

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Father Reginald Saldanha-Pastor
 9208 Main Street St. Benedict, KS. 66538



Father Regie's email : frregie@gmail.com
 Office: 785-336-6464
 St. Mary's Church Phone: 785-336-3174. Website: www.stmstb.org
 Church's email: stmarys9208@gmail.com Secretary's email: tmhave1991@gmail.com
 Bulletin announcements need to be in by Noon on Thursdays.
 Secretary in the office only on Thursday from 8:30AM till 1:30PM
 Marriage: Contact parish priest 6 months before Baptism: Contact parish priest
DECEMBER 17, 2017-THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Unless specified below Mass times are as listed.
ST. BENEDICT---Sunday 10:15AM
Weekday Mass---Tuesday and Fridays at 8:30AM
Confession-Friday from 8:00AM to 8:30AM
BAILEYVILLE---Saturday 6:00PM and Sunday 8:30AM
Weekday Mass--- Wednesday, Thursday 8:30AM
Confession-Saturday from 5:15PM to 5:45PM
 Sundays from 8:00AM to 8:15AM

Sun. Dec. 17-St. Benedict -Liv/Dec. Wilfred & Rosella
 Bergman Family

Tue. Dec. 19-St. Benedict +Clemens & Cyrilla Sudbeck

Wed. Dec. 20-Baileyville +Leonard Deters

Thurs. Dec. 21-Baileyville Liv/Dec. Nick Holthaus Family

Fri. Dec. 22- St. Benedict +Clem & Rupert Rethman

Sat. Dec. 23-Baileyville +Jeanette Holthaus

Sun. Dec.24-Baileyville People of the Parishes

Sun. Dec. 24-St. Benedict-Mass @ 10:15 AM +Cyril
 Tangeman

Sun. Dec. 24-St. Benedict-Mass @ 4PM +Alan Stallbaumer

Sun. Dec. 24-Baileyville-Mass @7PM-People of the Parishes

Sun. Dec. 25-Baileyville-Mass @9AM +Loren Deters

COLLECTIONS for December 10, 2017-Total: \$2,495.00.

ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE-There will be an adult choir practice on Monday, Dec. 18 at 7PM. We will be practicing for Christmas eve mass. New voices welcome.

CHILDREN CHOIR PRACTICE-There will be a children choir practice on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 6PM. Practice with the 3rd thru 8th grades.

CHILDREN CHOIR-Children's Choir will sing on Sunday, Dec. 31 at the 10:15AM Mass. Grades 3rd thru 8th.

ADVENT BOOK REVIEW AND STUDY - This week's study will cover chapters 7-10. All are welcome to join. Looking forward to seeing you there.

LECTOR'S WORKBOOK - The 'Lector's Workbooks' are available at the back of the church. If you are a lector, please pick up your copy (one per family).

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 17 at 7:00pm at **St Benedict**
 Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 pm at Seneca & Sabetha at 7PM

Christmas Mass Schedule*Eve: (Sunday, December 24)*

4:00 pm : St. Mary's, St. Benedict
 7:00 pm : Sacred Heart, Baileyville

Christmas Day (Monday, December 25)

9:00 am : Sacred Heart, Baileyville

New Year's Mass Eve: (Sunday, December 31)

6:00 pm : Sacred Heart, Baileyville

New Year Day Mass Schedule: (Monday, January 1)

8:30 am : Sacred Heart, Baileyville
 10:15 am : St. Mary's, St. Benedict

2018 CHURCH ENVELOPES are in back of church. Please pick up at your earliest convenience.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH DATES: Dec. 17, Jan.7& 21, Feb. 4 & 18, March 4 & 18, April 15 & 29 & May 6.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SUPPER TICKETS FOR SALE -The tickets are \$15 for either a pork chop or chicken cordon bleu meal and includes a baked potato, salad, roll, and dessert. Hot dog meals are also available for \$5. Your support is greatly appreciated!

GOD wrapped his love in a person!

