Jesus said to them in reply, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”

— Lk 13:2-3
That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body. “ Genesis 2:24

The Sacrament of Matrimony is sacred to the Church; it does not take marriage lightly. An annulment is more properly called a Declaration of Nullity, as it declares that the marriage was never valid in the eyes of the Church. A petition for a Declaration of Nullity happens only after a civil divorce. It is a statement that at the time of the marriage, something essential is missing. Three criteria to consider: capacity, intention and the understanding the participants have of self, other and marriage itself. The annulment process is an in-depth investigation in which the marriage is on trial, not the individuals. It is not a process of placing blame or finger-pointing, but can be one of healing, honesty and forgiveness.

Following are several of the myths and truths discussed:

• An annulment is not a Catholic divorce. A divorce is concerned with the legal realities of marriage. Divorce focuses on the end of a marriage and legally dissolves the marriage. Annulments looks at the beginning of a marriage from the very moment the couple gave consent in the ceremony.
• Divorced Catholics are not excommunicated. They are still Catholic, since divorce alone does not affect a Catholic’s status in the Church.
• Separated and divorced Catholics may receive the sacraments.
• Any children of that legal marriage are legitimate offspring. A civil divorce or a Church annulment do not change the legitimacy of the children.
• The length of the marriage does not correlate with whether a marriage is valid or invalid in the Catholic Church.

A Retreat with Pope Francis

The Lord, your God is in your midst...he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love. Zephaniah 3:17

Experience a Joyful Renewal of Faith

Pope Francis has captured the hearts of the faithful throughout the world. His papacy is marked by a style of simplicity, warmth, and an emphasis on the heart of the Gospel. Now, you can take a retreat with his words and example, opening the door to a deeper relationship with God. Walking with Pope Francis, you will discover the importance of dialogue with yourself, the world, and God. Beginning with Scripture, each Thursday in this six week retreat we will delve into the heart of Pope Francis’ message through the lens of his writings, life stories, and personal example. Experience a joyful renewal of your faith.

Thursday Morning Women’s CAFÉ - 9:00 -10:45am

**Babysitting available**
Six Weeks – come for all, or just one – 4/4, 4/11, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16
For more details and to register:
www.stmarygostyn.org Faith Formation-Adult-CAFÉ Women’s tab

A recent ONE topic ONE night explored the myths and truths surrounding divorce, annulments and re-marriage. Deacon Steve and Therese DeSitter shared their personal experiences and insights as annulment field advocates in the Joliet Diocese. Here are some highlights.

Next ONE Topic One Night
Date: April 4 th at 7:00pm
Topic: What are Indulgences? And why should we care?

“That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.” Genesis 2:24

The Sacrament of Matrimony is sacred to the Church; it does not take marriage lightly. An annulment is more properly called a Declaration of Nullity, as it declares that the marriage was never valid in the eyes of the Church. A petition for a Declaration of Nullity happens only after a civil divorce. It is a statement that at the time of the marriage, something essential is missing. Three criteria to consider: capacity, intention and the understanding the participants have of self, other and marriage itself. The annulment process is an in-depth investigation in which the marriage is on trial, not the individuals. It is not a process of placing blame or finger-pointing, but can be one of healing, honesty and forgiveness.

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• Divorced Catholics are not excommunicated. They are still Catholic, since divorce alone does not affect a Catholic’s status in the Church.
• Separated and divorced Catholics may receive the sacraments.
• Any children of that legal marriage are legitimate offspring. A civil divorce or a Church annulment do not change the legitimacy of the children.
• The length of the marriage does not correlate with whether a marriage is valid or invalid in the Catholic Church.
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On March 30 & 31, our diocese will take up the Catholic Relief Services collection. Your support of this collection serves Jesus in disguise in some of the most marginalized communities in our world. In rural communities in Afghanistan, for example, children have limited access to education because of distance and the danger of commuting to public schools. In a remote village in Ghor, one of the poorest provinces of the country, an estimated 80% of adults are illiterate, and the illiteracy rate is even higher for women. Most villagers are farmers who never attended school. The closest school was too far and the road too dangerous for young children to attend.

With your help last year, Catholic Relief Services brought a community-based classroom to this remote village. Your generosity made it possible for the children to attend school and has offered them a more hopeful and secure future. Such programs have been implemented across Afghanistan for 15 years and have helped more than 23,000 students build more prosperous lives. Children across Afghanistan, and around the world depend on your support to go to school and have bright futures.

Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the globe. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year. To learn more about the collection and the people who benefit, please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon
Bishop of Joliet

EXTREME Abortion Bills
Introduced in IL Legislature

Today we played a message from Bishop Conlon asking for our help in writing our legislators concerning an extreme Abortion Bills, introduced in the Illinois General Assembly in Springfield.

House Bill 2467 & Senate Bill 1594: Repeals Illinois Parental Notification of Abortion Act. Current law requires a parent or legal guardian be notified when minor seeks an abortion. Includes a waiver for children physically or sexually abused. Passed in 1995 but not implemented until 2013 by a unanimous Illinois Supreme Court ruling.

House Bill 2495 & Senate Bill 1942: Repeals current state ban on partial-birth abortions. Defines abortion as a fundamental right. Removes abortion clinics from regulations for serious medical procedures. Removes the requirement that only doctors can perform abortions.

We will keep you updated at www.ilcatholic.org and via emails sent through our Illinois Catholic Advocacy Network (I-CAN).

Sign up for I-CAN at: www.ilcatholic.org/take-action/join-i-can

Contact your state House and Senate lawmakers and urge them to vote "no" on HB 2467, SB 1594, HB 2495 & SB 1942. Go to www.ilcatholic.org for more info.

Praying the Stations
In the Holy Cross Tradition

Friday March 29
7:00 PM in church
Holy Thursday Foot Washing

This year at the Holy Thursday liturgy, Fr Shaun will be the celebrant and he will wash the feet of 12 people (6 male and 6 female) seated on the sanctuary stairs. It would also be nice to have varying ages participate. If you are attending this liturgy and would like to be one of the 12 people representing our parish to have their feet washed, please contact Deacon Bob to sign up. Details will be provided prior to Holy Thursday.

Stewardship

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Collection 3/17/19 $26,420.57
Weekly Goal (Fiscal Year 18/19) $29,500.00

Goals to Date
Sunday Goal to Date $1,121,000.00
Christmas Goal to Date $115,000.00
Total Goals to Date $1,236,000.00

Collections to Date
Sunday Collections to Date $1,108,802.85
Christmas Collections to Date $108,714.07
Total Collections to Date $1,217,516.92

Total (Under) Goals to Date ($18,483.08)

Today we hear one of the most beloved stories in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus’ parable of the Prodigal Son. Reconciliation is a prominent theme. Seeing the younger son returning to him, the son who left the family and squandered his inheritance, the compassionate father runs to embrace him. Jesus offers us a vision of a loving God who is merciful and forgiving when we, through our own sinfulness, leave his presence, and then through repentance, return to him. The remainder of the Lenten season offers us an opportunity to reflect on God’s compassion and our need for reconciliation. Consider celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation and experience God’s loving embrace and forgiveness.

Thank you for your continuing support and generosity.
The first reading from Exodus takes place with Moses standing at the burning bush. It is when God reveals himself to Moses and declares that he will lead them out of slavery into their own land. We can imagine Moses’ puzzlement when God reveals his name as the cryptic “I am who I am.”

The phrase in Hebrew, which gets translated into “Yahweh,” is a mystery to translators. The thrust of it seems to be that God is who God is, not what humans say God is. Also, there is a sense that God is in the present, not the past or future, but always present.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus declares several times “I AM,” using the exact same words that God used in speaking to Moses. All of his listeners understood then that he was equating himself with God. In the Gospel, John the Baptist and Jesus both had a sense of urgency about them. They were serious about spreading their message quickly: “Repent! The Kingdom of God is near!” They seemed to understand there was no time to waste.

There were hungry people to be fed, people in need of healing, people suffering discrimination because of their culture or religion, people trapped through sin, and people used as the pawns of unjust economic practices and military might. There wasn’t time to stand around and wait for God to swoop in and make everything right in the world. Jesus came ready to do God’s work in the world, and he was eager for others to begin doing it with him “right now!”

Was Jesus impatient like the owner of the fig tree? Does he want results now? Or was he like the gardener, ready to demonstrate more trust and patience and give people more time to bear fruit?

