

PARISH STAFF AND MASS SCHEDULE

St. Mary Basilica
107 South Union Street
P.O. Box 1044
Natchez, MS 39121-1044
(601) 445-5616

Father David O'Connor	Pastor
Ruth McWilliams	Programs Coordinator
Mrs. Regina Mardis	Parish Secretary
Mrs. Mary Flowers	Business Manager
Mrs. Jennifer Combs	Youth Director
Mrs. Martha Mitternacht	Director of Catholic Charities, Natchez

Mr. Pat Sanguinetti	Cathedral School Principal, 442-2531
Mrs. Shannon Bland	Cathedral Elementary School Principal, 442-1988

Parish Worship Service

Saturday Vigil Mass	4:00 p.m.(Central Standard Time); 5:00 p.m. (Daylight Savings Time)
Sunday Masses	10:00 a.m. (with Nursery)
Weekday Mass/Communion Service	8:00 a.m. Monday - Saturday
Reconciliation	3:30-4:00 p.m. Saturday (Central Standard Time); 4:30-5:00 p.m. Saturday (Daylight Savings Time); By Appointment anytime
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Mondays 8:30 a.m-5:30 p.m.

Rosary is prayed Monday through Friday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass/Communion Service.

Mississippi Catholic, the official publication of the Diocese of Jackson, is sent to all parishioners.



WELCOME FROM THE PASTOR

My dear parishioner,

Welcome to your new church home, St. Mary Basilica.

The parish was established in 1841 by Bishop John Joseph Chance as he arrived in Natchez as the first bishop. In 1847 Catholic education began under the leadership of the Daughters of Charity. They served in Natchez for 166 years until 2003. Today the parish has 750 families. Cathedral School has a complete program, pre-school through grade twelve. We are happy and proud that you have chosen to be a member of our church family.

Since its very beginning, St. Mary Parish has been dedicated to serving its members in a variety of ways. You will notice that the various sections of this packet describe how you can best become an active member of our parish. We welcome you, your gifts, your talents. If you have school-age children, we hope you are prepared to enroll them in Cathedral School. We want to have Cathedral School open to all Catholic children even when parents may not be able to pay full tuition.

As a member of St. Mary Parish, I encourage you and your family to strive for spiritual growth. I will be available for spiritual direction and counseling as needed and time permits.

We ask God's blessings on this parish and Cathedral School that we may continue to grow, to build up the Church which is His living body in order that we may serve the Lord and His people wherever we meet them, whenever we encounter them.

Again, we welcome you and are happy that you have chosen to be part of our St. Mary family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. David O'Connor
Pastor

EDUCATION, CATHEDRAL SCHOOL, PRE-12

Cathedral School was established in 1847 and has remained in continuous operation for 156 years. The school was originally staffed by the Daughters of Charity. Throughout the years, many religious women, brothers and priests have ministered to the youth of Natchez. In more modern times, lay teachers have added their ministry to the education program at Cathedral. Currently, nearly 30% of the staff are Cathedral graduates. Dr. John Jordan became the first lay Administrator of Cathedral School in 1983. The present principal is Mr. Pat Sanguinetti. Cathedral School is the oldest continually operating school in the State of Mississippi and one of the oldest in the United States. Cathedral has an enviable reputation in the community.

St. Mary Parish has generously supported Cathedral School with grants and carries out most of its educational ministry through the school. Today the enrollment, pre-school through grade 12 is 681. Since 49% of the school population is non-Catholic, the school, while striving to provide education for all Catholic students, also touches the lives of many students of other faiths.

There is a very close working relationship between parish and school. Father David O'Connor, pastor at St. Mary, serves as general superintendent and spiritual director. A retreat program is provided for all junior high and high school students. A very effective religious education program is offered. Second grade teachers are involved in sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Cathedral School is fully accredited both by the State of Mississippi and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

To receive full effect of the sacraments requires the proper disposition of the recipient. The more we know and understand God's ways of working in our lives, the better the sacraments are able to express God's presence to us. There is nothing magical about the sacraments, the elements used to express a truth about our relationship with God and each other. Our faith states that the sacraments cause and celebrate that relationship.

To assist in the growth of each Catholic's faith is the goal of St. Mary's staff. Instruction for the reception of the sacraments is a serious commitment for the entire parish.

