they should return again to Herod.” Saint Gregory the Great sees the whole human journey here: “Our true country is Paradise, to which, having now come to the knowledge of Jesus, we are forbidden to return by the path we left it.”

For the Christian who is still learning, still searching, the way back home is going to be different because every encounter with the Lord takes us back changed, different, from where we were and whence we came.

How is your sense of direction?

Before long, people will be throwing Mardi Gras beads in the streets of New Orleans—purple, gold, and green. A few will be in on the secret: the colors of the beads are derived from the gifts of the magi. Gold for wealth, purple for power, green for good health. The gifts are also a key to the identity of the Christ Child: the incense for God; the gold for a king, the myrrh; fragrant burial ointment for one who comes to die. Centuries ago, today’s feast bore the heavy burden of celebrating all the manifestations of Christ’s identity: the birth of Jesus, the coming of the magi, the baptism of the Lord, the wedding feast at Cana. It was too much for one day. Fortunately the one day has blossomed into a whole season of grateful celebration, stretching behind us into Advent, and ahead of us into the Baptism of the Lord and to Christ’s coming again in glory. Tonight, be sure to light the Christmas lights, and gather at the crèche for a favorite carol and a prayer.

What Kind of King?

Whenever we hear the Christmas story told, Herod always comes across like a 2-year-old. This king of Judea is self-absorbed, jealous of anyone who might steal his spotlight, and willing to destroy anything or anyone to get his way. Such behavior is to be expected in a child moving from infancy to childhood, but it’s ugly and dangerous when it persists into adulthood. Many parents, when their kids go through a particularly selfish stage, fear the kids will get stuck there and never grow out of it. That’s a scary thought.

Fortunately, in the same Christmas story, we also have the example of the Magi, three wise travelers from a distant land who were adventurous, full of faith, and generous. These spiritual seekers took big risks to follow the light wherever it would take them.

Herod spent his life trapped in his own hell. The Magi were given a foretaste of heaven. From this story we learn that it’s important to guide our children to follow the light. We do that by teaching them to pray, by nurturing their generosity, by encouraging their spiritual seeking, and by leading them to Joseph, to Mary, and to Jesus, the unimpressive yet holy family whom Herod, living in darkness, so feared.

They are the ones who stood in starlight to let the Magi know they had found what they’d always been seeking.
In many parishes today, a familiar hymn will echo the words telling of the star of wonder leading to the perfect light (We Three Kings by John H. Hopkins Jr.). We follow that light to the place of Jesus’ birth to bring the gift of ourselves by our willingness to follow him and his teachings. We continue to show the gift of Jesus’ humanity to the world.
All are invited to celebrate our 125th Anniversary at our Valentine Gala!

When: February 11, 2017 at 6:00pm

Where: Doubletree Oak Brook

Dinner, Dancing, Live and Silent Auction and the Drawing for the Grand Prize for the Lucky in Love Raffle

Registration on line at: www.Stmarygostyn.org
Or watch for your invitation by mail for check or cash payment.
$100 per person, tables of 10 for $1000

Proceeds for this event go to our School Operating Budget, our Endowment Fund and our Athletics Department
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017
6:15 AM - Janie Hennessy req. Jean & Mark Fredericks
8:00 AM - John Lowry req. Jim & Barb Holmes

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017
6:15 AM - Joseph Kopack req. Family
8:00 AM - Mary Kowalkowski req. Family

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017
6:15 AM - Intention of the Priest
8:00 AM - Sally Van Cura req. Mike & Mary Signer

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017
6:15 AM - Intention of the Priest
8:00 AM - Patricia Wojtach req. Pat Murphy

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017
6:15 AM - Intention of the Priest
8:00 AM - Alice Feery & Amore Family

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2017
8:00 AM - Deceased Members of the Buckley, Toner, Newton & Hadank Families req. Hugh & Maureen Toner
4:30 PM - Heather Goforth req. Ploskonka Family
George Yahiro req. McGrath Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017
8:00 AM - Philip Amdt req. Enochs Family
10:00 AM - Annemarie Gunther req. William Gunther
Kristine Luurs-Munch req. Kenah Family
12:00 PM - People of the Parish
6:00 PM - John Segredo req. Tom Harrington & Family

TODAY’S READINGS
First Reading - Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).
Psalm - Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).
Second Reading - The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).
Gospel - Magi from the east arrive looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; Mt 3:13-17
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34
Are you an alum of St. Mary’s School?