Maybe Jesus was both. He has little time for laziness or excuses. But he also knows that as humans we take time to grow and mature. The point seems to be that Jesus wants to see movement. We all have a gardener tending to us and advocating for us, but will we allow ourselves to fruit? We don’t have unlimited time. Let’s start growing.

Published by the Pastoral Center

Everyday Stewardship

Can you recite the Ten Commandments by heart? Several years ago a national US survey found more people could identify the ingredients in a Big Mac and name the children in the Brady Bunch television show than recite the Ten Commandments. Of course, being able to recite them is not nearly as important as living a life in harmony with them. However, if we simply live to not break them then we are only living out half of our discipleship.

Every commandment calls us to action beyond the simplicity of its words. We are not to kill, but we are also called to support life. We are not to steal, but we are also to share what we have freely. We are to have no other Gods before our God, but we also need to actively praise and glorify Him.

To live a moral life is to do more than follow rules and laws. It is to actively live in a way that gives witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. This way of living is stewardship. As we focus more on the penitential message of Lent, we need to not just reflect on what we have done wrong, but equally what we have failed to do. To be given so much by a loving God and not share those things with God and His people is wrong as well. Perhaps as we reflect on these things we might find ourselves adding something to our lives that will last for many Lenten seasons to come.
Prayer for the Sick
through the Intercession of St. Peregrine

Graciously hear the prayers which we offer to you O God.
We present our petitions through St. Peregrine, your beloved servant and patron of those suffering from cancer, AIDS, and other life-threatening diseases.
Grant that the sick may receive help in all their needs through the intercession of St. Peregrine, whose life was so pleasing to you.
Hear us in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

St. Peregrine, Pray for us!
O Mary, health of the sick, Pray for us!

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019
6:15 AM - Loretta Ocwieja req. Family

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019
6:15 AM - Cindy Ruginis req. Al Ruginis
8:00 AM - Intention of the Priest

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019
6:15 AM - Anne Marie Harris
8:00 AM - William Langer req. Family

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019
8:00 AM - Elizabeth Batten req. Jim & Diane Massura

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019
6:15 AM - Intention of the Priest
8:00 AM - Intention of the Priest
7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross in the Holy Cross Tradition

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019
8:00 AM - Intention of the Priest
4:30 PM - Leonard Gassmann req. Ullmer Family

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019
8:00 AM - Gregory Yearling req. Golly Family
10:00 AM - Alexander Pawlowicz req. Pat & Cheryl Carney
  Gloria Merzlock req. Mauser Family
12:00 PM - Thomas Anthony Paravola req. James & Paul Massura Families
  6:00 PM - Elizabeth Pomykala req. Carolyn Richrath

TODAY’S READINGS
First Reading - “I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have come to rescue them” (Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15)
Psalm - The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103).
Second Reading - Those who think they are standing secure should take care not to fall (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12)
Gospel - I shall cultivate the ground around the fig tree and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future (Luke 13:1-9)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:
Monday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Dt 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
CALLING ALL GARDENERS

With the start of the spring season, our landscaping will be greening up. While this is so welcome, it brings with it outside chores to keep it thriving. We have been so fortunate over the years to have two groups of volunteers who maintain our beds with plantings and flowers and also brighten up our Grotto with seasonal décor.

The Wynne family has been maintaining the Grotto for the past ten years and have let us know that they are no longer able to help with this. We thank them for their service and are looking for a few people who would be interested in this Ministry. This is a wonderful opportunity for a family or small group to work together to keep this area fresh and maintained throughout the spring and summer primarily.

We would also like to add additional volunteers to our Garden Angels who maintain our planting beds around the Church, Parish Center and the front entrance to the School. 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 and middle 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 others with strong backs and a love of getting outside and working with their hands!

If either of these outdoor Ministries would appeal to you, please contact Terri O’Deekirk at todekirk@stmarygostyn.org or 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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**Presider Schedule for Saturday, March 30th and Sunday, March 31st**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass Times</th>
<th>Presider</th>
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</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>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Larry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Shaun</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.
Final Farewell TO OUR GYM

SMG ALUMNI FROM THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS WITH OUR CURRENT GYM

LAST GYM CLASS IN OUR CURRENT GYM (2ND GR)

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT CAME, AND TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS THAT ORGANIZED THIS BITTERSWEET FAREWELL!

