

# *St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy*

*December 24, 2017*



## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

---

All things came to be through him,  
and without him nothing came to be.  
What came to be through him was life,  
and this life was the light of the human race.

- Jn 1:3-4



## St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy

8200 N. Wayne Road,  
Westland, Michigan 48185

Phone: **734-425-4421**

Email: [office@stmarycooj.org](mailto:office@stmarycooj.org)

Fax: 734-425-0650

Website: [www.stmarycooj.org](http://www.stmarycooj.org)



**St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy**

### Office Hours

Monday to Thursday: 8:00am-4:00pm

Friday: 8:00am-Noon

### Mass Schedule

MON, THURS & FRI 8:30 am

WED 12:00 Noon

SAT 4:30 pm

SUN 8:00 am

10:00 am

12:00 Noon

### Confession

Saturdays: 3:30pm

### Baptisms

Please call our Parish Office during regular business hours. Parish membership and preparation class required.

### Marriage

Arrangements must be made by registered parishioner at least six months in advance to allow sufficient time for instructions and preparation.

### Anointing of Sick and Ministry to Homebound

Our pastor, deacon or lay ministers are available to visit upon request.

### RCIA

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

For those interested in becoming a full member of the Catholic Church. Please call the office.

### Parish Registration

Please call the office at 734-425-4421 to register with our parish. Please notify our parish of any address or phone changes.

### Report Sexual Abuse for any child or adult:

Call AOD victim assistance 1-866-343-8055 or

Call the Michigan Department of

Human Services at: 855-444-3911 any time

## DIRECTORY

### PASTOR

Fr. Ken Mazur, PIME Ext. 213  
[pastor@stmarycooj.org](mailto:pastor@stmarycooj.org)

### PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

Fr. Joe Plawecki

### DEACON John Burke

[deaconjohn@stmarycooj.org](mailto:deaconjohn@stmarycooj.org)

### DEACON Jim Hensel

(Deacon Emeritus)

### FAITH FORMATION (pre-K to year 8)

Sr. Gemma Legel, OSF Ext. 217

[faithformation@stmarycooj.org](mailto:faithformation@stmarycooj.org)

### MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Steve Reyes Ext. 230

[music@stmarycooj.org](mailto:music@stmarycooj.org)

### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE/ CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Paul Zbytowski Ext. 221

[paul@stmarycooj.org](mailto:paul@stmarycooj.org)

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Carol Nelius Ext. 215  
[youthministry@stmarycooj.org](mailto:youthministry@stmarycooj.org)

### SECRETARIES

Peggy Fox Ext. 210

Sandy Young Ext. 211

[office@stmarycooj.org](mailto:office@stmarycooj.org)

### BULLETIN / MINISTRY SCHEDULING

Jennifer Newman Ext. 218

[joyfulnews@stmarycooj.org](mailto:joyfulnews@stmarycooj.org)

### BOOKKEEPER

Carol Pates Ext. 214

[bookkeeper@stmarycooj.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stmarycooj.org)

### MAINTENANCE

Shannon Galoch Ext. 220

Matt Andresen

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Bob Schoenborn Grand Knight

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Chair: Art Regner  
Vice Chair: Ann Schroeder  
Secretary: Mike Francis

## At-Large Members

Julie Callahan  
Doug Cyr  
Michael Gluth  
Suzanne Price  
Gary Pieknik  
Pat Slusarz  
Nancy Smith  
Chris VanHoet

## PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Jim Bonin	Ray Grochowski	Kim Micallef	Tom Shafer
Boyington Family	John Kaminsky	Joyce Miriani	Dianne Shekell
Randy & Kristy Bracket	Marilyn Kashat	Michael Mize	David Taillard
Bob Cadotte	Gloria Kenzie	Edward Parisien Sr.	Roberta Troher
Tina Ciepley	Bob Kluba	Ruth Parisien	David Wasil
Charlie & Donna Conatser	Rita Kraft	Jerry & Deb Pietszak	Cathy West
Tom Dobrowolski	John Lardin	Rita Polent	Gary Woodruff
Ron & Paul Dugas	Jim Mata	Lynn Rodriguez	Tim Wycihowski
Georgia Galeas	Irene Melady	Edward Rysztak	Nova Zboyan
Alisa Gardner	MaryAnn Magon	Grace Rysztak	
Richard Gora	Alice Milliken	Emma Scaramella	

