

Mary's Children E-Newsletter, December 2023

2023 Christmas and New Year's Schedule

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

10:00am	Holy Mass (4 th Sunday of Advent)	10:00pm	Holy Mass (Christmas Vigil)
9:15pm	Vigil Office of Christmas		

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

9:30am	Holy Rosary	10:00am	Holy Mass
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Sunday, December 31 - New Year's Eve

10:00am	Holy Mass (Feast of the Holy Family)	11:00pm	Vigil Office for the Solemnity of the
6:00pm	Vespers and Rosary		Mother of God
9-11pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	11:45pm	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the
10:00pm	Holy Hour of Reparation to the Sacred Heart		Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2024 - Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God

10:00am Holy Mass

Sunday, January 8, 2023 – The Epiphany of the Lord

10:00am Holy Mass followed by Potluck Dinner and The Extraction of Patron Saints

Upcoming Retreats

December 2, 2023 >> “The Hope of the Advent Wreath for the Order of Preachers”

Talks Given By >>> Fr. Reginald Wolford, OP

During this Advent Day of Reflection, we will meditate on the Holy Mystery of Our Lord's Incarnation, which we celebrate at Christmas time, and in particular focus on the special meaning that this Holy Day has for St. Dominic, and for the order he founded. As the Dominican Friars take a vow to live a life of poverty, they have a special appreciation for the poverty of the Little Child Jesus, born in a lowly stable in Bethlehem. Come to this day to learn about the Feast of the Incarnation from a Dominican perspective, and how their order celebrates Christmastide.

Fr. Reginald grew up in Rancho Cucamonga, California. Though baptized in a Protestant denomination, he wasn't much interested in religion until someone invited him to mass during his freshman year at Thomas Aquinas College. He soon entered the Catholic Church and later discerned his priestly vocation. He initially joined a community of Canons Regular in California and then moved on to the Dominican Order. He has studied theology at the International Theological Institute in Gaming, Austria, and at the Angelicum in Rome. He earned his licentiate degree in sacramental theology from the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL. He was ordained a priest in October 2016, and his first priestly assignment was at the Newman Center in Columbia, MO; he arrived here at St. Paul Catholic Center in July 2019. Ever since his first exposure to Catholicism in college, Fr. Reginald has loved traditional liturgy and Gregorian chant.

Schedule

Everything will take place in the Sacred Heart Chapel

9:00am	Welcome & 1st Conference	11:00am	Adoration (<i>Confessions Available</i>)
9:45am	Break	11:25am	Holy Rosary (Joyful Mysteries)
10:00am	2nd Conference	11:45am	Benediction
10:45am	Break	12:00pm	Holy Mass

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January 19-21, 2024 >>>> “Our Lady of Loreto and her Litany”

Talks Given By >>>>>> **Fr. Elias Mary, FI**

One of the most beautiful prayers dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary is the devotion known as the “Litany of Loreto.” Come and learn the history of this Litany, and the meanings of the various titles of Our Lady, from “Mother of God” to “Mystical Rose.”

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Registration Guest House Phone 812-825-4642 Ext 1

Single \$84 (1 person) Double \$89 (2 Persons) Family with Children____ Commuter \$50

Name_____ Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Phone_____

Name of person sharing room_____ Phone if different_____

Cost of 3 day Retreat --Friday to Sunday Retreat

Single Room (1 Person)	\$220	Plus tax	\$ _____	Commuters
Couples (2 persons & Children)	\$280	Plus tax	\$ _____	check in at
Each additional non family person-	\$50	retreat	\$ _____	Guest House
Commuters: Not staying overnight	\$50	retreat fee	\$ _____	on arrival

(Includes lunch & supper can purchase Breakfast for \$3 Plus. tax Total \$_____

Price Includes: Room for 2 nights, Friday & Saturday—Check-in time by 6:00 PM Friday

2 Breakfasts (Saturday & Sunday) 2 Meals --Lunch Saturday & Dinner Saturday Evening

Pre-registration-Send form & check to Mary's Children, 8220 State Rd 48 west, Bloomington, IN 47404

Projects Completed in 2023

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to those who contributed to help us complete our projects for the year 2023. The largest of these projects was the renovation of the original house in which Jim and Ruth Ann lived when they first purchased the property, before it was a Retreat Center. As was announced in last year's newsletter, Ruth Ann was asked in prayer to once more move back and live in that same house here at the Farm. Due to its age, the house required extensive remodeling to be made suitable for living in again. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we were able to complete this renovation on schedule, and Jim and Ruth Ann moved back to the Farm in Spring of 2023. Another important project that we successfully completed was the updating of our lock and key system for the Guesthouse. At the start of 2023, all of the guest rooms were still outfitted with their original door handles from when the building was constructed in 1999, and the locks were beginning to show their age with stiffness, and many keys beginning to be nonfunctional. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we received sufficient funds to upgrade the entire building to a modern system with electronic keycards, which has made things much more convenient for our guests.

