

ST. MARY'S PARISH

703 Monroe St., Ellis, KS 67637

December 24, 2017
Forth Sunday of Advent
The Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas)



Phone #s

Rectory: 726-4522 Parish: stmary@gbta.net
Convent: 726-4696 Sr. Doris: dorisesj@gbta.net
School: 726-3185 SMS Principal: apfeifer@stmaryellis.net

Website

Parish: www.stmarysofellis.org
Diocese: <http://salinadiocese.org>

Mass Schedule

Tuesday-Friday 8:10 a.m.
Monday 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday 10:00 a.m. (EGSC)
Saturday 5:30 p.m. Starting Jan. 6 @ 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m. (Cedar Bluff, Memorial Day-thru 2 weeks after Labor Day)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Anytime by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Bulletin Deadline

Noon on Wednesday

Baptism

By appointment. Contact the Pastor

Weekly Readings

Dec. 25 - Dec. 31

Mon: Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Tue: Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22
Wed: 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:1a, 2-8
Thu: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18
Fri: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35
Sat: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40
Sun: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Parish Personnel

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Pastor | Fr. Dana Clark |
| Pastoral Associate | Sr. Doris Flax |
| Parish Secretary | Mrs. Emily Mattheyer |
| School Principal | Mrs. April Pfeifer |
| Pastoral Council President | Mr. Ken Kohl |
| Liturgy Chairperson | Mrs. Donna Honas |
| Education Chairperson | Mr. Darin Reed |
| Building & Maintenance | Mike Augustine, Eldon Jerauld |
| Finance Council President | Mr. Jeff Augustine |
| School Council President | Mrs. Amanda Shannon |
| Home & School President | Mrs. Sarah Eck |
| Director of Religious Education | Mrs. Lucia Bain |

Marriage

Contact the pastor at least six months prior to the anticipated wedding date. No wedding will be scheduled without premarital instruction.

Mass Intentions

| | | | |
|------|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Sat | Dec 23 | 5:30 p.m. | Clara Kuhn+ (anniv) |
| | | 9:00 a.m. | For the Parishioners |
| Sun | Dec 24 | 4:00 p.m. | Eddie & Fidelia Honas+ |
| | | 6:00 p.m. | Irvin Werth+ |
| Mon | Dec 25 | 9:00 a.m. | George & Elizabeth Amrein+ |
| Tues | Dec 26 | 8:10 a.m. | John M & Clara Augustine+ Fam (liv/dec) |
| Wed | Dec 27 | 8:10 a.m. | Alice V. Honas+ (anniv) |
| | EGSC | 10:00 a.m. | For the Residents (liv/dec) |
| Thu | Dec 28 | 8:10 a.m. | Paul & Jerome Flax+ Family (liv/dec) |
| Fri | Dec 29 | 8:10 a.m. | Rita Kuhn+ (anniv) |
| Sat | Dec 30 | 5:30 p.m. | A.A. & Clara Herman+ Fam (liv/dec) |
| Sun | Dec 31 | 9:00 a.m. | For the Parishioners |
| Mon | Jan 1 | 9:00 a.m. | For the Parishioners |
| | | 5:30 p.m. | For vocations from our parish |

Ministries Dec. 30 & 31

| Ministry | 5:30 p.m. | 9:00 a.m. |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eucharistic Ministers | Barney Boos Shelia Boos Mike Augustine Randy Augustine Perry Mick | Eldon Jerald Stephanie Jerauld Marilyn Kroeger Wade King Julie Gottschalk |
| Lector | Perry Mick | Eldon Pfeifer |
| Offertory Procession | Margaret Metzler Clarence Rupp | Randy & Wendy Honas Family |
| Cantor / Musician | LuAnn Pfeifer Anna Kuhn | Nancy Cunningham NEED CANTOR |
| Servers | Landon Dinkel Lucas Dinkel Alyssa Rome | Madison Gottschalk Michelle Gottschalk Mason Gottschalk |
| Ushers & Greeters | Clarence Rupp Kathy Sherfick Verla Seibel Darrell Augustine Jake Dreiling | Corey & Amy Burton Family Chris & Brandy Becker Family |

