

December 19, 2021—The 4th Sunday of Advent
December 26, 2021—The Feast of the Holy Family
January 2, 2022 —The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

St. Mary's Immaculate Conception

1265 Ridgeway Street, PO Box 18, Hammond WI 54015
 Website: stmaryshammond.org
 Phone: (715) 796-2244
 Office Hours: T & TH 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM
 Facebook: St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Parish
 Weekend Mass Schedule:
 Saturday: 7:00 PM Sunday: 8:00 AM

St. Bridget's Church

211 E. Division Street, PO Box 86, River Falls, WI 54022
 Website: saintbridgets.org
 Phone: (715) 425-1870 Fax: (715) 425-1871
 Email: receipt@stbparish.com
 Office Hours: M-F 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Weekend Mass Schedule:
 Saturday: 5:00 PM. Sunday: 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Immaculate Conception Staff

Pastor - Rev. Gerald Harris
 Email - pastor@stbparish.com
 Office - (715) 425-1879 ext.103
 Emergency - (715) 869-6122
 Home - (715) 425-1876

**Associate Pastor -
 Fr. Joe Stefancin**
 Office - (715) 796-2244 ext. 8
 Emergency - (715) 370-5650
 Email - FrJoe@stbparish.com

Deacon Joe Paron
 Cell - (715) 977-1674
 Home - (715) 684-2854

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CRE (Grades 7-11)	Kelly Veenendaal - (715) 796-2241 - ext 4 kellyveenendaal@smicparish.org	Knights of Columbus	Pete Lefeber - (715) 684-9281 pdlefe@yahoo.com
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From the Pastor . . .

This church bulletin covers 3 weeks: the 4th Sunday of Advent is December 19, Feast of Christmas, the Feast of the Holy Family is December 26 and January 2 the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord.

The 4th Sunday of Advent the Gospel of Luke 1:39-45 has Mary visiting Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb. That baby is John who is the Baptist, who will preach hope the Messiah is near—Jesus! The Feast of Christmas is amazing. Most commercial businesses are able to close early on Christmas Eve as well as Christmas Day. There is a quiet that can only be caused by God. Deep down I believe that the world longs for a "savior" who will bring order, peace, out of the chaos many feel around the world. The Savior is Jesus. Christmas Day is a sign of hope.

December 26, is the Feast of the Holy Family. Luke 2:41-52 tells of Mary and Joseph traveling to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover when Jesus was twelve years old. Through miscommunication Jesus remains behind conversing with the teachers in the temple. Mary and Joseph were upset as would any parent. Jesus simply assures them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Jesus is giving them a sign of what is to come.

Lastly, January second is the feast of Epiphany or Three Kings. The world is starting to recognize this "Jesus." A "king" but not an earthly king. A king that wants justice, compassion. Merry and Blessed Christmas season to all. God bless you. Fr. Jerry Harris

Hints for the holidays on dealing with grief and other emotions at Christmas Season

For those who suffered a death, divorce, physical move, or abuse, this past year or several years ago the grief and hurt can be difficult during the Christmas season. That may mean celebrating by doing the same things that brought comfort over the years. Or it may mean changing traditions to reflect the reality of the change. There is no one right way to celebrate Christmas. One powerful tool is to "write your feelings" or "write a letter to the deceased." You obviously can't send it. But, you can go to a church or other special place and read the letter out loud. When it is read aloud, simply tear the letter up. It may sound simple but it does provide a release for your feelings. If you need to talk, just call me or Fr. Joe or someone you trust.

There some articles called "Care Notes" in the information racks at both churches for those of us who have a tough time dealing with the holidays. If you would like one, please let me know and I can send them to you.

Christmas Thanks!

A big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make our Christmas celebrations here at St. Bridget and St. Mary's! The musicians, cantors, Praise Band, decorators, ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Mass Servers, greeters, people who set up chairs and others who take them down, the office and maintenance staff who do so much behind the scenes at both churches. God Bless You All.—Fr. Harris and Fr. Stefancin

Welcome Home

You are always welcome here! No matter how long you have been away from the Catholic Church, you can always come home. God is inviting you back to your faith. You may already be feeling a strange inner pull to explore the Church again. That spiritual pull or longing you feel is God drawing you back. God never forces; God only invites. God leaves the decision to return to the Catholic Church up to you. Christ is at the heart of many reasons to come home to the Catholic Church. Everyone's experience in returning is unique, depending upon whatever speaks to his or her heart.

We are very grateful that you chose to celebrate Christmas with us, and we hope you will come again. Fr. Harris

Personal THANK YOU!

Please accept my public THANK YOU for all that you shared with me this Christmas season. Your well wishes, cards, food, and personal expressions given to me are deeply appreciated. I am blessed beyond measure.

God bless you. Fr. Jerry Harris

Christmas Blessings and Thank you!

I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and New Year filled with God's richest blessings. May the love of Jesus Christ this newborn King bring great joy to all of you this Christmas Season and always.

