CELEBRATING THE SEASON!

TUESDAYS: 12/3, 12/10, 12/17 7:00PM

"When I wake on Christmas morning, how will I be different?"

Amid the flurry of Christmas preparations, we look for practical ways to observe the holiness of the season. St. Mary of Gostyn parish community offers three Tuesday evenings to engage, reflect and meditate on this period of expectation, waiting and preparation for the birth of Christ.

Tuesday, December 3rd
Rejoice! Meditation with Joseph along the Way of the Cross. This prayerful evening experiences the first Advent with Mary and Joseph, as they await the birth of their son. Meditation followed by a unique Advent Stations of the Cross.

Tuesday, December 10th
The Festival of Lessons & Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. Scripture lessons recount the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol, prayer and reflection.

Tuesday, December 17th
Parish Reconciliation Service to ready our heart and minds for the coming of Christ.

WWW.STMARYGOSTYN.ORG
FOR MORE DETAILS
Every year, we ponder what it means that Christ is king. It is pretty obvious what the title does not mean: It is not political command of a nation. Jesus himself said that his kingdom was not of this world.

Of what world then? Let us not too quickly say “heaven” as if that was a distant place. Jesus’ kingdom, as it relates to our faith and life experience, is within us, not outside us.

Only the inner world is the “place” where Jesus can fully exercise his royal power. Even there, however, Christ’s kingship depends upon our willingness.

A king has complete authority over his kingdom. Jesus will take this authority over our hearts and lives only if we freely give it to him. If we do, then everything that is lasting, true, and good will come to fruition in our lives. Jesus can take us over! Our lives would be the best imaginable place to live if we let him do that.

We must consider it well. Do we want Jesus to have complete authority in our lives? Do we want to submit every decision to him? Do we want to offer every emotion for his approval or purification? Do we want to include Jesus in every ordinary event of our family life? Of our friendships? Of our jobs?

Or are we more comfortable keeping the Lord at a little distance? Maybe we’d rather have a good prime minister, but retain kingship ourselves. He has freed us. We can crown him king, or we can put him off.

Marilynn Gustin

Andrew lived a quiet and simple life as a fisherman. He worked with his brother Simon in the town of Bethsaida in Galilee. One day Jesus walked by as they cast their nets and invited them to become fishers of people. Soon afterward Jesus worked a miracle in Andrew and Simon’s house, healing Simon’s mother-in-law of a fever. (All this is told in the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark.)

In the gospels, Andrew is often shown bringing others to Jesus. It was Andrew who brought forward the boy with the five loaves and two fishes when food was needed for the crowd. In the gospel of John, Andrew tells his brother Simon, “We have found the Messiah.” After Jesus marched triumphantly into Jerusalem, Andrew helped some Greek men who wanted to speak with Jesus.

After the descent of the Holy Spirit, Andrew brought others to Christ in a new way. He became a missionary. To this day, several countries in far-flung parts of the world claim to have been visited by Andrew. However, it isn’t known for sure where he preached or where he died.

Tradition says that Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross, called a “saltire cross.” Because of legends that he preached in Scotland, that country put his cross on its flag. Thistle flowers are worn by the Scots today, the way shamrocks are worn by the Irish on St. Patrick’s Day (March 17) and leeks are worn by the Welsh on St. David’s Day (March 1). Andrew is a patron saint not only of Scotland but of Greece and Russia as well. His Feast is November 30th.
In today’s Gospel we hear of the rulers who sneered at Jesus, the soldiers who jeered at him, the criminal who reviled him, and the people who just stood by. At our own parish church the cross stands high. Yet, every Sunday there are those who sit in front of it and are not moved by it. There are people who walk right by the cross, unmoved by it. Perhaps they’ve walked by it so many times they no longer give it a second thought. Could it be they are unmoved because the heart of this unbelieving thief is in them? Good stewards walk by the cross, notice it and ask themselves: “All this you did for me, what have I done for you?”
For those of you visiting this week, a lot has changed on our campus since this time last year. Here are some photos of our new Activity Center that opened a few weeks ago. The first picture is the multi-purpose area where our school children are eating their lunch daily. The second picture is the new gymnasium that is scheduled for completion in January 2020. Join us in the new year to see for yourself what a wonderful revitalization of our School facilities this renovation/expansion has brought to our campus.