Ministries - Dec. 24-4th Sunday of Advent-Mass @10:15AM

Cross: Nate Deters

Servers: Faith Henry & Hailey Nordhus

Candle Holders: Brooklyn Uphaus & Byron Hulsing

Eucharistic Ministers: Sara Nordhus, Dan Tangeman,
 Anita Schmitz, Mary Schmitz, Kevin Nordhus

Choir EME: Evelyn Rotinghaus

Lector 1: Elmer Ronnebaum

Lector 2: Brianna Uphaus

Ushers: John Sudbeck, Josh Sudbeck, Brent Lortscher

Offertory: Betty Ruegge Family

Rosary: Brianna Uphaus

Organist: Kayla Sudbeck

Cantor: TBD

Money Counters: Evelyn & Deb

Ministries - Dec. 24-Nativity of the Lord-Mass at 4PM

Cross: Gage Palic

Servers: Dylan Lortscher & Karly Tangeman

Candle Holders: Rachel Schmitz & Savannah Engelken

Eucharistic Ministers: Josh Sudbeck, Arlene Holthaus,
 Robert Engelken, Luke Holthaus, Janelle Schmitz

Choir EME: Mary Haverkamp

Lector 1: Diane Schmitz

Lector 2: Don Lueger

Ushers: Parish Council Members

Offertory: First Communion Candidates

Rosary: No Pre-Mass Rosary. Silent Prayer time & enjoy the pre-mass music

Organists: Marlene Deters, Marilyn Holthaus,
 Kayla Sudbeck

Cantor: Stan Murphy, Kayla Sudbeck, Staci Haug

Flutist: Katrina Larkin

Money Counters: Evelyn & Deb

ALTAR SOCIETY EVENTS & NEWS

DEC. 2017-(3RD TUESDAY)-CRESTVIEW at 2PM)- Theresa Sudbeck (J), Denise Wolsleben, Laurie Stallbaumer, Lindsey Haug, Betty Sudbeck (R)

DEC. 2017-(3RD WEDNESDAY)-LIFE CARE at 2PM)- Nancy Sudbeck, Leanna Rottinghaus, Nikki Rottinghaus, Heidi Holthaus, Kathleen Meier

FIRST COMMUNION will be on April 15, 2018 at the 10:15AM Mass.

ALL 2018 FIRST COMMUNION are invited to walk up in the processional on Christmas Eve Mass at 4PM. Please meet in the back of church with Lisa Holthaus before mass. Also, they are invited to bring up offertory gifts at Mass as well. Each child will need to go to the back of church when the ushers begin picking up the collection.

PIANO RECITAL - Russell Ronnebaum, originally from Axtell, will entertain with a piano recital performance on Thursday, December 28 at 6:30PM at St. Michael's Church. There will be a reception to follow in the parish hall. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS: Thank you for the donations made towards the flowers in memory of our loved ones. Those names are: Elmer Lierz, Elmer Deters, Leo & Bertha Weber, Ed & Agnes Holthaus, Joe & Rita Strathman, Liv/Dec. Larry Sudbeck Family, Alan Stallbaumer, Gilbert Koelzer, Arlene Schmitz, Leroy Tangeman, Kevin Tangeman, Greg & Henrietta Holthaus, Lillis Haverkamp, Ed & Ann Ronnebaum, Ardella Ronnebaum Becker, Virgil & Esther Ogle.