Merry Christmas, Fr. Joe



KC Corner

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Starting in January 2022, Council 7030 Meeting Day and Time will change to the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting:

January 6, 2022 at 7:30 P.M.

Family of the Month—December

John Rukavina—Congratulations!!

New Honorary Life Member

Congratulations to JIM BURKHARDT for achieving Honorary Life Membership on November 22, 2021

Toys for Tots

The Toys for Tots boxes will be picked up on Dec 20th.

Officers Needed

Our council is in desperate need for new officers to lead, organize and direct our council into the future. We need new energy, ideas and commitment to stay a vibrant organization in our community. Please pray about this and consider offering your talents to serve God and your neighbor.

Membership Support Needed

Council 7030 not only needs your financial support, but we also need your active support for the many activities we are planning. The 2022 Membership dues collection process will begin in the next week. Included with the dues assessment will be a survey asking you to commit to at least one activity in the next year. Watch for it and prayerfully consider your response.

Parish Council Candidates Needed

We have three (3) parish council members terms are expiring this spring. They are Kevin Branstad, Cyndi Rineck, and Rhonda Malecek. God bless you for your serving the parish this way. Ideally, we need 2 candidates for each open position. If you are interested or know of someone who would be interested in serving, please contact Todd Edelman, parish business administrator, Fr. Joe or me. To serve on the Parish Council, you must be a member of the parish and active in the Catholic faith. The Parish Council meets once a month, eight times a year virtually. It is a great opportunity for bringing new ideas built on our faith tradition. Fr. Harris

PRAYER LIST

PASTORAL MINISTRY

If someone you know becomes hospitalized and would like a visit, please call the church office. Want someone prayed for or listed in the bulletin prayer list? Please notify our prayer chain contact, Roxi Wakeen by calling or texting 651-894-3385. The name of your loved one will be prayed for two months or unless you request it otherwise. You can resubmit your loved ones names at anytime.

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Donald Anibas | John Will | Kay Suckow |
| Ken Weiss | Lorraine Miller | Dominic Pedrotty |
| Patricia Severin | Jodi Hurtgen Wagner | Heather Jaszczak |
| Janet Gregor | Emma Becker | Harriet Meath |
| Maureen Konder | Jane Koonce | Carlene Brown |
| Margaret Chyba | Kathy Weninger | Jodi Trunkel |
| Kelly Kopacz | Mary Erickson | Rosie Kohler |
| Jan O'Connell | Marlys Hawkins | Linda Jourdeans |
| Fr. Bill Murphy | | |

Tithes and Financial	(prior week)
Adult Envelopes	\$9,398.00
Loose	\$326
Budget Week 24	\$7,365.00
Actual Week 24	\$9,724.00
YTD Budget	\$106,290.00
YTD Actual	\$105,197.71

Year End Church Contributions

As we near the end of 2021, this is a great time to remind all parishioners of ways they can save on taxes and help St. Mary's Church. If you own stocks or bonds that have appreciated, consider donating them to St. Mary's Church. The IRS allows you to deduct the investment value when the donation is made regardless of what you paid for it. This is a great way to make a financial impact on your parish and save on your taxes at the same time. Check with your financial advisor for details before making the transfer.



Adult Faith Formation

Adult Bible Study: Romans: The Gospel of Salvation – 8 Week Study beginning, Tuesday, January 4th

Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation by Dr. Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins, followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. We will begin our Romans Bible study on Tuesday, January 4th at 8:45 a.m. in the Rectory Basement. For more information or to register for the study, contact Jackie Aune at 715-796-2241 or email: JackieAune@smicparish.org. We hope you can join us!

Men's Retreat Save the Date

All Men mark your calendars for Saturday, March 5th, 2022, from 9:00am – 3:30pm at St Bridget's Catholic Church, River Falls. The Parishes in our cluster are sponsoring "A Men's Retreat" for all adult men. Our speaker/facilitator is Pat Millea (pat.millea.com). He is a husband & father who truly enjoys sharing his love for God and the Catholic Church with people of all ages. The cost is free. This will be a great opportunity to gather as men of faith.

Scripture Readings

www.usccb.org/bible/readings

Monday, 12/20	Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38	24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
Tuesday, 12/21	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45	33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Wednesday, 12/22	1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56	1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd
Thursday, 12/23	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66	25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14
Friday, 12/24	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79	89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29
Saturday, 12/25	Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14	Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Sunday, 12/26	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52	Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Monday, 12/27	1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8	97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
Tuesday, 12/28	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18	124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8
Wednesday, 12/29	1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35	96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6
Thursday, 12/30	1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40	96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10
Friday, 12/31	1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18	96:1-2, 11-12, 13
Saturday, 1/1	Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21	Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Sunday, 1/2	Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12	Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Monday, 1/3	1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25	2:7bc-8, 10-12a
Tuesday, 1/4	1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44	72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8
Wednesday, 1/5	1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52	72:1-2, 10, 12-13
Thursday, 1/6	1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Lk 4:14-22a	72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17
Friday, 1/7	1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16	147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20
Saturday, 1/8	1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30	149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b
Sunday, 1/9	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22	Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

Read the Bible in a Year

Check out Bible in a Year Podcast by Father Mike Schmitz. This podcast will lead you through the Bible in 365 days. You can follow along using your own Bible, as Father Mike, with Jeff Cavins, reads aloud the selected passages of the day and then ends with a short reflection. Each episode lasts about 20 minutes. This podcast can be found on Amazon music or <https://media.ascensionpress.com/podcast/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>.

