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.

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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
First Sunday of Advent

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today’s Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew’s Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centered on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord’s coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today’s passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief’s action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know that our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

If you are looking for reflections this Advent in spending quite time with the Lord, pick up a 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.

Nicholas may be the most popular saint of all time. Thousand of churches are named after him. He seems to be portrayed by artists more than any other saint, with the exception of Mary. There are hundreds of delightful legends about him. However, historians know almost nothing for sure about his life.

Nicholas was the bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, in what is now the nation of Turkey. Centuries after he died, his bones were brought to the city of Bari in Italy. People came to his tomb to pray, and many were healed of illness.

According to a legend, a man who was so poor that he was going to sell his daughters into slavery so they wouldn’t starve from lack of food was helped by Nicholas. He tossed three bags of gold into their house through a windows.

On this day someone dressed as Nicholas visits people and encourages them to do better in the coming year. He leaves tangerines as reminder of the gold he gave the poor; and candy canes are reminders of his crosier, the shepherds staff that bishops carry.
TUESDAYS: 12/3, 12/10, 12/17 7:00PM

CELEBRATING THE SEASON!

ADVENT

"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
Several jobs this week revolved around sealing off the gym from the elements, allowing us to start up the HVAC system. Above shows the framing for the south facing windows on Prairie as well as the roof top units for the HVAC system being placed on the roof. Weather dependent, the glass for the windows, if not this past week then early this week, will be laid in and glazed.

Below, left, is the final stage of the junior high/multi-purpose roofing being laid. This is not a moment too soon given the weather conditions we have had the past several weeks.

Below, bottom left, is the north side of the gym storm water work in progress. Water from the south and east sides of the building will be directed to the back of the building where it will connect with the water main for the Village. Below, right, these pictures are from the east side of the gym with the concrete structures and pipes for the storm water system for the south and east sides of the building.

Our thanks for your support through this project. We are getting so close now. Mother Nature should not affect our progress going forward. We are looking at early January for completion.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019
6:15 AM - Krebs Family req. Cliff & Michelle Rebello

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019
6:15 AM - Carol Orseske req. Family
8:00 AM - John Anderson req. Joyce Duffy
10:30 AM - Oak Trace - George Weidenfeller req. Billie DeBruin

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019
6:15 AM - Marhoefer Family req. Charlotte Sholeen
Rick Novak req. Augie & Noreen Sisco
8:00 AM - Eli Baker req. Neill Family
Tom Gowgiel req. Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019
8:00 AM - Charles Hacker req. Ray Hacker

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019
6:15 AM - Rebello Family req. Cliff & Michelle Rebello
8:00 AM - Living Intention for Carl & Rita Lukowski req. Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019
8:00 AM - Kay Selfridge req. Bob & Rose Jaskula
4:30 PM - Dorothy Miriani req. Jan Miriani
Paul Marshall req. Sue & Ed Belsan

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019
8:00 AM - People of the Parish
10:00 AM - All Catholic Communion Ministers at Good Samaritan Hospital req. Gail Miskowicz-Retz
12:00 PM - Living Intention for the Grandchildren of Leonard & Bernadette Cudzillo req. Cudzillo Grandparents
Rosita Rios req. Rios Family
6:00 PM - Patricia Finnegan req. Aument Family

TODAY’S READINGS
First Reading — All the peoples shall stream toward the LORD’s house (Isaiah 2:1-5).
Psalm — Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122).
Second Reading — It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (Romans 13:11-14).
Gospel — Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect (Matthew 24:37-44).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 26:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6;Mt 9:35 — 10:1
Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12
**Around the Parish**

**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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**Saint Vincent DePaul Food Pantry**

**OCTOBER 2019 REPORT**

Thank You St Mary’s for your continuing generosity to the food pantry. This month St Mary’s provided food for 333 Individuals within 136 Families. So far, this year we have fed 2558 Individuals within 1126 Families. We continue our outreach ministry serving five homeless shelters in Chicago four days a week.

Pantry item most in need is toilet paper.