Have you registered on our Alumni Website so that you can receive periodic information about our School or Parish?

To register, please go to our Website at: http://tinyurl.com/smgalum

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

As part of our Chicago Ministry to the homeless, we bring food to the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity for their soup kitchen. They are in need of a car or van for their operation. If you have a car or van you can donate, call Bob Hoffman, 630-759-3385. Thank you and God Bless

CURRENTLY RECRUITING

Ministry to the Homebound

For more information contact Gail Miskowicz-Retz 630-852-5347

ST. MARY BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, January 11 Parish Center 9:30 AM Hot Lights, Cold Steel by Michael Collins M.D.

Memoir of a surgical resident at Mayo Clinic.

Books are on hold at the Downers Grove Public Library. Please ask for the St. Mary Book selection. Everyone is welcome. For further information, call Pat Burton (630) 852 - 2168.

SMG EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday, January 19 Parish Center 7:30 PM The Ship of Brides by JoJo Moyes

A group of Australian wives travel by aircraft carrier to join their spouses in Britain after WWII.

Books are on hold at the Downers Grove Public Library. Please ask for the SMG Evening Book selection. Everyone is welcome. For further information, call Pat Burton (630) 852 - 2168.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH & SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass Times</th>
<th>Presider</th>
<th>Lectors</th>
<th>Extraordinary Ministers</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 4:30 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Jim</td>
<td>Sisco &amp; Blaney</td>
<td>Team A</td>
<td>Team 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, 8:00 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Jim</td>
<td>O’Meara &amp; Culligan</td>
<td>Team C</td>
<td>Team 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Jim</td>
<td>Hillebrand &amp; Agurkis</td>
<td>Team C</td>
<td>Team 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Shaun</td>
<td>Carroll &amp; Stefka</td>
<td>Team A</td>
<td>Team 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Shaun</td>
<td>Sullivan &amp; Feld</td>
<td>Team A</td>
<td>Team 2</td>
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St. Mary’s third grade class has a long-standing Advent tradition: every December shortly before Christmas break, each class puts on a play called the “Big, Big Story” for their parents and the first and second grade classes. It is a beautiful story about the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus’ birth. (Photos by A. Mendez and C. Walsh)
Prayer Requests

The following persons have requested prayers from our parish community:

Nicholas T. Almeida  Christine Antosz
Abby Beranek       Kathy Berg
Felicia Bubula      Gertrude Butzen
Paul Conrad Sr.     Susan Conrad
Frank Davis         Jessica Davy
Dennis Finn         Stan Golinski
Rion Goyette        Gen Hadamik
Joseph Karlinski    Kenny Kern
Diane Main          Eddie Mayerik
James Murawski      Andrea Mutton
Daniel Oliver       Carol Oseske
Kay Selfridge       Eliza Skipworth
Joan Tagglionia     Sharon Tallerico
Ashley Woltman      Ann Marie Juscik
Judith Abella       Kelly Drey
Bela Szefiert       Lilian Petrovich
Frances Kopec       Marybeth Garofolo
Lois Bach           Anna Bandur
Sharon Binter       Bill Brown
Billie Chorney      Ann Clark
Margaret Corbett    David Craven
Kelly Drey          Jodi Ducote
Becca Gorman        Mark Gowgiel
Darlene Hammer      Bobby Johnson
Ken Krupp           Doreen Lehner
Spencer Mehr        Dolores Mendoza
Bob Noonan          Rob Noonan
Eleanor Pecka       Cynthia Petro
Yoshee Snider       Joey Stefka
Hugh Toner          Laine Van Houton
Rebecca O’Marrah    Miles Boone
Erin Egan           Mike Gerace
Ken Norman          Erwin Burton
Gabriella Beirne    Tom Brown
Bill Brown          Paul Conrad Jr.
Helen Czulak        Alexis Ducote
Diane Goyette       Donna Karlinski
Robert Lehner
Kate Moss
Fr. Ernie Norbeck
Char Ryan
Lorraine Stephenson
Loretta Wies
Ben Tomchek
Donna Baumann
Brett Lauten

In Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the families of
Brad Britt
Rodolfo Campo
Fr. Benet Fonck, OFM
Dennis Hearne

Pray for our Military

Let us pray for all of our military personnel, especially the men and women of our parish who are serving in harm’s way:

Jason Weeks  Kevin Braasch  Michael Martel  Natalya Brechlin
John Svoboda  Christopher Fountain  Nathan Kijowski  James Harrington
Bob Lang  Zachary Frana  Josh Cruz

St. Mary of Gostyn Ministry to the Homebound

Do you have a homebound family member, friend, or neighbor who would like to receive the Eucharist on Sunday mornings? If so, please have them contact Deacon Bob at the Parish Center at 630/960-1063, ext 244.
A Minister to the Homebound will be happy to visit them. First Friday visits are also offered.

