God Is! Day of Renewal
On February 25th over 60 parishioners participated in our 2nd annual God Is! Day of Renewal.
**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 6 - 12, 2017**

**Monday, March 6**
7:30 AM  In Memory of Teresa Herrmann  
(by Blaser Family)

**Tuesday, March 7**
7:30 AM  In Memory of George Harwood  
(by Rosary Group)
6:30 PM  In Memory of Phyllis Kocher  
(by Dick & Ann Stipher)

**Wednesday, March 8**
7:30 AM  In Memory of Cynthia Ma  
(by Tom Ryan Family)

**Thursday, March 9**
7:30 AM  All Souls’ Day Intentions

**Friday, March 10**
9:00 AM  In Memory of Michelle Forsberg  
(by Staff of St. Mary School)
2:30 PM  Stations of the Cross for School
7:30 PM  Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, March 11**
5:00 PM  In Memory of Stephanie Krupa  
(by Beverly Stone)

**Sunday, March 12**
8:00 AM  In Memory of Dolores Davis  
(by Catholic Daughters Group #996)
9:30 AM  Spanish Speaking Mass
11:00 AM  People of St. Mary—Living & Deceased

**HOPE HAVEN VOLUNTEERS: Cook Schedule**
Mar 11:  Michelle & Joe Cusumano,  
Michelle & Fernando Bourge

**CHURCH CLEANING:**
Mar 11:  Lucy Rodriguez, Judy Splinter,  
Pat Schiesser, April Gauger

**MINISTRY OF CARE:**
**Homebound Visits:** Team A: Michelle Cusumano  
Team B: Richard Flemming

**Grand Victorian:** Joyce Mathey

**Kindred:** Barb Sundly

**Oak Crest - Every Friday:** Gaby VanBlyenburgh

**DeKalb County Home Ministry of Care**
Every Friday except the Third Friday 10-11am
Rosa Linda Bazan, Lorie Conley, Susie Adkins, Rita Henne, Elizabeth Sauber, Barbara Sundly, Marilynn Rexroat, Ann Stipher, Frankie Russell, Deacon Mike Zibrun

**MINISTERS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 6 - 12, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Usher</th>
<th>Greeter</th>
<th>Lector/Commentator</th>
<th>Eucharistic Ministers</th>
<th>Sacristan</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 6-9</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
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<td>Mar 10</td>
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<td>Mar 7</td>
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<td>Sandy Reh</td>
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<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Larry Gorez Joe Jordan Carrie Sudmeier</td>
<td>Jane Jordan Beverly Stone</td>
<td>Jill Jagodziński Sr. Judy Herrmann</td>
<td>Libby Swedberg Rob Wackt Gerald Zbylut Deacon</td>
<td>T. Ryan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Ron Recker Carol Recker</td>
<td>Doris Garland</td>
<td>Kathy Hammes Lisa DeWitt</td>
<td>Mike Etienne Richard Finn Jeanine Fair Deacon</td>
<td>C. Recker</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Chuck Tull Gary Starn Rosemary Starn</td>
<td>Angela Deja Camilla Deja</td>
<td>Janet Deja Mike Schweitzer</td>
<td>Julie Dresser Sr. Judy Herrmann Beth Joiner Deacon</td>
<td>F. Russell</td>
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You might already realize the Catholic Church has a much different view of the world than the various cultures that inhabit the earth. How the Catholic Church introduces her viewpoint to the inhabitants of the world is quite unique. As one might note from history, the Catholic Church’s presentation of her doctrines and beliefs to the world is very different and difficult to modern day cultures than when it presented the doctrines and beliefs to the pagan cultures of yesteryear. The Catholic Church, for too many individuals, stands too staunch and dogmatic in what she represents and consequently is currently experiencing a declining influence on the world’s population claiming to be Catholic. Richard Divozzo’s in his book, *The Church and the Culture of Modernity*, writes:

“Modernity … does not recognize the transcendent order, it does not acknowledge its existence whose reality is independent of man and which lays claim to his devout attention in all that he does. In so far as the first principle of modernity is man’s autonomy from any authority above his own, it and Catholicism are not merely in conflict; they are mutually exclusive views of reality. For the first lesson of Christian (or any realist) metaphysics is that man is a contingent being. Catholicism and modernity differ in the same way as do a teacher of Thomistic Metaphysics and a lunatic who thinks he is God.”