NOW Enrolling

ST. MARY OF GOSTYN

Award Winning Preschool
3 and 4 Year Old Program

Space is limited
(630) 968-6155

Register by April 1
The following persons have requested prayers from our parish community:

James Sadowski         Theresa Hurley                  Dotty Briscoe                 Vinny Miraglio Julie Riley
Jaclyn Golly                           Barbara Vinsik                   Patti Newey                   Spencer Mehr          Nicole Maher
Mark Gowgiel                        Marizon Torres Relucio

In Sympathy
Our deepest sympathy to the families of
Andrew Clawson, nephew of Valerie Feld
Andrew Plonka
Thomas Steinbacher
Paul Wojcik

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

Easter Memorial Flowers
The celebration of Easter is an experience of Life. We remember the New Life Christ gave us once He rose from the dead. This feast is remembered for fifty days. From Easter to Pentecost, we gather as Easter people celebrating Christ’s resurrection.

During this time we will have the church decorated with plants and flowers. This is an excellent opportunity to remember deceased family members and friends. You may fill out this form, place it in an envelope marked “Easter Memorial Flowers,” and put it in the collection basket. Donations received by Sunday, April 14th will be published in the Easter bulletin.

Your name: ________________________________________________________________
(please print clearly)

In Memory of: _______________________________________________________________
(please print clearly)

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 630/969-1063, ext 244.
A Minister to the Homebound will be happy to visit them.
First Friday visits are also offered.

March 24, 2019   Page 9
Over the next several Sundays, our RCIA Catechumens will be celebrating the Lenten Scrutinies. It is the primary way that the Church assists the catechumens (now called the “Elect” – those who are to be baptized and receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation) in the conversion process during Lent. These ritual celebrations on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent are communal prayers celebrated around the elect to strengthen them to overcome the power of sin in their lives and to grow in virtue. To scrutinize something means to examine it closely. The parish community does not scrutinize the catechumens; the catechumens scrutinize their own lives and allow God to scrutinize and heal them.

All of us are called to continuing conversion throughout our lives, so we join with the elect in scrutinizing our own lives and praying to God for the grace to overcome the power of sin that still infects our hearts.

Taking seriously the dynamic of scrutiny and conversion gives us a richer perspective of Lenten “giving up.” What we are to give up more than anything else is sin, which is to say we are to give up whatever keeps us from living out our baptismal promises fully. Along with the elect we all need to approach the season of Lent asking ourselves what needs to change in our lives if we are to live the gospel values that Jesus taught us. Our journey through these forty days should be a movement ever closer to Christ and to the way of life he has exemplified for us.

The first scrutiny, celebrated today at the 8:00 AM Mass, uses the story of the Samaritan woman to highlight the reality of sin in its individual dimension. The narrative of John 4 dominates the liturgy of the word, not only by its length, but also by the sheer power of its images and messages. The universal story of faith is compressed into the space of moments, as the woman challenges, probes, questions and finally yields to the presence of the Holy One. That which she thought she knew and that which she sought, have been turned upside down and inside out. Her radical conversion is portrayed in terms that invite the hearer into a similar process. Conversion, in this perspective, is coming to know and accept Jesus the Christ – personally, deeply, totally.

Please continue to pray for our Elect and our Candidates, as they move ever closer to the Easter Vigil and full communion into the Catholic Church.
Youth Ministry

All students in 8th-12th grade are invited to join us for games, and writing letters to seminarians in the Underground tonight for Youth Group!! 7-9pm.

What? Join over 2,000 teens from around the country for a weekend you’ll never forget — packed with fun, inspiring speakers, prayer, music and more!!

When? June 14-16 this Summer

Why? You will encounter Jesus, make new friends, grow in your faith, and have SO MUCH FUN!!

Where? Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH

How Much? $295 - covers bus transportation, food, housing, t-shirt, and conference fee. (Financial Aid is available — cost is not an obstacle to going!!)

How? Reserve your spot today by filing out an application form (available on the parish website), and making a $45 deposit.

Questions? Contact Claire: csimeo@stmarygostyn.org

Space is limited, so SIGN UP TODAY!!
Religious Education Dates

Please pay attention to the following dates on your calendar.

