

Brothers and Sisters

Blessings from your St. Mary’s Evangelization and Outreach Ministry team

The Heart of Christmas

Christmas is more than lights and gifts—it is the celebration of Jesus Christ’s birth, the moment when God entered our world to bring hope and salvation. For Catholics, this season is a reminder of God’s love and the joy of living in His grace.

Why Evangelization Matters at Christmas?

Christmas is a time when hearts are open. Many people who rarely attend church or feel distant from faith are drawn by the beauty and meaning of the season. This makes Christmas a powerful opportunity for evangelization—sharing the Good News of Christ through words and actions.

Practical Ways to Evangelize This Season

- **Invite someone to Mass:** A simple invitation can change a life.
- **Share the story of Christ’s birth:** Through conversations, cards, or social media.
- **Practice charity and kindness:** Serving others reflects Christ’s love.
- **Live joyfully:** Let your joy point others to its source—Jesus.

Our Mission

Jesus calls us to “go and make disciples.” Christmas reminds us that God’s gift of His Son is for everyone. Let us be instruments of His love, bringing light and hope to those around us.

May God bless you all.

Robert Loza

<b>Office Hours at St Mary:</b> 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.	<b>Ladies Guild:</b> President–Sheila Jeffers, Secretary- Terri Tyler, Treasurer- MaryAnn Forney <b>Religious Education Committee:</b> DRE- Robin Clark, Maria Molina, Hannah Clark, Fabiola Humphrey, and Haley Danehy. <b>Archivist-</b> Sheila Harrington, Marian Becker, and Andrew Tamm <b>Librarian-</b> Kathleen Kaapcke
<b>Building and Grounds Committee:</b> Fr Tom Buckman, Mark Pais (Chair) David Duncan, Kenneth Bracy, Allan Cravalho, Casmiro Moratin, and Thom Boyne, and Josue Cabrera	<b>Music Director- Joshua Wagner</b> <a href="mailto:stmaryccmusic@gmail.com">stmaryccmusic@gmail.com</a> Cantors: Valerie McGowen, and Margaret Wolter <b>Worship/Liturgy Committee:</b> Fr. Tom Buckman, Margaret Wolter (Chair), and Patti Hood, Joshua Wagner, and Maggie Tamm.
<b>Administration &amp; Finance Committee</b> <b>Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday @ 5:00 PM</b> <b>Chairman-</b> Duane Wolter, Patti Hood, John Janicek, Darrell Fenley, and Andrew Tamm	<b>Parish Pastoral Council: Normally Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Monday @ 6:00 PM</b> <b>Chairperson:</b> Ninoska Moratin, <b>Vice Chairman-</b> Julius Foncha <b>Secretary-</b> Tibor Laky, Ken Bracy, Sandra Bracy, and Jose Angel Noguez.
<b>Evangelization and Outreach Ministry:</b> 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: at Holy Spirit 12/21, 5:00 pm.**

St. Mary Catholic Church

December 20-21, 2025

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Welcome Visitors and Guests!

Bienvenidos a los Visitantes y Huéspedes!

Pastor/Párroco Fr. Tom Buckman [tom.buckman@pastoral.org](mailto:tom.buckman@pastoral.org)  
[stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com)

Erin Denny- Office Administrator

Diocese of Owensboro [www.owensborodiocese.org](http://www.owensborodiocese.org)



Saturday, December 20	5:00 PM	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent– Intentions: For the Soul of Crystal Becker
Sunday, December 21	8:30 AM	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent –Intentions: For the Soul of Angela Berry Maynard
Sunday, Diciembre 21	6:00 PM	4th Domingo de Adviento- Para la gente de la parroquia
Monday, December 22	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Gerard Schulte
Tuesday, December 23	Noon	Intentions: For the Soul of Christopher Boarman
Wednesday, December 24	4:00 PM	Christmas Vigil Mass-Intentions: For the Soul of Jason W Bracy
Wednesday, December 24	Midnight	Christmas Mass Intentions: For the Soul of Rigoberto Agustin Mario Cortes
Thursday, December 25	10:00 AM	Christmas Day Mass Intentions: For the Soul of Donna Rossi
No Eucharistic Adoration		
Friday, December 26	6:00 PM	Intentions: Honoring the Richardson Family
Saturday, December 27	5:00 PM	Holy Family of Jesus Mary, and Joseph– Intentions: For the Soul of Katherine Schneider Fenley
Sunday, December 28	8:30 AM	Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Josph–Intentions: For the Soul of Elizabeth Garst
Sunday, Diciembre 28	6:00 PM	Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María Y José- Para la gente de la parroquia

*The deadline for Calendar submissions for the February Calendar Bulletin is 01/21/2026*

**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 12/15/2025						
Budget Needs 2024-25    Weekly		\$	4,038	Budget YTD Needs		\$ 96,532
Received last week		\$	3,174	Received YTD		\$ 92,750
Difference		\$	(-864)			\$ ( -6,797)
On Going Projects    Last Week		\$	140	YTD		\$ 2,535
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM Mass  6:00 PM Misa	22 8:00 AM Mass	23 <b>No SVDP</b>  Noon Mass	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>  4:00 PM Mass  Midnight Mass	25 Christmas Day 10:00 AM Mass  	26  8:00 AM Mass	27  12:00 Baptism 3:30 Reconciliation 5:00 PM Mass
Mass Attendance—Guadalupe Mass 305 5:00 PM Mass 12/13 68 8:30 AM Mass 12/14 87 6:00 PM Mass 12/14 97						
<b>Please pray for our military:</b> 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 21, 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10-14 / Romans 1:1-7 / Matthew 1:18-24

MIGUEL DULICK

**It is the fourth Sunday of Advent.** When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the “sign” as clear as day: “the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than “Emmanuel” himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the “Spirit of holiness” is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of “obedience of faith,” Joseph is the perfect example. The word “obey” comes from the same root as “to hear,” and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells “how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” in today’s gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: “he took his wife into his home.” Everything is set for Emmanuel!

So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, “God-With-Us,” from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from “birthing” Jesus in our midst? Even when a “happy holiday” seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let’s sing Christmas carols every day! ●

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## Dear Padre,

*I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?*

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament. “From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1128).

The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, “How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?” The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



*I think it is important for all of us to learn how to listen more, to enter into dialogue. First and foremost, with the Lord: always listen to the word of God. Then also listen*

*to others, to know how to build bridges, to know how to listen without judging, not closing the doors [and] thinking that we have all the truth and no one else can tell us anything.*

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 11, 2025

<b>Monday</b> December 22 <i>Advent Weekday</i> 1 Sm 1:24–28 Lk 1:46–56	<b>Thursday</b> December 25 <i>The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</i> Is 52:7–10 Heb 1:1–6 Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14 <b>Friday</b> December 26 <i>St. Stephen, the First Martyr</i> Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59 Mt 10:17–22	<b>Saturday</b> December 27 <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 1 Jn 1:1–4 Jn 20:1a, 2–8 <b>Sunday</b> December 28 <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i> Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17 Mt 2:13–15, 19–23
<b>Tuesday</b> December 23 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Mal 3:1–4, 23–24 Lk 1:57–66	<b>Wednesday</b> December 24 <i>Advent Weekday</i> 2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16 Lk 1:67–79	

### Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](https://dearpadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



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