Beginning with baptism, the parents of a newborn are supported and prayed for in their decision to raise their child as a Catholic. The preparation for the parent involves meeting with a priest and discussing their faith and how to pass that faith on to their child. Cathedral School assists St. Mary in preparing second graders for the Sacrament of Penance and First Holy Communion. Parents of children who do not attend Cathedral should contact the parish office.

The Confirmation Class are offered beginning in October with Confirmation in May.

All those receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony at St. Mary must complete and attend Engaged Encounter and the FOCCUS questionnaire.

The RCIA program presents Catholic beliefs to persons interested in joining the Catholic Church and to Catholics who want a good update.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION	
<p>RCIA: Catholic Beliefs - Weekly adult study series for persons interested in joining the Catholic Church, but it is also a good update for all Catholics. September through May on Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m., St. Theresa Hall. Call the parish office for more information at 445-5616.</p> <p>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: All Catholic children in grades 1-12 who attend schools other than Cathedral are expected to attend parish religious education classes. A student must attend religion classes for at least one year prior to enrollment in sacramental preparation classes.</p> <p>MARRIAGE: Membership at St. Mary Basilica is required. All weddings must be scheduled at least six months ahead of the wedding date. Participation in the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program is also required.</p> <p>EUCCHARIST: The privilege of receiving First Communion is offered in May to children in 2nd grade and above. Preparation classes for parents are mandatory and begin the previous September.</p>	<p>CONFIRMATION: The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated in May for 11th and 12th graders and older youth who have not yet received this sacrament. In keeping with diocesan guidelines, a preparation program is offered beginning the previous September.</p> <p>RECONCILIATION: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated for the first time in April or May by children in second grade. A preparation program is provided beginning the previous September. Parents, the principal teachers of their children in faith, are expected to take an active part in the preparation program. Programs to assist parents are offered beginning the previous September.</p> <p>Individual confessions are scheduled every Saturday from 4:30-5:00 p.m. (Daylight Savings Time), 3:30-4:00 p.m. (Central Standard Time) and also by appointment at the rectory.</p> <p>BAPTISM: Any parents or perspective parents who plan on baptism for a child must attend a Baptism Preparation Program offered three times a year. Call the church office 601-445-5616 for more information.</p>

MISSION STATEMENT

We propose to live in such a way that we proclaim the Kingdom of God, the Good News of Jesus Christ, by our own ongoing conversion and by the witness of authentically Christian life lived according to the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church.

We, the members of the St. Mary Basilica, Natchez, MS, are committed to building a community of worship and prayer. Through the waters of baptism and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we have been incorporated into the Body of Christ.

In order to further the Kingdom of God which Jesus preached, we gain strength from the sacraments, hope from the Scriptures and wisdom from the tradition of the Catholic Church.

We, the members of St. Mary Basilica have a mission

- ~to create a community of worship and prayer,
- ~to proclaim the Word of God for all its members and to put that word into action through programs and services,
- ~to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and social needs of parishioners,
- ~to encourage and aid members to model their lives on the teaching of Jesus and promote Gospel values,
- ~to be a witness to the larger community by offering an example of lived Christianity,
- ~to provide opportunities for every person to grow in their understanding of the church,
- ~to encourage the Natchez community to develop a cooperative spirit and a Christian vision,
- ~to reach out to those in need, those who are hurting and lonely, the elderly, the young, parents, and those who might have lost faith.

Keeping before us the command of Jesus to love one another, we forgive, heal, and grow in love with those who have harmed us and those who have hurt us. We strive to build an equitable society where peace and justice are the rule of the day.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

St. Mary offers many opportunities for people to come together to work, pray or just enjoy each other's company.

Pastoral Council and Commissions

Pastoral Council
Parish Finance Council
Building and Maintenance Commission
Liturgy Commission
Parish Life
Religious Education Commission
Community Services Commission
Family Life Commission
Youth Commission

Activities for adults:

Stewpot Volunteers
Habitat for Humanity Workers
Knights of Columbus
Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary
Altar Society
Flower Guild
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, RCIA
Adult Sunday School
Men's Softball and Basketball League
Cathedral Home-School Association
Cathedral School Athletic Association
Engaged Encounter
Collection Counters
Bulletin Folders

Activities available for children are:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
Children's Choir
Altar Servers
Children's Liturgy of the Word
during 10:00 a.m. Mass
Vacation Bible School
JCYO for junior high students
CYO for high school students
KCYO for 3rd- 6th graders

LITURGY, "THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE"

Liturgies at St. Mary are well-prepared, carefully practiced, and prayerfully conducted. The liturgy is a communal activity where the members of Christ's Body come together to witness the presence of Christ in Word and Sacrament. The liturgy is the source and the summit of the Christian faith.