Nursing Home/Hospital Visitation

Notify the Rectory, (630) 969-1063, if you or a family member want a pastoral visit while in a healthcare facility. Without such notification, the rectory has no method of knowing who wants visitation. (Please also see the tables at every church entrance for consent forms for healthcare facilities to notify the rectory of request for visitation).

January 8, 2017
First Reconciliation Parent Child Retreat

Tuesday or Wednesday
January 10 or 11
Check Your Packet For Date Confirmation
6:30—7:30 pm
In the Gathering Place

This will be an evening of prayer and activity for the children to spend with their parents reflecting on God’s Mercy and the Sacrament of First Reconciliation.

December ~ January Calendar Dates

Please pay attention to the following dates on your calendar. November and December are busy days around the parish.

- January 10 or 11 Gr. 2 Parent and Child 1st Reconciliation Retreat. (6:30—7:30) in the Gathering Place
- January 11 & 12 No 2nd Grade RE
- January 22 Confirmation Retreat B 1:30 pm in the Gathering Place.
- January 24 Catechist/Adult In Service; Newman Institute—Evangelization II
- January 25 Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Evening of Reflection
- January 26 No Confirmation Session
- January 31/Feb. 1 Sacrament of First Reconciliation
- February 2 Confirmation Retreat B
- February 8 & 9 Confirmation Interviews
- February 22 Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Reconciliation Service 6:30 Church

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD!
REMEMBER TO SING THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Diocese of Joliet Newman Institute Series Presents
Foundations of Faith Sessions

Bishop Conlon, Bishop of Joliet, requests that all catechist commit to six hours of continued formation on topics of the faith. The Diocese offers parishes a series of formation sessions to help catechists reach this goal in a simple way. These sessions are available to not just catechists, but all adult members of the parish interested in continued learning. St. Mary has four of these sessions scheduled. Come if you can!

- Tuesday, January 24 6:30 pm GP Evangelization II: Sharing the Joy of the Gospel
- Tuesday, March 21 6:30 pm GP Methods I: Understanding Students & Leading them to Christ
- Tuesday, May 23 6:30 pm GP Methods II: Planning an Engaging Catechetical Session

Each session is 2 hours in length and gives a learner hours they need to meet Bishops requirement if they so desire. Call Mary Jane for more information.
Create new friendships while you dig deeper into your faith. Be inspired, enlightened and renewed with Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP), a guys-only weekend event hosted by your fellow St. Mary’s parishioners. Call today and reserve your space.

It’s the Pro Bowl weekend, so you’re not missing any real football. Did we mention free beer?

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH

January 28-29, 2017

To reserve your spot, contact: Jim Crawford, 630-493-9490, jcrawfordiv@gmail.com
You’re invited to find strength and serenity at Nourish. If you are juggling the challenges of life, health, career and caring for an aging parent, grandparent or spouse, whether in town or at a distance, Nourish provides real self-care for caregivers. Led by moderator Deb Kelsey Davis, RN, lay minister, and certified in gerontology, gatherings include practical approaches, useful tools and shared experiences all with a Christ-centered view. Empower yourself at Nourish—and begin to thrive again—so you advance in a positive way throughout your caregiver journey.

Third Thursday - January 19
7:00 pm Parish Center

Topic: Gifts for the Soul:
Illuminating and Preserving the Moments

** This special evening will engage YOU in an activity you’ll cherish over the days, months and years to come **

Reservations Required to Deb or Kelly at kjohnson@stmarygostyn.org

LIFE CHANGING. LIFE SAVING.

St. Mary’s High School Teens
Solid Catholic Teaching for Teens.
Unpacking God’s Word in a way teens can relate to, making the Bible come alive.
Net result: Teens begin to wrap their minds and hearts around the Bible. They see how their faith is a relevant part of their lives.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. [Eph 4:14-15]
**For Widowed Men & Women**

Being widowed is a special loss, and this program is designed especially to help the widowed find hope and joy again.