Other Ministries

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Communion to Homebound | Dec. 29 (Fri) | Sr. Doris Flax |
| Ellis Good Samaritan | Dec. 31 (Sun) 10:15 a.m. | Bev Windholz |
| Rosary Leaders | Dec. 30 (Sat) 5:30 p.m. Dec. 31 (Sun) 9:00 a.m. | Rita Younger Agneta Kuhn |
| Children's Liturgy | Dec. 31 (Sun) 9:00 a.m. | Jolene Amrein |

Meetings & Events

| | | |
|-------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun | Dec. 24 | Regular Sunday morning Mass @ 9:00am Christmas Eve Masses at 4:00pm & 6:00pm |
| Mon | Dec. 25 | MERRY CHRISTMAS! Christmas Day Mass celebration at 9:00am Rectory is Closed. |
| Tues | Dec. 26 | Rectory is Closed. |
| Thurs | Dec. 28 | NO Eucharistic Adoration |
| Mon | Jan. 1 | HAPPY NEW YEAR! New Year's Mass celebration at 9:00am & 5:30pm Rectory is Closed. |



Ministries Jan. 1 for New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy mother of God

9:00am & 5:30pm

All mass ministries are a VOLUNTEER basis.

Prayer List

Congratulations to Olivia Marie Pfeifer, daughter of Earnest III & Ann Pfeifer, who was baptized here on December 15th.

Please Remember in Prayer

Phyllis Rupp, Kelly Beisner, George Crawford, Lee Boos, Pam Burgardt, Ron Donner, Lucille Kuhn, Manny Befort, Danny Schoenberger, JoAnn Hohman, Gilbert Kinderknecht, Diane Boos, Josephine Urban, Debbie & Martin LaBarge, Shawna LaBarge, Kenny & Kathy Wolf, and the residents of Ellis Good Samaritan Center. If any one has names they would like added to the list, they may call the rectory at 726-4522.

Parish Offering: Dec. 16 & 17

Loose \$859.00 (Budget \$885.00)

Envelope \$3,179.00 (Budget \$4,808.00)

For this weekend the collection was under (\$1,655.00)

Did you know if you attend Mass at any church of the Heartland Parishes: Hays, WaKeeney, Victoria and you put your SMC envelope in their collection it will be sent to SMC? In the future, if you find yourself attending Mass at another parish in the area, it would be safe to say your tithing envelope will make it back to SMC during the week via the mail or hand delivery.

Parish Announcements

- **Gift Giving Trees:** A Special THANKS to our parishioners on filling all the gifts for the Good Sam and Ellis Food Pantry Giving Trees! Faith in action as we make Christmas brighter for others!
- **Mass Intensions for 2018:** There are still some dates available for 2018. Call or stop in the Rectory to schedule.
- **CCD Request:** A volunteer is needed to watch 1-2 small children on Wednesday evenings from about 6:45p to 8:15pm for a parishioner who teaches CCD. If interested, please contact 785-726-1353. Thank You!
- **NO Eucharistic Adoration** on Dec. 28.
- **NEW SATURDAY MASS TIME** will begin Jan. 6th. Mass will be celebrated at 5:00pm.

Parish Organizations

Scholarship Available: The D of I are accepting scholarship applications for the Kansas Daughters of Isabella 2018 Scholarship! Those eligible are to be a graduating senior who is a Kansas citizen enrolled or planning to enroll in a post-secondary school, credited college, university no later than Sept. 1, 2018. Must be a Catholic and be a member, or a daughter, step-daughter, granddaughter, step-granddaughter, or great granddaughter, or step-great granddaughter, or niece of a local member in Kansas. Please contact Marion Ptaschek for an application @ 726-3352. *Deadline to return application back to Marion is Jan. 8, 2018.*

School Announcements

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We Appreciate Your Support!

THANK YOU to ALL who helped us collect food items for our Holiday Food Collection for Ellis Food Pantry. We were able to donate 388 items! **AND** We reached our BoxTop goal on the last day of school before Christmas Break with a total of 3,083!!!

Community Announcements

You're Invited! The Little Town of Bethlehem Nativity display at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Vincent, KS will be open to visitors from 1:00-5:00pm on the following days: Sunday, Dec. 17; Saturday, Dec. 23; Sunday, Dec. 24; and Christmas Day. St. Boniface is a country church in southeastern Ellis County and is located 5.5 miles south of Victoria and 2 miles east. Catholic Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 8:45 a.m. Christmas Day Mass will also be at 8:45 a.m.