Our new roof will be complete by the time you are reading this bulletin. The soffit work is being completed over the new gym. The brick was power washed and now shows off the contracting colors beautifully. Finally, on the outside of the building, the ground was graded allowing the work to proceed for both the storm water system as well as the concrete work.

With the delivery of the new roof top units for the gym, the HVAC system is now in place to provide heat to the building. The electrical wiring is in, so that with heat and energy now possible, the balance of the inside mechanicals and work can proceed. Mother Nature did not make it easy with weather delays, but we are still on target to open in January.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019
6:15 AM - Patricia Finnegan req. Romenesko Family

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2019
6:15 AM - John Wolfe req. Billie Wolfe
8:00 AM - Jerry Papievis req. Mary Ann Papievis

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2019
6:15 AM - Laura Rebello req. Cliff & Michelle Rebello
8:00 AM - James Splatowski req. Jim Splatowski

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2019
9:00 AM - People of the Parish

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2019
6:15 AM - Kate Sullivan req. Augie Sisco
8:00 AM - Matt Sniffen req. Bob & Rose Jaskula

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2019
8:00 AM - Ronald Rodi Sr. req. JoAnn Rodi & Family
4:30 PM - Charles Molitor req. Family
   Marian Zahora req. Dolores Ronaldson

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2019
8:00 AM - Living Intention for the Grandchildren of Leonard & Bernadette
   Cudzilo req. Cudzilo Grandparents
   Matt Sniffen req. St. Mary’s Homebound Ministry
10:00 AM - Peter G. Benson req. Deacon Bob & Donna Miciunas
12:00 PM - Neal Lukowski req. Twardzik Family
6:00 PM - People of the Parish

TODAY’S READINGS
First Reading — The Lord said to David, “You shall shepherd my people Israel” (2 Samuel 5:1-3).
Psalm — Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122).
Second Reading — Thanks to the Father who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light (Colossians 1:12-20).
Gospel — Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom (Luke 23:35-43).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Dn 6:12-28; Dn 3:68-74; Lk 21:20-28
Friday: Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
Sunday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44
**Presider Schedule for Saturday, November 30th and Sunday, December 1st**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass Times</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, 4:30 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Keith</td>
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<td>Sunday, 8:00 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Larry</td>
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<td>Sunday, 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Jim</td>
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<td>Fr. Jim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Keith</td>
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Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, and Altar Servers, please consult your online personal schedule and email reminders for assignments.

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**LOOKING AHEAD...**

With the construction of the Activity Center and Gym scheduled for completion in January, 2020, we want to give you a heads up on the Christmas Mass Schedule this year:

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**
Tuesday, December 24, 2019
- 3:00 PM Christmas Mass in Church
- 3:00 PM Christmas Mass in Gathering Place
- 5:00 PM Christmas Mass with Children’s Choir
- 11:30 PM Christmas Mass
(Carols begin at 11:00 PM - incense will be used.)

**CHRISTMAS DAY**
Wednesday, December 25, 2019
- 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

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**A Warm Welcome**

We welcome:

David & Tammy Jo Pfeiffer
who registered at St. Mary of Gostyn Parish recently.

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**Baptism**

St. Mary of Gostyn Parish Family welcomed the following child to the Catholic Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism recently:

Isabella Alexandra Kremer,
Daughter of Sean King & Alexis Kremer

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**Catholic Campaign for Human Development**

Please be generous in this week’s special collection, which supports the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, one in six people live in poverty. Through this collection you support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for people across the country who struggle. In addition 25% of the funds we collect will remain in our diocese to fund local antipoverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and work on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.
St. Mary of Gostyn School Distinguished Graduate Nomination!

For the past four years, we have been acknowledging the accomplishments of the graduates of St. Mary of Gostyn School. John Tolva (‘86), Christine Varga Kalal (‘75), RJ Starmann (‘85) and Andrew Stapleton (‘86) were the past recipients of this honor. The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) is the governing body of all Catholic schools and encourages schools to acknowledge the success of their graduates.

We are currently looking for candidates for this year’s award. Do you know an SMG school alum who should be considered for the NCEA Distinguished Graduate Award? If so, please complete the short nomination form below and return it to the address on the form. We will honor this individual during a Catholic Schools Week Mass celebration in February 2019. Please submit your nomination by November 30, 2018.