Modernity may be defined as simply what is situationally happening at the present time to any given culture. Modernity always offers usually a definition and solution to contemporary social situations and renders decisions and judgments based on what is good for humanity which is derived for mankind’s wants and needs. It is an extremely secular version of life that has replaced the Bible and God for the modern day citizen inculcated with the secular philosophy. Today, modernity is extremely influenced by self-centeredness. As we look at the Western world today, modernity is the progressive process that started in the 16th century and has developed into what we experience and are influenced by today. Without doubt this progression of thought leading to a style of living has greatly affected the minds of intellectuals creating and effecting the doctrine known the “scientific method.” You may recognize two of its governing principles stated in the following mantras “… if you can’t prove it, it doesn’t exist” or “… if it feels good, just do it.”

The organizers and framers of the Second Vatican Council, through its most important discussions and documents, understood modern culture to be essentially benign and hospitable to the evangelizing efforts of the Catholic Church. In fact, some of them appeared to regard modern culture as superior to previous cultural forms in exactly the same way that secular moderns conceive of themselves and their culture. The following is a quote from Pope John XXIII:

“In the present order of things, Divine Providence is leading us to new order of human relations, which by men’s own efforts and even beyond their very expectations are directed toward the fulfillment of God’s superior and inscrutable designs. And everything even human differences, leads to the good of the Church.”

This was just part one!

Fr. Paul Lipinski

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**LENTEN MASS SCHEDULE**

**Additional Lenten Masses**

- 6:30 pm Tuesday Evenings
- 2:30 pm School (3/10, 3/17, 3/24)
- 7:30 pm (3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31)
- Day of Reconciliation (April 5, 2017)

**Holy Week**

- 7:00 pm Communal Penance Service - St. Mary Sycamore

**EASTER (4/16)**

- 8 & 11:00 am
Some “musings” on the Start of Lent…
Did you know, that the word…LENT… is actually a Teutonic name, from middle Europe, to denote the forty days’ fast preceding Easter.
That’s the geographic location that won the honor of naming Lent, Lent, but there are also roots back to Latin, French, Spanish and Greek – to name a few…sort of a common market naming, many centuries before there was a “common market” in Europe.

When one goes back some 2000-plus years in history, most modern scholars today find that Fasting before Easter, was marked with a wide diversity of practice before Easter.  The early Church followers weighed in on, what became, the Fasting before Easter controversy over a four century period.
The duration we know and follow, as the Forty Days of Lent, evolved from that mystical number “forty”…as in the 40 days examples of Moses and Christ…and also where tradition also had it that Jesus lay in the tomb for 40 hours.  Originally, the Forty days had been inclusive of 40 days of Fasting, but not necessarily having the Faithful fast every day. And, in time, there was some variation on the practices.

Then, St. Gregory weighed in, in the late 590AD period with the concept of Spiritual Tithing. At that time, in Rome, there were six weeks, of six days each, making this period being 1/10 of 365 days. Or 10%. A bit later, the desire to complete the 40 days backed up the start of Lent a few days to a more recent Ash Wednesday. Whew!

So, I told you that, tell you this. Countless examples, recorded and unrecorded in our Bible on honoring God, Christ’s Sacrifice and “disciples walking with Jesus” on the Road to Calvary. So, pick a sacrifice this Lent, and keep it. May you find it in your heart, to spiritually hold His hand these 40 days and in your small corner of the world, and by your gift of a Lenten sacrifice, help renew the face of the earth.

This year we are going to support Hope for Haitians during Lent in order to help build a new village in Haiti. There are boxes or envelopes available for your donations. Please help this worthy cause that is providing the works of mercy to families most in need in the northern part of Haiti.

If you would like to find out more about this ministry, please contact Bob Pfundstein at 815-847-0656 or at bob@hopeforhaitians.org , or visit their Website at www.hopeforhaitians.org.

