

*May Christ Be the Light In Your Christmas*



**GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION**

At my first ever Christmas outside my home, far from my family and the people I had been familiar with and away from my country, I am so glad and grateful to God for bringing me to a community of God fearing people - loving, caring, so concerned and very generous. If I don't miss anything but more comfortable at home with a great family, then it is all because of you and your family. God continues to bless and keep your family more united as you share stories and gifts together. I am so grateful for your beautiful cards and generous presents. God bless you once again.

“The grace which was revealed in our world is Jesus. He has entered our history, he has shared our journey, he came to free us from darkness and to grant us light. In him was revealed the grace, the mercy, and the love of the Father.” Pope Francis

Wishing you the best compliments of the season. Merry Christmas and Joyous New Year.

- Fr. Seth.

**St. Mary's, Avoca**

Pastor, Fr. Seth Owusu  
 Jane True, Secretary  
 Website [www.stmarysavoca.org](http://www.stmarysavoca.org)  
 Facebook - [facebook.com/smspchurches](https://facebook.com/smspchurches)  
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**St. Patrick's, Walnut**

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 FORMED CODE is **R2Z2VN**

**December 23, 2018 4th Sunday of Advent  
 Today's Scripture**

Sat. 12/22 -5:30 St. Mary; Sun: 12/23 - 10:30 a.m. St. Mary, Avoca, 8:00 a.m. St. Patrick, Walnut

**Micah 5:1-4a:** From Bethlehem shall come the one who is to rule over Israel.  
**Hebrews 10:5-10:** Christ Jesus comes to do the will of God and establishes a covenant.  
**Luke 1:39-45:** Elizabeth is honored with a visit from the mother of her Lord.  
**Sunday, December 30:** 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52.

**Mass Schedule for December 24 - December 31, 2018**

<i>Mon.</i>	12/24	4:00 p.m.	St. Patrick's, Walnut	†Theresa Blum
		7:00 p.m.	St. Mary's, Avoca	All Parishioners
<i>Tues.</i>	12/25	9:00 a.m.	St. Mary's, Avoca	†Mary Kock
<i>Wed.</i>	12/26	10:00 a.m.	Elk Horn Nursing Home	Those in the Nursing Home
<i>Thurs.</i>	12/27	5:45 p.m.	St. Mary's, Avoca	†Margaret Russell
<i>Fri.</i>	12/28	8:30 a.m.	St. Mary's, Avoca	†Robert O'Neill
<i>Sat.</i>	12/29	5:30 p.m.	St. Mary's, Avoca	†Melissa Martin
<i>Sun.</i>	12/30	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's, Avoca	All Parishioners
		10:30 a.m.	St. Patrick's Walnut	†Hoffmann Family

**Normal Weekend Mass Schedule:**

*Saturday:* 5:30 p.m. St. Mary's  
*Sunday:* 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's(1-3-5)  
 St. Patrick's (2-4)  
*Sunday:* 10:30 a.m. St. Mary's (2-4)  
 St. Patrick (1-3-5)



## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE December 23 - December 31

### Sunday, December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

- \* **No Religious Education Class** - Christmas Break.
- \* **St. Mary's December Group of the Month** is decorating the church for Christmas following the 10:30 a.m. Mass this morning. Anyone is welcome to help.

### Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

- \* **Christmas Eve Mass** - 4:00 p.m. St. Patrick's, Walnut.
- \* **Christmas Eve Mass** - 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's, Avoca.

### Sunday, December 30 – Feast of the Holy Family

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- √ **New Years Eve Mass:** 4:00 p.m. St. Patrick's, Walnut.
- √ **New Years Day Mass:** 9:00 a.m. St. Mary's, Avoca.
- √ **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** is Thursday January 3rd from 7 - 8 p.m. at St. Mary's, Avoca.
- √ **K - 7th Grade Religious Education Class #11** is Sunday, January 6th from 9:15 - 10:15.

**AVOCA FOOD PANTRY** The number of people using the Food Pantry continues to increase with each month. The Food Pantry Board of Directors and Volunteers truly appreciate any and all donations received. Needed is toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo conditioner, toilet paper, soups, instant oatmeal, kidney beans, spaghetti sauce, tuna, pork & beans, peanut butter, and Hamburger Helper.