Thank you in advance for helping us find the 2019 NCEA Distinguished Graduate of St. Mary of Gostyn.

NCEA Distinguished Graduate Nomination 2019

St. Mary of Gostyn School

I would like to nominate the following SMG graduate and year: ______________________________________

High School graduate attended _______________________________________________________________

College graduate attended and major __________________________________________________________

I believe the aforementioned name is worthy of this honor because of what they have accomplished in their life, what they have given back to their community and/or how they have modeled Jesus in their life. Here are some examples of this….

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

This information is being submitted by ______________________________________________________

If you need more information, I can be reached at _____________________________________________

Please return this form to:
Terri O’Dekirk, Development Director, todekirk@stmarygostyn.org or
St. Mary of Gostyn Parish
445 Prairie Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515
The following persons have requested prayers from our parish community:

Pat Metzger Noonan  George Metzger  Karli Brown  Donna Miciunas  Spencer Mehr
Nancy Kors  Anna Bandur  Sharon Cichon  Kentworth Gould  Krissey Dulek
Patricia Wright  Robert Pollachek  Mark Gowgiel  Spencer Mehr  John Sommer
Nancy Gatto  Joyce Kessler  Jessica Eklund  Mary Babich  Dean Luck  

In Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the families of
Jerome Kawka, father of Christine Kucaba & Harriet Craven

To request to have your name, or with permission, the name of another, on the bulletin prayer list, please contact the Parish office. Names will be listed for four weeks and then removed automatically. You will need to call for an additional four weeks.

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
Maggie Benhart  Kevin Hanlon

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:4

The Funeral Liturgy Planning group is in need of volunteers. This is a group of volunteers from the parish who help families plan the funeral liturgy of their loved one. They help choose readings and music for the liturgy. A planning book is provided for this purpose. Volunteers are called as needs arise. There are no monthly meetings to attend. Training will be provided.

If you would like to volunteer, please call Deacon Al Agurkis at 969-1063 ext 221 or email Deaconal@stmarygostyn.org

St. Mary of Gostyn’s
Knights of Columbus Presents

Pizza with Santa

Saturday, December 7th
5:30 - 7:30 PM at the Gathering Place

Bring a new unwrapped toy for Santa to take to Sharing Connections for their Toy Program.
Religious Education Dates

- Nov 27/28  No RE class - Happy Thanksgiving!
- Dec 4/5    RE class
- Dec 11/12  Advent Reconciliation for grades 3 to 8 at each RE session
- Dec 18/19  Advent Mass at each RE session
- Dec 20-Jan 6 No RE classes - Christmas break
- Jan 8/9    RE classes resume

Thank you to all of our RE families for your generous donations to our food drive for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry!!

Happy Thanksgiving from the Religious Education office. We wish you and your family many blessings.
Youth Ministry

This crew did a great job collecting donations for the People’s Resource Center at Jewel last week! A huge thank you to everyone who helped out! :)

SAVE-THE-DATE!

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP

July 19th-25th, 2020

SMG Youth Ministry Art Supplies Drive:
Benefitting GioiaARTS & Children in the Philippines!

Now is the time to clean out your art supplies!!! We will take used and new donations:
All donations can be dropped off at the Parish Center Offices
Thanks in advance! :)

Service Project Night!

Steubenville Youth Conference
JUNE 12-14TH, 2020

7-9PM
This Sunday

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN SOON!
NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL CAREGIVER MONTH

“Caring around the clock”

Know a family caregiver, or caring for someone yourself? Our Nourish for Caregivers group meets the second Wednesday of every month. Free resources available at www.nourishforcaregivers.com throughout the month of November.

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Access Code:

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Once a week, reset your priorities with a brief hour of prayer, conversation and reflection. Join other women in the new activity center to pause amidst the flurry of Christmas preparations to center on what’s really important.

WHEN I WAKE CHRISTMAS MORNING, HOW WILL I BE DIFFERENT?

THURSDAYS 9:00 AM
IN THE NEW ACTIVITY CENTER
Babysitting available
www.stmarygostyn.org

Get a FREE COPY OF:
WAITING IN WONDER & LOVE FOR FAMILIES—There’s so much to get done by Christmas. But when we think of ourselves as Advent treasure seekers, we can find deeper meaning—and holiness—in Christmas preparations.

