St. Mary of Gostyn Catholic Church

FOURTH SUNDAY OF Advent

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

Luke 1:38
All are invited to celebrate our

Valentine Gala

When: February 10, 2018 at 6:00pm

Where: Esplanade Lakes, Downers Grove

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

Registration is now open at:
www.Stmarygostyn.org

Check or cash payments can be dropped off at the Rectory.

$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
Dear Parishioners,

Families seem to be at the heart of our celebration of Christmas. People often travel from near and far to spend time with their loved ones on this holiday. Sometimes, Christmas is the only time of the year when we see some of our relatives. These reunions themselves can be great Christmas gifts we give to each other. Children may not believe this now, but the time we spend together with our relatives often becomes the best thing about Christmas as we grow older.

Because of his great love for us, God chose to become one with us in the Infant born in Bethlehem. This love is so great that it is beyond anything we can imagine. And He gave it to us within a family, within the life that Mary and Joseph shared with each other as husband and wife.

So God pours his love anew upon our world in a family experiencing humble circumstances. That is a message of hope for many families today who continue to struggle to make ends meet and live in a culture that seems not to value wholesome family life.

On this Christmas, let us give thanks to God for coming among us exactly as He did. Let the love that He showed us in the birth of the Christ Child flow in and through our family life, perhaps especially in the time we spend with loved ones at this time of year. Let us open wide our doors and allow the love of God given to us at Christmas flow out to transform the world in the loving words and deeds we share in our small corner of the world.

Let us rejoice and have a Merry Christmas!

Fr. Jim Schwab, Pastor
Fr. Shaun Cieslik, Associate
Deacons and Staff of
St. Mary of Gostyn Church

Christmas Eve

With Christmas Eve on the evening of the Fourth of Sunday of Advent, things will be quite busy today in most households. Take some time when driving in the car or resting between activities to celebrate God’s ever-present Spirit. How wonderful to know that amidst all this craziness, God is there. No matter what, no matter where, God’s presence is real. When we focus our hearts and actions on God, the day moves more smoothly, our troubles vanish (well, almost) and our spirit is joy-filled. So often daily pressures take our focus away from God. This week, no matter how hectic the days become, turn to God. If the gravy is lumpy, thank God that you have food on the table. If your team doesn’t win the football game, thank God you have a TV on which to watch the game.

Focus attention on Jesus’ birth. Think about who Jesus is and what he means to the world. Study the messages Jesus brought in the Gospel of Matthew. Take heart in the angel’s words to Joseph, "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Jesus did as the angel promised. Jesus saved us. Now it is our turn to fulfill our promise to Jesus.

- Try to go to Christmas Eve Mass as a family.
- Prepare a special meal before or after Mass to celebrate Christ’s coming.
- Be open and welcome to all the visitors at your church.
- Remember, everyone is part of the family of God.
Stewardship

In today’s Gospel reading we hear proclaimed the story of the Annunciation, when the angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would give birth to Christ through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Mary allowed God’s messenger to speak to her. She was attentive, not afraid to enter into a dialogue, then unconditionally obedient. Mary’s acceptance of this mystery is a stewardship model for us. Good stewards remain open to the incursions of divine life into the normal course of their daily lives. How open are we to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our own lives? What might we do this last week of Advent to be more attentive to the Lord?

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Collection 12/17/2017 $37,013.47
Weekly Goal (Fiscal Year 17-18) $29,000.00
Sunday Goal to Date $725,000.00
Sunday Collections to Date $707,277.57
Total (Short of) Goals to Date ($17,722.43)

Thank you for your continuing support and generosity.
Fourth Sunday of Advent

On the face of things, it is confounding and irrational that the Son of God should be born as a human being. “Conventional wisdom” has no room for such “impossibility.” For the Jewish people, it is an age-old belief that the Messiah—God’s anointed—would one day be born in their midst. But that the Messiah should be born to a young virgin from Nazareth was too much even for them. It was the “wrong” woman and the “wrong” place: “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (Jn1:46).