If there are any names that can be removed from our Prayer List, please let us know by calling **734-425-4421**

## READINGS for December 31

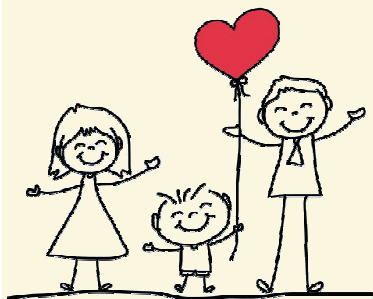
<b>1st Reading:</b>	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14	<b>2nd Reading:</b>	Colossians 3:12-21
<b>Resp. Psalm:</b>	Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.	<b>Gospel:</b>	Luke 2:22-40

## OUR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS

**CMDR Theron R. Korsak**, U.S. Navy; **CPT Joey Saunders**, U.S. Marines;  
**Joseph David Onadia**, U.S. Navy; **SMSGT Terence Zelek**, U.S. Air Force

Hearing devices are available for use during Mass. Please see our music director in the choir area.

Bulletin Articles due by 9 am on Monday (5 days prior to publication). Submitted bulletin content is subject to approval.



# All are Welcome

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church;  
 No matter what your current family or marital situation;  
 No matter what your personal history, age, background, race, or color;  
 No matter what your self-image or esteem;  
 You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected at  
**St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy.**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS!** May the birth of Jesus bring you peace and joy. This miracle of God's love for us fills our hearts and lives with the awareness that God is with us in all of the daily events of our lives.

There is a commercial on television that states "Christmas is families". Although I understand the sentiment, Christmas is much more than that. I remember the first Christmas I spent away from my family. I was already in my 30's. I was living in Italy for 6 months, studying Italian. I was asked to help out at a parish near Milano, where I was living, in a village named Busto Garolfo, about 15 miles from Milano. On Christmas Eve, I went early to the parish and spent more than 10 hours hearing confessions. What an experience that was. The last stretch was the 3 or 4 hours just prior to midnight Mass. By the time Mass was to begin, I was exhausted.

The next day, after the Masses, I went to the home of a good friend and fellow PIME missionary. I spent the day with them, enjoying an Italian feast that lasted hours. I remember that the last course before desert was steaks of horse meat. I remember that I was already full and that I tried just a small piece of the meat. Of course, with the wine and bread and all of the other delicacies, from the antipasto to the pasta to the variety of meat dishes, I was content. Much more, however, I hadn't been with my biological family but I was able to spend the day with family. It was an amazing day filled with many moments I won't forget. The following day, I traveled to Rome to welcome my sister, who was arriving from the States to spend a week in Italy, including New Year's Day. The next 13 years, I spent Christmas in Japan. December 25 is a typical work and school day in Japan, and so I had to get creative in those years.

From this experience, I learned that Christmas is more than just family. The love of God surrounds us wherever we are and with whomever we are. Even if we are alone, we are never really alone. Emmanuel, God is with us!

**Fr. Ken**



## IN FORMATION

Christmas already! Ready or not we celebrate in the best way possible. May your Christmas holidays be blessed!

### Blessing of the Gifts

*Every generous act of giving  
and every perfect gift are from above.*

*They come down from you,  
dear Father of lights.*

*You give birth to us by your word,  
that we might be born of a new creation.*

*Bless now these presents that we  
give and receive in joy  
at the birth of your Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.*



*On this holy day,  
bless us and bless the whole world with thankfulness  
and affection,*

*for you are the giver of all good gifts.*

*We ask this through Christ Our Lord.*

*Amen.*

**Sr. Gemma Legel, OSF**



### CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

This Advent we asked you for help to assist 25 local families with Christmas, and another 30 home-bound members of our community. The response and generosity of our parishioners overwhelmed me. We actually went out and found a few more families to help. All of the tags were taken from the Giving Tree within the first two weeks, and the presents that came back were often full of many more gifts than were requested.