- March 27/28  No RE class - Spring Break
- April 3/4  RE class - Lent Reconciliation grades 5,6,7
- April 10/11  RE class
- April 17/18  No RE class - Holy Week
- April 24/25  RE class - 7th grd Christian Living Journals due

First Communion Reminders

April 6th - First Communion Retreat 10am to 12pm
For students and parent

April 29th - First Communion Practice at 6:30pm
All SMG 2nd grade students AND Thursday 4:30 RE students

April 30th - First Communion Practice at 6:30pm
All Wednesday 4:30 AND Wednesday 6:30 2nd grade students

May 4th - First Communion
10am Mass - All SMG 2nd grade students AND
Thursday 4:30 RE students
1pm Mass - All Wednesday 4:30 AND Wednesday 6:30 2nd grade students

No Religious Education

There will not be Religious Education classes on Wednesday March 27th & Thursday March 28th due to Spring Break.

Safe travels to everyone!

Classes resume April 3rd.

7th grade Christian Living Journals are due April 24th/25th
Lenten Music 2019

- Our Opening Song will be found in the Green Hymnal at # 561. Note that the 3rd verse will change each week to correspond to the Gospel reading for that Sunday.
- Our spoken Penitential Act will be Form 2 or B and it can be found in both the Green Hymnal on page 29 and in the Brown hymnal on page 4.
- Our sung Gospel Acclamation is printed in the Brown Hymnal on the page corresponding to the Sunday being celebrated.
- Our Holy, Holy and Great Amen will be a simple chant version and it can be found in the Brown Hymnal on pages 11-12.
- Our Mystery of Faith will be spoken by all: Save us Savior of the World, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free. (page 11 of the Brown Hymnal)
- We will sing the Latin text of the Lamb of God: Agnus Dei to a simple familiar chant tone which can be found in the Green Hymnal at # 337 or in the Brown Hymnal at # 936.

BEQUESTS / ESTATE GIFTS

A bequest is a gift from your estate – a transfer of cash, securities, or other property made through your estate plans. You can make a bequest to St. Mary of Gostyn Parish or School by including language in your will or living trust leaving a portion of your estate to our parish or school or by designating St. Mary of Gostyn Parish or School as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy.

Remembering St. Mary of Gostyn with a bequest from your estate will help sustain and strengthen our parish and school in years to come. Some of the advantages of creating a bequest include:

- A bequest costs nothing now, yet gives you the satisfaction of knowing you have provided for St. Mary’s in the future
- You retain control of and use of your assets during your lifetime
- You may modify your bequest if your circumstances change
- Gifts to St. Mary of Gostyn from your estate are exempt from federal estate taxes
- If you let St. Mary’s know of your plans, we will be able to thank you now and recognize you as a member of our St. Mary of Gostyn Legacy Society.
St. Mary of Gostyn Catholic Church

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fglowaty@stmarygostyn.org
CLAIRE SIMEO, COORDINATOR OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRY, ext. 256, csimeo@stmarygostyn.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF: 445 Prairie Avenue
Direct Line 630–960-3566
JENNIFER LISZKA, Religious Ed. Assistant

SCHOOL: 440 Prairie Avenue 630-968-6155
SCHOOL STAFF:
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CHRISTINE KALAL, Assistant Principal
LA VONNE CZECH, Director of Marketing and Enrollment,
ext. 211, lczech@stmarygostyn.org
DIANNE CZOPEK, Administrative Assistant, ext. 216
MARY TOTH, Administrative Assistant, ext. 215

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: 630-969-1068

This Week

Monday / 25
6:30 PM Rosary Church
7:00 PM Catechism Class Chapel

Tuesday / 26
6:00 PM Prayer Group Chapel
6:00 PM Legion of Mary Small Conf. Rm
7:00 PM Grief Support Living Room

Wednesday / 27
6:30 PM 6 PM Choir Rehearsal Music Room
7:00 PM Reverence for Life Chapel

Thursday / 28
1:15 PM Small Christian Communities Living Room
7:00 PM 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday / 29
6:30 PM PADS Gathering Place
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross Church

Saturday / 30
12:00 AM PADS Gathering Place

Sunday / 31
8:00 AM RCIA Large Conf. Rm.
10:00 AM RCIC Underground
4:30 PM 6PM Choir Rehearsal Church
7:00 PM Youth Ministry Underground
7:30 PM CRHP #35 - Women Living Room
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, you will need to participate in a baptismal preparation 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 (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 6:00 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.