

Hello, my brothers and sisters in Christ!

So today, dear family of God, I want to talk to you about the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I want to talk to you about Him who emptied Himself for love of me and you. The God of heaven Himself incarnate of the Virgin Mary became man, to redeem us! He chose to be born as one of us. Let that sink in a moment.

The One of whom even the heavens cannot contain. The One who told Job, "Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the Earth? Tell me if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements-surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?" (Job. 38:3-5). Our God emptied Himself to be born one of us, to redeem us to Himself through His only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I know its mind blowing, right? For reasons beyond me, He loves us so very much! For He said this concerning us, "it was I who taught Ephraim to walk. I took them up in my arms, but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with chords of compassion, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who raises an infant to his cheeks, and I bent down to them and fed them". **Hosea. 11:3,4.**

Furthermore, because of the sins of our first parents, God through His unfathomable love and mercy, for told through His prophets of the incredible sacrifice that he would make for our reconciliation as well. **Isaiah 9:6-7**, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom to establish it, and to uphold it with justice, and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of host will do this".

Several hundred years later, God's prophecies come true on that auspicious night in Bethlehem our dear Savior was born. Born of a virgin, the Virgin Mary. He was/is both Son of God and Son of man. Let us not forget Mary's cooperation in our redemption. What we lost through hapless Eve, we gained back through the Fiat of Mary. Mary's place in Salvation history is a unique one in that through her "yes" to God, through the Holy Spirit she became the "Co-Redemptrix." God became man through Mary. The Word became flesh from Mary's flesh! All the things that made God human came via the body of Mary. . . So, here's another food for thought. When Jesus was nailed to the cross, that was His pain that He felt, and that was His blood that He shed, and that was His life that was given up for us, but that body and that blood was given to Him through the body and blood of Mary. Jesus was both Son of God and Son of man, thus Mary is the Co-Redemptrix".

And let us not forget Saint Joseph's Fiat as well! For with Joseph, as with Mary, they were both told by the Angel, Gabriel, of God's plan. Prior to this, Joseph was considering privately divorcing Mary, because she was pregnant and they had not been together, but God spoke to him through an angel in dream and because of his faith in God he was not afraid to take Mary as his wife into his home. And together they formed the Holy Family.

So, while we celebrate with our families this year, let's not get lost in the hustle and bustle of the holidays, but let's remember the 'reason for the season' and that's that Jesus Christ is born! AMEN!

I love you guys more than you know! Know of our prayers for you and please pray for us! And as **Archbishop Fulton Sheen** always said, "God love you, and God Bless!"

Eli, Your Brother in Christ

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 3rd Thursday @ 5:00 PM Chairman- Duane Wolter, Patti Hood, John Janicek, Darrell Fenley, and Andrew Tamm	Parish Pastoral Council: Normally Meets 4th 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 Gant, Colleen Rafferty, and Robert Loza	

December 31 Vigil Mass for Mary Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation will be celebrated at 6:00 PM

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 27-28, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph

Welcome Visitors and Guests!

Bienvenidos a los Visitantes y Huéspedes!

Pastor/Párroco Fr. Tom Buckman tom.buckman@pastoral.org

stmaryfranklinsky@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: stmaryfranklinsky@gmail.com

Erin Denny- Office Administrator

Diocese of Owensboro www.owensborodiocese.org

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

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 Joseph- Intentions: For the Soul of Elizabeth Garst
Sunday, Deciembre 28	6:00 PM	Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María Y José- Para la gente de la parroquia
Monday, December 29	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Dr A.V. Wilwayco
Tuesday, December 30	Noon	Intentions: Honoring the Russell Family
Wednesday, December 31	6:00 PM	Mary Mother of God: For the Soul of Nicholas Pandzich
Thursday, January 1	No Mass	No Mass
		No Eucharistic Adoration
Friday, January 2	6:00 PM	1st Friday Mass- Intentions: For the Soul of Rigoberto Agustin Mario Cortes
Saturday, January 3	8:00 AM	1st Saturday Mass- Intentions: For the Soul of Mark Walter Lee Tennison
Saturday, January 3	5:00 PM	Holy Family of Jesus Mary, and Joseph- Intentions: For the Soul of Harold & Florence Tegge
Sunday, January 4	8:30 AM	Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph- Intentions: For the Soul of Elizabeth Garst
Sunday, Enero 4	6:00 PM	Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María Y José- Para la gente de la parroquia

