



## MARY MOTHER OF GOD CATHOLIC CHURCH

1614 Maplewood Road

Harrison, Arkansas 72601

Church Office & Rectory – 870-741-5234

Church Fax – 870-741-4234

Emails & Prayer-Line Connection: [mmgchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:mmgchurch@yahoo.com)

Fr. Ben's Email: [pastor.mmg.church@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.mmg.church@gmail.com)

[www.harrisoncatholic.org](http://www.harrisoncatholic.org)

### SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Mondays As Scheduled

Tuesday & Wednesday – 5:30 PM

Thursday, Friday & Saturday – 8:30 AM

### HOLY DAY MASSES

As Announced

### CONFESSIONS

One-Half Hour Before All Masses

Or By Appointment w/Father Ben at 870-741-5234

### PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Mary Mother of God Catholic Church is to carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ, as members of His living body, the Church, to bring the Kingdom of God into the world through evangelization, worship, Religious education, and service in our families, in our parish, and in our community.

### CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

We welcome new members to our Church through the process and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Please contact the church office.

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parents and Godparents are required to participate in a preparation process before the Baptism of children. Registration is required. Please contact the church office.

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements for wedding must be made at least six months in advance. Please contact the church office.

### COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

Extraordinary Ministers are available to bring Holy Communion to parishioners who are not able to attend Mass. Call the church office about anyone who would like to receive the Eucharist at home.

### SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact Father Ben.

### Pastor:

### Deacon:

### Secretary:

Adult Scripture Study:

Buildings, Maintenance:

Catholic Christian Women:

Catholic Youth Ministries (CYM):

Cemetery Committee:

Communion to Sick/Legion of Mary:

Custodian:

Eucharistic Adoration:

Finance Council:

Flocknote:

Knights of Columbus:

Knights of Columbus, 4<sup>th</sup> Degree:

Libraries:

Liturgy, Sacraments, Devotions:

Music Ministry:

Pastoral Council:

Prayer Group / Seven Sisters:

Pro-Life:

Religious Ed, Formation (PREP):

Sacristans:

Safe Environment:

Social and Charitable Outreach

Trail Life USA:

Tribunal:

Wedding Coordinator:

Welcome New Catholics (RCIA):

### Rev. Benjamin Riley

### Dc. Mark Scouten

Lucia McArthur

Tom Hoberock

Holly Coffman

Marlene Rowe

Pat Knickerbocker

Lori Goulet

Carmen Andrade

Joe Koenig

Lucia McArthur

Jerry Hogue

Everett Burr

Jennifer Johnson

Dc. Mark Scouten

Julie Jasper

Greg Jasper

Carmen Andrade

Sandra Guidry

Holly Coffman

David Krueger

Holly Coffman

Lucia McArthur

Wes Bradford

Dc. Mark Scouten

Bonnie Tauer

Wayne & Judy Keith

### NEW IN PARISH

To register in the parish, please fill out the form below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Moved From: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish City: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) New In Parish ( ) Change of Address/Phone/Email

## 2023 WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

<b>Saturday,</b> 4:15 PM 4:30 PM 5:00 PM	<b>December 16</b> <b>Nativity Play</b> Confessions MASS: +Poor Souls in Purgatory
<b>Sunday,</b> 8:00 AM 8:30 AM	<b>December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent</b> Rosary & Confessions MASS: +John J Kennelly, 25 <sup>th</sup> Ann.
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>December 18 – NO MASS</b>
<b>Tuesday,</b> 5:00 PM 5:30 PM	<b>December 19</b> Rosary & Confessions MASS: +Walter Israel
<b>Wednesday,</b> 4:30 PM 5:15 PM 5:30 PM	<b>December 20</b> Evening Prayer & Confessions Adoration & Benediction MASS: +Ida Reding
<b>Thursday,</b> 8:00 AM 8:30 AM	<b>December 21</b> Rosary & Confessions MASS: +Tommi G.S. Lair
<b>Friday,</b> 8:00 AM 8:30 AM 9:00 AM	<b>December 22</b> Rosary & Confessions MASS: +Lynam Family Fatima Rosary
<b>Saturday,</b> 4:30 PM 5:00 PM	<b>December 23</b> Confessions MASS: +Carl Heuschmidt
<b>Sunday,</b> 8:00 AM 8:30 AM 3:30 PM 4:00 PM 11:30 PM 12:00 AM	<b>December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Rosary & Confessions MASS: SI – Diane Dally Christmas Music Youth MASS: +Bill Burge Christmas Music Midnight MASS: +Fr. Jim Fanrak



**VIGIL CANDLES** - If you wish to light a 6-day vigil candle, a suggested \$3 donation is requested.

**CONFESSIONS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE** one-half hour before all Daily and Saturday/Sunday Masses or by appointment.

**ONLINE BULLETINS** Available at [harrisoncatholic.org](http://harrisoncatholic.org).

**\*\* Personal Listening Devices are Available for Mass \*\***

Please see one of our ushers in the vestibule to sign one out.

**MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR – LET US ALL SHARE THE JOY OF SERVING THE LORD!!** Sign up as soon as possible. If you are new to serving, please contact the church office or fill in your chosen ministry on the back of the bulletin, drop it in the collection basket, and we will contact you for training!

