St. Mary Church
70 Church Street, West Warwick, Rhode Island 02893
The Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Established, 1844)
The Oldest Catholic Church in Rhode Island

Reverend Douglas J. Spina, Ph.D. ~ Pastor
Rev. Thomas D. O’Neill ~ Pastor Emeritus
Mary A. DePrete & Kenneth J. Morin, Trustees

WEEKEND MASSES
Saturday: 4:00pm
Sunday: 10:00am

WEEKDAY MASSES
Monday ~ Thursday 8:00am
Rosary & Devotions 7:35am
Wednesday, Chaplet of Divine Mercy 8:30am

HOLY DAY MASSES
8:00am & 7:00pm
Consult the bulletin for alternate Mass times

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday 3:00pm ~ 3:30pm or by appointment

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Last Sunday of the Month ~ by appointment

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
Contact Rectory one year in advance

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK
Contact Rectory ~ Call anytime

SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS
Call Vocation Office (401) 331-1316

RECTORY OFFICE
Monday ~ Thursday 9:00am ~ 1:00pm
Telephone (401) 821-5555
Fax (401) 615-0304
Email: stmaryschurch1@cox.net
Website: www.stmaryswestwarwick.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE
Deborah E. Doyle
Director of Religious Education
SS John & James Parish
20 Washington Street, West Warwick, RI 02893
Tel: (401) 821-7661 ext. 12
Email: ssjjreligioused@cox.net
Website: www.ssjohnandjames.org
Pre-School, Kindergarten, Primary & Middle Grades
Confirmation I & II

CEMETERY OFFICE
Clerk: Diane M. Tellier
(401) 822-1006

ST. MARY’S OUTREACH
Velma K. Maynard
(401) 644-8191

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
(401) 822-1006
Contact Rectory one year in advance

PARISH NEWS DEADLINE
Sunday at Noon write/email stmaryschurch1@cox.net
2019 MASS BOOK IS NOW OPEN

The 2019 Mass Book is PRESENTLY AVAILABLE. Weekend Masses: Saturday at 4:00pm and Sunday at 10:00am. Offerings for any Masses/Votives after June 30, 2019 will be given at the time of the scheduled Mass. Call rectory Monday – Thursday from 9:00am – 1:00pm.

Diocese of Providence

Are you a caregiver for a family member over the age of 60? The Diocesan CareBreaks Program can help! CareBreaks assists family caregivers in paying for a regular break from caregiving duties. Whether you need a worker to come to your home, help pay for a day of adult day care each week or even assist with an occasional overnight stay in a nursing home; CareBreaks can help you care for your own needs and maintain your own health. Don’t try to do it alone! For more information, call Hector at the CareBreakProgram4217833,ext.211oremailmuoz@dioceseofprovidence.org.

If you know of any parishioner who is in need, housebound or would like to receive Holy Communion please call Velma at (401) 644-8191.

ST. MARY CHURCH
WEST WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND

St. Mary Church
Weekly Financial Summary Report

November 24/25
St. Mary Cemetery/Perpetual Care
$1,456.00
St. Mary Cemetery/Perpetual Care
$434.00

This Week’s Second Collection – Maintenance
Next Week’s Second Collection – Retired Religious
THANK YOU for your generosity!

Christmas Flower Offerings

Please, place your Christmas Flower offerings/envelopes in the collection basket throughout the months of November & December. A special Mass for the intentions of the Christmas Flower Donors will be celebrated on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 8:00am.

Remember to make up any missed budget envelopes. We are relying on your continued support! Please, be generous. Your weekly support is crucial to the day-to-day operation of the parish.

PARISH MEETINGS

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 16
6:30pm in the rectory hall

CEMETERY COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 17
3:00 pm in the rectory hall

SOCIETY OF WOMEN
Tuesday, December 4
6:30pm in Father Gibson Hall

Remember to Pray for …

Religious Education Classes
SS John & James (SSJJ) Church Hall, Arctic
Sacramental records (if required) to Ms. Deb Doyle
Director of Religious Education
20 Washington Street, West Warwick, RI 02893
Call Deb at (401) 821-7661 ext.12
GRADIES 1 – 6 – 10:20AM – 11:20AM Sunday
GRADE 7 - 6:30PM – 8:00PM Monday
PRE-SCHOOL 10:20AM – 11:20AM Sunday

Confirmation I & II for St. Mary’s Students
Classes Held at St. Mary’s Rectory Hall
Tuesdays, from 6:00pm – 8:00pm

BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION
... THANKS all those who supported their efforts to aid needy Christian families in the Holy Land, by purchasing handmade religious art from Bethlehem.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS
Pray for priests, seminarians and vocations to the priesthood at the Chapel of the Seminary of Our Lady of Providence, 485 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, Thursdays, from 12:00 noon – 5:00pm. All are welcomed to join in prayerful adoration before Our Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament.

CHORUS OF KENT COUNTY – HOLIDAY CONCERT
... at West Warwick High School, Saturday, December 1 at 7:30pm and Sunday, December 2 at 2:30pm. Tickets are $13.00 (advance purchase) and $16.00 (at the door). For more information call Julie at 826-3105 – Leave message, please.

GABRIEL’S CALL
... is a new diocesan ministry for women and families. You are invited to become a Gabriel Angel Volunteer. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry and sharing your gifts, call Carol Owens at (401) 421-7833, ext. 218.

