

Brothers and Sisters: Blessings for YOUR St. Mary’s Evangelization and Outreach Ministry Team

In the **15th chapter of Luke’s gospel**, we find the parable of the single lost sheep who wandered away from his shepherd’s flock. When the shepherd realized that the sheep had gone missing, he immediately embarked upon a mission to find the lost sheep and return it to the fold. After finding the sheep and returning it home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, encouraging them to rejoice because of the sheep’s safe return.

Jesus ends the parable with these words: “*I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance*” (Luke 15:7).

This parable provides important insight into the heart of God when it comes to the salvation of people. God’s love is so vast that not a single person lies outside its reach. It doesn’t matter who they are or what they have done; God loves all people equally. The apostle Peter gave a succinct summary of God’s heart for all people in **2 Peter 3:9**: “...He is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

As I reflected on the parable of the lost sheep, it led me to ask two questions of myself:
Am I so focused on my own spiritual needs and wants that I fail to see the need of those who do not have Christ in their lives? The parable of the lost sheep reminds us that the Christian life must possess a focus on the *other*, especially those who do not have Christ in their lives.

Does my love reflect God’s love for all people? I would like to think it does, but I must admit there are some who stretch my willingness to love more than others. However, if I am to share in God’s heart, I must learn to love all without fail and grapple with my personal judgements or biases that might limit my ability to reach out to them.

Your Evangelization & Outreach Ministry team has accomplished much in the past 3+ years but there is so much more we want to do in the next 3. We have lost two members and need your hands to accomplish our work. Please consider joining our ministry and doing God’s work now and in the future. My hope is rooted in the reality of the Holy Spirit’s leadership over the team and God’s power to save anyone and everyone. But we need your help to bring the fruits of our efforts to light. We pray that our hearts might grow to be more like God’s heart and more will answer His call to join the Evangelization-Outreach Ministry team.

May God’s blessing rest upon you,
Duane Wolter

Office Hours at St Mary: Erin Denny is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday Monday 9AM-3:00 PM Fr Tom only Tuesday 9AM-4 PM (Fr Tom leaves about 3:00). Thursday 9Am-4 PM Fr Tom’s office hours are by appointment. Please call the office or the rectory to make an appointment.	Ladies Guild: President–Sheila Jeffers, Secretary- Terri Tyler, Treasurer- MaryAnn Forney Religious Education Committee: DRE- Robin Clark, Maria Molina, Hannah Clark, Fabiola Humphrey, and Haley Danehy. Archivist- Sheila Harrington, Marian Becker, and Andrew Tamm Librarian- Kathleen Kaapcke
Building and Grounds Committee: Fr Tom Buckman, Mark Pais (Chair) David Duncan, Kenneth Bracy, Allan Cravalho, Casmiro Moratin, and Thom Boyne, and Josue Cabrera	Music Director- Joshua Wagner stmaryccmusic@gmail.com Cantors: Valerie McGowen, and Margaret Wolter Worship/Liturgy Committee: Fr. Tom Buckman, Margaret Wolter (Chair), and Patti Hood, Joshua Wagner, and Maggie Tamm.
Administration & Finance Committee Meets 3 rd Thursday @ 5:00 PM Chairman- Duane Wolter, Patti Hood, John Janicek, Darrell Fenley, and Andrew Tamm	Parish Pastoral Council: Normally Meets 4 th Monday @ 6:00 PM Chairperson: Ninoska Moratin, Vice Chairman- Julius Foncha Secretary- Tibor Laky, Ken Bracy, Sandra Bracy, and Jose Angel Noguez.
Evangelization and Outreach Ministry: Fr. Tom Buckman, Duane Wolter (Chair), Eli Gantt, Colleen Rafferty, and Robert Loza	

Christmas Mass Schedule:
December 24-4:00 pm, 12 midnight (Bilingual); December 25-10:00 am.
December 31 Vigil Mass for Mary Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation will be celebrated at 6:00 PM
Advent Penance Services:
St. Mary 12/15, 6:00 pm; Christ the King 12/16, 5:30 pm; and at Holy Spirit 12/21, 5:00 pm.

St. Mary Catholic Church

December 13-14, 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

Welcome Visitors and Guests!
Bienvenidos a los Visitantes y Huéspedes!
Pastor/Párroco Fr. Tom Buckman tom.buckman@pastoral.org
stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com
PO Box 388, 403 N. Main St., Franklin, Kentucky 42135
Office: 270-586-4515 Rectory Phone: 270-253-3230
Music Director: Joshua Wagner
email: stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com
Erin Denny- Office Administrator
Diocese of Owensboro www.owensborodiocese.org



Saturday, December 13	5:00 PM	3 rd Sunday of Advent– Intentions: For the Soul of Eleanor Mirgaux
Sunday, December 14	8:30 AM	3 rd Sunday of Advent –Intentions: Honoring the Russell Family
Sunday, Diciembre 14	6:00 PM	3 rd Domingo de Adviento- Para la gente de la parroquia
Monday, December 15	8:00 AM	Intentions-Honoring the Richardson Family
Monday, December 15	6:00 PM	Advent Penance Service
Tuesday, December 16	Noon	Intentions: For the Soul of Rosie Wolter
Wednesday, December 17	6:00 PM	Intentions: For the Soul of Delbert Roeter
Thursday, December 18	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Mary Kirzeder
9AM-10PM Eucharistic Adoration		
Friday, December 19	6:00 PM	Intentions: For the Soul of Roger Farley
Saturday, December 20	5:00 PM	3 rd Sunday of Advent– Intentions: For the Soul of Crystal Becker
Sunday, December 21	8:30 AM	3 rd Sunday of Advent –Intentions: For the Soul of Angela Berry Maynard
Sunday, Diciembre 21	6:00 PM	3 rd Domingo de Adviento- Para la gente de la parroquia

The deadline for Calendar submissions for the January Calendar Bulletin is 12/19/25

If you have Mass intentions, please contact Fr. Tom or Erin in the office.

