



ST. MARY'S PARISH

703 Monroe St., Ellis, KS 67637

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Phone #s

Rectory: 726-4522
School: 726-3185

E-Mail

Parish: stmary@gbta.net
SMS Principal: ppark@stmarysellis.net

Website

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

Mass Schedule

Monday 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday 8:10 a.m.
Wednesday 10:00 a.m. (EGSC)
Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 7:00 a.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m. Cedar Bluff, May 19 - Sept. 8, 2024

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. - 5:00 p.m.

Bulletin Deadline

By 4:30 p.m. Wednesday

Baptism

By appointment. Contact the Pastor

Weekly Readings

December 24 - December 31

Mon: Isaiah 62:11-12; Luke 2:15-20
Tue: Acts 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

Parish Personnel

Pastor	Fr. Dana Clark
Parish Secretary	Mrs. Emily Mattheyer
School Principal	Mrs. Patti Park
Pastoral Council President	Mr. John Zody
Liturgy Chairpersons	Ruth Bollig and Alyson Johnson
Finance Council President	Mr. Melvin Augustine
School Council President	Mr. Matt Fondoble
Home & School President	Mrs. Jenni Bongartz
Director of Religious Education	Mrs. Judy Schuler

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.	For the Parishioners
Sun	Dec 24	7:00 a.m.	Margaret Wiesner+
Sun	Dec 24	9:00 a.m.	Henry Haas+ (anniv)
Sun	Dec 24	4:00 p.m.	Marion Dorzweiler+ (anniv) Family (liv/dec)
Sun	Dec 24	6:00 p.m.	Befort-Augustine Families (liv/dec)
Mon	Dec 25	9:00 a.m.	Andrew & Clara (anniv) Kuhn+ Family (l/d)
Tues	Dec 26	8:10 a.m.	Norma Lee Carey+
Wed	Dec 27	8:10 a.m.	Alice Honas+
		EGSC	10:00 a.m. Laurian Leiker+ Family (liv/dec)
Thurs	Dec 28	8:10 a.m.	David Dinkel+ (anniv)
Fri	Dec 29	8:10 a.m.	Al Weber+
Sat	Dec 30	5:30 p.m.	Mary Wasinger+
Sun	Dec 31	7:00 a.m.	For the Parishioners
Sun	Dec 31	9:00 a.m.	Frank+ & Juanita Augustine, Henry & Mary Weigel+, and Brenda Gabel+ Families (l/d)

Ministries for December 30 & 31

Ministry	5:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
Lector	Barney Boos	Brad Deines
Presentation of Gifts	James & Sandy Rome Family	Mark & Sarah Eck Family
Eucharistic Minister(s)	Duane Dorzweiler Richard Bollig	Geri Augustine Peggy Seibel Sharon Bittel
Servers	Kinizie Sunley	Hannah & Luke James Alyvia Kraft
Cantor / Musician	Guitar Choir	Isabella Eck Nancy Cunningham
Ushers & Greeters	James & Sandy Rome Family Gary Luea Bob & Margie Mickelson	Mark & Sarah Eck Family

Other Ministries

7:00am Lector	Dec. 31 (Sun) 7:00 a.m.	Mike Augustine
Communion to Homebound	Dec. 29 (Fri)	Fr. Dana Clark
Ellis Good Samaritan	Dec. 31 (Sun) 10:15 a.m.	No Communion
Rosary Leaders	Dec. 30 (Sat) 5:30 p.m. Dec. 31 (Sun) 9:00 a.m.	Diane Kuhn Peggy Seibel

Meetings & Events

Sun	Dec. 24	Sunday Masses at 7:00am & 9:00am Christmas Eve Masses at 4:00p & 6:00p
Mon	Dec. 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS! Christmas Day Mass at 9:00am Parish Office Closed
Tue	Dec. 26	Parish Office Closed
Thurs	Dec. 28	No Eucharistic Adoration
Sun	Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Sunday Masses at 7:00am & 9:00am

Parish Announcements

- **No Eucharistic Adoration:** We will be taking a short break during the holidays. No Adoration on Dec. 21, 28 or Jan. 4. We will resume on January 11.
- **Christmas Poinsettias:** If you donated to the flower fund and/or provided your own poinsettia, names of your loved ones will be showcased in next week's bulletin, after the Christmas celebration, to make sure we don't miss anyone.
- **Parish Office will be Closed** for the Christmas holiday on Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 26. Along with Friday, Dec. 29 at 12:30pm through January 2, 2024. We wish you a blessed Merry Christmas and New Year!
- **The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God** is January 1, 2024. It is not a holy day of obligation. We invite you to come celebrate with us at 5:30pm on Monday, January 1.
- **Lost & Found:** We had a pair of lady glasses turn in (found on the Parish Office steps). We have placed them in the back of church on one of the tables!
- **2024 Ministry Schedules Ready:** The 2024 ministry schedules have been completed and mailed out or sent home with students. Thank You for volunteering your time and talents. ~Emily
- **Year-End Gifts:** The end of the year is approaching fast. Keep the support of our parish (church & school) in mind as you plan for your end of the year giving.



Notes from the Pastor

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year! Again, thanks for your many thoughtful cards, gifts and goodies! They are greatly appreciated.

A Christmas Poem

Christmas is a time to reflect
On all that God has done
It's not a matter of what we get
But the birth of the Holy one
It's not about gifts
With ribbons and bows
Or Christmas trees
Tinsel and mistletoe
The Christmas gift given to us
Is Jesus Christ's
Gift of love
© By M.S.Lowndes

The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Next Monday, January 1st (also the Octave of Christmas) is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Because it falls on a Monday, it is not a holyday of obligation. We, of course, will celebrate the Solemnity at the 5:30pm Mass on Monday. I hope to see many people there!