COPING WITH GRIEF DURING THE HOLIDAYS
... offered by the Diocesan Office of Family Life, for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. This event will be held on Monday, December 3, from 6:30pm – 8:00pm Our Lady of Loreto Parish, East Providence. Registration is required. Call Carol Owens at (401) 421-7833, ext. 218 for more details.

HEALING MASS
For Those Who Are Ill or in Recovery
Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick
February 10, 5:00pm at St. Mary Church
Open to all who are sick, suffering or in recovery from any illness, especially addictions to alcoholism, drugs, mental, emotional, physical distress. If you know of family, friends or neighbors who are ill, please invite/bring them to this Mass of Healing. All are welcomed.

Remember in prayer the brave men & women serving our country, especially in the Middle East.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
COME, LORD JESUS!

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Holy Day of Obligation
Saturday, December 8, is the Solemn Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is also a Holy Day of Obligation and Patronal Feast of the United States of America. All Catholics are obliged to attend Mass on this Holy Day. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00am. The Holy Day Offering will be taken up at this Mass.

THE ANNUAL WOMEN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY
... sponsored by St. Mary’s Society of Women will be held on Friday, December 28, at 6:00pm in Father Gibson Hall. All the women of the parish are invited to this celebration. A holiday buffet will be served and live entertainment will be provided. Tickets will be on sale this weekend and December 8/9. Menu includes hot buffet: Chicken Marsala, Baked Scrod, Sausage & Peppers, Potatoes & Dessert. Tickets are $20.00.

Father Doug THANKS all those who sent Thanksgiving cards, prayerful best wishes and gifts for the holiday. May God bless you for your kindness.

175th ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY
AN HISTORIC MOMENT

St. Mary Church to Be Acknowledged Before Pope Francis
On the occasion of our 175th Anniversary, St. Mary’s, the oldest Catholic Church in Rhode Island and in the Diocese of Providence, is slated to be publicly acknowledged and presented to Pope Francis during the papal audience on Wednesday, December 5. You may see this historic event on EWTN which will televise the papal audience on December 5 between 3:50am – 5:00am, channel 22 on Cox and 285 on Verizon. Pray for St. Mary’s 19 pilgrims. You will be remembered daily in theirs.

While Father Doug is Away on Pilgrimage... there will be no weekday Mass celebrated at St. Mary Church. Parishioners are asked to attend weekday Mass at a neighboring parish. Weekday Mass will resume on Monday, December 17. On Saturday, December 8, Father John McNulty will celebrate the Holy Day of Oblation Mass of Mary’s Immaculate Conception at 10:00am. The Vigil Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent will be celebrated at 4:00pm by Monsignor Carlo Montecalvo. On Sunday, December 9, Father John McNulty will celebrate the 10:00am Mass.

THANKS all those who supported their efforts to aid needy Christian families in the Holy Land, by purchasing handmade religious art from Bethlehem.
Our ADVENT GIVING TREE is now in the downstairs entrance to the church as well as the church side entrance. Your generous gifts will be given for Christmas to the needy in our community and distributed by the West Warwick Diocesan Outreach Center. Simply take a tag from the tree and return the unwrapped new, unused gift to the lower or side church entrance, no later than Sunday, December 16. Thank you!

The Pastor’s Pulse

Dear Parishioners & Friends:

Let us prayerfully begin our Advent journey together as we prepare for the birth of our Savior. These next few weeks will pass quickly, in the twinkling of an eye. We will soon find ourselves kneeling before the King of Kings. Because there was no room anywhere, the Most Blessed One was born in poverty, within the humble confines of a dark, dank stable. Only Divine irony could have fashioned such a paradoxical, perplexing and yet glorious setting for the birth of God’s Son.

By the grace of the Holy Spirit our Blessed Lady miraculously conceived the seed of Life in her womb. She readily acquiesced to God’s will, an extraordinary act of faith, courage and love. As we read from Luke:

“Then the angel said to her: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever and of his Kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary accepted God’s invitation and proclaimed, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Following Mary’s consent, the Scripture simply says the angel left her. I often wondered how Mary, now alone with her thoughts, embraced that moment. What was she feeling and thinking? This much is certain; Mary never wavered, never reneged and never compromised her total and unequivocal YES to God. Mary kept her word perfectly, faithfully and lovingly. For this reason she, who is the Mother of God, is the prototypical Model for the Church, the People of God. As we commence these sacred days together, may our YES to God allow the seed of Divine Life to take root within us. Sanctified by God’s saving grace, we too will truly know, love and serve Christ at His coming, each day of our lives.

While I am on pilgrimage I carry you with me in my heart. Please pray for us, pilgrims, as we remember you daily before the Lord. The time is short, the season ripe – the Child’s birth will soon alight.

Your grateful Pastor,
Father Doug
Kid’s Korner

Kids, today we begin Advent – four weeks of spiritual preparation. In today’s Gospel, we hear about Mary, who receives a visit from an angel. The angel spoke to her and revealed God’s plan for her. Mary said YES to God's plan and became the Mother of Jesus.

As we begin our journey towards Bethlehem, let us be as faithful to God as Mary. Can you find your way through the Advent Maze that leads to the Christ Child?

Advent Journey

Several people make a journey in the Nativity Story.

Mary, Joseph, the wise men and the shepherds all travel.

Follow the labyrinth to the star at the centre.

Think about what their journeys might have been like.