There will be a retreat/workshop on **January 21 & 22, 2017** at Our Lady of the Angels House of Prayer (located in Lemont on the campus of Alvernia Manor). Includes overnight stay and meals. For more information or to register, call the Joyful Again Widowed Ministry at 1-708-354-7211.

You can also go to our website www.joyfulagain.org or email us at joyfulagain7211@gmail.com.

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**Information Meeting for Navajo Mission to Chinle, Arizona**

The Joliet Diocese – Partnership in Mission is planning its next Navajo Construction Mission to Chinle, Arizona. Two information meetings will be held, one on January 10th, 2017 from 7-9 pm the other on January 18th, 2017 from 7-9 pm at the Bishop Blanchette Catholic Center – 16555 Weber Rd. – Crest Hill, IL 60403. Interested persons are invited to attend. Further information can be found at www.dioceseofjoliet.org/missions or call 815-221-6258, email: missions@dioceseofjoliet.org. Applications are available at http://bit.ly/missionapp

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**Mid-Life Singles (Mid-30s to 50s)**

Looking to start 2017 off with a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Then register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House, Mundelein, IL (in the northern suburbs), on Feb 17-19, 2017. Take a chance and get involved… this is one New Year’s resolution you won’t regret!

Cost is $197 for meals and a single room. Call (312) 532-8286, e-mail reflect.chicagoland@gmail.com, or visit www.ReflectRetreat.com for details.

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**Are You Divorced or in the Process of Divorce?**

You are invited to attend **“Divorce & Beyond”,** a 10-week peer support group.

The next session will begin @ St. Michael Church, Wheaton on Wednesday, February 8th (6:30pm – 8:30pm). It will be located on the East End of the Narthex in the Family Room.

The self-help group meets weekly and is focused on working through the grief and mourning process. The objective is to facilitate the process of healing and growth.

Registration is required and limited spots available, therefore, please contact Deacon Dan L. Aderholdt at dladerholdt@gmail.com or 630.234.8704.

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**Open Applications for Only Villas and Center II Type 1 & 2**

Mayslake Village Senior Housing Open Application Session; Villas and Center II Type 1 & 2; Friday, January 13, 2017; Grand Ball Room A-E, Second Banquet Entrance at the Hilton Oak Brook Hills Resort. Introduction and Discussion 9:00 a.m. Applications following until 12 Noon; Age Limit 62 years or older; Household Income Limit for the Villas option 1 is $26,950 for 1 occupant and $30,800 for 2 occupants; Rent based on 30% of income, all utilities included. Household Income Limit for the Villas option 2 is $43,050 for 1 occupant and $49,200 for 2 occupants; Annual Income of at least $27,000 is required; Rent is $825, all utilities included. Household Income Limit for the Center II Type 1 & 2 is $43,050 for 1 occupant and $49,200 for 2 occupants rent is $758, all utilities included. Income of at least $22,500 is required for Center II.

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**Employment Opportunity**

St. Paul the Apostle Parish is seeking candidates for employment as Parish Business Manager. The Business Manager will provide leadership of the parish business office with functional responsibilities for planning, budgeting, finance, accounting, billing, payroll, communication, parish website development, business projects, legal, scheduling, capital campaign and contract administration. Candidates must have experience in fiscal planning, project management, accounting and bookkeeping, payroll management and basic office management. Candidates must have the accounting and bookkeeping skills to process all accounts receivables, account payables and all other accounting functions of the parish and school. A BS/BA in Business, Accounting, Finance or another related field is required. Experience with Parish Data Systems software, Paylocity payroll system and with Parishsoft software is desirable. This exempt position is full-time and benefited. The position is available immediately. Please email resume and cover letter to Fr. John Klein at frjohn@stpauljoliet.com
Monday / 9

2:20 PM  Girl Scouts Grp. A  Gathering Place
3:30 PM  Basketball  Gym
6:30 PM  Rosary  Church
7:00 PM  CRHP#4 - Women  Large Conf. Rm.
7:00 PM  Boy Scouts  Gathering Place