## 2023 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### Mary Mother of God Church – Harrison

Sun, Dec. 24	3:30 PM – Vigil Mass - Youth
Sun, Dec. 24	11:30 PM – Vigil Midnight Mass
Mon, Dec. 25	8:30 AM – Christmas Day Mass

### St. Andrew's Church - Yellville

Mon, Dec. 25	NOON Christmas Mass
	MMG please RSVP for Lunch
	** Janice – 870-421-2594



## REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of +Rita Ward, who died on Thursday, December 7, 2023. Please keep Rita and her family in your prayers.

## RCIA Classes in December

Dec. 19

6 PM Dinner / 6:30 PM Class

## NO PREP Classes Dec. 20 or 27

Classes Resume Jan. 3, 2024



**BINGO THIS WEEKEND – Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2pm.** Doors open at 1pm. Bring a friend! Proceeds will benefit local charities. Participants must be at least 18.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**Handbell Choir** No Rehearsal This Week  
**Praise & Worship** Rehearsal Thursday, 5:30-6:30 PM

**MMG CHOIR** Rehearsal Thursday, 6:30-8 PM



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**THE LORD WAITS FOR YOU!**

"I love so many things about being Catholic, but what I love the most is the privilege and joy of receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. But I also know how easy it is to take things for granted. So here is my challenge for you and me. Let us never take for granted the extraordinary treasure of the Eucharist." (Allen Hunt, former evangelical mega church pastor. Now helps Dynamic Catholic lead people to rediscover the genius and relevance of Catholicism).

To register to adore during daytime hours, please write to [g.carmen.8786@gmail.com](mailto:g.carmen.8786@gmail.com).

To inquire, please call or text Carmen, 305-815-1795.

**Below are available times for 2024.**

**Sunday @ 7 AM, 9 AM, 10 AM, 11 AM, Noon & 3 PM**

**Monday @ 7 AM, 10 AM, 11 AM, 3 PM**

**Tuesday @ 7 AM, 9 AM, 10 AM, 2 PM, 6 PM**

**Wednesday @ 7 AM, 8 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM, 6 PM**

**Thursday @ 3 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM & 6 PM**

**Friday @ 7 AM, Noon, 1 PM & 6 PM**

**Saturday @ 10 AM, 11 AM, Noon, 1 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM**

## TEMPORARY SUSPENSION – Traveling Statue

Due to the potential for bad weather, we will suspend the traveling statue of Our Lady of Fatima for the month of January. We would honor a special request if you have one. The next meeting of the Legion of Mary will be Thurs. Dec. 28.

## COMING UP in 2024

### January 13

**10 AM - Basic Food Preservation Class**

Contact Wendy Fry to RSVP: 870-926-7603

**6 PM - TRAIL LIFE Court of Honor**

Awards Ceremony

### February 14

Ash Wednesday

### February 18 thru March 24

Scripture Study - Sign Up in the Vestibule

**NEW OFFICE HOURS**

9AM-2PM

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Dec 17: 1 Thes 5: 16-24 / Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28  
 Dec 18: Jer 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25  
 Dec 19: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a / Lk 1:5-25  
 Dec 20: Is 7:10-14 / Lk 1:26-38  
 Dec 21: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18 / Lk 1:39-45  
 Dec 22: 1 Sm 1:24-28 / Lk 1:46-56  
 Dec 23: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 / Lk 1:57-66  
 Dec 24: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 / Rom 16:25-27 / Lk 1:26-38

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** – Military & Emergency Personnel, Veterans, Victims of Natural Disasters, COVID-19, Terrorism and War, Vocations, Logan Anthony Baker, Patricia Bel, Donnie Billups, Shari Broscovak, Betty Burge, Norma Calhoun, Anette Chaney, Brian Coffman, Donald Coffman, Larry/Rita Coffman, Jim/Karen Conner, Sally Conner, Tootie Darms, David/Mary Decker, Ruth Deischer, Wayne Dixon, Wink Duncan, John Forrest, Casey Gibbs, Lorraine Gokenbach, Thea Greenhaw, Bill/Levi/Ruth Haley, Pete Hartman, Waylen/Preston Hetrick, Dianne Hoberock, Connie Israel, Chris Jasper, Jeannie, Ed Karlovic, Caven James Keith, Darby Kester, Dr. Charles Klepper, Mary Koenig, Jane Krone, Martha Lamboy, Sandy/Mike Luckenbill, Lynn & Glenn, Courtney Martin, Mary Martin, Emily Myers, Beth Nelson, Eliska/Glenn Pollock, Joel Ray, David Reuter, Jacob/Jaxson Rivera, Amber Roberts, Terry Rodery/Kenna Rodery, Teresa Rotkowski, Nick/Summer Rykert, Sabine Schwarzmann, Ed Servis, Phil Sides, Margaret Smith, Margie Stephen, Greg Stephens, Mary Stephens, Linda Utaski, Jimmie/Rita Wells, Gary Wilcox, Jean Williams, John/Sherry Zollo.  
**Our Nursing Home Residents:** David Allen, Mary Allen, Terry Bodson, Steve Crawford, Lylia Laffoon, Bob/Diane Patterson, Jaque Radisch, Dan Roberts, Giovanna Sandri, Billie Signer, Liz Smalley. **\*\* Please keep our list current by notifying the office to add/delete names.**