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Mass Schedule - Immaculate Conception				
<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>In Honor Of</u>	<u>Given By:</u>
THURS	12/16	Assisted Living Facilities	People's Mass	
FRI	12/17	8:00 AM	People's Mass	
SAT	12/18	7:00 PM	Barb Brown	Brown Family
SUN	12/19	8:00 AM	Charlene Bretl	Kathleen Walsh
TUES	12/21	5:30 PM	People's Mass	
THURS	12/23	Assisted Living Facilities	People's Mass	
FRI	12/24	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	James & Gladys Bonte Mikla & Mahoney Families	Bob & Jackie Aune family Family
SAT	12/25	9:00 AM	Rodney & Marly DeSmith	Wally & Deb Graf & Family
SUN	12/26	8:00 AM	Charlene Bretl	Jerry Bretl Family
TUES	12/28	8:00 AM	People's Mass	
THURS	12/30	Assisted Living Facilities	People's Mass	
FRI	12/31	8:00 AM	People's Mass	
SAT	1/1	7:00 PM	Jean Olson	Marcella & John Weiman
SUN	1/2	8:00 AM	Kristy Yager	Paula Yager
TUES	1/4	5:30 PM	People's Mass	

Ministry Schedule for the weekends through January 2						
	Eucharistic Minister	Mass Server	Reader	Greeter	Usher	Sacristan
Saturday, December 18 7:00 PM		Rhyan Nichols Roslyn Nichols	Deb Phillipps	Austin Nichols Kelsey Nichols	Maverick Kostrzak Todd Kostrzak Mark Mikla John Northup	Nancy Nichols
Sunday, December 19 8:00 AM		Olivia Valiant Jasper Wiebold	John Rukavina	Jennifer Schommer Matt Schommer	Scott Amacher Greg Hawkins Christopher John Terry Korte	Dan Kohler
Friday, December 24 4:00 PM	Robert Aune Martina Halverson	Elliot Fritz Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Virginia Anderson Carol Holldorf	Greg Hawkins Todd Kostrzak Dennis Malecek Rhonda Malecek	Martina Halverson
Friday, December 24 6:00 PM	Nancy Nichols John Northup (sub requested)	Rhyan Nichols Roslyn Nichols	Chris Stark	Austin Nichols Kelsey Nichols Volunteer needed	Toby Hable Austin Nichols John Northup (sub requested) Volunteer needed	Nancy Nichols
Saturday, December 25 9:00 AM	Dan Kohler John Rukavina (sub requested)	Hailey House (sub requested) Chase Lee	John Rukavina (sub requested)	Jeff Jacobson Thess Jacobson	Scott Amacher Terry Korte Volunteer needed Volunteer needed	Dan Kohler
Sunday, December 26 8:00 AM		Ella Bourget Goldie Daigle (sub requested)	Sara Miller (sub requested)	Howie Evans Lisa Evans	Curtiss Bourget Thess Jacobson Peter Lohmeier Pete Nusbaum	Howie Evans
Saturday, January 1 7:00 PM		David Mendez Flynn Peissig	Linda Jourdeans	Kelly Veenendaal Ryan Veenendaal	Toby Hable Christopher John Maverick Kostrzak Todd Kostrzak	Nancy Nichols
Sunday, January 2 8:00 AM		Haylie Bauer Isaac Bauer	Carissa Kusilek	Grey Hush Tara Hush	Robert Aune Greg Hawkins Colton Hush Sam Hush	John Rukavina

Chancery Bulletin - You can view the Chancery bulletin here: <http://www.catholicdos.org/chancery-bulletin>

Ride to Worship - If you are unable to get to mass on Saturday or Sunday, please contact our church office and one of Welcoming Committee members will assist. We will try our best to get you there! Church office - Phone: (715) 796-2244; Email - admin@stmaryshammond.org; Office Hours: T & TH 11:30a.m. - 4:00p.m.

Please call the parish office for all scheduling.

Holy Communion for the Homebound - Call and leave your name and telephone number, and we will arrange a visit at your home by a Minister of Holy Communion.

Anointing of the Sick - First Mass of the quarter (Jan., April, July, & Oct.) at each nursing home and by appointment. Please call the cluster office for a priest to visit your home or hospital room - 715-796-2244.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Weekly on Sunday from 7:15 AM to 7:30 AM, or anytime by appointment.

Baptisms - A Baptism preparation is to be completed by parents prior to the Baptism of their first child.

Weddings - Weddings are to be scheduled six months prior to the wedding to allow for Marriage Preparation.