Feasts of the Epiphany and The Baptism of the Lord. The Feast of the Epiphany this year is Sunday, January 7, 2024. The Baptism of the Lord is, generally, celebrated the first Sunday after January 6. But since the Feast of the Epiphany is on that Sunday, the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on Monday, the next day. For Roman Catholics, the Feast of the Baptism of Lord marks the end of the liturgical Christmas season, which is January 8, 2024.

Feast of Epiphany—Chalking the Door. We will have containers of holy water with a piece of chalk taped to it available. It is for each family to take to bless their home. The blessing of homes, as part of the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany, is a custom that many people have adopted. The family gathers together to ask for God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this blessing is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 24. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words that means: "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and the two numbers the year 2024. Holy Water can then be used to sprinkle door and rooms in the home.

Have a good week! Fr. Dana

Parish Organizations

- **Save the Date for Daughters of Isabella Monthly Meeting:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:00pm we will meet for a soup supper and our monthly business meeting!

Community Announcements

- **Mark Your Calendar:** Ellis Food Boxes will have Pick Up on Monday, January 8, 2024 from 3-6pm.
- **Ellis Community Blood Drive:** The American Red Cross will be in Ellis on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 between 1:00-6:00pm at the Ellis K of C Hall for a Blood Drive! *Give blood. Help save lives.* To schedule your appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Ellis or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
- **Donate to the Ellis Food Pantry:** The Ellis Food Pantry has received a \$20,000 matching grant!!! Every dollar given between now and January 15 will be matched \$1 for \$1 up to \$20,000. With the need growing, would you consider giving toward a local ministry that helps those in Ellis? Make checks out to: Ellis Food Pantry and send them to the Alliance, 810 Washington St., Ellis, KS 67637!

Parish Prayer List

Please Remember in Prayer

Congratulations! **Baylor Morris Brack**, who was baptized here on December 17.

Son of Kashen Brack and Kayley Louge.

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Dean Augustine, Gilbert Augustine, Juanita Augustine, Mark Boos, Janice Collins, Patty Dreiling, Rose Egger, Sister Doris Flax, Robert Gerhardt, Debbie Haas, Edna Hejny, Nathan Hively, Rob Hrabec, Gilbert Kinderknecht, Doug Kingsley, Clifford Kreutzer, Agneta Kuhn, Lucille Kuhn, Irene LaBarge, Kevin LaBarge, Joey LaBarge, Shawna LaBarge, Martin & Debbie LaBarge, Holly Metzler, Bob Mickelson, Riley Moore, Elizabeth Newton, Maddux Pfeifer, Jeanna Plante, Megan Ptascheck, Doug Rohr, Bernie & Laura Schoenberger, Toyna Sterling, Tanner Sullivan, Marlene Tribble, Brandy Womack, and the residents of EGSC.

***If any one has names they would like added to the list, they may call the rectory at 726-4522.***

## Parish Offering: Weekend of December 16 & 17

**Weekly Budget Fiscal Year 2023-24: \$7,433.34**

Offertory Loose Plate.....\$889.00

Adult Envelopes.....\$5,211.00

**Total Giving this week.....\$6,100.00**

**For this weekend the collection is below by \$1,333.34.**

## *School Announcements*

December 21 thru January 3—Christmas Break



**St. Mary's School Carnival is One Month Away:** As many of you remember, the St. Mary's Home & School Association puts on a school carnival every year, paired with a soup luncheon, to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. This year the carnival and soup luncheon will be together, January 28, 2024, from 10:00am - 2:00pm!!! The carnival is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year and helps provide our school with the funds that are used to purchase many things for our kids, including computers, computer software, books and many classroom items. ***We are needing a little help:*** We will need items for the carnival games such as pop and cakes, in addition to prizes! Some ideas of prizes would include fruit snacks, bracelets, army figurines, books, little stuffed animals, bubbles, snoball coupons, art sets, outdoor games, etc. Anything big, small, or in between will work great for the Prize Store! Cash donations are welcome as well and will be used to purchase items for the Prize Store. We ask that all items donated be *new*. You may send prizes to school or drop off at the school office, no later than January 19, 2024. If you have questions, please reach out to Bailey Dinkel (785-259-1858) or Kristen Gaschler (785-259-2576) directly with any questions or donations. We are also accepting donations for the Raffle (items and/or monetary)! We ask those items be new as well! If you have questions about Raffle donations, please contact Becky Seibel (785-639-1654), Kiedra Hickert (785-259-2628). Watch the bulletin for more ways to help in the weeks ahead! We appreciate your support you give St. Mary's School!



### *When you see a Winter Cardinal...*



The winter cardinal has various symbolic meanings that have captivated imaginations throughout history. Its vibrant red color is reminiscent of the blood of Christ, symbolizing sacrifice and redemption. The cardinal's presence is often interpreted as a divine messenger, carrying blessings and spiritual guidance to those who encounter it. Its distinct song, which fills the crisp air, is believed to be a message from the heavens, a reminder of hope and **joy** during the holiday season; a reminder of the birth of Jesus and the **hope** and renewal that it brings.

As we gather with loved ones and celebrate the magic of Christmas this holiday season, let us not forget those who are grieving a loved one. Hold them close in prayer. Pray a cardinal will come in their path to share a message and **love** from up above.

We have placed several cardinals within the Christmas decorations around the church to be reminders of the cardinal's message: that **hope, love, and joy** are ever-present, even in the midst of winter's chill. The cardinal's vivid presence serves as a beacon of light, guiding us towards a season filled with warmth, togetherness, and the renewal of our spirits.

