



ADULT CHOIR UPDATE

There will not be adult choir practice on Thursday, Jan. 3rd. Regular practice sessions will resume beginning January 10th at 5:30 p.m. in the church.

VIRTUS TRAINING

VIRTUS Training is scheduled for January 9, from 6-8:30 p.m. in Conference Room B. All parish volunteers and employees that work with children are required by diocesan policy to have the training. To register, please go to the "Ministries" tab on the parish website, select School of Faith, and click the "Virtus Registration" button at the bottom of the page.

2018 CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for your generous support! We received this "friendly reminder" from the diocesan offices about 2018 contributions:

"Donations received or postmarked by 12/31/18 are recorded as a 2018 tax donation. Donations received or postmarked 1/1/19 and after are recorded as a 2019 donation. NO EXCEPTIONS! ... We do not have the authority to grant exceptions to the IRS rules."

To that note, keep in mind we will be closed December 31. You can contribute on-line at www.saintmarysgives.com until midnight December 31, 2018 and it will be deductible for the 2018 tax year.

THANK YOU PARISHIONERS

We priests wish to thank all who helped to make our Christmas celebrations special. Our gratitude goes to those involved in our music ministry and other liturgical ministries, especially our permanent deacons. Thank you, too, to all the faithful who participated fully in our Masses. Thank you very much to all who sent wishes and/or gifts to the priests and permanent deacons of our parish grouping this Christmas. Your prayers, supportive words and gifts of all kinds are greatly appreciated.

2019 CHILDREN'S CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

St. Mary's School and St. Mary's School of Faith students have received their 2019 contribution envelopes. Please prayerfully consider speaking with your children about the importance of giving back to the church. Any amount, big or small, helps St. Mary's to continue to fund various ministries and programs.

PRAYER REQUEST FROM FATHER TIM

Please pray for safe and rejuvenating travel for myself and Dawn Prosser. We will be meeting Fr. David in the Holy Land and spend ten days seeing many holy sites in the land of our Lord's birth, public ministry, death and RESURRECTION. Thank you! — Fr. Tim

END OF THE YEAR GIVING TIPS

Remember St. Mary's School, Parish and Foundation! You can use appreciated stock, IRA Rollovers, cash. All is appreciated to help us continue the mission. Contact us at 732-3110 or dprosser@stormlakecatholic.com. Remember to do so before December 31.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 31 and Tuesday, Jan. 1, so that the staff can spend the holiday with their loved ones. We will resume regular business hours on Wednesday, Jan. 2. The St. Mary's clergy and staff would like to wish you and your family a Happy New Year!

MEANINGFUL END OF YEAR GIFT—SMs ANNUAL APPEAL !

Please consider a financial gift to this important campaign that helps support and operate our preK-12 Catholic School and offer a choice in education! Support the St. Mary's Annual Appeal with our financial gift. You can mail in your gift, drop an envelope in the weekly collection, or contribute on-line at www.saintmarysgives.com. Invest in our small class sizes open to students of all faith backgrounds (20% are not Catholic), our higher than state average test scores and our Christ-centered environment. Learn more about our school at our website www.stormlakecatholic.com and click on the school tab. **Help us meet our \$60,000 annual goal with your year-end gift to our blue appeal mailers.**

A NIGHT TO SALUTE—SEND US MILITARY PHOTOS!

We announced on Veterans Day that the theme of the March 23, 2019 St. Mary's Ball and Charity Auction will be A Night to Salute and honor our veterans and active duty military as we raise funds for a choice in education at our Catholic school. Our chair couples are Seth and Etta Smith and Dr. Seth and Deanna Harrer. To help us honor those who have served our country please email photos of your loved ones who have served in the past or are presently serving. Provide their name, years served and military branch to dprosser@stormlakecatholic.com.

BIG RAFFLE SALESPERSON PROFILE – GREEN

Melissa Green can help you in the final days of 2018! If you purchase your ticket before midnight 2018, it counts for the two Early Bird \$2,000 drawings! You will have a 11/400 chance of winning great cash prizes from \$5000 to \$500! Contact Melissa at 712-299-4616 or melissag@sportsrehabiova.com and she will assist you! You can also purchase up until midnight at www.saintmarysgives.com and have your contribution time stamped and it will count. After January 1, 2019, you will have a 9/400 chance of winning cash. Tickets are only \$100 each with all proceeds benefitting St. Mary's School.