### Enthronement of the Sacred Heart

*An act of adoration that publicly declares Him as "Lord of the Household". It is more than setting aside a dwelling place for Him in a building; it is the welcoming of the Reign of Christ into the heart of the family, couple or the person that dwells within that place. It has an impact on families that carries over to society and becomes the basis for spreading the Social Reign of our King and Savior."*



**\*\* Please Contact the Legion of Mary for Details \*\***



**Parish Communications**, such as prayer requests, updates, Mass cancellations, etc., arrive as a **FLOCKNOTE** message. You can subscribe so you will either receive messages as emails or texts per your preference. If you do not receive prayer request emails and would like to,

you can sign up now! Registration is easy. There are two ways to connect (pick one): Visit our parish at:

[www.flocknote.com/marymotherofgodchurch](http://www.flocknote.com/marymotherofgodchurch) or text flockmmg to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates. Need help to set up your Flocknote? Contact the church office.

### VOCATIONS RETREAT - SUBIACO, Dec. 18 - 21

Learn from monks about the joys of monastic life.  
 For single Catholic men ages 18+. Please contact Brother Ambrose at [BrAmbrose@subi.org](mailto:BrAmbrose@subi.org).

## Mass for Life 2024

On Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, Bishop Anthony Taylor will preside at our annual diocesan Mass for Life. The **Mass will be celebrated at St. Andrew Cathedral**, 617 Louisiana St., Little Rock at noon. Please join us for this Mass as we pray especially for an end to abortion and for the legal protection of unborn children. Please contact the Respect Life Office 501-664-0340 ext. 326 or email [cphillips@dolr.org](mailto:cphillips@dolr.org) for more information.

## March for Life

On behalf of Arkansas Right to Life, the Respect Life Office invites everyone to participate in the 46th annual March for Life, beginning at **2:00 p.m., after the Mass for Life**. Join hundreds of Catholics and people of goodwill as we give public witness to our firm belief in the sacredness of life from the very first moment of conception. This year the March's route is along Capitol Ave, beginning at State Street. For more information or to volunteer, please contact [Arkansas Right to Life](http://ArkansasRighttoLife.org) 501-663-4237 or email [artl@artl.org](mailto:artl@artl.org).

## Arkansas Catholic Men's Conference (ACMC)

Annual men's conference held in the Diocese of Little Rock. It was founded in 2010 and has featured speakers who impact men's lives with their passion for Christ and His Church. Please visit [arcatholicmen.com](http://arcatholicmen.com).



## PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND

Arkansas Catholic is hosting the pilgrimage **September 11-20, 2024**, with vicar general Father John Connell. Visits to Dublin, Galway, and Knock, one of the world's most well-known Marian apparition sites. The land portion costs \$3,788 per person, including eight nights' accommodation, breakfast, and dinner daily, deluxe motorcoach transportation, a professional tour escort and entrance fees to scheduled sites. A \$500 deposit is due at the time of registration. For more information, contact Kathy Primm of Sue Smith Vacations at (501) 771-0987 or [kathy@suesmithvacations.com](mailto:kathy@suesmithvacations.com).

### **\*\* Clergy Welfare Fund Collection \*\***

The collection at all masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be for the Clergy Welfare Fund. This fund provides retirement and health care benefits to retired and infirm priests around our diocese. Your contributions to the Clergy Welfare Fund make our priests' retirement possible. Please share with them the generosity that they continue to share with us.





## Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima

Mary Mother of God Church, Harrison AR

St. Andrew Church, Yellville AR

The statue is a representation of Our Lady of Fatima. It was made in Fatima, Portugal, and is a blessed sacramental provided by the Legion of Mary. Choose a prayerful place for the statue where your family can gather to pray the Rosary and meditate on its mysteries – the life of Jesus.

Welcome Our Blessed Mother – our actual and very real Mother - into your home. As a family commit to saying the Rosary together every day for the next week while the statue resides in your home. Ask for the Blessed Mother's intercession to Jesus to help your family grow in His Love, and for protection for the members of your family.

There will be materials to assist you in saying the Rosary in the box with the statue.

**Sign up** for the Pilgrim Statue in the notebook in the church vestibule.

The statue should be available for you **to pick up** at the weekend Mass of the week you have scheduled yourself.

**Please return** the Pilgrim Statue to the church library by 5 p.m. Saturday so the statue will be available for the next family.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Legion of Mary members:

Pat Knickerbocker 405-824-3454 or

Cecilia Scott 870-688-8178

We hope that your family will take advantage of this unique opportunity to pray with Our Blessed Mother. Many blessings have been imparted to families who have welcomed her into their home and prayed her Rosary. "To Jesus through Mary."

"Say the rosary every day...Pray, Pray a lot and offer sacrifices for Sinners. I'm Our Lady of the Rosary. Only I will be able to help you. In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph."

*Our Lady of Fatima*

## MMG CEMETERY – APPROVED ADDITIONS



- The Mary Mother of God Cemetery renovation will include: extending the existing sidewalk through the center of the cemetery, paving the road, and adding a crucifix with meditation benches.
- Thankfully, through your generous support over the years, our parish has the funds to begin construction once we finalize the plans and get bids.
- To ensure our parish continues being a good steward of our resources, we need to offset the cost of the renovation with a capital campaign.
- Please prayerfully consider donating by visiting the new “giving” tab on our parish website [www.harrisoncatholic.com](http://www.harrisoncatholic.com) or simply use your cellphone camera to scan the QR code to the right.