New Projects for 2024

In 2024, we plan to tackle a project that has been sorely needed in the Sacred Heart Chapel for several years: upgrading the sound system. Our current microphones and speakers have never been optimized by a professional sound service, and we have become accustomed over the years to receiving feedback from many who attend Mass or Conferences in the Chapel, telling us that they are unable to make out what the Priest is saying. To improve the situation, we have begun to work with a professional sound service who have already helped us enormously with a temporary setup that they have fine-tuned to fit the acoustic properties of the Chapel, which has greatly improved the clarity of the

speakers. It is our hope to work with this company to install a permanent new sound system, for which the estimated cost is \$15,000.

Near the entrance of the Retreat Center, there is a statue of Our Lady, surrounded by flower gardens, which is where we begin Rosary Processions on First Saturdays. In the past, there were wooden benches for people to sit and pray in front of Our Lady, but with the passage of time they eventually became too worn, and had to be removed, meaning there is currently no seating for the area. It is our hope to install two granite benches in front of the statue, which will provide a permanent place for people to sit and pray. The estimated cost for this project is \$2,860.

At the upper entrance of the Retreat Center, which leads to the Sacred Heart Chapel, there was originally a simple farm gate to mark the entrance onto the Retreat Center grounds. This gate has since been removed, and has been in need of replacement for some time now. Rather than a simple cattle gate, we would like to install a wrought iron gate as more appropriate and aesthetically pleasing marker for the entrance that leads to the Chapel. The estimated cost for this project is \$7,800

Finally, the original linens purchases for the Guesthouse are beginning to show their age after over 20 years of good use, and we are needing to replace some of the bedding for the guest rooms. The estimated cost for this project is \$4,848.

Our realistic estimate of a **total cost is about \$30,508.00**

With your generous financial support in the past, Mary's Children has been able to construct the chapel, a Friary for the Franciscans, the Guest House, Bookstore, the Conference Hall and the Divine Mercy Chapel requested by the Blessed Mother. The Retreat Center has included a cemetery and radio station. Now we ask for your financial assistance to accomplish these current requests. **Financial assistance is again needed at this time.** It has always been our goal "**not to go into debt**"; we rely upon the generosity of benefactors sent to us by Our Blessed Mother.

The Friars offer their Mass each "First Saturday" for our many benefactors, their families and their special intentions.

Mary's Children volunteers provide many services for the "FARM," such as laundry and housekeeping for the Guesthouse, helping in the dining room, childcare for retreats, and working in the bookstore.

We print, provide and mail about 2,000 Messages each month without charge and depend upon contributions to offset the cost. We have committed volunteers that organize, print, fold, label and prepare them for mailing each month. The expenses are the cost of the paper, ink and postage. **Once a year we ask for your help.**

For the new projects, the total cost is about \$30,508.00

____ Contribution \$ _____ --- \$3,051.00 for 10% of the total projects
____ Contribution \$ _____ ---- \$305.00 for 1% of total projects
____ Contribute per month _____ over a 12 month period
____ Would like to talk about contributing a portion of the \$30,508.00 for labor & materials for the projects
____ Would like to talk to you about a major contribution
____ My phone Number is _____ and/or Email _____
____ Contribute \$ _____ for support of monthly message which I receive

If you wish to talk to someone about how you can financially assist in these opportunities call or contact:

Jim Wade, 812-320-1308. Or Bill Dunfee 812-825-4642 Ext 2

You may also call these numbers to make an appointment.

Enclosed is an envelope for any contribution you would be willing to provide Mary's Children.

**** May we help you in any way? Call 812-825-4642 or Jim Wade or Bill Dunfee**

If you would like to help in the Guest House or dining room contact Maggie Garst 812-825-4642 Ext 1

With your prayers, help, and financial assistance we will accomplish these projects.

THINK RELIGIOUS FOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT



Religious Bookstore is located to the right upon entering the grounds of the Retreat Center. It offers a large variety of religious books and gift items for both adults and children:

Rosaries Crucifixes Religious Statues Greeting cards Religious Gifts
Bible Room Children's Room

Also Available (\$5.00 each 3 for \$12) Three Volumes of: "Lessons and Messages to the World from Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary" "To Ruth Ann Wade of Bloomington, Indiana"

Store Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 10 AM to 2PM You can reach the Bookstore @ 812-825-4642 Ex.2

Please Join Us for Monthly First Saturday Devotions:

10:00 A.M. – Confessions Available in Annex (Annex is Located in the Same Building as the Bookstore)