Thanks for your generous hearts to help the poorest of the poor.
OUR WEEKLY OFFERING
Sunday Collection - March 5, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actual Collection</th>
<th>Amount Needed To Meet Budget</th>
<th>Surplus (Shortfall)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$7,371.00</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>($2,629.00)</td>
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Total Since July 1, 2016 Year To Date Surplus

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DSA Goal Pledged Payments</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016 $68,193.00 $62,699.15 $55,220.13</td>
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As of 1/25/17 91.4% of goal 81.0% of goal

ADORATION

“My children, come before my Son, who is truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. There, before him, in hours of adoration you will receive the graces needed to be true followers of Christ. There, before this Sacrament of Love, you will be refreshed and you will find peace amidst the confusion of your lives.

My children, I urge you to pray and to make hours of adoration and reparation before my Son, in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Come to Jesus, who wishes so much to transform your lives. Come, my little ones, before the Light of World.” (Words of Our Lady, January 14, 1994)

Michael McColgan

Open Your Hearts: Messages from Our Lord Jesus and His Blessed Mother

Join us for Adoration from 8 am Thursday to 8 am Friday.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone who participated in my 80th birthday open house. It was truly an awesome and spiritual experience.

God Bless to All, Don Henderson

St. Mary of Sycamore
Knights of Columbus
Council 16350

Membership

If you’re interested in helping those in need, serving our parish, and growing in faith, then joining the St. Mary’s Knights of Columbus is the organization for you. We’ve recently established a new council and are anxious to make an impact on our community and parish.

Interest Cards are available in the back of Church. Please fill one out and place it in the box provided.

For more information, visit kofc.org, or contact Mike Eteinne metienne123@comcast.net

Remember in your prayers all the sick in our parish, the convalescents and shut-ins:


Please pray for those who Protect and serve us and our country
LEGACY MEMORIAL BRICKS
With the oncoming of spring now is a good time to order your Legacy Memorial Brick. A gift that will last forever! A Legacy Memorial Brick will honor your special person or memory for years to come and will be displayed in the St. Francis Garden.
Have you thought about who you could honor with a St. Mary Memorial Brick?
- a St. Mary’s graduate
- a favorite teacher/principal/priest
- a departed loved one
- a veteran (past or present)
- a parent or relative (living or deceased)
- a special birthday or anniversary
- a special person or memory
- a communion or confirmation candidate
There are many more people and memories to honor; just use your imagination.
Bricks are available in 4x8 for $50 and 8x8 for $100 with a portion of the proceeds benefitting our Legacy Campaign. Forms are available in the Gathering Room or at the Parish Office.

Let’s continue to fill our St. Francis Garden with our Legacy! Thank you to all who have already ordered Memorial Bricks! Your Legacy has begun!
Louise Fitzgerald
Legacy Campaign Office
815-895-3275 Ext. 6
stmarylegacy@stmarysycamore.com

Aurora Central Catholic High School
1255 North Edgelawn Drive
Aurora, Illinois 60506
www.auroracentral.com

7th GRADE STEP-UP DAYS
TUESDAY, MARCH 7th, 2017
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
All 7th grade students are invited to participate in a 7th Grade Step-Up Day at Aurora Central Catholic High School. Step-Up Day is a unique experience for 7th grade students to interact with ACC students at a Student Panel, attend an all-school Mass and embark on their very own block schedule. While Aurora Area Catholic Grade Schools are invited as a class, students from Religious Education programs and Public Schools are encouraged to attend.
For more information or to register, please call Mackenzie Livingston at (630) 907-0095 ext. 109 or email mlivingston@auroracentral.com. Thank you!