Mass Ministers: Please try to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the start of Mass.
When/if you are unable to fulfill your scheduled Mass Ministry, please find a replacement Thank You, Fr. Tom

Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities: local law enforcement (270) 586-7425 or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-KYSAFE1).


The Diocese of Owensboro seeks to help all who have been sexually abused and especially those abused by a person working for the Church, paid or unpaid, either past or present. To report such abuse, please call the diocesan Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (270-852-8380). The revised sexual abuse policy, which explains fully the diocese’s efforts to address sexual abuse in the Church, can be found in the back of the church on the parish bulletin board and on the diocesan web site (<https://owensborodiocese.org/safe>).

If you are sick, or know someone who is ill, we want to include them in our prayers.
Please contact Erin in the parish office on 270-586-4515 or by email so our parish can pray for you and your caregivers.
Please Remember in Your Prayers the Following Parishioners, Family and Friends: Cindy & John Janicek, Mae King, Richard Hearn, Judy Cates, Helen, Ed, and Ben Berry, Tom, Margaret, Roger, and Sherrie Berry, Gail Hall, Gail Briley, DeWayne, Susie, Kassidie, Katie, and Kennedie Kirkham, Mary, and Bill Sloan

Please keep our deceased family and friends in your daily prayers:
Gracie Scott, Carol Sue Durbin, Charles Andrew Yanov, Jason W. Bracy, Mary Barnes, Conner Sheahan, Marie Watson, Debbie Head, Crystal Becker, Andrew & Michael Garrett, Angela Berry Maynard, Sarah Drake, Basil Trouten Sr., Hilda Trouten, Dorthy O’Bryan, Joseph Hagan, Susie Wyatt, Miriam Harbin, Roger Farley, Dr A.V. Wilwayco, Frank & Marie Farmer, Keith Obriskie, Helen Garst, Lois Oshefsky, John Herrmann, Sharon Henderson, Sr Maretta Murphy IHM, Dr John Kelly, Ellie Mirgaux and Rose Vogt.

Mission Statement
We, the people of St Mary Catholic Church, are a welcoming Catholic community called to live our faith by celebrating Mass, Sacraments, and Prayers; proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ; seeking life-long faith and formation; sharing our time; talents and reaching out in compassionate service to others.

As of 12/9/2025						
Budget Needs 2024-25 Weekly		\$	4,038	Budget YTD Needs		\$ 92,659
Received last week		\$	2,871	Received YTD		\$ 85,862
Difference		\$	(-1,167)			\$ (-6,797)
On Going Projects Last Week		\$	86	YTD		\$ 2,535
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM Mass Disciples Response Fund 6:00 PM Misa	15 8:00 AM Mass 6:00 PM Advent Penance Service	16 <i>SVDP 10:30-2 PM</i> Noon Mass	17 6:00 PM Mass Rel. Ed Christmas Party	18 8:00 AM Mass <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> <i>9:00AM-10:00 PM</i> No OCIA	19 8:00 AM Mass	20 3:30 Reconciliation 5:00 PM Mass
Mass Attendance-- 5:00 PM Mass 12/6 58 8:30 AM Mass 12/7 78 6:00 PM Mass 12/7 144						
Please pray for our military: Jack Jeffers, Army, Ft Carson, Colorado Springs, CO.; Eric Rafferty, Air Force, England; Korbin Bray, US Navy, Japan; Capt. Ryan Berry, USMC California; Jonathan Thompson, Navy, Jacksonville, FL; Ariel Molina Jr, Marines, Pensacola, FL. Please call the office to add a name.						



Liturgical Ministers!!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There will be three Masses at St. Mary

4:00 PM Vigil Mass & Bilingual Midnight Mass & 10:00 AM Christmas Morning Mass

We need Ushers, Greeters, Altar Servers, Gift Bearers,

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

SIGN UP or let Margaret Wolter know ASAP if you can serve at one of these Masses!

CALL OR TEXT 954-629-8209

Good News!

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 / James 5:7-10 / Matthew 11:2-11

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—“Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod’s prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn’t it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, “Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand,” or, to quote an unnamed saint, “I do believe, help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●

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Dear Padre,

Does the Bible say that Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy at the Annunciation?

The announcement of Jesus’ birth in Luke begins, “In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin’s name was Mary” (Luke 1:26–27). This Scripture passage taken out of context could possibly give the impression that “in the sixth month” refers to Mary. However, it refers to Mary’s cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John the Baptist. The proper context is a few verses before this one that reads, “Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months” (Luke 1:24).

Regarding Mary’s pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God” (Luke 1:31, 35). Gabriel also informs Mary, “And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren” (Luke 1:36).

In general, women already in their sixth month of pregnancy would likely be aware of their condition, and it would not be easy to conceal from others. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a	Zep 3:1–2, 9–13 Mt 21:28–32	Gn 49:2, 8–10 Mt 1:1–17	Jer 23:5–8 Mt 1:18–25	Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a Lk 1:5–25	Is 7:10–14 Lk 1:26–38	Is 7:10–14 Rom 1:1–7 Mt 1:18–24



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd.... Yet, precisely for this reason, they are the places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed. A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family, and so many other wounds that afflict our society.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 9, 2025



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