Human skepticism and prejudice are nothing new. They are our ways of trying to domesticate God—to make the acts of God “reasonable” and comprehensible. Instead of letting God fill us with divine imagination, we try to “fit” God into our notions of what imagination should be and how far it should be stretched.

Sometimes, we who believe and entrust ourselves to this divine mystery of God becoming flesh in the Virgin Mary have our own similar problems when it comes to the effects of this incarnation—this fleshliness of God. Many devout Christians think that the Church teaches that God became flesh for about thirty-three years and then returned to heaven! But the Word that became flesh continues to dwell among us, in the Eucharist and in the body of believers. “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it,” says Paul (1 Cor 12:27). Saint Augustine told the newly baptized to “become what you eat—be what you are: the Body of Christ!”

Are we, in our own lives, at the point of believing that there will be a fulfillment of what is spoken to each of us by the Lord? Can we entrust our human reason and comprehension to embrace what “the world” considers impossible and irrational and make the prayer of the Church this day our own: “Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming”?

—Hans Christoffersen

My First Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below with tiny lights, like Heaven’s stars, reflecting on the snow.

The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear but the sounds of music can’t compare with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring, for it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me; I see the pain inside your heart.

But I am not so far away, we really aren’t apart.

So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you dear.
And be glad I’m spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above.

I sent you each a memory of my undying love.

After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do.
For I can’t count the blessing or love He has for each of you.

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It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do.
For I can’t count the blessing or love He has for each of you.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017
4:00 PM - Christmas Mass, Gym
4:00 PM - Christmas Mass, Church
6:00 PM - Christmas Mass, Church
11:00 PM - Carols
11:30 PM - Christmas Mass, Church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017
8:00 AM  For all of the Faithful ~
10:00 AM  living and deceased.
12:00 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2017
6:15 AM - Edwin Zarazan req. Charles & Lois Bach
NO 8:00 AM Mass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017
6:15 AM - Edward Resh
NO 8:00 AM Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2017
NO 6:15 AM Mass
8:00 AM - Ed & Mae Klinger req. Rita Blaney
  Kathleen Shea req. Pardo Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2017
NO 6:15 AM Mass
8:00 AM - Robert Noonan req. Dee Dee Van Dyke
  Arlene Cihlar req. Audrey Votava

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2017
8:00 AM - Nancy Trusty req. Michelle Kolosso
  Living Intention for William Torres req. Family
4:30 PM - Antoinette & Nick Venziano & Anastasia & Edwin Guertler req. Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017
8:00 AM - Maurice Tremblay req. Paula Smith
10:00 AM - Cecile Grant req. Deacon Bob & Donna Miciunas
12:00 PM - Helene Sullivan req. Paula Smith
  Mary Ann Milslagle req. Adams, Cady, Mahlke & Weiss Families
6:00 PM - Intention of the Priest

~ PLEASE NOTE ~ CHANGE IN MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 26th & Wednesday, December 27th
6:15 AM Mass
No 8:00 AM Mass

Thursday, December 28th & Friday, December 29th
No 6:15 AM Mass
8:00 AM Mass

AREA WEEKDAY MASSES

St. Joseph
4801 Main Street
Downers Grove, Illinois

Monday: 7:00 AM
Tuesday: 7:00 AM, 8:15 AM
Wednesday: 7:00 AM
Thursday: 7:00 AM
Friday: 7:00 AM

Holy Trinity
111 S Cass Ave,
Westmont, Illinois

Monday: 8:15 AM
Tuesday: 8:15 AM
Wednesday: 8:15 AM
Thursday: 8:15 AM
Friday: 8:15 AM

Notre Dame
64 Norfolk Ave
Clarendon Hills, Illinois

Monday: 7:00 AM
Tuesday: 7:00 AM
Wednesday: 7:00 AM
Thursday: 8:45 AM
Friday: 8:45 AM

Divine Savior
6700 Main St.
Downers Grove, Illinois

Monday: 8:30 AM (Comm. Ser.)
Tuesday: 8:30 AM
Wednesday: 8:30 AM
Thursday: 8:30 AM
Friday: 8:30 AM
CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Envelopes will be available at the entrances to church for those who would like to remember their deceased loved ones during the Christmas season. You may also use a plain envelope, and write your name on the envelope and the name of the person you wish remembered. We will publish the list of memorials in the parish bulletin.

INCENSE ALLERGIES

For those who are allergic or sensitive to incense, please note that incense will only be used at the 11:30 PM Christmas Eve Mass.

PARKING DURING MASS

Parking will be congested during some of our Christmas liturgies. We ask all parishioners to be careful not to block the driveways of our neighbors when parking your car to attend Mass. Please also do not park in the parking lot of the Calvary Church at the corner of Fairview and Wilson. We thank you for your cooperation in respecting our neighbors’ property.

Also, we ask that you do not park in front of the white garages as well as the area in front of the Food Pantry near the Rectory side door. We need these areas open in case of emergency. Thank you for your cooperation.

MAKE ST. MARY OF GOSTYN YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME!

If you are new to St. Mary of Gostyn or have been attending and do not have a church home, you are most welcome to become part of our Parish Family. Please fill out the information form below, and we will mail you a registration form to become a member of the Family of St. Mary of Gostyn! Welcome to St. Mary of Gostyn Parish!

Name_________________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip__________________________________________________
Email address___________________________________________________
Phone Number: ___________________ (circle one: cell   Home)

Please drop off in collection basket or mail to:
St. Mary of Gostyn Parish, 444 Wilson Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515
For your convenience, you can also register to become a St. Mary of Gostyn parishioner on our website: http://www.stmarygostyn.org/?page=ParishRegistration

Presider Schedule for Saturday, December 30th and Sunday, December 31st

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass Times</th>
<th>Presider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 4:30 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Jim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 8:00 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Shaun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Shaun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Jim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Jim</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, and Altar Servers, please consult your online personal schedule and email reminders for assignments.
State of Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship
*Receive up to 100% of Catholic School Tuition*

The State of Illinois has created a new way to fund scholarships for children who choose to attend Catholic schools through the “Invest in Kids Act.” Scholarships offered through this program have the potential to cover up to 100 percent of tuition and eligible charges for next school year.

The Empower Illinois Scholarship Granting Organization will be operational and will have application information around December 15, 2017 and anticipates accepting applications January 2, 2018. These dates are subject to change. Visit [www.weteachmore.org](http://www.weteachmore.org) for up-to-date details.

State of Illinois “Invest in Kids Act”
*Support Catholic Education and Receive a 75% Tax Credit*

The State of Illinois has created a new way to fund scholarships for children who choose to attend Catholic schools through the “Invest in Kids Act.” Scholarships offered through this program have the potential to cover up to 100 percent of tuition and eligible charges for next school year.

Under the Tax Credit Scholarship Program in the “Invest in Kids Act”, individuals and corporations will make donations to Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGO) that will distribute scholarships to qualified students. **Tax credits will be available on a first come, first serve basis beginning January 2, 2018.**

**Benefit to Donors**
- Individual or corporate donors will receive a 75 percent tax credit, up to $1 million, for donations made to a SGO on their 2018 State of Illinois tax return.
- Example: a scholarship donation of $1,000 will provide a $750 tax credit to a corporate or individual Illinois taxpayer.
- **Individual (non-corporate) donors may designate their parish school or all Joliet diocesan schools to receive their scholarship donation.**

Visit [www.weteachmore.org](http://www.weteachmore.org) for details.
The following persons have requested prayers from our parish community:

**Prayer Requests**

- **In Sympathy**
  - Judith Abella
  - Abby Beranek
  - Felicia Bubula
  - Frank Davis
  - Mark Gowgiel
  - Robert Hayes
  - Kenny Kern
  - Eddie Mayerik
  - Andrea Mutton
  - Mary Ann Papievix
  - Eliza Skipworth
  - Hugh Toner
  - Ashley Woltman
  - Teresa Druzgal-Heaver
  - Larry Lovitch
  - Nicholas T. Almeida
  - Kathy Berg
  - Ann Clark
  - Jessica Davy
  - Diane Goyette
  - Erinn Henes
  - Doreen Lehner
  - Spencer Mehr
  - Rob Noonan
  - Eleanor Pecka
  - Yoshi Snider
  - Mark Trout
  - Kathleen Stress
  - Malek Family
  - Greg Yearling