10:45 A.M. – Rosary Procession on Rosary Path (In Sacred Heart Chapel at 11AM if Cold or Inclement Weather)

11:30 A.M.–Marian Talk in Sacred Heart Chapel (Confessions Available During Talk)

12:00 Noon– Holy Mass at Outdoor Altar (In Sacred Heart Chapel if Cold or Inclement Weather)

Schedule of Devotions at the Farm

Visitation Hours for Sacred Heart Chapel: 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. daily

Monday thru Friday: 6:30 A.M. – Confessions Available ... 7:00 A.M. – Mass

3:45 P.M. – Exposition of Blessed Sacrament with Silent Adoration

4:30 P.M. – Holy Hour with Vespers, Rosary, Litany and Benediction

Thursday: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament: In Sacred Heart Chapel 9:00 A.M.–4:30 P.M.

Friday: 4:45 P.M. – Stations of the Cross

Saturday: Eucharistic Adoration at 11:00 A.M.. Mass 12 Noon. Confessions at 11 A.M. & by appointment.

Sunday: 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. – Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

4:00 P.M. – Holy Hour with Vespers, Rosary, Litany and Benediction

Bookstore Hours: Wednesday-Saturday, 10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M

Activities at the Retreat Center in October:

On Saturday, October 7th, we began the month with our biannual Marian Day of Prayer, which this year fell on the Feast of the Holy Rosary. The day started with Confessions, followed by a Rosary Procession, led by a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary carried by 4 men around the outdoor Rosary Path. Fr. Thomas Haan, a Priest from the Diocese of Lafayette who had attended retreats here at the Farm as a seminarian, came to give two conferences on the Holy Rosary, and celebrate Holy Mass at noon. The day then concluded with a Holy Hour and Benediction.

On Tuesday, October 10th, a group of Dominican Priests and staff members from the St. Paul's Newman Center in Bloomington came for a one-day retreat. Then, over the weekend of October 20th-22nd, Fr. Ignatius Manfredonia, one of the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate previously stationed here in Bloomington, came and led a retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

On Monday, October 23rd, Fr. Tom Kovatch came and celebrated Holy Mass at the outdoor altar, in memory of Iris Laughlin, a young girl who tragically passed away at only 8 years old, and was buried here at the Retreat Center this past September. Her parents, classmates, and teachers attended the outdoor Mass, and afterwards visited her grave to pay their respects.

Finally, as normal, we welcomed several individuals who came throughout the month of October and stayed in the Guesthouse while making a private retreat, receiving Spiritual Direction from one of the Friars, or simply spending quiet time and prayer on the grounds of the Retreat Center, which Our Lady said is a "Place of Peace and Prayer".

December 2022



Dear Friends,

My how time flies! It is time once again to wish everyone a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Holy and Happy New Year. On behalf of Ruth Ann and me as well as all associated with Mary's Children Inc., the volunteers at the Retreat Center along with all the volunteers in the Washington, Indiana area who work at getting this newsletter to you monthly, I am happy to do that.

I wish to thank all the folks who help support both financially and by prayers Mary's Children Inc whose primary function is to support and administer the work at the Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center and the publishing of this monthly newsletter. Without your help we could not carry out the desires which The Blessed Mother has expressed through her messages to Ruth Ann.

We celebrated on October 1st a rather important and happy 25th Anniversary of the first Mass at the Sacred Heart Chapel this year. His Excellency Archbishop Charles Thompson was the celebrant and concelebrating were several priests from the archdiocese along with the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate that minister here at the retreat center. Deacon Ed Walker from the Evansville Diocese assisted Archbishop Thompson at Mass. Isaac Siefker a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis served at the Mass. Isaac grew up very close to the retreat center and during his childhood years he served daily Mass at the Chapel. We were extremely happy that Archbishop Thompson could take time out of his busy schedule to celebrate with us.

I would like to share that Our Lord and His Mother are very disappointed with the moral decay of the human race and how so much of what is taking place in the area of morals is a complete Abomination to God including the murdering of babies in the womb. I would like to encourage all to pray more as Our Lady is very sad for all of us.

I wanted to share two desires They have for Ruth Ann. The first one is They wish for her to begin praying with those people who would like that type of prayer. Out of obedience to that desire we have begun to offer to pray with people after the 12:00 noon Mass at the Sacred Heart Chapel. Fr Terrance, the Father Guardian here who is also our spiritual director is graciously allowing us to use a parlor room in the friary which is attached to the chapel as a private place to pray with one person at a time. You do not have to make an appointment, just be there after Mass on Saturdays.