Scan Me!



## MARY MOTHER OF GOD APPAREL



Mary Mother of God 2023 -  
Hoodie  
From \$25.00



Mary Mother of God 2023  
Pullover  
From \$20.00



Mary Mother of God 2023  
From \$15.00



You may place your order at  
[www.impactees.com](http://www.impactees.com)  
or scan the code below:



**MARY MOTHER OF GOD CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**HARRISON, ARKANSAS**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>November 26</b> <i>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass w/Handbell Choir	<b>November 27</b>  <b>NO MASS</b> ++ Handbells & Handchimes During Christmas Parade <i>on SW Corner of the Harrison Square</i>	<b>November 28</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass ++ 6:30 PM RCIA Class	<b>November 29</b>  4:30 PM Evening Prayer & Confessions 5:15 PM Benediction 5:30 PM Mass ++ 6 PM PRE Dinner 6:30-7:30 PM PRE Classes <b>7:30-8 PM Nativity Play Rehearsal in Parish Hall</b>	<b>November 30</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ 3:30 PM Legion of Mary Mtg Behind Altar ++ <b>Praise &amp; Worship Band Rehearsal 5:30-6:30 PM</b> ++ <b>6:30 PM MMG Choir</b>	<b>December 1, 2023</b> <i>First Friday</i>  8 AM Patriotic Rosary 8:30 AM Mass 9 AM Fatima Rosary w/ Exposition & Adoration	<b>December 2</b> <i>First Saturday</i>  8:10 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass <b>Fatima Advent Retreat 9-10 AM Confessions 9 AM First Sat Devotions Conference in Parish Hall, Light Refreshments</b> ++ 4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Mass
<b>December 3</b> <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ Second Collection: National Retirement Fund for Religious ++ <b>3:30 PM Christmas Caroling to Homebound &amp; Nursing Homes</b> ++ <b>2 PM BINGO</b>	<b>December 4</b>  <b>NO MASS</b> ++ 7 PM Handbells	<b>December 5</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass ++ <b>NO RCIA TONIGHT</b> ++ Knights of Columbus 6:30 Fellowship Meal 7:30 PM Meeting	<b>December 6</b>  4:30 PM Evening Prayer & Confessions 5:15 PM Benediction 5:30 PM Mass ++ 6 PM PRE Dinner 6:30-7:30 PM PRE Classes <b>7:30-8 PM Nativity Play Rehearsal</b>	<b>December 7</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ 3:30 PM Legion of Mary Mtg Behind Altar ++ <b>Praise &amp; Worship Band Rehearsal 5:30-6:30 PM</b> ++ <b>6:30 PM MMG Choir</b>	<b>December 8</b> <i>Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation</i>  <b>8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Holy Day Mass</b> ++ <b>5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Holy Day Mass</b>	<b>December 9</b>  <b>9-11 AM Reconciliation Service w/Fr. Norbert, Fr. Naz &amp; Fr. Ben</b> ++ <b>11 AM CCW Christmas Soup/Salad Potluck Optional Gift Exchange</b> ++ <b>4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Praise &amp; Worship Mass</b>
<b>December 10</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ <b>4 PM Lessons &amp; Carols: An Advent Concert</b> <i>Reception Follows in Parish Hall</i>	<b>December 11</b>  <b>NO MASS</b> ++ 7 PM Handbells	<b>December 12</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass ++ 6:30 PM RCIA Class	<b>December 13</b>  <b>11 AM Silver Bells Christmas Potluck</b> ++ 4:30 PM Evening Prayer & Confessions 5:15 PM Benediction 5:30 PM Mass ++ <b>6 PM PRE Christmas Potluck Party A-F: Side Dish G-Z: Dessert</b>	<b>December 14</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ 9 AM Rosary w/CCW Coffee & Sweets Follow ++ 3:30 PM Legion of Mary Mtg Behind Altar ++ <b>Praise &amp; Worship Band Rehearsal 5:30-6:30 PM</b> ++ <b>6:30 PM MMG Choir</b>	<b>December 15</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass 9 AM Fatima Rosary ++ <b>6:30-8 PM Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal in Church w/Costumes</b>	<b>December 16</b>  <b>9 AM Decorate The Church for Christmas Volunteers Needed!!</b> ++ 4:15 PM Nativity Play ++ 4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Mass ++
<b>December 17</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ <b>2 PM BINGO</b>	<b>December 18</b>  <b>NO MASS</b> ++ 7 PM Handbells	<b>December 19</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass ++ 6:30 PM RCIA Class	<b>December 20</b>  4:30 PM Evening Prayer & Confessions 5:15 PM Benediction 5:30 PM Mass ++ <b>Praise &amp; Worship Band Rehearsal 6:15-7:30 PM</b>	<b>December 21</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ 3:30 PM Legion of Mary Mtg Behind Altar ++ <b>Praise &amp; Worship Band Rehearsal 5:30-6:30 PM</b> ++ <b>6:30 PM MMG Choir w/Handbells</b>	<b>December 22</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass 9 AM Fatima Rosary	<b>December 23</b>  4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Mass
<b>December 24</b> <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Sunday Mass ++ 3:30 Christmas Concert <b>4 PM Christmas Vigil Mass</b> ++ 11:30 Christmas Concert <b>Midnight Christmas Mass</b> <i>Christmas Collection: Diocesan Clergy Welfare Fund Coll.</i>	<b>December 25</b> <i>Holy Day of Obligation Nativity of the Lord</i>  <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> <i>Christmas Collection: Diocesan Clergy Welfare Fund Coll.</i> ++ <b>NOON Mass in Yellville</b> Christmas Dinner Follows RSVP in MMG Vestibule	<b>December 26</b>  <b>NO MASS</b> ++ <b>NO RCIA TONIGHT</b>	<b>December 27</b>  <b>NO MASS</b> ++ <b>NO PRE CLASSES NO Youth Choir NO Handchimes</b>	<b>December 28</b>  <b>NO MASS</b> ++ <b>NO Legion of Mary Mtg. NO Praise &amp; Worship Band NO MMG Choir</b>	<b>December 29</b>  <b>NO MASS</b>	<b>December 30</b>  4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Mass <b>Please Welcome Father Vujis</b> <i>(Food for the Poor)</i>
<b>December 31</b> <i>The Holy Family</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass <b>Please Welcome Father Vujis</b> <i>(Food for the Poor)</i>	<b>January 1, 2024</b> <i>Solemnity of Mary</i>  <b>NO MASS</b> <i>Not A Holy Day of Obligation This Year</i>	<b>January 2</b>  <b>NO MASS</b>	<b>January 3</b>  <b>NO MASS</b> ++ 6 PM PRE Dinner 6:30-7:30 PM PRE Classes	<b>January 4</b>  <b>NO MASS</b> ++ 3:30 PM Legion of Mary Mtg Behind Altar ++ <b>Praise &amp; Worship Band Rehearsal 5:30-6:30 PM</b> ++ <b>6:30 PM MMG Choir</b>	<b>January 5</b> <i>First Friday</i>  <b>NO MASS</b>	<b>January 6</b> <i>First Saturday</i>  8:00 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass 9 AM First Saturday Devotions <b>9-10 AM Confessions</b> ++ 4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Mass