OUR JOURNEY TO JOY—Advent opens and prepares our hearts, minds and souls—see how in our hopeful anticipation, Christ can enter and joy explodes even before we actually encounter him on Christmas morning.

ADVENT BOOKLETS AVAILABLE AT THE FAITH NETWORK DESK

COME GET A FREE COPY OF:
More than 70 men & women attended the CRHP Alumni Morning of Renewal in October. Attendees heard inspiring talks, engaged in lively table discussion, and reflected on where their spiritual journey might take them next. They ranged from members of the very first St. Mary CRHP group (back in 1989), right up through our current teams!

The event was hosted by the CRHP Continuation Committee, which is currently seeking new CRHP Alumni members!

Please contact Karen Crowe to learn more: karencrowe5@gmail.com
St. Mary of Gostyn Catholic Church

PARISH STAFF: 630-969-1063
FR. JAMES SCHWAB, Pastor, ext. 213
jschwab@stmarygostyn.org
FR. KEITH WOLFE, Parochial Vicar, ext. 212
kwolfe@stmarygostyn.org
DEACON AL AGURKIS, Permanent Deacon, 630-737-9637
deaconal@stmarygostyn.org
DEACON BOB MCIUNAS, 630-737-9637
Protecting God’s Children Administrator,
deaconbob@stmarygostyn.org
DEACON STEVE DE SITTER, Permanent Deacon 630-737-9637
deaconsteve@stmarygostyn.org
STEVEN BISAILLON, Music Director, ext. 236
sbisaillon@stmarygostyn.org
PAT VENA, pvena@stmarygostyn.org
VALERIE BAVA, Business Manager, ext. 201
vbava@stmarygostyn.org
JUNE BURKE, Administrative Assistant, ext. 260
jburke@stmarygostyn.org

PARISH CENTER: 445 Prairie Avenue 630-969-1063
LEANNE BROWN, Administrative Assistant, ext. 200
lbrown@stmarygostyn.org
MOIRA BARKER, Administrative Assistant and
Bulletin Editor, ext. 245, mbarker@stmarygostyn.org
TERRI O’DEKIRK, Development Director and
Parish Manager ext. 261, todekirk@stmarygostyn.org
KELLY JOHNSON, Adult Faith Formation, ext. 259
kjohnson@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, Director of Religious Education

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

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

BOY SCOUT CHRISTMAS TREE & WREATH SALE

Downers Grove Boy Scout Troop 89 will host their annual Christmas Tree & Wreath Fundraiser from 11/29 - 12/18.

The Boy Scout Christmas Tree Lot will once again be located in The St Mary of Gostyn lower parking lot (near the Children’s Garden).

Opening Day is Friday 11/29 from 12PM - 8PM.
Weekend hours are 8AM - 8PM.
Weekday hours are 6:30PM - 8:30PM.

They will offer all natural Christmas Trees (3 to 10 feet tall); Christmas Wreaths (20” to 72” wide); and Christmas Garland.

All proceeds and donations will be used to fund activities, programs, and equipment for Boy Scout Troop 89.
For questions or special orders please call Rich at 630-215-3409.

This Week

Monday / 25
8:00 AM  Parent Teacher Conferences  Gathering Place
8:00 AM  School Book Fair  L.R.C.
6:30 PM  Rosary  Chapel
7:00 PM  CRHP #25 - Men  Large Conf. Rm.
7:00 PM  Festival Choir Rehearsal  Church

Tuesday / 26
6:00 PM  Prayer Group  Chapel
6:45 PM  Legion of Mary  Small Conf. Rm.

Wednesday / 27
6:30 PM  6PM Choir Rehearsal  Gath. Pl. C

Thursday / 28
9:00 AM  Thanksgiving Mass  Church

Friday / 29
5:00 PM  PADS  Gathering Place

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

Sunday / 1
8:00 AM  RCIA  Underground
10:00 AM  RCIC  Large Conf. Rm.
4:30 PM  6 PM Choir Rehearsal  Church
7:00 PM  Youth Ministry  Underground
NEW PARISHIONERS: We are happy to welcome new members to our community, and encourage you to register either in person at the Parish Office, 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 Parish Office 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 Parish Office 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 Parish Office 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 Parish Office (630-969-1063) to arrange to have your confession heard by a priest.