Continued on page 5



## A Side Note



## Destination JOY

## Chapter 1

My children are now officially grown. My youngest of three just turned 21 years old this past week. "How does this make me feel" you may ask?

"OLD!" I might answer. But it also gives me an occasion to look back at life for a bit.

The birthday parties, the vacation trips, the backyard camp-outs, the tickle fests. I can still feel the indescribable feeling of holding my babies in my arms as they slept. The tears as they cried from a hurt or a heart-ache. The pride in their accomplishments. I can still see their joy on Christmas mornings, or when they showed me their successes.

I also remember those times when I really wanted to do something or get something or go somewhere, that were never realized because that time and money was needed for my children and family.

The years of raising my children have been a real, honest to goodness joy. I can't help but think that they were some of the best years of my life. Strangely, I also seem to remember that they were some of the most difficult times of my life as well. Is this a contradiction? How can something that is so difficult and painful be the most joyous and beloved?

I have come to realize that God, in His generosity, gifts us with talents and abilities that lead us to our vocation. That vocation may be as a parent, or a sister/brother, a teacher, a friend, etc. Whatever those callings may turn out to be, it is in the doing of them that we find our joy. A teacher may spend countless hours on one specific child, reading, explaining, teaching, encouraging. A real chore, but when that child succeeds, there is no greater joy to that teacher's heart. An athlete may achieve a championship after grueling hours of physical training and practice, but the heart of that athlete is satisfied. A parent may spend a lifetime of teaching, sacrificing, and loving, have their heart crushed and lifted to unbelievable heights, spend uncounted dollars on their children, but in the end, what else would bring real joy to a parent?

Part of our vocation, our calling, is to be God's children. To be our Lord's people. So, what is it that fills that heart? As God's people, what would you spend time on, sacrifice and cry for? What would you spend hours training for that would satisfy your heart? What would be worth all the effort needed to accomplish something that would fill you with joy?

When you reach that mile marker in your life, and you have accomplished something difficult and painful, what would cause you, as God's child, to look back at it and despite all that pain and effort say to yourself: "YES! Given the choice, I would do that all over again!"

What would you sacrifice for? What would satisfy your hungry heart? What would bring you JOY?

During this season of generosity, of peace and love, think about it, think about how you would arrive at your destination and find joy. Any ideas?

**Steve Reyes**

## CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, December 27: Noon Mass**

**Thursday, December 28: 8:30am Mass**

**Friday, December 29: NO Mass**

**The parish office will be closed:**

**Monday, December 25 and Friday, December 29**

**The office will close at 12 noon  
on Tue. Dec. 26; Wed, Dec. 27 & Thurs. Dec. 28**

**Saturday, December 30**

**Feast of the Holy Family**

**4:30pm Mass**

**Sunday, December 31**

**8am, 10am & 12 Noon Mass**

**New Year's Day**

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

**Monday, January 1: 10:00am Mass**



**Forever Young Seniors...**

**Merry Christmas!! Happy Birthday Jesus!**

Today is the last Sunday of Advent and also Christmas Eve. Tomorrow, we celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I hope everyone enjoys their time with family and friends.

Our next meeting will be Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. We will be watching a movie "*The Shack*". If you want, you can bring a chair cushion to watch the movie. Our volunteer chef will be Roberta Piper.

The 2018 Annual dues are \$5.00 and should be paid to Dianne Lazar by the January meeting.

Please keep all of our ill members in your prayers.  
We have some wonderful bus trips coming up:

**Greektown Casino**

**Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**9:15am – 3:45pm \$26 due by Jan 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Meadowbrook Theatre**

**"Tenderly" Sunday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30am – 5:30pm \$97 due by Jan 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Solanus Casey Pilgrimage**

**Wednesday, Mar 28<sup>th</sup>**

**8:45am – 5:30pm \$58 due by Mar 14<sup>th</sup>**

The bus trips are open to everyone. Please call me 734-525-3737 for reservations and more details. Copies of the flyers can also be obtained at the Parish Office during regular business hours.