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THIS CALENDAR.**



## MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR: DECEMBER 2023

### 5 PM Saturday Mass

Rosary: Roy Arnold

Lector: Joan Lipsmeyer

E/M: Roy Arnold  
Elisabeth Scouten

Ushers: Everett Burr  
Chuck Draper  
Terry Draper  
Chad Coffman

### 8:30 AM Sunday Mass

Rosary: Greg Jasper

Lector: Greg Jasper

E/M: Mary Billups  
Mike Galligan  
Bob Lowery

Ushers: Alvin Hanson  
Regina Hanson  
James Virnig  
Gerry Gokenbach

## ALTAR SERVERS: NOVEMBER 25, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2023

**Nov. 25** Book/Cross: Zeke Humphreys  
Candle: Isaac Jasper  
Candle: Kate Sidfrid

**Nov. 26** Thurifer: Lily Pinson  
Book/Cross: Keeley Culpepper  
Candle: Michael Adamos  
Candle: Kayleigh Culpepper

**Dec. 2** Book/Cross: Erin Culhane  
Candle: Landon Snyder  
Candle: Kate Sidfrid

**Dec. 3** Book/Cross: Julia McFadden  
Candle: Liam Lampe  
Candle: Daniel McFadden

**Dec. 9** Book/Cross: Isaac Jasper  
Candle: Zeke Humphreys  
Candle: Adam Coffman

**Dec. 10** Book/Cross: Matthew Bradford  
Candle: Michael Adamos  
Candle: Josselyn Huddleston

**Dec. 16** Book/Cross: Landon Snyder  
Candle: Erin Culhane  
Candle: Adam Coffman

**Dec. 17** Book/Cross: Keeley Culpepper  
Candle: Lily Pinson  
Candle: Kayleigh Culpepper

**Dec. 23** Book/Cross: Zeke Humphreys  
Candle: Isaac Jasper  
Candle: Kate Sidfrid

**Dec. 24** Book/Cross: Logan Eddings  
Candle: Kori Eddings  
Candle: Laurel Eddings

**Christmas 4 PM Vigil Mass** Thurifer: Matthew Bradford  
Book/Cross: Landon Snyder  
Candle: Erin Culhane  
Candle: Kate Sidfrid

**Christmas Midnight Mass** Thurifer: **Servers Needed --**  
Book/Cross: **Sign-Up Sheet**  
Candle: **In the Vestibule**  
Candle:

**Christmas 8:30 AM Mass** Thurifer: **Servers Needed --**  
Book/Cross: **Sign-Up Sheet**  
Candle: **In the Vestibule**  
Candle:

**Dec. 30** Book/Cross: Erin Culhane  
Candle: Landon Snyder  
Candle: Adam Coffman

**Dec. 31** Thurifer: Jacob Simon  
Book/Cross: June Simon  
Candle: Julia McFadden  
Candle: Daniel McFadden

***If you are unable to serve, please find your replacement. Thank you.***



## Joseph F. Koenig, C.P.A.

400 N. MAIN, SUITE 3 HARRISON, AR 72601 870-741-5647 jfkcpa@windstream.net

## COFFMAN FUNERAL HOME

"Our Service Sets Us Apart"  
 + Justin Applegate  
 Licensed Funeral Director & Preplanning Consultant  
 870-743-2021 www.coffmanfh.com  
 501 Old Bellefonte Rd, Harrison, AR 72601