Note from the Pastor

Thank You. A special thanks to the Arts and Environment Committee for decorating the Church for Christmas! You are greatly appreciated!

Merry Christmas. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas! Also thank you for your many thoughtful cards and gifts. They are greatly appreciated.

January 1st (the Solemnity of Mary). Because the Solemnity of Mary falls on Monday this year, it is *not*, a holy day of obligation. However, it is still a holy day that we can celebrate. Consequently, I will offer a Mass on Monday morning at 9:00am and the regular evening Mass at 5:30pm. There will be no New Year Eve's Mass on Sunday.

Saturday Night Mass Change from 5:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Update. The following explanation is also included in the parish newsletter mailed out Friday:

Because of concerns brought to the Parish Council in regards to the safety of some of our elderly parishioners, the Council voted to temporarily change the Saturday night Mass time to 5:00 p.m. during the winter months this year, starting Saturday, January 6, 2018. The 5:00 time gives more daylight for a person to get to Mass and back home before it's too dark and cold.

Feedback has already been given and is very much appreciated. The feedback will help us decide what is best for the overall good of the parish. The Council felt it needed to be sensitive to the concern brought to their attention and not delay in making a decision for a couple of months to study it further, at which time it would be too late to address the concern. At the February meeting the Council will revisit the issue.

Part of the feedback received is that for some of the 5:30 Mass crowd, it would be harder to make 5:00 p.m. because of their work. In fact for them a later Mass would be better. I did offer doing a 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Mass during the fall/winter time change and 6:00 p.m. during the spring/summer season. One Mass, probably the 4:30 Mass, would not have any scheduled ministries and be more like a daily Mass. A valid concern was that would affect the solemnity and the communal aspect of our Sunday worship. Although two Masses would solve the problem of both groups, the concern was whether it was the wise thing to do for the overall good of the parish. More thought and prayer would be needed before making that decision.

One option discussed would be that during the fall time change to have Mass at 5:00 p.m. and during the spring time change have Mass at 6:00 p.m. Again myself and the Council will consider all the inputs and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit decide what is best for the overall good of the parish.

2018 Calendars are available. Check the table or book shelves in the back of the church.

Year-end Gifts. The end of the year is here. Keep the support of our parish in mind as you plan for your end of year giving.

Have a good week! Fr. Dana

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 24

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Quotation: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."



Steps toward hope:

- ♦ *Appreciate Mary's role in salvation history through her fiat.*
- ♦ *Like Mary, be open to listening to and discerning God's will for us.*
- ♦ *Ask our Blessed Mother to help us grow closer to her son this Advent.*

(from www.osv.com)

PRAYER FOR A NEW BISHOP

Heavenly Father, you have blessed our diocese time and again with good and holy bishops who have led us ever closer to you.

Aware of your profound love for us, we ask you to bless us once again. Send us a good and holy man to become our next bishop. Inspire us, the clergy, religious, and laity of the diocese to work generously with him so that we might grow together in your love and continue the good work you have begun in us for the sake of all.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

God's Christmas Tree

Some people, when a Christmas tree they see,
may only think it's just a tree
with shining lights and a star so bright
and pretty colors that gleam in the night.

But to me it's so much more
than lights and stars and ornaments galore.
For when a Christmas tree I see,
this is what it means to me:

At the top is a star shining so bright,
like the one that shone that first Christmas night,
or an Angel, like those who to the shepherds did sing
"Glory to God..." for the newborn King.

The tree, made of wood, with its branches spread wide,
is like the cross upon which our Savior died.
It's color, evergreen, means life everlasting
which can be yours if you will just ask Him.

It's lights, shining so pretty and bright,
are like "the Light of the World",
God's Son, Jesus Christ.
Like pieces of tinsel, too many to count,
are God's unending mercies - they freely abound.

The ornaments are a bright crimson red
like great drops of blood that you He shed.
Garland, gracefully wrapped around the tree,
is like God's grace which wraps you and me.

The gifts under the tree are as nice as can be,
but the greatest gift ever is Jesus, you see,
for He came to this earth to die on a tree
so you and I from sin might be free.

So give Him your heart and happy you will be
that His gift of life has made you free.
How pretty are these wonderful trees,
but none are as beautiful as God's Christmas Tree.

By Elizabeth Gill