**Make checks payable to Bianco and mail to me  
at 8843 Linville, Livonia, MI 48150.**

**Maryann Sligay**



Merry Christmas!  
From the Holy Name Fraternity

## THE HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BEGINNING JANUARY 9

7:00-9:00pm  
Room 106-107 in the Parish  
Center Building at  
St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy  
Facilitator: Frank Briggs  
Questions? Call the office at  
734-425-4421

No registration required and  
no fee for classes

## Eucharistic Exposition FRIDAYS

9am to Noon in Church

There will be NO  
Eucharistic Exposition on  
Friday, December 29



## SAVE THE DATE!

Lenten Parish Mission  
at St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy  
with  
**Steve Angrisano**  
Sunday, March 11  
Monday, March 12  
Tuesday, March 13  
Each night begins at 6:30pm  
Everyone welcome:  
Free event  
More information to come!

## Christmas Giving Tree (continued from page 3)

In addition to that we saw an increase of food that we take to local pantries, yarn for the knitting ministry we support, and a number of coats for the Knights of Columbus drive. St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy is truly a giving parish. Next year we will aim higher and try to help more people in our Parish. In the mean time, I hope that everyone has a blessed Christmas Season, and a Holy New Year.

Paul Zbytowski



As a reminder, our next St. Vincent de Paul meeting will be January 3 at 6:00pm in room 106. If you have any questions, please call Paul at 734-425-4421 x 221.

## CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

As you prepare for this Christmas season, please don't forget to add the parish to your gift list. You have a few options available for you to give:

- Dropping your Christmas envelope in the collection basket at Mass
- On-line at [www.stmarycooj.org](http://www.stmarycooj.org)
- By mail or by dropping your monetary gift off at the parish office.

Donations postmarked or received after **December 31, 2017** will be recorded for the 2018 tax year. Your offertory package contains your Christmas envelope. These envelopes are ideal to use. Should you forget your envelope, you can write "for Christmas" on your check or on the outside of any envelope and your gift will be counted in the Christmas Collection. You have until **January 14, 2018** to get your Christmas gift in.

During the Christmas season, any offertory you make that is marked "for Christmas" does not get assessed tax from the Archdiocese.

Another option available to you is to make a stock donation. Visit the AOD website <http://www.aod.org/being-catholic/ways-to-give/share-your-treasure/stock-gifts/> for more details OR phone Carol, our bookkeeper at 313-977-6223.

Your Christmas gifts will be used for the operation of the parish. Our gas and electric bills are going to increase during the winter months and these Christmas funds will be of great help during those months. The parish is also responsible to pay any CSA shortfall.

You have shown such great generosity towards St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, your home parish, through your prayers and your monetary gifts. Thank you and may the good Lord continue to bless you and your family.

## SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, January 23 at 7:00pm

Our 4th Annual  
Ecumenical Prayer Service

This year it is held at:

**Timothy Lutheran Church**

This is a joint prayer service with  
**St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy**

**Newburg United Methodist Church**

**Timothy Lutheran Church**

**The Saints Constantine and Helen  
Greek Orthodox Church**



## Silent Night, Holy Night!

Merry Christmas! At Christmas, we will remember that there was One Baby who brought LIFE to us all. May the true meaning and spirit of Christmas brighten your homes and your hearts and may all share the Gift of Life that we were given on that long ago Silent and Holy Night. Merry Christmas and many Blessings from the LIFESPAN office and Board Members!

For more info: LIFESPAN 734.422.6230  
[www.miLIFESPAN.org](http://www.miLIFESPAN.org)

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Wed. Dec. 27</b>	<b>12 Noon</b>	Robert John Simpson (1st anniv.) by family Joseph Lawera (36th anniv.) by family Richard Freeman by Connie Brown Joe Scanga by his mom, Sara
<b>Thurs. Dec. 28</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	Deloris O'Hagan by her husband, Don Chuck Heil by wife, Rose Marie Dolores McMillan by her sister, Maryann Ogden Jose Sanjuan by family Timothy Pernak (1st anniv.) by family
<b>Sat. Dec. 30</b>	<b>4:30pm</b>	Prayers for Sr. Gemma Pepera by MaryLou Davis Gary Brock by mom, Virginia Matthew Lysaght by Patricia Godvin
<b>Sun. Dec. 31</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Prayers for the Murphy & Zajkowski families by Jim & Mary Murphy John Pawelek by Bob & Eleanor Bielenda
	<b>10:00am</b>	Mary Baran by daughter, Rita Phyllis McCann by Elizabeth Parent Josephine & Edward Najmowski by Adelline Kaczor
	<b>12 Noon</b>	For our parish family Dorothy Mazur

