Nativity of
Saint John the Baptist

They made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, “John is his name,” and all were amazed. - Lk 1:62-63
It is no secret that Catholic Churches and Schools have generally been experiencing decreases in Mass attendance, student enrollment and participation in their programs over the past several years. This has resulted in cutbacks of programs and staff, as well as the inability to provide all of the services their constituents have relied upon previously. It also makes it impossible to provide the improvements to the Church or the School that make it relevant to the changing needs of the Parish.

Fortunately, here at St. Mary’s, we are experiencing a very different trend. Our Parish and School have a buzz, a vibrancy of active, engaged participants. Our RCIA program brought in 15 new members this year, vs. the 1-3 over the past ten years. Our School’s enrollment numbers are strong. Our weekly contributions are consistently meeting our budget due to the continued Stewardship efforts of our Parishioners. Mass attendance is also on an increase. These are all signs that you, our Parishioners, support St. Mary of Gostyn and the direction that we are taking to meet your needs.

All of this gives us confidence to move forward on a dream that has been in the making for many years. We have an exciting new project that we are undertaking to enhance our School facilities. We have identified a need for an Activities Center in our School. This space will enable us to have our children eat their lunches in the school in an appropriately supervised room, provide a multi-purpose space for enhancement of some of our academic programs, provide a large space for extracurricular activities to occur at the same time that the gym is being used for team practices, and lastly, expand our current gym space from an elementary school size to an appropriate middle school regulation size. The space will free our Gathering Place up for use by the Parish during the day, as well as for potential use by our Parish groups for much needed meeting and activity space in the evenings. Our current gymnasium space, as well as our Prairie rental property east of the School, will be utilized for this new facility and is at this time aptly being called “A Place Where All Are Welcome”.

You will be hearing more about this exciting project as our plans progress. We are very excited to be able to move forward with this endeavor to make our School sustainable for the next generations of our children.
Today is the Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (the Feast Day of the birth of John the Baptist). To say John the Baptist and Jesus were closely related and connected is an understatement.

During the great cycle of the Christian year, there are three festivals in celebration of a person's birth. We celebrate the births of John the Baptist, of Mary, and of Jesus. These are the holy ones who were filled with the Spirit even before their birth.

Keep in mind that, in the liturgy of the church, a "nativity" is not a birthday. Birthdays are anniversaries of a birth. Instead, a nativity is the birth itself. Today is not John the Baptist's birthday. Today John is born. That's what we sing in the liturgy today.

Rejoicing at John's birth is a commandment of the gospel. Even the angel Gabriel tells us to rejoice (Luke 1:14). The Gospel of John records that Jesus himself praises John the Baptist. Both were foretold by prophets, especially Isaiah. The only record of the birth of John the Baptist appears in the Gospel of Luke and it is at the heart of our Gospel Reading today. A key player in this event is, of course, John the Baptist's father Zechariah. Zechariah was a Jewish priest, but when the Archangel Gabriel revealed to him that he would father a child, Zechariah refused to believe it. As a result he was rendered speechless until John was born.

Zechariah had total trust in the Lord, however. Although it was traditional at that time to name the first son after the father, he and Elizabeth had been told that they were to name him John. As reported in the Gospel, Elizabeth said "He will be called John." The family protested at which time Zechariah wrote "His name is John." When he did that, Zechariah could speak once more. He did not say "should be"; he said "is."

The trust shown by Zechariah is an example to us that we must trust in God, not just when it is convenient, but all the time.

The feast of John's birth was established very early in the church's history, at about the same time as the feast of Christmas. Luke tells us that the angel Gabriel announced the conception of Jesus six months after announcing the conception of John. So the date of this feast is six months before Christmas.

The old customs that centered around the summer solstice became ways to honor John. In Europe and other parts of the world, some people stay up all the night to burn St. John's fires. And the celebration goes on all day as well.

In Poland, wreaths lit with candles -- which look like Advent wreaths --are tossed into streams to float downriver. In Morocco, the Muslim people light fires to celebrate John's birth. The Muslim holy book, the Koran, calls John a great prophet.

In Sweden, doors, autos and even buses are decorated with green birch twigs. In mid afternoon, a maypole (mai means "greenery") is decorated with wreaths and then hoisted up amid shouts of joy. In Lithuania a cheese sweetened with honey is prepared to look round like the sun. The honey is a reminder of one of the foods John ate in the desert.

Over a hundred years ago, a young women schoolteacher attended worship and heard a sermon which focused on the need for missionaries. When the time for the offering came, the young women placed $10.00 on the plate and a note which read: "I give $10.00 and Myself, Mary I McClellan.