## Selling 726

REALTY  
 Corinna Thompson, Realtor  
 corinna@selling726.com • 870.517.8112  
 selling726.com  
 128 N Willow Street, Harrison, AR 72601

The Crystal Cottage Rocks & Beads  
 Rocks, Beads, Jewelry & Gifts  
 203 Stone Street—Jasper, AR  
 870-391-9217  
 crystalcottage.rocksandbeads.com

## Are You Interested?

YES!! We Need You!! YOU can be an active participant at Mary Mother of God Church! We want many people to volunteer so no one gets 'stuck' with certain ministries all the time!

**Lector:** Read the Scripture readings during Mass.  
**Rosary Leader:** Lead before Mass.  
**Musician:** See or call Julie Jasper.  
**Extraordinary Minister:** Distribute Body & Blood of Christ during Communion.  
**Altar Servers:** All youth who have celebrated their First Holy Communion.  
**Usher:** Greet people, guide them to empty seats, hand out bulletins after Mass, check pews after Mass for debris or loose hymnals/missalettes.

**If so, call the church office!**



## Greg Klott

VP | Business Development & Lending  
 greg.klott@firstcommunity.net  
 ph: 870.204.5600  
 cell: 417.337.0574



220 East Ridge Avenue | Harrison, AR 72601  
 NMLS: 2314012

Pray  
 FOR THE  
 PROTECTION  
 OF THE UNBORN

## BUTLER CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

811 RANCH HOUSE PLAZA  
 PO BOX 1614—HARRISON AR 72602  
 PHONE: 870-741-4408 FAX: 870-741-4409

DR. TOM BUTLER

CHIROPRACTIC ORTHOPEDIST CERTIFIED IN ACUPUNCTURE  
 SPORTS PHYSICIAN

## PATRICIA H. VIRNIG

Attorney At Law

132 N. Willow  
 Harrison, AR 72601 870-741-0002  
 Hours: 9 AM to 5 PM Fax: 870-741-0003

Mary Mother of God Catholic Church  
 Catholic Christian Women (CCW)  
 109 Years of Serving Our Parish  
 See Bulletin for Meeting  
 Dates & Times

**DINNER**  
 Tuesday thru  
 Saturday  
 4:30—8 PM  
 870-741-8832

**Sunday Lunch**  
 11 AM—1:30 PM

**Trout—Steaks—Italian**  
 Located 4 miles North of Harrison  
 800 yards East of Junction 412-62-65 Hwys. North

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**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
 We are PRO-LIFE. Be a part of an organization that supports the protection of an unborn child.  
 JOIN TODAY! Established 1882  
 Contact a Knight for More Details

**December 17, 2023 — Third Sunday of Advent —** Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him." The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

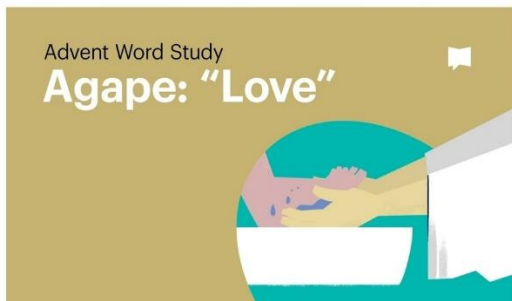
— Father John Muir ©LPi

# Prepare the Way of the Lord!

In Memory of Newt & Ruth Foster

# THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

## Week of December 17, 2023



### Agape/Love | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project

The word "love" is one of the sloppiest words in our language, as it primarily refers to a feeling that happens to a person. In the New Testament, "love" refers to a way of treating people that was defined by Jesus himself: seeking the well-being of others regardless of their response.



### Mary of Nazareth

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.



### O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About | Brother Francis

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

**JOURNEYING TOGETHER SYNODAL REPORT TO THE DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK**  
**Mary Mother of God Church – Harrison, AR – Fr. James Fanrak, Pastor / Deacon Mark Scouten**

Section 2: Narrative – How MMG Parish organized the consultations:

Parish organization leaders as well as volunteers at large were sought out to be facilitators and note-takers during the consultations.

Manageable-sized small groups were made available and gathered; usually offered after Masses, and at the regular meetings of the various parish organizations. Individual consultations were also held as requested.

The facilitators and note-takers recorded and summarized the conversations held at these meetings.

In addition, consultation questionnaires were sent to all registered households in the parish. Returns were recorded and summarized.

All input was synthesized by the parish secretary and committee. This formed the basis of this report.

Section 3: Top Three Revealing Discoveries:

- 1) The people of the parish do feel a part of the Church, and they do their “journeying together” as they are present and participate in the Mass, the Sacraments. They also “journey together” as they become involved in the ministries, organizations, gatherings, and socials that are done as a parish family.
- 2) The people of God, our parishioners, have a very positive and warm experience of how the Church is journeying with them. They feel welcomed, acknowledged, and valued as individuals within the parish. They sense that leadership is trying to care about them, about their welfare and needs. They feel that fellow parishioners are one with them as a family-like group. Parishioners sense that they can reach out to other parishioners in their time of need.
- 3) The people of Mary Mother of God Parish are thirsting for better and more reaching out to those who seem no longer to come to church, as well as to welcoming those who are searching for a church and spiritual family. They would also like to strengthen their bonds with the Lord and with one another through additional spiritual and corporal works of prayer, service, and fellowship.

Section 4: Most Common Observations:

- 1) About why parishioners do not come to church and about why they do not participate in Mass and other parish activities and groups
  - Illness, company, disabilities,
  - Distance from church, no transportation,
  - Irreverence during Mass,
  - Too many requests for money,
  - Pedophilia, scandal,
  - Priests and hierarchy stray from the authentic, traditional teachings of the Church,
  - Dissatisfaction with political leaders,
  - Covid,



#### Section 4: Most Common Observations:

1) Continued

- Personal scheduling,
- Very little talk about mortal sin, hell,
- Validity of sacraments,
- People's judgmental stance of others at Mass, Church

2) About what parishioners like and appreciate what's going at Mary Mother of God Parish:

- Welcoming feeling, "family" feeling,
- Spiritual environment, friendliness,
- Rosary, extraordinary ministers,
- New Pentecost Prayer Group
- Scripture Study
- The structure, the rituals, the prayers
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Availability of Confession
- Knights of Columbus events
- Legion of Mary, prayer and visiting
- Corporal and Spiritual works
- Very accommodating Mass schedule
- Wonderful organization leaders
- Pastor, deacon, sacristans, homilies
- Livestreaming of Masses and events
- Music Ministry, Youth Choir and Musicians
- Trail Life Youth
- PRE, Youth Ministry
- Flocknotes, bulletins, prayer needs alert
- List of those needing prayer in bulletin
- Visits and Communion to homebound
- Gospel is taught
- Fellowship – sharing food
- CCW (Catholic Christian Women)
- Greeting card ministry
- Kitchen ministry that builds connections and friendships
- Simple, understandable teaching
- Appreciate the bishop and hierarchy for their asking parishioners' thoughts
- Church secretary
- Use of parish hall for dinners, get-togethers, family events
- Magnificat, Formed, EWTN
- Spiritual Director
- Caring and ministering when there's a death
- Beautiful, well-kept gardens, lawns



3) About what parishioners want more of and what they want begun at MMG:

- Speak more about the good the Church does
- Communal Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Local theology study programs
- Pilgrimages to Holy Places
- Motivational speakers' resources
- Novenas, Missions, Cursillos
- Benedictions, Eucharistic Processions
- Communal Anointing of the Sick, Healing services
- Encourage Religious Orders (nuns, priests and brothers) to go back to religious habits, etc.
- That the Bishop visit more
- That the hierarchy speak more clearly about how to deal with public figures, political figures who vocally disagree with the authentic teaching of the Church
- Stronger evangelization committee
- More visible and active welcoming committee
- Get-togethers, coffees after Mass
- Socials for all the parish, meals
- Penance Services, Tridentine Rites, Tridentine Priests
- Restore lost Church traditions and rituals, separation of church and state
- Catholic issues study programs
- Empty-nester ministry
- More emphasis on Respect Life
- 6:30 or 7 PM Mass on Days of Obligation
- 4 PM Saturday Mass in Winter
- PRE, Sunday School after Sunday Mass; more emphasis on Youth Ministry
- That the Bishop and hierarchy be fully open, honest, and accountable about abuses, scandals
- More attention to homeless; saving the environment
- Make annulment process smoother
- Latin Mass once in a while
- Church teaching to be more appealing and inclusive, more definite and fixed rather than negotiable
- Young people to become more invited in, active in church
- Catholic parochial school
- Clearer, more definite, authentic Catholic teaching from bishops, pope, magisterium
- Against China government appointing bishops
- More frequent updated parish directory and pictures
- More about Centering prayer
- Laudato Si, Fratelli Tutti groups
- Life in the Spirit seminars
- Clearer teaching on homosexual, trans-sexual issues
- More publicity about the charitable works which the church does

**MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR  
SIGN-UP SHEET**

<u>MINISTRIES</u>	<u>Sat Mass</u>	<u>Sun Mass</u>	<u>Name &amp; Phone #:</u>
<u>Rosary Leader:</u>	Yes / No	Yes / No	<hr/> <hr/>
<u>Lectors:</u>	Yes / No	Yes / No	<hr/> <hr/>
<u>Extraordinary (Communion) Minister:</u>	Yes / No	Yes / No	<hr/> <hr/>
<u>Altar Servers:</u>	Yes / No	Yes / No	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<u>Ushers:</u>	Yes / No	Yes / No	<hr/> <hr/>

Please complete and return to the church office or in next weekend's collection basket.  
**If you are new** to serving in any of these ministries, someone will contact you for a brief training meeting. Thank you!



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Informed Choices ministry exists to evangelize, encourage and empower men/women in making life affirming choices.

