

DECEMBER 7, 2025 | 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



THE PARISHES OF

ST. MARY

310 Nobbe St.  
Farmersville, IL 62533

ST. RAYMOND

306 S McElroy  
Raymond, IL 62560

ST. MAURICE

706 SE 4th St.  
Morrisonville, IL 62546

**Fr. Florent Kanga**, Pastor  
(414) 460-0335  
fkanga@dio.org

**Kateri Marten**, Secretary  
kmarten@stmrm.org

Bulletin Deadline:  
End of Monday  
Parish Website:  
stmrm.org

Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting  
and Investigation: (217) 321-1155

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

5:00 pm St. Mary: Velma Langen

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:00 am St. Raymond: The People of Our Parishes  
10:00 am St. Maurice: Geneva Abell

### -THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY- HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:00 am St. Mary: Glenn Rovey  
4:30 pm St. Raymond: Toots Walch  
7:00 pm St. Maurice: The People of Our Parishes

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:00 am St. Mary: Bill Seelbach

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:00 am St. Raymond: William Tucker

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

8:00 am St. Maurice: Ed Weitekamp

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

5:00 pm St. Mary: The People of Our Parishes

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:00 am St. Raymond: Daisy Held  
10:00 am St. Maurice: Carl Goebel

## RECONCILIATION

### SATURDAYS

3:00-3:30 pm St. Maurice  
4:00-4:30 pm St. Mary

### SUNDAYS

7:00-7:30 am St. Raymond

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 17, 6:00 pm at St. Mary

## ADORATION

### ST. RAYMOND

8:30 am Wednesday - 8:00 am Thursday

### ST. MAURICE

8:00 am - 9:00 pm Wednesday

## SAINTS OF THE WEEK

December 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate  
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 9: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

December 10: Our Lady of Loreto

December 11: St. Damasus I, Pope

December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 13: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

December 14: St. John of the Cross,  
Priest and Doctor of the Church

## FATHER'S COLUMN

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, John said to them, "You brood of vipers!

Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance."

In the Gospels we are first introduced to John the Baptist as the aged Elizabeth and Zechariah's miracle baby boy. We read about John's leaping for joy in Elizabeth's womb when Mary visits her cousin. Now in this Gospel we jump in time to the adult John, a visibly odd character, for sure.

He is dwelling in the desert, wearing strange clothes, and eating strange food. He is a fiery character with a challenging, revealing, and life-changing message. He is a charismatic prophet who attracts crowds to hear his message and instills in them the desire to acknowledge their sinfulness, to repent, and to be baptized by him.

But not all are able to hear, respond, and repent. The harshness of John the Baptist's preaching to some Pharisees and Sadducees in this Sunday's Gospel; "You brood of vipers!" is a critical judgment, indeed. John's harsh language, unrelenting judgment, and uncompromising challenge demand a wholehearted response: Repent! It is not good enough to claim "Abraham as our father."

Repentance is an entirely personal choice, personal act, personal demand to change. Repentance always changes one's life. Changing our lives is very concrete and visible. Our attitudes and behaviors visibly change for the better when we choose to repent.

Repentance clearly means to change one's mind. Only then can one act according to God's plan, thus changing our lives. When each of us changes our mind, repents by conforming our will to God's, then there will be "no harm or ruin" as we read in the first reading of this Sunday, but rather the peace and harmony described by Isaiah. Repentance brings not the poison of striking vipers but the "good fruit" of counsel, strength, knowledge, and delight in the Lord as we see in the first reading. Repentance brings the favorable judgment that not only invites us to the kingdom of heaven but is the peace and harmony portraying the already "at hand" of God's reign. The choice to repent has consequences beyond the immediate. To repent takes us beyond John's baptism of water which brings a new human way to live.

To repent is to embrace Jesus' baptism "with the Holy Spirit and fire" which brings us to a new way to live in God. John the Baptist directs to everyone his strong call to repent. Some "acknowledged their sins," and expressed their desire to live "in the kingdom of heaven" by submitting to John's baptism with water. The "Pharisees and Sadducees" resisted repentance, claiming their descent from Abraham was enough for them to belong to "the kingdom of heaven."

John's challenge to repent requires two responses. Which response do we choose? Whether Jesus will gather us as wheat or burn us as chaff depends upon our choice.

## MINISTRY SCHEDULES

### ST. MARY

#### LECTORS

Saturday, December 6:  
Carol Hupp

Monday, December 8  
*The Immaculate Conception:*  
Mary Jane Fuchs

Saturday, December 13:  
Tony Krager

Saturday, December 20:  
Dan Martin

Wednesday, December 24  
*Christmas Eve:*  
Kathy Rovey

Saturday, December 27:  
Kevin Clark

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, December 6:  
Patty Clarke  
Mary Ann Rimini

Monday, December 8  
*The Immaculate Conception:*  
Mary Jane Schmidt  
& Patty Clarke