God surely took notice of Mary's gift and vow. It was not long afterward that she met and married a young man, James W. Lambuth. In 1853 they were sent by their denomination to China. The two missionaries founded an orphanage for homeless children, a Christian school for girls, and the Lambuth Bible School. The gift of "$10.00 and myself" resulted in great work for Christ in a very needy land.

Only God knows what can happen when we not only give our gift, but ourselves as well.

When the Feast of St. John the Baptist falls on a Sunday, it is celebrated in place of the Mass in Ordinary Time.

See You Next Sunday!
Today we celebrate the birth of St. John the Baptist. This prophet, who practiced austerity in the desert, proclaimed the kingdom of God, a coming judgment, and baptism as a sign of repentance. With deep humility, John directed attention not to himself but to Jesus. John’s attitude was, “He must increase, I must decrease” (John 3:30). John’s birth, days after the summer solstice when daylight hours begin to decrease, contrasts with Jesus’ birth days after the winter solstice, heralding daylight’s increase. Like John the Baptist, stewards turn attention away from themselves and towards Jesus. The stewardship question for us is whether or not we ourselves are prepared to “decrease” and allow Jesus to “increase” in our hearts, minds, words and actions.

**Calling All Gardeners**

As a Parish, we are so blessed to have a group of volunteers who deserve a lot of credit for helping us maintain our vast beds of flowers, plants and shrubs surrounding our Church and Parish Center. We are referring to our “Garden Angels”. This group donates their time, keeping these beds clean and neat throughout the growing season. At times, they are also placing new plantings into the current beds. For those of you who do your own home gardening, you know this is a lot of work.

We would like to add some new volunteers to this group to help divide up the work load. Ideally, we would like to divide up the grounds, so a team can be responsible for a limited section of the property. All ages are invited to help, including high schoolers. (This is a great service opportunity for someone who needs some hours.) A knowledge of gardening is highly recommended, but we may be able to use teams with only one experienced person and another with a strong back and a love of getting outside and working with their hands!

If this is a ministry that you may be interested in joining, please email Angie Gammonley at agammonley@comcast.com or call Terri O’Dekirk at 630-737-9621.

Lastly, as you divide out any of your own perennials, or find you bought too many other plants for your home space, let us know. We can always use new planting material to freshen up our outside spaces.

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**Stewardship**

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**A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP**

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Thank you for your continuing support and generosity.
Religious Education

Totus Tuus 2018
See the Faith Fun We Had!
MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2018
6:15 AM - Helen Duncan req. Krystozek Family
   For All Fathers Living and Deceased

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018
6:15 AM - Intention of the Priest
8:00 AM - Debra Ineich req. Jack & Anne Himpler

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018
6:15 AM - Intention of the Priest
8:00 AM - Joseph A. Kowalkowski req. Mary Ann Kowalkowski
   Daniel Harrison req. Bill & LeAnne Brown

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2018
8:00 AM - Harold Schramm req. Family
   Eugene Mayer req. Helene Mayer

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2018
6:15 AM - Intention of the Priest
8:00 AM - Griffin Connell req. Butney Family

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 2018
8:00 AM - Kathryn Cunningham req. Kathy Ranft
4:30 PM - Edward Mates req. Bava Family
   Ignatius Twardzik req. Family
   Madelyn Mary Cox req. Joe & Mary Amore

SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2018
8:00 AM - Phyllis Eichhorn req. Ronald & Jennifer Rodi & Sons
10:00 AM - People of the Parish
12:00 PM - Hope Hathaway req. Kay Papineau
6:00 PM - James Donovan req. Patricia Augustine

TODAY’S READINGS
First Reading - I will make you a light to the nations (Isaiah 49:1-6).
Psalm - I praise you for I am wonderfully made (Psalm 139).
Second Reading - John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance (Acts 13:22-26).
Gospel - John is his name (Luke 1:57-66, 80).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:
Monday: 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18; Ps 60:3-5, 12-13; Mt 7:1-5
Tuesday: 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36; Ps 48:2-4, 10-11; Mt 7:6, 12-14
Wednesday: 2 Kgs 22:8-13; 23:1-3; Ps 119:33-37, 40; Mt 7:15-20
Thursday: 2 Kgs 24:8-17; Ps 79:1b-5, 8, 9; Mt 7:21-29
Friday: Vigil: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 19:2-5; Gal 1:11-20; Jn 21:15-19
   Day: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-9; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19
Saturday: Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Ps 74:1b-7, 20-21; Mt 8:15-17
Sunday: Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; 2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mk 5:21-43
Hello! My name is Claire Simeo - I recently graduated from Franciscan University of Steubenville with a bachelor’s degree in Theology and Catechetics, and I am thrilled to begin as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry here at St. Mary of Gostyn Parish. I grew up a few towns over in Glen Ellyn, and am one of six children from a fun, loud, Catholic family. My faith and love for Jesus Christ has always been a huge part of my life, and I am excited to share it with all I meet!