2017 Russell Hustle
5K Trail Run & Fun Run
St. Mary’s Catholic School will host the Russell Hustle Trail Run on Saturday April 8, 2017 in scenic Russell Woods in Genoa, Illinois. The 5K race begins at 10:00 am and the 2K Fun Run/Walk begins after the 5K is completed.
Participants are encouraged to register in advance. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Funds raised from this event provide scholarship funding for families.
Registration is open and can be accessed through www.signmeup.com/118097. Participants can choose to participate in the 5K Trail Run or 2K Fun Run/Walk. The registration fee for the 5K is $25.00 prior to April 1, 2017 and $30.00 after April 1, 2017. The fee for the 2K Run/Walk is $15.00.
Registration will be open until race day. In order to be guaranteed an event t-shirt, participants must be registered no later than March 23, 2017. The event will run rain or shine. For more information about the Russell Hustle, contact St. Mary’s at 815-895-5215.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTION GROUPS
The Liturgy/Evangelization Action Group met February 9th to finalize plans for GOD IS: day of Renewal and the Faith & Fellowship meetings which will begin immediately following the Day of Renewal. This Action Group is open to suggestions and welcomes new attendance! Next meeting Thurs., Mar. 9th at 7 p.m. in the St. Joseph Room.

OPEN INVITATION TO FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP SESSIONS
All are invited to reflect and pray about the upcoming week’s Gospel at one of our faith and fellowship sessions. There are no materials to buy or homework. There is no weekly commitment necessary and a flexible schedule of four opportunities each week. All are welcome at one of the four groups below.
SUNDAY, 7:00pm – 8:00pm: Jayne Higgins facilitator
MONDAY, 12 noon – 1:00pm: Ann Stipher facilitator
TUESDAY, 8:00am – 9:00am: Lisa De Witt facilitator
THURSDAY, 7:00pm – 8:00pm: Janet Deja facilitator
All sessions are in the PAC.
Religious Education

815-895-3726 EXT: 223
Leila Rivers  leiladre@aol.com
Theresa Johnson  stmaryrepic@hotmail.com
Website:  www.stmaryreliigioused.com
Mon. - Friday  8:00am—4:00pm

Wednesday March 8
Class

Sunday March 12
Class

Wednesday March 15
Class

Sunday March 19
LAST Class

Lent Reconciliation will be held during RE times for grades 3 -8.
Please have your child know the Act of Contrition

Confirmation students must attend reconciliation during parish reconciliation times

LOVING GOD, you invite us during our Lenten journey to seek you and to be open to what it is that you are calling us to become persons, transformed into the likeness of your Son who died and rose in glory. You call us in faith to be people who live the message of the gospel and who share the message with our families and others. Ready our hearts to seek your face and to stand in wonder in your presence. And to one day share your glory in eternity. Amen

Pallottines

PIVITAL PLAYERS BY BISHOP BARRENS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8  6:00-7:30 pm &
SUNDAY, MARCH 12  9:00–10:30 am
Parish Activity Center
COME AND SHARE IN THE ADVENTURE

Together we are doing whatever it takes to journey with Christ.

Calendar of Events

Mar. 5  HS Lenten Series 12-1:30 pm PH
Mar 11-12  Camp Counselor Overnight Retreat
            3 pm-1 pm St. Cat’s
Mar. 12  HS Lenten Series 12-1:30 pm PH
Mar. 19  Peer Ministry Mtg. 9:15-10:45 am PH
Mar. 19  HS Lenten Series 12-1:30 pm PH
Mar. 22  Mission Trip Team Mtg. 7-8:30 pm PH
Mar. 26  HS Lenten Series 12-1:30 pm PH

April 2  Peer Ministry Mtg. 9:15-10:45 am PH
April 2  HS Lenten Series 12-1:30 pm PH

Come to the Here I AM Lord conference on Saturday, Mar. 4 at St. Pat’s Church on Crane Road in St. Charles. Hear great speakers such as Sr. Miriam Hedtland and Nic Frank and many others. Join hundreds of teens in a day filled with music, opportunities to interact with joyful priests and sisters, happily married couples and other teens interested in finding God is plan for their lives. You can obtain more info by contacting the YM office.

We will be starting our HS Lenten Series on Sun., Mar. 2 after the 11:00 mass, starting with lunch at 12:00 and fellowship, then a discussion time until 1:30 pm. There is one permission slip that covers all the Sundays available online. There is no charge to attend, just show up with your permission slip.

We have a few remaining spots for the Steubenville Conference. Please contact the YM office or get the forms from our website.

Any ?? about YM events, please call Sara Blaser at 815-895-3726 ext. 224 or girl1of16@gmail.com Website:
www.stmarysycamore.com