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, Harry & Mae King, Richard Hearns, 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, Dorothy 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 12/23/2025

Budget Needs 2024-25	Weekly	\$ 4,038	Budget YTD Needs	\$ 100,484
Received last week		\$ 2,901	Received YTD	\$ 95,652
Difference		\$ (-1137)		\$ (-4,832)
On Going Projects	Last Week	\$ 60	YTD	\$ 2,792

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph	29 8:00 AM Mass	30 Noon Mass	31 1 New Years Day No Mass No Eucharistic Adoration	2 6:00 PM Mary Mother of God Vigil Mass	3 8:00 AM 1 st Saturday Mass	
8:30 AM Mass 6:00 PM Misa				6:00 PM 1 st Friday Mass	3:30 Confessions 5:00 PM Mass	

Mass Attendance—5:00 PM Mass 12/20 80 8:30 AM Mass 12/21 75 6:00 PM Mass 12/21 135

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.



Good News!

December 28, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (A)

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 / Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 / Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

ANN M. GARRIDO

The most treasured prayer of Jesus' people has long been and remains the Shema: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is God. The Lord is One." Jewish spirituality is grounded not in seeing or touching or tasting, but in hearing. No one exemplifies fidelity to this way of being in the world more than Joseph, as evidenced in today's gospel. Joseph is one who listens to what God's messenger says to him and immediately acts on it. He responds to the call to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Then, he responds to the call to return home with his family to Israel. As many have noted, Joseph never speaks in Scripture, but he certainly listens, and he certainly acts on what he hears.

Christmas is perhaps the noisiest season of the year. At gatherings of family and friends with festive music in the background, it often feels as if we are shouting over one another to be heard. It is a season when it can be hard to have deep conversations, even with God. Indeed, it can be such a busy season that sometimes our regular prayer practices fall by the wayside. But, if we do not make space in our daily lives to listen, might we miss messages that are important, even urgent, for us to hear, as in the case of today's gospel? Messages that require immediate response? What would it look like to carve out a bit of silence in this holiday season, to be like Joseph and reground yourself in a spirituality of listening? ●

© 2025 Liguori Publications. *Imprimi Potest*: Fr. Kevin Zubel, CSsR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

Dear Padre,

A friend of mine took his life. He was a very staunch Catholic. His wife wanted to know if he could be buried or have a Mass in the Catholic Church.

Yes, your friend should most certainly receive a Catholic funeral and burial. "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2283).



A person who is suffering with a mental illness or disorder, certainly a prerequisite for suicide, may not have the necessary mental freedom to choose something that is understood as grave or mortal. In other words, he or she does not have the necessary requirements for full and free consent of the will.

Not that long ago, suicide was often misunderstood. Thankfully, today we understand the havoc and suffering of mental illness, and that a person can be a victim, even if it might look like he or she is not. The great suffering of those who take their own lives must not be dismissed or discarded. The family members and friends of a person who suffers suicide should also not be judged but should only receive compassion and understanding. They, too, are victims, in the fullest sense of the word and in the truest understanding of what it means to be a fragile human being. ●

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

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



Young people of our time, like those of every age, are a volcano of life, energy, sentiments, and ideas. It can be seen from the wonderful things they are able to do, in so many fields. However, they also need help in order for this great wealth to grow in harmony and to overcome what...can still hinder their healthy development.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 15, 2025



Catholic. Pastoral. Trusted. © 2025 Liguori Publications. *Imprimi Potest*: Fr. Kevin Zubel, CSsR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

Monday

December 29

Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:3-11

Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday

December 30

Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:12-17

Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday

December 31

Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:18-21

Jn 1:1-18

Thursday

January 1

Solemnity of Mary,

the Holy Mother

of God

Nm 6:22-27

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:16-21

Sunday

January 4

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12