**FRIENDS OF THE PANTRY DONATIONS**

1. If you shop at Trader Joe’s, Fresh Thyme or Aldi. Thank them for their continuing generosity.
2. Thank you Jim/Lois Murawski for your large food donation.
3. Thank you Ron/Linda Cuchna for your large food donation.
4. Thank you St Mary’s third graders for your large donation of canned meat.

**Don’t forget Amazon Shoppers!** You can donate to St. Mary’s SVDP Conference at no cost to you by going to smile.amazon.com and selecting St. Vincent de Paul - St. Mary of Gostyn. A percentage of your purchase is automatically donated to SVDP with every Amazon order you place. **Thank you for your support!**

October Adage: Nothing we wear makes as much difference as the expression on our face.

Thank you, St Mary’s, from all of us at Saint Vincent DePaul, we could not accomplish all we do without your support, and God bless you. Please keep us in your prayers.

Parishioners experiencing financial hardship of any kind are most welcome at our Food Pantry. The pantry is open every Wednesday from 8:00 to 11:00am.

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**Presider Schedule for Saturday, December 7th and Sunday, December 8th**

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

Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, and Altar Servers, please consult your online personal schedule and email reminders for assignments.
Our annual Veterans Day assembly, presented by the 8th grade, was filled with honor and gratitude for our country’s veterans. The names of veterans sent in by SMG families were read at the assembly as well as on the PA. Special recognition was given to Mr. John Ellis, grandfather of Ella, Jack, Graham and Audrey Reiser, and Mr. Edmund Warmke, father of Olivia Warmke. As part of an 8th Grade service project, money was collected for the Wounded Warrior Project. All students who dressed in red, white, or blue brought a $1 donation. Approximately $350 was collected and will be donated to the Wounded Warriors. We thank all who serve our country so honorably.
The following persons have requested prayers from our parish community:

Pat Metzger Noonan                              George Metzger                              Karli Brown                                Donna Miciunas                               Spencer Mehr
Robert Pollachek                                 Mark Gowgiel                                Spencer Mehr                               John Sommer                                  Nancy Gatto
Joyce Kessler                                     Jessica Eklund                               Mary Babich                                Dean Luck                                    Anna Bandur
Bob Main                                         

In Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the families of
Joann McInerny, sister of Dennis McInerny
Lois Plucinski

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.

December 1, 2019 Page 9
Religious Education Dates

- 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

Christmas Break for Religious Education is from December 20th to January 7th

Please join us for Advent Mass at all Religious Education sessions on December 18th and 19th
Thank you to everyone who donated art supplies for GioiaARTS! We had a great time packing up donations and making cards for families in the Philippines last Sunday!

Happy First Sunday of Advent!

Do you want a great Advent? Sign up for a daily video to prepare your heart for Jesus!
https://www.videos.church/advent-made-simple/

SUMMER TRIPS!!!
Registration will open mid - December

Youth Ministry Schedule for December:
♦ Dec 1st: Adoration & Confession Night with Fr. Keith
♦ Dec 8th: Q&A Night, hot button issues
♦ Dec 15th: Christmas Party
♦ Dec 22nd: Christmas break—no Youth Group until January!

ADORATION & CONFESSION
"It is Jesus in fact that you seek when you dream of happiness..."
- JPII

This Sunday. Games at 7pm. Adoration at 8pm.
NEXT TOPIC:
A SEASON FOR EVERYTHING:
THE EBBS AND FLOWS OF
CAREGIVING
Wednesday, December 11th
7:00 PM Parish Center
All Welcome
No charge to attend
No reservation needed

CRHP 20/20 CLARITY OF VISION
JANUARY 25 – 26, 2020
Before Superbowl weekend,
take time to ReSet, ReAdjust, ReStart and ReFocus!
The Men’s ‘KHT‘ weekend is a weekend designed by men
for conversation, comradery, clarity and good food.