### **Informed Choices provides:**

- Pregnancy Testing
- Pregnancy options education
- Healthy pregnancy education
- Limited ultrasounds
- Post abortion recovery
- Referrals for
  - Pre-natal care
  - Social services
  - Adoption
- Parenting Skills
  - Support mothers & fathers beyond pregnancy
  - "Earn While You Learn" program where clients earn items and resources to provide a healthy environment for their child

## WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

- PRAYER PARTNER
- FINANCIAL SUPPORTER
  - One Time Gifts
  - Monthly Gift
- DONATE ITEMS
- VOLUNTEER
  - Men/Women Volunteers
  - Youth Group Service Projects: yard work, sort baby items
- PROMOTE & PARTICIPATE
  - Baby Bottle Campaign
  - Annual Banquet(s)
  - 100-Hole Golf Marathon
  - Community Events

## CURRENT NEEDS

- Diapers sizes 1&2
- New baby items
- New (unused) car seats



312 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Mountain Home 870-424-4573  
 Monday – Thursday 10:00a – 6:00p  
 Closed Fridays

715 W Sherman, Harrison 870-280-3169  
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
 Closed Wednesdays

[Informedchoiceswomenscenter.org](http://Informedchoiceswomenscenter.org)



**Do you love to sing?**  
**Do you love to make music for the Lord?**  
**IS GOD CALLING YOU TO MUSIC MINISTRY?**

**Adult Choir**—The Adult Choir meets every Thursday at 6:00pm and sings at the Sunday 8:30am Mass and other Holy Days of Obligation, as well as Advent and Lent concerts.

**Youth Choir**—The Youth Choir consists of students grades K-12. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm immediately following PREP class. They sing at the scheduled Youth Masses throughout the academic year. Hand chimes and other instruments are used, as well.

**Hand Bell Choir**—The Handbell Choir meets on Monday evenings at 6PM and plays at approximately 7 Masses throughout the year and other parish events.

**Silver Bells**—Silver Bells is a group, specifically for the senior members of our parish. Opportunities for food, fellowship, and fun are guaranteed!

*What does Music Ministry mean to me?*

"Singing in church has been an important part of my life for as long as I can remember. I was such a natural routine for me that I would feel as if I had not participated in Mass if no singing was involved. Music ministry continues to be a meaningful part of my life even as a senior member of the parish. It is only through God's blessings that I continue in this ministry and gain a greater connection to my fellow choir members and our church congregation. I would strongly encourage others who appreciate music during church services to seriously consider giving music ministry a try."—Kevin Cheri (Adult Choir member)

"I like singing in the church choir because it lets me glorify God in a way that I enjoy. I also like the choir because it makes me feel peaceful especially when I am singing about God."—Eliana & Charlize Adamos (Youth Choir members)

"I have been a part of this amazing handbell group since it started three years ago. Even though I do have a music background, I find playing handbells challenging. Instead of playing all the notes in a song, each bell is a part of the whole that makes the music. I am thankful that I have been able to use my talents to bring more to our Mass celebration. Being a part of our music ministry has been a blessing to me."—Bonnie Tauer (Hand Bell Choir member)

"These bells make our old souls sing!"—Silver Bells members

**If you are interested in sharing your musical talents, contact**  
**Julie Jasper, Director of Music Ministry at (870)688-9369 or [juliemmgmusic@yahoo.com](mailto:juliemmgmusic@yahoo.com)**





## Catholic Arkansas Sharing Appeal

### What your Donation Can Do!

\$25	Provides religious education book for two people.
\$50	Provides a partial scholarship for a student to attend a Campus Ministry retreat.
\$135	Provides a scholarship for one youth to attend a Search weekend.
\$150	Provides utility bill assistance for a family through our Family Assistance Program.
\$250	Provides dental care for a patient of the Westside Free Medical Clinic.
\$500	Covers the cost of an application for a work permit for an eligible immigrant.
\$700	Provides assistance in updating equipment for religious education.
\$1,000	Provides a Project Rachel experience for a woman experiencing the pain of a past abortion.
\$1,500	Provides Bibles and rosaries for people incarcerated in the criminal justice system for six months.
\$2,000	Covers the legal fees for the adoption of a baby through Catholic Adoption Services.
\$4,000	Provides a scholarship for one student to receive a Catholic education for a year in a parish school.
\$36,000	Covers the expenses of educating one seminarian for one year.

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# MAJOR CHANGES TO SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM!!!



In the Diocese of Little Rock,  
Beginning July 1, 2017:

**WHO** must do safe environment training and background checks:

- 1) **Employees**
- 2) **Volunteers with Routine Contact w/ Minors**
  - a. This includes only volunteers who have routine contact with minors as an essential part of their volunteer duties.
  - b. Volunteers who do not have routine contact with minors as an essential part of their duties do not have to do safe environment training or background checks.
- 3) **Eucharistic Ministers who Serve the Homebound**

**WHAT** training programs:

**“CMG Connect”** → online training for **adults**  
(<http://www.dolr.org/safe-environment>)  
(or directly at: <https://littlerock.CMGconnect.org>)

**“Circle of Grace”** → in-classroom training for **children/youth**

We will no longer use VIRTUS's “Protecting God’s Children” or “Touching Safety.”  
Instead, we will use products supported by **Catholic Mutual Group (CMG)**.

All data from VIRTUS will be moved over to CMG Connect. No one who has already done safe environment training and a background check will have to re-do anything at this time. Users who are due for a 5-year recertification will be notified how to do that by their parish/school safe environment coordinator, who will also have info on both new programs.