- **Anna Bandur**
- **Bill Brown**
- **Helen Czulak**
- **Dennis Finn**
- **Gen Hadamik**
- **Donna Karinski**
- **Diane Main**
- **Kate Moss**
- **Ken Norman**
- **Char Ryan**
- **Joan Taggioni**
- **Audrey Waechtler**
- **Joan Temborius**
- **Minnie Lopez**
- **Gabriella Beirne**
- **Tom Brown**
- **Jean Dahm**
- **Becca Gorman**
- **Hope Hathaway**
- **Joseph Karinski**
- **Virginia Mates**
- **James Murawski**
- **Daniel Oliver**
- **Tom Salansky**
- **Sharon Tallerico**
- **Loretta Wies**
- **Bobbie Olp**
- **George Drobney**
- **Frankie Drobney**

- **Frank Davis**
- **Jessica Davy**
- **Jim Donovan**
- **Rion Goyette**
- **Bobby Johnson**
- **Robert Lehner**
- **Dolores Mendoza**
- **Fr. Emie Norbeck**
- **Cynthia Petro**
- **Joey Stefka**
- **Laine Van Houton**
- **Candy Komack**
- **Katie Main Hwan**

**In Sympathy**

Our deepest sympathy to the families of

- Kathryn Cunningham
- Edwina N. Day
- Susan Hayes Uzdanovich, cousin of Deacon Al Agurkis
- Diane Main
- Peter May, father of Kathleen Martens
- Leonard Meschino Jr., father of Sonny Dibble
- Don Nietzel
- Sandra Smith

**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:

- Kevin Braasch
- Michael Martel
- Natalya Brechlin
- John Svoboda
- Christopher Fountain
- Nathan Kijowski
- Bob Lang
- Zachary Frana
- Timothy Randazzo
- Kyle Ng
- Christopher Randazzo
- Richard Ciner

**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).
New Year News

Religious Education Dates
Please pay attention to the following dates on your calendar.
• January 8—9 First Reconciliation
• January 10 & 11 RE and Confirmation Sessions resume

Around the Corner: First Reconciliation
St. Mary will celebrate the Sacrament of First Reconciliation just before we return to RE Sessions.

January 8: 6:30 pm
Sacrament of First Reconciliation for the following:
  RE Wednesday @ 4:30
  RE Wed. @ 6:30 pm
January 9: 6:30 pm
Sacrament of First Reconciliation for the following:
  School—both classes
  RE Thursday @ 4:30
  RE Track 1

Please be sure to have your Act of Contrition memorized as well.

Winter RE Session Attendance
Our Calendar for the first semester was comprised of many days on and many days off. However, for the winter we have many consistent days in session. Even though basketball season is popular right now and activities, I remind parents that our attendance policy still remains.
• Children are expected to attend each and every class (except due to illness or other emergency). We strongly discourage regular early dismissal, late arrival, and switching of sessions. Permanent session re-assignment is available depending on availability.

First Holy Communion Enrollment Mass/Meeting
February 6, 2018
6:30 pm - 7:45 pm
In the Church
All Families of students in Grade 2 or in the RCIC Track program should plan to attend. Children will receive a blessing from their parents and we will have a short informational meeting following Mass.

Rainbows For All Children
The mission is Rainbows for All Children (Rainbows) is dedicated to being the premier source of support for all youth as they navigate grief and heal from loss, whether from death, divorce, deployment, or other trauma. Rainbows fosters awareness that youth require support to heal. We nurture a community of effective Rainbows-trained Facilitators, supported with a repository of resources designed to guide youth in their grieving process.

Would you be interested in training as a facilitator. All training is online and easy.

If you are interested in this ministry, call the RE office at 630-960-3565 or go online to www.rainbows.org.