COMING FOR THE FREE FOOD,
STAY FOR AN INVESTMENT INTO YOURSELF

WOMEN’S CRHP
Something Beautiful
FEBRUARY 1-2, 2020
Christ Renews His Parish
St. Mary’s
Women’s Retreat

For more information
contact Jill Henthorn at 630.880.4775
or jep7480@yahoo.com
www.stmarygostyn.org
COME GET A FREE COPY OF:
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Would you like to deepen your prayer life, particularly as a family?

There will be a presentation on the “Consecration to the Holy Family” on the feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, December 29th at 1:30 p.m. in the church.

One of the traits of a family consecrated to God: A Life of Prayer.
All are invited!

Sponsored by KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

For those who would like to remember their deceased loved ones during the Christmas season, you can use the envelope provided in the bi-monthly mailing of envelopes or the envelopes provided at the entrances of the church and at the Faith Network Desk in the Prairie Street Narthex. 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.

Oplatki is now available at the Parish Center offices and at the Faith Network Desk in the Narthex of the Church.

Looking for a fun and simple way to live your faith? Try this. Join us at Christmas Eve or Day Mass at St. Mary of Gostyn as a greeter. We will meet, greet and let our ushers seat. Nametags available. Use our SignUp site and choose your spot: http://signup.com/go/EgQKpov or contact Tom Strolia (Coordinator) 630.253.0663 cell/text, tom12336@comcast.net
### 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  
sbsaillon@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  
LAVENTONCE CHEZ, Director of Marketing and Enrollment,  
ext. 211, lczech@stmarygostyn.org  
MARY TOOTH, Administrative Assistant, ext. 215  

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

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### This Week

#### Monday / 2
- 2:30 PM Brownie Troop #55326  
  Gathering Pl. A  
- 6:30 PM Boy Scouts  
  Gathering Place  
- 6:30 PM Rosary  
  Church  
- 7:00 PM CRHP #25 - Men  
  Chapel

#### Tuesday / 3
- 9:00 AM School Advent Reconciliation  
  Activity Center  
- 2:30 PM Junior Troop # 55103  
  Gathering Pl. C  
- 6:00 PM Prayer Group  
  Chapel  
- 6:45 PM Legion of Mary  
  Small Conf. Rm.  
- 7:00 PM Celebrating the Season  
  GP/Church

#### Wednesday / 4
- 9:00 AM School Advent Reconciliation  
  Activity Center  
- 11:00 AM Golden Agers  
  Gathering Place  
- 2:30 PM Daisy Troop # 55988  
  Gathering Pl. A  
- 4:30 PM Religious Education  
  School  
- 6:30 PM 6PM Choir Rehearsal  
  Church  
- 6:30 PM Religious Education  
  School  
- 7:00 PM Evangelization Committee  
  Large Conf. Rm.

#### Thursday / 5
- 9:00 AM Women’s Bible Study  
  Activity Ctr./UG  
- 1:15 PM Small Christian Communities  
  Living Room  
- 2:30 PM Cheerleading  
  Gath. Pl. B & C  
- 4:30 PM Religious Education  
  School/GP  
- 5:45 PM Children’s Choir  
  Church  
- 7:00 PM 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal  
  Church  
- 7:00 PM Baptism Prep. Class  
  Large Conf. Rm.  
- 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus  
  Fac. Lunch Rm.

#### Friday / 6
- 7:00 AM School Gingerbread Project  
  Gathering Place  
- 5:00 PM PADS  
  Gathering Place

#### Saturday / 7
- 12:00 AM PADS  
  Gathering Place  
- 9:00 AM RCIA  
  Chapel  
- 5:30 PM Pizza with Santa  
  Gathering Place

#### Sunday / 8
- 8:00 AM Liturgy of the Word  
  Gath. Pl. B & C  
- 8:00 AM RCIA  
  Underground  
- 10:00 AM Liturgy of the Word  
  Gath. Pl. B & C  
- 10:00 AM RCIC  
  Large Conf. Rm.  
- 1:30 PM Communal Baptism  
  Church  
- 4:30 PM 6 PM Choir Rehearsal  
  Church  
- 7:00 PM Youth Ministry  
  Underground

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**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.

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