WE HAVE INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION & WE'RE AFFORDABLE!

Is it time to consider the family atmosphere at St. Mary's School? With our high standardized testing scores, challenging curriculum, positive testimonials from parents and alumni, St. Mary's is a viable option for your preK-12 student! And YES, we are affordable! Contact Mrs. Diane Jones for preK-5 or Mr. Ryan Berg for 6-12 questions or a tour at 732-4166. We are a school with faith at it's base as well as preparing students for the college experience. **Why not #experiencethedifference and experience #thepantherway ?**

REMINDER ON WINTER WEATHER WOES

For the safety of everyone (parishioners and clergy) during the winter months, there will be:

- no morning Mass if there is a delayed start or closure of the Storm Lake Public Schools due to weather. -- The reason Storm Lake is the point of reference is because that is whence the clergy has to drive.
- no evening religious education, adoration, confessions, Mass, or other parish program if school is released early or closed for the day due to weather.

CONFIRMATION 2019

The date for Confirmation at St. Mary's in 2019 has been set by the Bishop's office. Mark your calendars for 7 PM, October 19, 2019. Reminder to **all** Confirmation II students, your completed paper work, including **all** reflection papers, are **due before 5 PM on May 17, 2019**. Be sure you are checking your deadlines found in your blue Confirmation Handbook.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Dec.31

4:30 p.m. Mass in Schaller-†Orville & †Myrna Snyder

5:30 p.m. †Deceased Fitzsenry Family Members

7 p.m. SP Mass-†Hermiño Torres Morales

Tuesday, Jan.1

8 a.m. Mass in Early-†Alice Roling

9 a.m. †Mary Kestel

7 p.m. SP Mass-CANCELED

Wednesday, Jan.2

7 a.m. CANCELED

10:30 a.m. Otsego- †Rosie Koch

Thursday, Jan.3

7 a.m. †Arleen Ivers

8 a.m. Mass in Schaller-†Alice Snyder

Friday, Jan.4

7 a.m. †Bernard Meyer

12 p.m. SP Mass- †Salvador Ramirez

Saturday, Jan.5

4:30 p.m. Mass in Early- †Alice Roling

5:30 p.m. †Rose Mills

7 p.m. SP Mass-†Valentin Sanchez Gonzalez

Sunday, Jan.6

8 a.m. Mass in Schaller-†Fran Blum

8 a.m. †Day & †Donna Welterlen

10 a.m.: †Paul Smith; †Mary Kestel, †Colette (Kestel) King

12 p.m. SP Mass- †Sara Ramirez; †Isabel Manriquez Guerrero

2 p.m. Micronesian Mass-†Thresia Tunink



Stewardship for Dec.22/23

"Do not let your hand be open to receive, but clenched when it is time to give." - Sirach 4:31

| | | |
|--|----|-----------|
| Average Amount needed | \$ | 18,850.00 |
| Parish Collection-(*ACH included) | \$ | 29,115.95 |
| ACH- | \$ | 2,850.00 |
| Dollar Collection: (Music Ministry) | \$ | 973.10 |

Remember St. Mary's in your will!



SPONSOR OF THE WEEK:

Thank you John and Karen Keenan and all our generous bulletin advertisers for their support of St. Mary's Parish. Please patronize them.

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Monday, Dec. 31, 2018; New Year's Eve

4:30 p.m.- Schaller, St. Joseph

5:30 p.m.- Storm Lake St. Mary's

7 p.m. - Storm Lake St. Mary's

Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019; New Year's Day

8 a.m. - Early, Sacred Heart

9 a.m. - Storm Lake St. Mary's



The Holy Family

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Liturgical Ministries Schedule

The most current schedule can be found at <http://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/stormlakestmary>. If you would like your own copy **there will be paper copies available in all of the church entrances** and one on the bulletin board.