In my free time you can find me singing and playing the piano, enjoying all things outdoors (think hiking/camping/kayaking), as well as sports - particularly running, sand volleyball, and frisbee, covered in dirt in my vegetable gardens, reading a good book, cooking and improvising in the kitchen, adventuring and trying new things, and spending quality time with my friends and family.

In the Fall I look forward to starting up a youth ministry program for high schoolers so that they can dig deeper into their faith, learn what it means to be a disciple of Christ, make friends and build community, and have a whole lot of FUN! I am also excited to work on launching a variety of opportunities for young adults to experience the love of Christ, be nourished by a community, and grow in relationship with the Lord. Please pray for me as I begin the Lord’s work here at St. Mary of Gostyn Parish.
The following persons have requested prayers from our parish community:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Person</th>
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<td>Hugh Toner</td>
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<td>Kelly Walters</td>
<td>Ashley Woltman</td>
<td>Fr. John Hornicak</td>
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<td>Greg Ginex Sr.</td>
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In Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the family of
Dorothy Valocik

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
- Joe McSweeney

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
Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is looking to train new volunteers for the fall. St. Mary offers CLOW at our 8 am and 10 am Masses most Sundays during the school year. We welcome all adults and teenagers to consider serving this ministry on a rotating basis.

Adult Training

The Office of Diving Worship of the Diocese of Joliet is hosting a training session for all interested adults on Saturday, June 23 from 9 am to Noon at the Blanchett Catholic Center in Crest Hill. Contact the Religious Education Office at 445 Prairie, or email it to us at religiouseducation@stmarygostyn.org, or call us at 630-960-3565.

Why we have Children's Liturgy?

- Young children will come to know Jesus and appreciate the Scriptures more when hearing the Word at their age level.
- The reflection on the Readings is directed to the children.
- Family materials are given to the children to live out the Word at home.
- Parents have the opportunity to fully concentrate on the Readings and Homily.

Is the Holy Spirit Calling You to Help?

A message from Bishop Conlon

Peter's Pence Collections

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Next weekend, June 30-July 1, our diocese will take up the Peter’s Pence Collection. Our participation supports the charitable work of Pope Francis as he reaches out to those who are marginalized and suffering around the globe. By supporting this collection, you join the Holy Father in bringing a little more mercy into the world.

Pope Francis calls to us that efforts be made everywhere to promote the culture of encounter and justice, which alone can guarantee the spiritual and material welfare of all people. Your support makes it possible for the Holy Father to carry out his charitable works around the world, to help victims of war, natural disasters, and other difficult situations.

Let us join with our brothers and sisters in faith from around the globe to help Pope Francis reach the marginalized in our world. Please prayerfully consider how you can best support the collection this year.

Thank you, and may God bless you abundantly.

Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon
Bishop of Joliet

A message from Spiezio & Affiliates

Staying Grounded

One of the best ways I know, to bring about restoration and healing, is to stay grounded. Getting grounded also opens up space inside of us, for God’s Grace to work. And truly, staying grounded is a choice and not that complicated to achieve.

Spiezio and Affiliates, Counseling Services are available here in your parish. These are professional, spiritual counselors who are able to walk with you and share some guidance along the way. We have comfortable and private space available here in your parish, or offices outside the parish as well. Please see this bulletin for contact information if you’d like to schedule an appointment.

June 24, 2018 Page 9
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,
Protecting God’s Children Administrator, ext. 244
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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
kjohanson@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 TOBH, 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, 708-743-9729

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

Interested in a Ministry?
Want to become more involved in parish life?
We would love to hear from you!

Contact Deacon Bob Miciunas at 630-969-1063,
ext. 244 or e-mail him at
deaconbob@stmarygostyn.org to find out
more about volunteer and ministry opportunities
here at St. Mary of Gostyn!
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.

St. Mary of Gostyn Parish

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 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.
CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS
St. Mary of Gostyn #255
444 Wilson Street
Downers Grove, IL 60515

TELEPHONE
(815) 341 - 8324  Cell

CONTACT PERSON
Fr. Jim Schwab

SOFTWARE
MSPublisher 2003
Adobe Acrobat 6.0
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SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATION
June 24, 2018

NUMBER OF PAGES
1 THROUGH 12

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: