



St. Mary Catholic Church

402 Freeman St. Anna IL

(618)833-5835

stmaryparish.anna@gmail.com

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception | facebook

December 17, 2023 Third Sunday of Advent



DECK THE HALLS



If you can stay for a little bit after 8 AM Mass on **Sunday December 17**, and help get our Christmas decorations brought up from the basement and perhaps a head start on setting up the trees and outside decorations, that would be a tremendous help. Thank you!

Christmas Ministry Schedule

We still have need of servers and Eucharistic Ministers for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Signup sheets are on the ledge at the entrance of Church. Thanks to all who have volunteered.

BELL RINGERS

We still have two available shifts for bell ringers at Wal-Mart **Sunday December 17**, at 3 and 4 PM. Please help if you can.



FOOD DRIVE

Sunday, December 17

is the last day to drop off donations for our food drive to benefit Cobden Elementary School's Food Pantry. Please place your nonperishable items in the bin at the entrance of church or in the Faith Formation hallway.

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5 PM

Sunday 8 AM 10 AM St. Joseph, Cobden

Tuesday & Thursday 8:15 AM

Christmas Masses

Sunday December 24: **Fourth Sunday of**

Advent 8 AM St. Mary 10 AM St. Joseph

Sunday December 24: **Christmas Eve Vigil**

Mass 5 PM St. Mary (Childrens' Mass)

Midnight Mass: 12 AM Monday December 25

St. Joseph, Cobden

Monday, December 25: **Christmas Mass**

8 AM St. Mary 10 AM St. Joseph

Please note that the Masses on Sunday

Morning, December 24 are 4th Sunday of

Advent Masses, NOT Christmas or Christmas

Eve Masses.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11; Luke 1:46-50,53-54

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

For a long time, God's people lived in darkness of waiting for the light. They longed for one who would bring peace like King David and truth like the prophets. Saint John the Baptist was the dawn that heralds the rising sun.

During Advent, the Church recalls the darkness of the time before the coming of Christ, so that our joy in his presence can be renewed. On this third Sunday the dark colors of penance are set aside for rose-colored vestments -- the dawn that heralds the true day.

~Fr. Edmund Waldstein, O. Cist.



VOCATION CORNER

Today we hear the evangelist John's account of the ministry of John the Baptist. John the Baptist had a self-awareness of who he was (a proclaimer) and what he was not (the Savior). He knew his vocation and accepted that call from the Lord to "Prepare the way of the Lord". Even though the priests and Levites couldn't determine who he was, John assured them that his role was to baptize with water in anticipation of the one who would baptize with the Spirit. Are you listening for the call to be what the Lord wants you to be?



Our parish has been a busy place these last few weeks. It is wonderful to see everyone pitch in to make our Advent

season a time of fellowship and ministry to others, and to create beautiful and meaningful celebrations of this special season. Many thanks to all who have worked so hard to make our activities come together!



Our Christmas program presented by our Faith Formation classes and leaders was delightful! More pictures on our web site! See "Galleries" in the About Us tab.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 16: Lena Klages
 Sunday, December 17: Jacob Guyon
 Saturday, December 23: Michael J. McGrath
 Sunday, December 24: (8 AM) Clarence Ulrich
 Sunday December 24 (5 PM) Peace on Earth
 Monday December 25: Peace on Earth



WORD OF LIFE



"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery;
 Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free."

USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

Intercession:

For all victims of human trafficking:
 May they find hope and healing
 in the Lord who proclaims liberty to captives
 and release to prisoners;
We pray to the Lord

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Saturday December 23 5 PM

Lector: Susan Hoyle

Eucharistic Ministers: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sunday December 24 8 AM

Lector: Janna Sweitzer

Servers: Mia Kell, Maeve Kell, Kendall Sweitzer

Eucharistic Ministers: Ellen Quertermous, Carol Frick **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Sunday December 24 5 PM Children's Mass

Lector: Karl Sweitzer

Servers: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Eucharistic Ministers: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Monday December 25 8 AM

Lector: Ellen Quertermous

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SERVERS AND EM