Saturday, December 13:  
Emily Martin  
& Mary Jane Schmidt

Saturday, December 20:  
Carolynn Clark  
& Emily Martin

### ST. RAYMOND

#### DECEMBER

LECTOR ..... Tricia Pinkston  
CANTOR ..... Chris Mizera  
HOSPITALITY ..... Mark Meisner  
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS  
..... Carl Marten  
..... John Barto

SERVERS:  
Sun, Dec 7: Luke Pope  
Freddie & Lucy Wagahoff  
Mon, Dec 8: Volunteer  
Sun, Dec 14: Denny Held  
Sun, Dec 21: Dan Held  
Wed, Dec 24: Avery & Luke Pope  
Austin & Addy Nicol  
Sun, Dec 28: Denny Held

HOMEBOUND MINISTER:  
Dec 7: Hocking/Krager  
Dec 14: Dick Lyons  
Dec 21: Carl Marten  
Dec 28: Noller/Morehouse

### ST. MAURICE

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

LECTOR ..... Dereke Dunkirk  
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS .....  
Diane McWard-Sullivan  
Marietta Dunkirk  
Brian Grundy

USHERS ..... Brian & Suzanne Grundy  
and Family

SERVERS ..... Macie Ferrill  
Adelaide and Gentry Dunkirk

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

#### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TBD

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

LECTOR ..... Gerry Goebel  
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS .....  
Ed Goebel  
Larry Goebel  
Carl Goebel

USHERS ..... Brian & Suzanne Grundy  
and Family

SERVERS ..... Nathaniel DeBrun  
Rian Deardorff

## PARISH ENGAGEMENT FOR NOVEMBER 29/30

#### ST. MARY

Collection: \$6,898

#### ST. RAYMOND

Collection: \$1,656

#### ST. MAURICE

Collection: \$1,013  
Attendance: 83

## OUR PRAYER LIST

Carl Armes, Larry Lucas, Drake Lucas, Georgetta Dean,  
Jacob Mizera, Sara Cawthon, Martha Beeler,  
Andy Foote, Marcia Rosenthal, Pat Durbin,  
Jim Weitekamp, Janet Locander, Alan McFarlin,  
Brant Weitekamp, Trent Boston

Remember to pray for our Pope, Bishop, Priests  
and seminarians, and for the increase of  
vocations to priesthood and religious life.

To add a name to the prayer list, please email Kateri at  
kmarten@stmm.org and specify how many weeks you'd  
like that name to appear for (1 week up to a maximum of  
12 weeks). You're always welcome to re-add the name at  
the end of this period if the need for prayer is still present,  
but this will help keep the list focused and fresh.

If you know of a parishioner that you'd like added to  
Father's visitation list, please let him or Kateri know.

## PARISH & COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

### St. Raymond Christmas Choir Rehearsal

Each Monday at 6:30pm

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### Pro-Life Prayer

Friday mornings 9:00 am at St. Raymond

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### St. Raymond Advent Party

Sunday, December 7 at 5:30 pm at the KC Hall.

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### Panhandle Senior Citizens Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, December 9

Doors open at 11:00 am, lunch served at noon

There will be Christmas trivia and the Lincolnwood choir will sing as a part of the program.

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### St. Mary Christmas Choir Rehearsal

December 10 and 17 at 6:30 pm

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### St. Maurice Senior Cookie Exchange

Thursday, December 11 at 2:00 pm at the home of Marietta Dunkirk. Please bring 3 dozen cookies along with the recipe to share with everyone. RSVP to 217-825-6018 so we know how many chairs to have.

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### St. Maurice Caroling and Pizza

Come caroling with us on Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 pm. We will meet at the church to car pool. Pizza will be served at the KC Hall after our caroling.

Please bring a flashlight and your beautiful voices. If you know of any one that would like to hear us carol, please let Marietta Dunkirk know.

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### Parish Unit Advent Penance Service

Wednesday, December 17  
6:00 pm in St Mary Church

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### St. Maurice Christmas at Josephine's

Join us December 18 to visit Josephine's Tea Room. We will meet at the church at 9:00 am to car pool. Please RSVP to Marietta at 217-825-6018 by December 13 so we may finalize our reservations.

## FAITH FORMATION

### Date Change for Family of Faith Advent Dinner and Prayer Retreat

Our December 3 meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, December 10 at 6:00 pm  
All classes meet inside our Rectory/School.

### Winter Weather Mass Notice

If school is canceled due to bad weather, weekday mass will also be canceled.

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### St. Raymond Participates in Angel Tree Program

Gifts should be wrapped (please do not use gift bags) with the card taped on the outside and returned no later than Sunday, December 14.

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### St. Mary Participating in Christmas Toy Drive

Please bring new, unwrapped toys and place them in the box in the vestibule.  
This project is sponsored by Illuminatus.

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### St. Maurice Choir

We would like to form a choir for St. Maurice to sing at Easter & Christmas if there is enough interest. Anyone (adult or child) interested in singing in the choir is welcome to join. Please call Deb Forbes 825-3129 if interested. When we see who is interested, we will set a schedule for practices.



Photo from St. Maurice's Senior Activity in Arthur,  
eating at Yoder's Kitchen