Thanks for caring and helping - Avoca Food Pantry Helpers

**“ST. MARY'S - BOOK EXCHANGE”** Feel free to share and/or borrow any Good Catholic Reading materials in back of church.

**FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK - The Story of the Nativity** *Explore the Birth of Christ* This fast - paced look at the true story of the Nativity clears away misunderstandings about Jesus's origin and is invaluable for learning more about the truth of Christmas. **GO TO: FORMED.org**, the Parish Code is **R2Z2VN**, then create your account.

**“SIGNS OF LIFE, by Scott Hahn** is the Adult Faith Committee's Christmas Gift to all parishioners. Please be sure to get your copy following all the Christmas Masses.

**REMINDER: 2019 TITHE BOXES AND CALENDARS** are in the entry-way of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's. Please be sure to pick yours up soon!

**LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC CD'S** are available for purchase in the church entryway. They make a nice last minute gift or stocking stuffer.

**PLEASE KEEP** Kenny Blum in your prayers as he recovers from heart surgery.

**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS & MASSES:** Kenny Blum, Judy Poore, Donnie Bauerkemper, Helen Juelsgaard, Helen Dea, Eileen Denning, Paul Koster, Marie Manuel, Patricia Koster, Kenneth Suhr, Doris (Jeannie) Mertz, LaVern Mertz, Carol Porter, Doyle Gilland, Mike D'Angelo, Sharon Sorrells, Marie Suhr, John O'Keefe, Janet Doyle Antony, Lori Reinig, Judy Willoughby, Tim Tuel, Robert Stuart, Roland McLaughlin, Monica McLaughlin Merryman, James Hoffmann, Mary VanCamp, Cole Geraghty, Eleanor Brown, Marcus Upton, Shelly Mattox, Ted Aikman, Dan Noonan, Angela Brisbois, Darla Snyder, Ethel Thomas, Gordon Gladdin, Leona Bladt, Lillie Sue Mace, Nathan Hall, Nancy Blum, Sherman Snyder, Carol Gubbels.

**TITHES St. Mary:** 12/16 Tithes- \$1040 Plate - \$115. **St. Patrick:** 12/9 Tithes -\$765; Plate -\$36. 12/16 Tithes \$335; Plate 56.

**St. Patrick's Breakfast: Jan. 13** Laura & Lou Totilas, Judd Gross.

#### Ministry 12/22 SM 5:30 p.m.

**Lector** Heather Poore  
**Comm** Doug Sptiznagle  
Jane True  
Ann Koster

**Servers** Harrison Poore  
Jacob Coon  
Julia Kock

**U/G** Tom Pattee  
Tom True

**Gifts** Jaiden Poore  
Jonni Poore

#### 12/23 SM 10:30 a.m.

**Lector** Cody Roskens  
**Comm** Melody Cordes\*  
Harold Hoffmann\*  
Ron Kenkel

**Servers** Caden Geraghty  
Noah Bartunek  
Jordan Bartunek

**U/G** John Bartunek  
Martin Molnar

**Gifts** Jeanette Bartunek  
Amy Osbahr

#### 12/23 SP 8:00 a.m

**Lector** Jane Hayes-Johnk  
**Comm** Julie Gross  
Laura Totilas  
Lou Totilas

**Servers** Rosemary Harper  
Alaina Bruce

**U/G** Wayne Johnk  
Marvin Naegele

**Gifts** N. Yock Family

**Christmas Ministry: St. Mary:** 12.24 7 p.m. *Lector* Rose Sternberg; *Euch.* Dave Sternberg, Mary Pearson, Deb McCarthy; *Server* Jace Peterson, Ellie Peterson; *Usher* Josh Peterson, Jerry McCarthy; *Gifts* Erin Peterson, Jett Peterson. 12/25: *Lector* Tom Pattee; *Euch. Minister:* Tom Pattee *Gifts* Kathleen Pattee.  
**St. Patrick:** 12/24 4 p.m. *Server, Rosemary Harper*