## UPCOMING EVENTS Dec. 25—Jan. 1

<b>MON. Dec. 25</b>	10:00am	Christmas Day Mass Parish office closed
<b>WED. Dec. 27</b>	8am-Noon 12 Noon 7:00pm	NO Cards & Coffee in social hall Parish office closes at noon Mass Rosary
<b>THURS. Dec. 28</b>	8am-Noon 8:30am	Parish office closed at noon Mass
<b>FRI. Dec. 29</b>		Parish office closed NO Mass NO Eucharistic Exposition
<b>SAT. Dec. 30</b>	3:30pm 4:30pm	Reconciliation Mass
<b>SUN. Dec. 31</b>	8:00am 10:00am 12 Noon	Mass Mass Mass
<b>Mon. Jan. 1</b>	10:00am	Mass Office Closed



If you are unable to walk up for Communion and you are not sitting in the handicap section, please notify an usher when you enter Church and a **Priest** will come to you.

## Your Donations Are Needed

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been dedicated to the corporal works of mercy in the Archdiocese of Detroit for **over 130 years**.

Your donations of **furniture, household goods and clothing** can be dropped off at the SVDP Thrift Store located at **Wayne and Hunter**. **Drop off is at the FRONT of the Store**. The SVDP Thrift Store phone number is **734 629-8250** and they are open **7 days a week**.

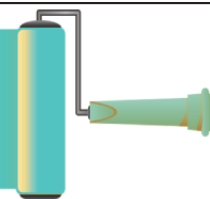
## WIDOWED FRIENDS

Widowed Friends, is a "peer" support group in the Archdiocese of Detroit. For further information about this group and their upcoming activities, visit their website at [www.widowedfriends.org](http://www.widowedfriends.org)

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE December 30/31

	SATURDAY 4:30pm		SUNDAY 8:00am		SUNDAY 10:00am		SUNDAY 12 Noon	
Celebrant	Fr. Ken		Fr. Ken		Fr. Joe		Fr. Ken	
Lector Comm.	Maryann Sligay Ralph Costyn		Kay Palmer Jerry Chwalek		Pat Russo Suzanne Price		Jim McDonnell Kate Mercado	
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Deacon John Bob Chisholm Yvonne Chisholm Ralph Costyn	Fran Niemiec Loretta Wood Marge Holten	Deacon John Josie Klocke Carol Janowski Larry Janowski	Olimpia DeToma Diane Fredrickson Janet Carrier	Deacon John Theresa O'Bey Linda Dinsmore Geraldyn Pawlaczyk	Sue Gomez Bernice Reed John Lister	Deacon John Annmarie Konrad Ken Konrad Scott Ozga	Evelyn Bledsoe Kevin Headrick Needed
Altar Server	Matt Mazaitis		Frank Criscenti Emmanuela Nwizu		Marlene Perez Emery Johnson		Andrew Engler Emma Engler	
Sacristan	Pat Storey		Alice André		Jeff Vernon		Ann Schroeder    Tori White	
Ushers	Tony Collins Peter Kowalski Paul Markus Tony Micallef Don Niemiec	Steve Noonan Frank Pelton Emery Price Jean Schmuck Jack Rourke	Jim Devitis Jim Fredrickson Don Koszegi Ernie Lenard	Bill Lezotte Paul Lukasik Dan Stachow	Mark Goszinski Kathy Sherry Ron Sherry Yonnie Underwood	Jim Siepierski	Annmarie Konrad Ken Konrad Barb Burke John Burke	Clare Masak
Greeters			Marlene & Roman Kotrys Sharon Edwards		Florence Chance Doug Cyr	Guldner Family Carol Cruz	Linda Sohack	Darlene LaFave
Homebound					Theresa O'Bey Jeanne Sullivan			
Altar Care	January 5    Ann Findysz		Nancy Smith					

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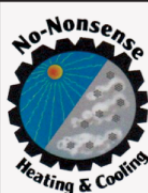
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