The last desire They have expressed will take a little longer to explain. As many of you know Ruth Ann and I no longer live on the property. Our Lady asked us to move from our home when she requested the property become a Place of Peace and Prayer. Sometime around 1995 we moved as Our Lady wanted the house so religious could occupy it. Our former home became home to several; first a Religious Brother, then a retired priest, followed by another retired priest, Then an order of sisters lived in it until due to some internal concerns of the order, they were called back to the Mother House. At some point it was used as a house of discernment for young women considering religious life and finally until the Covid pandemic another order of religious lived in it and they left because of Covid and returned to the mother house in Mexico.

With that as background Our Lord and His Mother have said it is Their desire that we move back to our original home. To put it mildly this came as a mild shock to both of us. So in Prayer we explained that we are up in the 80+ age bracket. In that prayer They reminded us that God doesn't care about time or age of His servants. They suggested we meditate on Moses and his age. Of course, I said something like "Oh no, not another 40 years". But guess what! We are planning on moving back to our original home as it is Their desire that Ruth Ann be more visible to the people who come to pray. They have given us a time frame to work toward. Their desire is that we be moved into the home in the spring of next year. They say as a sign of Ruth Ann's obedience many graces will be granted to those who come to pray with her and that all she has to do is be obedient and God will do the rest. Hope to see you at the "Farm".

My reason for sharing is each December Mary's Children tells you of upcoming projects or goals they are funding for the upcoming year. This year's project is to restore the house on the property so that two elderly lay people will be able to live there comfortably. In this newsletter there is information as to how you can contribute to this project of Mary's Children Inc for next year.

May God Bless us all!

Jim Wade



Dear Families & Friends of the Farm,

Ave Maria! On behalf of all the Friars, I want to wish you a Blessed Christmas season. Our Lord & Our Lady have gifted us with the passing of another year, & I'd just like to share with you some of the blessings that I'm aware of that the Farm has received in 2023.

We had the blessing of adding a 3rd priest to our religious community in January. Fr. John Lawrence Polis was stationed for many years in Italy & is now helping out in various ways with our ministry here. Amidst his travels & apostolic activities, Friar Gabriel has continued to work on his short film entitled "Rosebud" which should be ready for viewing sometime late next year. Friar Roderic continued spearheading our internet apostolate and he received a late 60th birthday gift this past year when the friary moved its internet service from Comcast to Starlink. No more cutting down trees & beaming internet signals from long distances! Both Fr. Terrance & Fr. Matthias celebrated one-year anniversaries in August – Fr. Terrance's first year as guardian of the friary & Fr. Matthias' first year stationed here. Fr. Matthias also celebrated his 10th year anniversary of priestly ordination in March.

Two of the bigger events at the farm were the return of Jim & Ruth Ann to their original house at the bottom of the hill in the spring & the ordination to the priesthood of our brother, Friar Charles Mary Robinson, on August 14th at the hands of Archbishop Thompson. Fr. Charles is continuing his studies in Italy while Jim & Ruth Ann are continuing their powerful prayers & intercession for us & for the whole Church.

New life has come to our area as well with Andre & Sarah, Ernie & Cecelia, & Ethan & Alexis all celebrating the gift of new children to their families. We were blessed to have Jesse Mobley & Maria Siefker help out as groundskeepers for a short period of time, & we now also welcome Jerry & Mary Kate Jacobs as they take over the work to help keep Our Lady's home as a welcoming place of peace & of prayer to all Her children.

On the liturgical side, we celebrated our 2nd annual Triduum retreat in April, with Fr. Terrance, Fr. Matthias, Fr. John Lawrence, & Friar Gabriel all giving reflections surrounding the Paschal mystery. We were also blessed to receive (hopefully by the publication of this letter) all of the liturgical vestments which our generous benefactors paid for last year & which came from Poland as well as specially made vestments from Sardinia, Italy. Our Masses are even more beautiful because of them. Also, our friend P.J. Lauck graciously made a number of beautiful wood furniture pieces for our entryway & parlor room, including the frames for 2 paintings of St. Francis by the 17th century Spanish artist Bartolomé Murillo which we had printed on canvas & placed in the large parlor room.

Lastly, we were blessed with a particularly unique & bittersweet blessing when Iris Laughlin was buried in our cemetery in the first week of September. Iris died from brain cancer on September 1st. She was 8 years old & a student at St. Charles' school in Bloomington. I was told that, when asked before she passed away what she wished for, Iris said that she wanted to go to heaven. Her faith has inspired many people and I hope that it will continue to inspire many more as well. I've even personally begun asking for her intercession on a number of occasions.

Be assured of our prayers & best wishes for all of you. You will all be remembered during our novena of Masses for the Octave of Christmas this year. Through the intercession of Our Lady, may God grant you a Blessed Christmas season & a Holy New Year!

In Corde Matris,

Fr. Terrance Chartier, FI