Catechist and Adults Invited to Foundations of Faith Formation Series
Tuesday February 20, 2018
Topic: Creed II
Tuesday April 17, 2018
Topic: Creed III
Nourish is for anyone juggling the challenges of life, health, career and caring for an aging or ailing parent, grandparent, or spouse, in town or at a distance. Nourish provides you with practical tools and emotional supports, all with a Christ-centered view.

Every Third Wednesday
January 17th
7:00 pm Parish Center
Drop in - all are welcome

Topics vary each month and include a broad range of pertinent subjects, such as:
- Using faith and spiritual tools to care for ourselves on this caregiver journey
- Overcoming the challenges of advocating for your loved one’s care
- Staying engaged & keeping them engaged
- The spiritual practice of asking for and receiving help
- Honoring your loved one’s wishes

More information: Kelly at kjohnson@stmarygosyn.org or www.stmarygostyn.org Faith Formation - Nourish tab.

Start the New Year right.

Stop in St. Mary’s Café to grow in truth and grace, so that it is a year abounding in happiness and peace of mind.

Two times, both beginning in January:

Thursday Mornings, 9:00 am
We all need it. We all want more.

Wisdom
Gather, grow and gain
• Wisdom in RELATIONSHIPS
• Wisdom in FINANCES
• Wisdom in DECISION-MAKING

Tuesday Evenings, 7:00 pm
An essential for a thriving faith life:

Prayer
. Join this teaching and find intimacy with God.

For more information on both:
www.stmarygostyn.org - Faith Formation - Adult - Café Evening or Café Women’s Bible Study tabs
A gift for you at FORMED.org.
Simply login with any device to FORMED.org using parish code 8PQ4J3. Discover the truth, beauty and meaning of the Catholic Faith, anytime, anywhere.

Merry Christmas!

Reward yourself... and your family
Men’s C.R.H.P. weekend
Saturday-Sunday, Jan 27-28, 2018

Reserve Your Spot: 630-969-1063 (Rectory)
d_sheeran@yahoo.com – Dave Sheeran
630.442.4425

Women’s

The women of CRHP #33 hope that you will prayerfully consider joining them for CRHP #34 on the weekend of February 24th to 25th.

For information or to register, please contact Carolina Menapace at cmenapace@gmail.com.
ARE YOU ITCHING TO DO SOMETHING IMPORTANT?  
THE UPPER ROOM CRISIS HOTLINE NEEDS YOU!

Ever have an itch you can’t seem to scratch – an itch that just won’t go away? Well, sometimes God is like that itch. He tries to get your attention by annoying you with a little itchy urge that only He can scratch.

If God is urging you to do something to help others, consider becoming a volunteer phone counselor for The Upper Room Crisis Hotline. We provide counseling and referral services to anyone struggling to find a reason to keep living in all circumstances. While we deliver our services in the Catholic tradition, we counsel anyone who needs help.

Becoming a phone counselor requires you to complete an eight-week training program where you learn communication skills, relationship issues, suicide prevention and much more. We hold classes from Jan. 9th thru Feb. 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursdays. All classes are held at The University of St. Francis (The old Guardian Angel Home on the corner of Theodore St. and Plainfield Rd) in Joliet, IL.

If this work touches your heart, please call Sr. Mary Frances Seeley at 815-341-9124, or email catholic hotline@gmail.com. Check us out at www.CatholicHotline.org. Thank You and God Bless!

WHO WILL FILL THESE SHOES?

It really is a simple question, “Who Will Fill These Shoes?” More importantly, it’s a shocking image, the image of empty shoes, a priest’s shoes, laying there by the altar. It is a sharp reminder to all of us that without priests, there will be no Eucharist! Men ages 7th Grade and older are invited to a day about priesthood!

Thurs, January 4, 2018 9:00 AM—3:00 PM 11:30 AM Mass Blanchette Catholic Center 16555 Weber Rd.. Crest Hill

This is a day for men to hear more about the priesthood, meet our seminarians, and to find out if the Lord is asking them to “fill the shoes” of the priests who have gone before us. The day will include Mass, talks from priests and seminarians from our diocese, lunch and time for questions and answers about the priesthood. Parents are welcome to accompany their sons. Parents of our current seminarians will be available to speak about what it is like to have a son answer God’s call.