Tuesday / 10

3:00 PM  Cheerleading  Gym
3:30 PM  Basketball  Gym
6:30 PM  School Advisory Body  L.R.C.
6:30 PM  Legion of Mary  Small Conf. Rm.
6:30 PM  Prayer Group  Large Conf. Rm.
6:30 PM  First Reconciliation Retreat  CH/P.C./G. Pl.
7:00 PM  Evening Bible Study  Underground

Wednesday / 11

9:30 AM  Book Discussion Group  Large Conf. Rm.
3:00 PM  Cheerleading  Gym
3:30 PM  Basketball  Gym
4:30 PM  Religious Education  School/GP
6:00 PM  Religious Education  School/L.Rm.
6:00 PM  Religious Education  Chapel/G. Place
6:30 PM  First Reconciliation Retreat  CH/P.C./G. Pl.
7:00 PM  Parish Council  Large Conf. Rm.

Thursday / 12

9:00 AM  Morning Bible Study  Gathering Place
1:00 PM  H.S.A.  Gath. Pl. A
1:15 PM  Small Christian Communities  Living Room
3:30 PM  Basketball  Gym
4:30 PM  Religious Education  Sch/L.Rm./G.Pl.
5:45 PM  Children’s Choir  Church
6:15 PM  Cub Scouts  Underground
6:30 PM  Cub Scouts  Gath. Pl. A
7:00 PM  Choir  Church

Friday / 13

9:30 AM  Scrapbooking  Gath. Pl. A & B
3:30 PM  Basketball  Gym
5:00 PM  PADS  Gathering Place

Saturday / 14

12:00 AM  PADS  Gathering Place
8:00 AM  Basketball  Gym
8:30 AM  CRHP #17 - Women  Parish Library
9:00 AM  St. Vincent de Paul Society  Large Conf. Rm.
2:00 PM  Pack 89 Cub Scouts  Gym

Sunday / 15

8:00 AM  RCIA  Large Conf. Rm.
8:00 AM  Liturgy of the Word  Gath. Pl. B & C
1:00 PM  Basketball  Gym
4:30 PM  6:00 PM Choir  Church
NEW PARISHIONERS: We are happy to welcome new members to our community, and encourage you to register either in person at the Rectory, or register online through our website, www.stmarygostyn.org.

BAPTISMS: St. Mary of Gostyn offers baptismal preparation sessions on a monthly basis. If this is your first child or it has been more than five years since you attended a baptismal preparation session at St. Mary’s or another parish, you will need to participate in a session before you can receive a date for your baby’s baptism.

Parents are the first and primary educators in the practice of the Faith. Godparents play an important role in the faith life of your child. While considering godparents for your child, be aware that at least one must be a baptized and confirmed Catholic who is active in his/her faith. Please call the parish office at 630-969-1063 to register for a preparation class and to schedule a baptismal date.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process of welcoming and preparing adults for the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation - for full membership in the Catholic Church. Unbaptized adults, adults baptized in another Christian faith, and baptized Catholics with little or no formal religious education are invited to participate. Please call the rectory for further information.

ANNULMENTS: We are available to help anyone who is in need of information about how to apply for an annulment. Please contact the rectory at (630)969-1063.

LITURGY of HOURS: Morning Prayer (Lauds) is prayed Monday through Saturday following the morning liturgies.

SACRAMENT of ANOINTING: The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is available at regularly scheduled liturgies throughout the year, or by appointment. You may ask the presiding priest before any Mass for an anointing. Communal Anointing Masses are held on the 1st Saturday of the month in August, November and April at the 8:00 AM Mass. The Eucharist will also be brought to those who are ill, upon request. Please notify the Rectory if members of your family are in the hospital or homebound.

FUNERALS: Arrangements are usually made by the Funeral Home or by a family member. A member of our Bereavement team will meet with you to plan the Funeral Liturgy. Eulogies can be given at the Wake Service, Interment at the Cemetery or at the Funeral Luncheon, but not at the Mass of Christian Burial.

MARRIAGES: Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance to provide ample time for preparation of this sacrament.

PRAYER GROUPS: Monday evenings at 7:15 PM in the Parish Center; Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center chapel.

ROSARY DEVOTION: Monday through Saturday, 7:30 AM in the church; Rosary will begin at 6:30 PM on Monday evenings in the church.

RECONCILIATION: Confessions are heard Saturday, 3:30 to 4:30 PM in church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available by appointment. Please call the Rectory (630-969-1063) to arrange to have your confession heard by a priest.