HALL & CHURCH is spoken for on these dates for 2017:

- Dec. 23-McKinley-Hall
- Dec. 24-Olberding-Hall
- Dec. 25-Scott-Hall
- Dec. 30-Sudbeck-Hall



HALL & CHURCH is spoken for on these dates for 2018:

- Feb. 2-3-4-Soup Supper
- Apr. 8-Altar Society Meeting & Election of Officers
- April 1-Scott-Hall
- April 14-Huerter Wedding-Church
- April 21-Rottinghaus & Engelken Wedding-Church
- March 25-Easter Egg Hunt-CYO
- May 6-May Crowning
- May 27-Rottinghaus-Hall
- June 9-Hasenkamp & Steinlage Wedding @ 4PM-Church
- June 13-Hall Cleaning-No renting of hall until after picnic
- June 16-Sudbeck Wedding-Church
- June 22-23-24-25-Annual Church Picnic
- Aug. 5-Beckman Reunion-Hall
- Sept. 1-DeMint & Lemons Wedding-Church
- Nov. 22-Scott-Hall
- Dec. 25-Scott-Hall

CHRISTMAS GIFTS IDEAS

DVD'S of THERESA RETTELE'S Tour of St. Mary's Church is available at the Rectory for the cost of \$10.00.

150th ANNIVERSARY BOOKS are still available. The book provides the unique story of St. Mary's Parish from its founding. The family photos are sure to be cherished in decades to come. Copies available for pickup at the Rectory; leave a message at 336-3174 or email to Mary Beth at tmhave1991@gmail.com or stmarys9208@gmail.com, Copies also are available through the Kansas Rural Water Association office located west of Seneca. Your grandchildren or great-grandchildren will appreciate having a copy.

GENEALOGY--The parish has acquired genealogy information on many families of the parish including Bergman ,Boeckman, Deters, Engelken, Fangman, GROSSER-Holthaus, Haug, Haverkamp, Heiman, Grobe-Holthaus, Holthaus, Huerter, Hulsing, Liening, Lierz, Kramer, Krogman, Mohrman, Olberding, Rethman, Ronnebaum, Rottinghaus, Schmitz, Sextro, Strathman, Strathman B, Stegeman, Sudbeck, Wichman . Suggested donation is \$20.

SCHMITZ HERITAGE BOOK-The John and Mary Schmitz genealogy book is available at St. Mary's parish office for \$10. The money towards this book will be donated to St. Mary's Parish.

REMEMBER those who are sick or taking treatments, hospitalized or still recovering: Brad Bowhay, Monica Olberding Countryman, Laura Schmelzle, Eldon Kriley, Dennis Bergman, Tim Sack, Victor Holthaus, Sara Conroy, Joyce Koch, Kathleen Ronnebaum, Kristi (Mike) Meyer, Vivianne Marousek, Shirley Schmitz, Larry Sudbeck, Jerry Lueger, Eric Holthaus, Frank Hulsing.

P.S. These names will remain on the list for two months, if you want to include the names again please call (336-3174) or email at stmarys9208@gmail.com.

LIFE CARE FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD is in need of supplies. Items that are needed: toys, musical instruments, puzzles, jump ropes, school supplies, clothes. The donations could be dropped off any time at Life Care and if anyone wants to volunteer to wrap shoe boxes or fill shoe boxes feel free to call Tracie at 785-336-0723.

ISO FAMILIES for next year's foreign exchange students—So excited we now have student applications in for the next school year.

We are looking for some great American families who are able to invite an international teen into their home for the upcoming school year so they can learn more about our culture, while also sharing their own with you and your family! Hosts provide their student a clean and safe living environment including a bed, meals, and way to/from school. Students come with medical insurance, clothes, phone, money and anything else they may need for the program. If you can help and are interested in selecting a student for the upcoming school year, message Diane Yunghans or my email is DianeySTS@gmail.com.

WAITING-My wife took our three-year-old to church for the first time. Getting impatient while waiting for the Mass to start, he turned to her and asked, "What time does Jesus get here?"

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION-Last week, we looked at a form of nativity scene called a *presepio*, characterized by framing the crèche of Jesus with a vast array of personalities and a rich geographical context. The tradition was carried to the New World, and finds very rich expression in Latin America today. While in Europe the *presepio* was reserved mostly to the homes of wealthy nobles and great churches, in Latin America it was claimed by the poor and expressed the skills of native artisans. In Mexico, you can still find clay figures in every village market. In a way, the native people took the religion of Spanish rule and baptized it with their Indian culture by surrounding the crib of Jesus with local geography and people. In Brazil, where Christmas falls in summer, the figure of the baby Jesus is wrapped in gold and gems, and set on a hillside surrounded by flowers and animals of all kinds. Sometimes there is a double *presepio*, presenting both Nativity and Crucifixion.

In some places in Latin America, even non-religious people take care to have a *presepio* in the home, sometimes dedicating one whole room in the house or apartment to the scene. Some cities have markets where people from the countryside sell plants and figurines. In Cuzco, churches and families provide hot chocolate for the children of the poor who come down to help create the nativity scenes. In Paraguay, the baby Jesus grows—the small infant who arrives on Christmas Eve is replaced at New Year with a toddler Jesus who holds in one hand the globe and in the other a cross. Few Christmas traditions have the vitality and variety of *presepios* and crèches honoring the Nativity.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

MARRIAGE MINUTE DECEMBER 17, 2017 Rejoice always! In these weeks before Christmas, we often hear the word “joy,” usually accompanied by a couple laughing as they share a blanket and sip cocoa by the fire. But what happens if our circumstances aren't “merry and bright?” What if our family is experiencing painful relationships, illness, death or serious financial strain? In these times, we can remember this weekend's readings which tell us, “Rejoice always.” Always?! Yes! Joy recognizes that the coming of Jesus means: • Forgiveness that sets us free, even if others don't change. • Hope of eternal life. • Strength to endure trials. • Comfort knowing that Jesus became man to enter into our suffering. Need some joy this week? Try one of our DIY Date Nights in the Resource section of www.joyfulmarriageproject.com.

12 Christmas PRAYERS dwellart

- 1 **Faith** Father God, it is by Your grace we have been saved, and through our faith - this is not from ourselves, but a gift from you - not by our works. Ephesians 2:8-9
- 2 **Hope** May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in Hope. Romans 15:4
- 3 **Love** Help us to love because You first loved us. 1 John 4:19
- 4 **Forgiveness** Thank you for being faithful and just in forgiving us our sins and thus purifying us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9
- 5 **Mercy** Let us be merciful, just as our Father is merciful. Luke 6:36
- 6 **Kindness** Let us be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as through Jesus, You forgave us. Ephesians 4:32
- 7 **Generosity** Let us be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, and to give the glory and thanks to you Lord! 2 Corinthians 9:11
- 8 **Compassion** Let us live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic and compassionate, love as brothers, and be humble. 1 Peter 3:8
- 9 **Joy** Let us be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12
- 10 **Salvation** Thank you for providing Jesus who is the way ,the truth, the life and the only way to You. John 14:6
- 11 **Obedience** Help us to not merely listen to Your Word, and so deceive ourselves. Help us do what it says. James 1:22-25
- 12 **Life** Thank you for coming that we may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

Westside Improvement Project including concrete plaza, better access for handicapped to church and restroom, sidewalks

December 17, 2017

After many meetings and discussions, study and considerations, St. Mary's Parish is more prepared to begin work next spring to replace the concrete plaza and steps and install the long-overdue walk to the restroom in the basement which will also be updated.

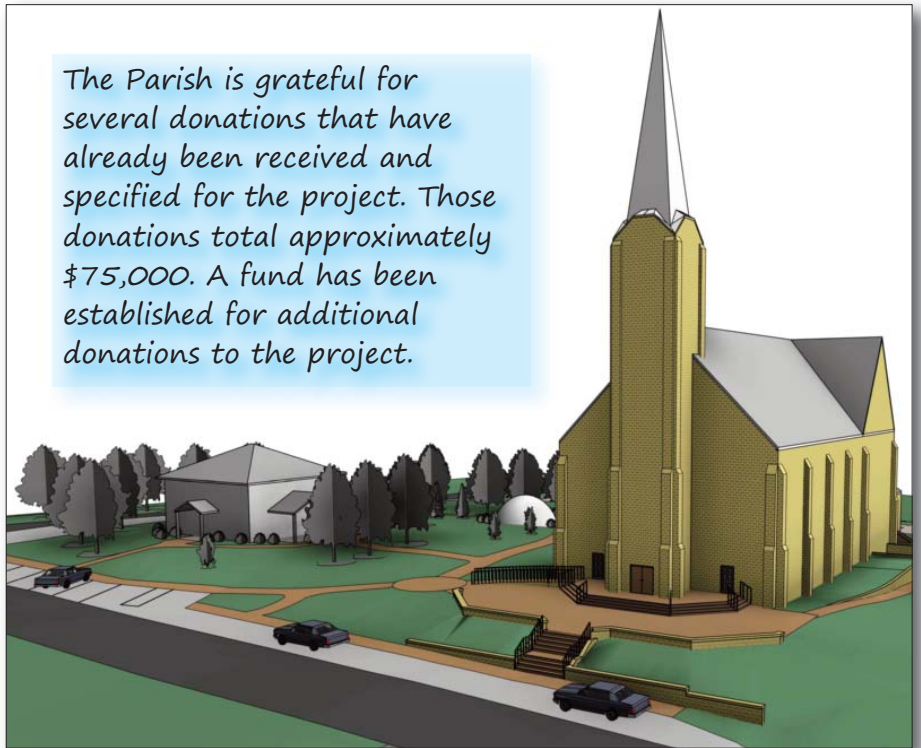
Goals of this project include these overarching concerns:

- replace concrete plaza, sidewalks
- improve access for handicapped and elderly to access the church
- make parking along the street more accessible and improve safety
- improve access to an updated bathroom in the church basement
- provide general improvement to the appearance of the church grounds.

Parishioners were invited to comment on a project description and reply with a survey that was attached to the Sunday, Sept. 10 Bulletin. Two informational meetings were held in September so any suggestions could be addressed; other comments or questions on the plans were discussed. Suggestions included to evaluate installing heating pads in sidewalks for snow and ice removal, review of handrailings and to also add irrigation to the south of the church.

While the prior studies were conducted by CES Consulting and the Maintenance Committee, I (Fr. Regie) requested that a Project Committee be named to finalize the details and guide the project. Those named to the Project Committee are Brian Holthaus, Jeff Stallbaumer, Richard Engelken, Brad Lueger, Elmer Ronnebaum, Dave Huerter, Deborah Sudbeck and Don Lueger.

As with many prior projects at St. Mary's Parish, the costs of the placement of the concrete on the project can be reduced by approximately 25 percent with use of local, volunteer labor and services.



The Parish is grateful for several donations that have already been received and specified for the project. Those donations total approximately \$75,000. A fund has been established for additional donations to the project.

A fund to help cover costs of materials, lighting and any necessary hired labor has been established. The church also has other needs to ensure that St. Mary's Church remains the "Crown Jewel of the Archdiocese", as Archbishop Naumann has described it to be. Shane Holthaus will be supervising the concrete work. BPW Masonry from Riley, Kansas will do the stone work. Anyone wishing to make either a donation or to pledge an amount over the next year is encouraged to use the form below. As the holidays and year-end approach, many people look for ways of combining their desire to help a cause they believe in with their desire to save on taxes. Seek advice from your tax consultant as necessary. Donations to this project should be made to St. Mary's Church; note on your check it is for the "Project Fund".

-- Fr. Regie and Project Committee



My, our, donation at this time to help pay for the West Side Improvement/Handicapped Access project and to contribute to other projects at St. Mary's Church is \$ _____ Payment is enclosed: \$ _____.

Or, we will pledge \$ _____ payable in the next year.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ - _____

Return this portion in an envelope marked "Westside Improvement" and place in the collection or mail it to the rectory at St. Mary's Church, 9208 Main Street, St. Benedict, KS 66538.

"To preserve this that your fathers built, in their great faith in your future." - Joe Oswald, 1980