For more information or to register go to: www.whowillfilltheseshoes.com

THERE IS NO COST FOR THE DAY

RETREAT/ WORKSHOP FOR WIDOWED MEN/WOMEN

The Joyful Again! program brings understanding and hope to help you on your new life’s journey. “I felt welcome.” “Found hope.” “Am more at peace.”

Upcoming Dates: March 3 & 4, 2018 and April 21 & 22, 2018. For more information contact us at Joyful Again! Widowed Ministry Ph: 1-708-354-7211 Email: joyfulagain7211@gmail.com Website:www.joyfulagain.org

IMPORTANT: Register early, space is limited.

MAYSLAKE VILLAGE OPEN APPLICATION SESSION

Applications being accepted for Wings, Manor, Villas & Center II Type 3 1 bedroom apartments on Tuesday, January 9th, 2018 at the Hilton Oak Brook Hills Resort. The session will start at 9:00 AM and close at 12 noon.

Additional information about Mayslake Village and its several residences is available on our website at www.mayslake.com
St. Mary of Gostyn Catholic Church

RECTORY: 444 Wilson Street  630-969-1063

RECTORY STAFF:
Fr. JAMES SCHWAB, Pastor, ext. 200  jschwab@stmarygostyn.org
Fr. SHAUN CIESLIK, Parochial Vicar, ext. 212  scieslik@stmarygostyn.org
DEACON AL AGURKIS, Permanent Deacon ext. 221  deaconal@stmarygostyn.org
DEACON BOB MICIUNAS, Ministry Coordinator and Protecting God's Children Administrator, ext. 244  deaconbob@stmarygostyn.org
MRS. VALERIE BAVA, Business Manager, ext. 201  vbava@stmarygostyn.org
MR. STEVEN BISAILLON, Music Director, ext. 236  sbisaillon@stmarygostyn.org
MRS. LEANNE BROWN, Office Manager, ext. 200
MRS. KELLY JOHNSON, Adult Faith Formation  kjohnson@stmarygostyn.org
MRS. PAT VENA, pvena@stmarygostyn.org

SCHOOL: 440 Prairie Avenue  630-968-6155

SCHOOL STAFF:
MR. CHRIS TIRITILLI, Principal
MRS. CHRIS KALAL, Assistant Principal
MRS. DIANNE CZOPEK, Secretary, ext. 216
MRS. MARY TOTH, Secretary, ext. 215
MRS. MARY GRACZYK, School Website Coordinator  smgweb@stmarygostyn.org

PARISH CENTER: 445 Prairie Avenue  630-960-3565
(Religious Education Offices)
MRS. MOIRA BARKER, Office Manager and Bulletin Editor, ext. 245, mbarker@stmarygostyn.org
MRS. TERRI O’DEKIRK, Development Director and Parish Manager ext. 261, todekirk@stmarygostyn.org
MRS. LAVONNE CZECH, Marketing Director, ext. 211  lczech@stmarygostyn.org
MR. FRANK GLOWATY, Office of Advancement, ext. 261  fglowaty@stmarygostyn.org
MS. ANNETTE SPIEZIO, Counselor, ext. 302

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF:
MRS. MARY JANE WAHL, Director of Religious Ed., ext. 219
MRS. JENNIFER LISZKA, Religious Ed. Assistant

This Week

Monday / 25
Merry Christmas!

Tuesday / 26
6:30 PM Legion of Mary  Small Conf. Rm.
6:30 PM Prayer Group  Chapel

Wednesday / 27
6:30 PM 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal  Church

Thursday / 28
1:15 PM Small Christian Communities  Living Room
3:00 PM Basketball  Gym

Friday / 29
3:00 PM Basketball  Gym
5:00 PM PADS  Gathering Place

Saturday / 30
12:00 AM PADS  Gathering Place
8:00 AM Basketball  Gym
9:00 AM St. Vincent de Paul Society  Large Conf. Rm.

Sunday / 31
1:00 PM Basketball  Gym
4:30 PM 6PM Choir Rehearsal  Church

Blessed are You Among Women
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, December 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 the 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.