



Son of God

*She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS:
for he shall save his people from their sins.*

MATTHEW 1:21

November 21, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

We will begin a new year in the church on Sunday, December 3rd with the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation for what we celebrate on December 25th, the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus, the Son of God, is incarnate in the flesh. Our hearts are warm with joy as we look at baby Jesus in the manger. This is the same Jesus we receive in the Eucharist.

During Advent, we are invited to reflect on our readiness for the Second Coming of Jesus. I encourage you to examine your conscience. If you realize you have sinned and need to receive God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you will find several times for the Sacrament on the back of this letter. You may also call to schedule an individual appointment with me for confession. If you need to receive this Sacrament but have forgotten how, you can find some guidance on my website at www.renewaloffaith.org/reconciliation.html or in the booklets in each church.

As we prepare for Christmas, we sometimes find ourselves very busy and forget that Christmas is about Jesus. We encourage spending time with Jesus in Adoration. On December 1st, we will have our normal First Friday Adoration where you can pray privately with Jesus from 8:30 am to 8:00 pm. Then, on Thursday, December 14th, we will celebrate a Holy Hour with Adoration from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Then, we will pray together with some time for individual silent prayer too. The hour will end with Benediction where all present are blessed with the Blessed Sacrament.

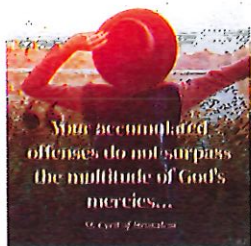
After a 3 year hiatus, we are resuming offering house blessings for parishioners by one of our deacons or myself on the Saturday (January 6th) before Epiphany. You can contact the parish office at 607-535-2786 if you would like to have your house blessed.

Our churches always look beautiful at Christmas. The Christmas flowers that many of you offer in memory of your loved ones are part of what helps make it beautiful. You will find an envelope enclosed specifically for Christmas flowers along with an envelope for your regular Christmas giving. We are thankful for any support you are able to provide.

Please be sure to see the schedule of our many events for Advent and Christmas. ***Please note that with Christmas falling on Monday, we will have our normal Sunday Masses in the morning followed by the Christmas Eve Masses beginning at 4:00 pm for Christmas.*** We would love to have you join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior.

Peace,

Fr. Jeff



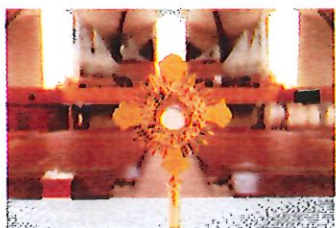
Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Every Saturday afternoon - 3:30-4:30 p.m. at St. Benedict's
- Thursday, November 30th - 8:30 - 10:00 am at St. Mary's
- Wednesday, December 13th - 4:00-6:00 pm at St. Benedict's
- Wednesday, December 20th - 4:00-6:00 pm at St. Mary's

December 8th—Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

On this day we honor Mary as the one conceived without sin so that she would be worthy to carry Jesus in her womb.

We will celebrate Masses at: 8:00 am and 12:05 pm at St. Mary's
6:30 pm at St. Benedict's



Advent Times for Adoration at St. Mary's of the Lake

Do you find yourself caught up in busy preparation for Christmas? Then, we recommend spending some time with Jesus!

- Friday, December 1st —Private Adoration from 8:30 am to 8:00 pm
- Thursday, December 14th—Holy Hour from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Christmas Mass Schedule

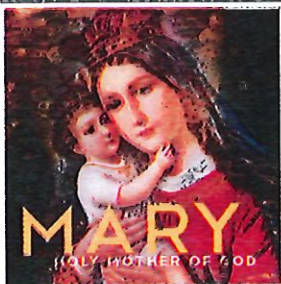
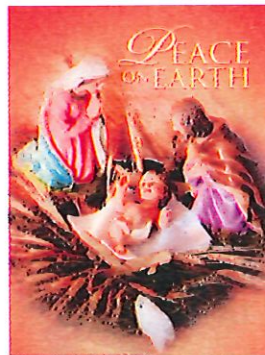
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Christmas Eve

- 4:00 pm at St. Mary's
- 6:30 pm at St. Benedict's
- 9:30 pm at St. Mary's

Christmas Morning

- 9:00 am at St. Mary's



January 1st—The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

We call Mary, Mother of God because she is the Mother of Jesus who was human and divine, our God.

Since this falls on Monday this year, it is **not** a holy day of **obligation**. Therefore, we will have one Mass at 9:00 on Monday, January 1st at St. Mary's of the Lake.

January 7th—The Epiphany of the Lord

The Magi bring their gifts to Jesus

- 5:00 pm Saturday evening at St. Benedict's
- 8:00 & 10:00 am Sunday at St. Mary's
- This year we will offer house blessings by one of our clergy on Saturday, January 6th. Please call the office to schedule a house blessing at your home.

