

# The Parishes of Saint Mary of the Fields - Grand Ridge, Saint Patrick - Seneca, & Saint Theresa - Earlville



## St. Mary's of the Fields

Grand Ridge, IL 61325  
815-357-6239

### Mass Times

Saturday ~ 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday ~ 10:30 a.m.

### Confessions

Before Mass on Sunday, or by appointment

Religious Education for Students  
Classes are held on Sundays. Please contact the CCD Coordinator, Mrs. Pat Duffield for details at 815.488-7365



## St. Patrick's

176 West Union Street  
Seneca, IL 61360  
815-357-6239  
Cemetery 815-357-8816  
senecastpatricks.com

### Mass Times

Saturday ~ 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday ~ 9:00 a.m.  
Tues - Fri ~ 8:15 a.m.

### Confessions

Saturday - 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. or by appointment

Religious Education for Students  
Classes are held on Sundays. Please contact the CCD Coordinator, Mrs. J. Doloski for details at 815.357.8509



## St. Theresa

221 West Union Street  
Earlville, IL 60518  
815-246-4321  
st-theresa-earlville.com

### Mass Times

Saturday ~4:00 p.m.  
Sunday ~ 8:00 a.m.  
Mon - Fri. ~ 8:00 a.m.

### Confessions

Saturday - 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. or by appointment

Religious Education for Students  
CCD Classes are held on Sundays from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Please contact Pat Evers for details.

Deacon Mike Evers 815-414-1193  
mikeevers1130@gmail.com

**FORMED registration**

**[www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org)**

**Choose St. Joseph Marseilles**

### Father Ghislain Inai, SMA Pastor

176 West Union Street  
Seneca, IL. 61360  
Office - (815) 357-6239  
Email address:parishgroup3@gmail.com

### Father Augustin Kassa, SMA Parochial Vicar

221 West Union Street  
Earlville, IL. 60518  
Office - (815) 246-4321  
Email address:parishgroup3@gmail.com

Sunday, December 15, 2019  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

## Mass Intentions for the Week

ST. MARY'S CHURCH		
Sat. Dec. 14	5:30 pm	Mark Sheridan By: Mike & Elaine Sheridan
Sun. Dec. 15	10:30 am	Dode Brown & Sheila Rawlings By: James D. Brown
Sat. Dec. 21	5:30 pm	James & Marilyn Durdan By: Cal & Pat Duffield Family
Sun. Dec. 22	10:30 am	Jim Durdan By:

## Eucharist Minister, Lector, Altar Servers

<b>Saturday December 21</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>
Lector:	
Altar Servers:	Volunteers at Mass
<b>Sunday December 22</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>
Lector:	Pat Durdan
Altar Servers:	Volunteers at Mass

## Weekly Collection ~ St. Mary

December 8, 2019	Stays in Parish	
Envelopes	\$	2080.00 (23 Envelopes)
Loose	\$	148.00
Retirement	\$	65.00
School	\$	<u>20.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2313.00</b>
<b>Needed each week to pay expenses: \$1,377</b>		



Thank you so much to those who donated to the furnace fund: Rick & Lori Segovich, John & Cheryl Miller, Michael & Elaine Sheridan, Ed &

Darlene Hettel, Matt & Tamara Bruno, Willard & Carol Olson and Barry & Carla Groesch.

We are also grateful to William Kummer, Jr. and Marseilles Sheet Metal who donated all the materials and installation for the hand rails at the entrance of the Church.

We would also like to thank Dave Feltman and Clarence Kuhn Jr, who built and installed the ramps to the side entrance of the Church.

Volunteers needed to decorate St. Mary's church for Christmas on Friday December 20th at 9am.

# ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

## Mass Intentions for the Week

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH	
Tue. Dec. 17	<b>8:15 am</b> The McComb Family By: George McComb
Wed. Dec. 18	<b>8:15 am</b> Jeffrey Haiduke By: Haiduke Family
Thurs. Dec. 19	<b>8:15 am</b> Mary "Bonnie" Schaefer By: Doug & Cathy Carlson
Fri. Dec. 20	<b>8:15 am</b> Jean Naretto By: Viv & Rudy Maierhofer
Sat. Dec. 21	<b>4:00 pm</b> Margaret Raibley By: Brian & Annette Olson
Sun. Dec. 22	<b>9:00 am</b> Dale Norton By: Gail Norton Family

## Eucharist Minister, Lector, Altar Servers

<b>Saturday Dec. 21</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>
Eucharistic Minister: Annette Olson	
Lector: Robert Mitchell	
Altar Servers: Gavin Nusbaumer/Ella Sterling	
<b>Sunday Dec. 22</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
Eucharistic Minister: Sandra Kizior	
Lector: Cathy Erickson	
Altar Servers: David/Dominic Bilot, Brody Thompson	

## Weekly Collection ~ St. Patrick

December 8, 2019	Stays in Parish	
Sunday Collection	\$	1963.00 (67 Envelopes)
Loose Cash	\$	332.00
Online	\$	270.00
Fuel	\$	10.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	<u>255.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2830.00</b>

**Needed each week to pay expenses: \$ 3,200**

Capital Improvement \$345.00

Share in the Care \$35.00

Campaign for Human Development \$10.00

Food Pantry \$588.00



Thank you Laylon Sanchez for the generous donation to St. Patrick Church in memory of Joan Reardon.

### ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

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# ST. THERESA CHURCH

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Mon. Dec. 16</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> Eleanor Richards By: Mike & Debbie Kent
<b>Tues. Dec. 17</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> Leo Doherty By: Kate Dohahue
<b>Wed. Dec. 18</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> Allen Wold By: Gerry & Jim Bann
<b>Thur. Dec. 19</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> 50yh Wedding Anniversary for Gary & Rose Stockley By: Gary & Rose Stockley
<b>Fri. Dec. 20</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> Ambrose Corrigan By: Tim & Cindy Cook
<b>Sat. Dec. 21</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b> 50th Wedding Anniversary for Gary & Rose Stockley & all Living Members of Gary Stockley Family
<b>Sun. Dec. 22</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> Albert Vasquez By: Isela & Kids

## Eucharist Minister, Lector, Altar Servers

<b>Saturday Dec. 21</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b> Minister: Deacon Mike Lector: Carol McLachlan Altar Servers: Hayden Bomstad, Davis Sweeney
<b>Sunday Dec. 22</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> Minister: Deacon Mike Lector: Paula Wold Altar Servers: Loren Vazquez, Caylin Cantlin

## Weekly Collection ~ St. Theresa

<b>December 8, 2019</b>	<b>Stays in Parish</b>
Sunday Collection	\$ 1289.00
Loose	\$ 299.00
Candles	\$ 15.50
Immaculate Conception	\$ 65.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ <u>195.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1863.50</b>
<b>Needed each week to pay expenses:</b>	<b>\$2,267.00</b>
Cemetery \$50.00	



**St. Theresa Volunteers:** We could really use more choir members, ladies and men, as well as high schoolers. We promise there will be no solos. The choir is present mainly to encourage the congregation to praise Our Lord in song.

If you can carry a tune or even hum real well, consider joining us. We'd especially like to enlarge our group for the Christmas Season, so that we can make a joyful noise unto the Lord during this holy time.

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

	Dec. 24th	Dec. 25th	Dec. 31st	Jan 1st
St. Theresa	4:00pm	8:00am	4:00pm	8:00am
St. Mary	5:30pm	10:30am	5:30pm	10:30am
St. Joseph	4:00pm	10:30am	6:00pm	10:30am
St. Patrick, Ransom	6:30pm	7:30am	6:30pm	7:30am
St. Patrick, Seneca	4&9 pm	9:00am	4:00pm	9:00am

## ST. THERESA NEWS

- Earlville Elementary **Christmas Program** will be Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 2:00pm.
- The American Legion will be sponsoring a **blood drive** at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Earlville on Thursday January 9, 2020 from 2:00 to 6:00pm. Please go online and set up an appointment or call Mary Sons and she will help you, 815-414-3241.



Our next December meeting will be held on December 18th from 7:00-8:30pm at 1500 Walnut St., Mendota. RISE group parents...keep up to date regarding RISE events, dates & times through RISE Youth Ministry FaceBook group. Contact Carol McLachlan (815-252-4176), Julie Krzyzek (815-713-6188), Duane Krzyzek (815-543-0686) or Bruce Full (815-539-7179) with any questions.

## ST. MARY - FOOD DRIVE

Grand Ridge District Emergency Food Drive is having their food drive for Christmas delivery to families



in the school district that are less fortunate. We accept non-perishable foods, paper and personal hygiene products. There is a container at church to place your donation. We appreciate any help you can give!

## MARCH FOR LIFE

The Catholic Diocese of Peoria is sponsoring a bus pilgrimage to Chicago to attend the March for Life Saturday, January 11, 2020. The largest pro-life event in the Midwest! Registration form available at [www.cdop.org](http://www.cdop.org). Spacing is limited and will fill up quickly so if you wish to attend register soon. For additional information contact the Office of Evangelization and Faith Formation at 309-671-1550 or [Evangelization@cdop.org](mailto:Evangelization@cdop.org).

### **Homebound**

For parishioners who are sick, please call the parish rectory and arrangements will be made to bring them Holy Communion.

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

Please contact the Rectory. You must be a registered parishioner or have the written permission of your own pastor to be baptized.

### **Sacrament of the Sick**

Please call anytime, day or night

### **Sacrament of Marriage**

Please contact the rectory before making any arrangements, typically at least 8 months are required for the marriage preparation program.

### **Parish Registration Welcomed**

There are registration sheets in the back of the Church on the tables, but it is also helpful to call the Rectory for more information. Thank you.

### **Be in-FORMED**

#### **Register at [Formed.org](http://Formed.org)**

“Presence” discussion questions, Watch: Session 3, Bread for the Journey

1. What was one thing from the video that you heard for the first time or that was an “aha” moment for you?
2. How do we participate in the sacrifice of Jesus in the Eucharist? What are some practical ways to be intentional about participating in this way?
3. At the end of Mass, we are dismissed with a purpose. What is our mission when we leave Mass? What can we do to live out this mission?

### **\*\*BULLETIN NEWS DUE DATE SCHEDULE\*\***

Please keep these dates in mind if you have any information that needs to go into the weekly bulletin.

**News and announcements for the December 22 bulletin need to be submitted no later than 9:00am Monday, December 16.**

**News and announcements for the December 29 bulletin need to be submitted no later than 9:00am Friday, December 20.**

**News and announcements for the January 5 bulletin need to be submitted no later than 9:00am Friday, December 27.**

## BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah ([2 Kings 1:8](#)). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century. John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11). In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord. The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near. This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God. The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter [14:3-12](#). In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater. Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.





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