As you have just moved to St. Mary Parish, the liturgy is able to move you along your spiritual journey. For an offering of contrition and petition, praise and thanksgiving to be made to God, full of active participation of all the faithful is needed. The Eucharist is at the center of our Catholic faith. The Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is a minimal requirement for Catholics. Weekday Masses are celebrated at 8:00 a.m. Since the church is open daily, there is time for private devotion, making a visit or praying before the Eucharist.

If you are interested in liturgy and able to commit your time and effort to help prepare our liturgy, perhaps you would be interested in joining the Liturgy Commission.

If you have a particular gift to share with God's people, perhaps you would like to serve in the following liturgical ministries:

Lector	Server (7th grade-adult)
Eucharistic Minister	Cross Bearer
Greeter	Gift Bearer (individual)
Usher	Gift Bearer (family)
Cantor	Adult Choir
Musician	Children's Choir

HISTORY OF ST. MARY

Catholicism arrived in Natchez in the 17th century with the Spanish explorers. In 1682 Mass was offered for the first time in Fort Adams, just south of Natchez. In 1722 the French colony in Natchez received its first priest. More than a century later, in 1837, Natchez was established as a Catholic Diocese.

The first bishop, the Most Reverend John Joseph Chanche, arrived in 1841 and immediately began the construction of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Sorrows in 1842. The cathedral was dedicated and the first Mass was celebrated on Christmas Day, 1843. The Diocese of Natchez experienced many financial difficulties in completing the construction of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Sorrows before it was finally consecrated on September 19, 1886. The Sesquicentennial of the First Mass and Dedication was celebrated on January 2, 1994. The church served as the cathedral for the Diocese of Natchez from 1843 to 1977 at which time the cathedral was moved to Jackson. On September 25, 1999, the church became St. Mary Basilica.

Today, St. Mary Basilica, built on the bluff of Natchez, strives to be a “city built on a hill.” The liturgy prayerfully conducted and works of service to the community remain central to the expression of our Catholic faith.

Cathedral School, established in 1847, has always been a part of the Catholic experience in Natchez. The school continues today to prepare young people for life with its stress on the teaching of the Catholic faith and moral values while maintaining high academic standards.

Lay involvement in leadership roles in church and school give witness to the fact that all members of Christ’s Body should be actively engaged in spreading the Good News.

STEWARDSHIP

Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? and when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?... “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me...” Matthew 25:34-40

Jesus speaks clearly about how we are to give: generously, completely, quietly and with love, even when it is difficult. When we share our gifts and material wealth we are sharing ourselves. St. Francis, in his Peace Prayer says, “it is in giving that we receive.” Mother Teresa has said that people are our means to give to God.

St. Mary includes in its operational budget support of Catholic Charities; Cathedral School; Holy Family School; the Community Stewpot; Habitat for Humanity; our mission in Saltillo, Mexico; and the work of the parish commissions.

We annually take up second collections for Black and Native Americans, Aid to the Church in Eastern Europe, Catholic , Diocesan Missions, the Campaign for Human Development, Support of Retired Religious and for othOverseas Relief, the Holy Land, Catholic University, the Extension Society, Peter’s Pence, and the Propagation of Faith. Support for these collections is most generous.

The parish supports diocesan collections, especially the Catholic Service Appeal on the first Sunday in May which dedicates its funds to Catholic Charities, Mississippi Missions, Priests’ Retirement, and other needs of the diocese.

The Catholic church depends on your generosity to carry out Christ’s mission. In addition to financial support, it is the giving of yourself to God that makes an acceptable gift. This includes your time, your talents, your support and energy, and your prayers for the work of the Church. Self-giving involves a fidelity to truth even when its difficult. “He who believes in me will also do the works that I do,” said Jesus (John 14:12). There are gifts to be given to individuals and to society, for example, in overcoming racism, consumerism, and the abuse of drugs, alcohol or gambling. To do these works is to do the works of Jesus today.

FOR OUR CHILDREN

NURSERY

A nursery is available behind the kitchen in St. Theresa Hall for infants through 3 yrs old. Mrs. Suzie Vaughn is director of the nursery. The nursery is open during Adult Sunday School and during the 10:00 am Sunday Mass. It is also available during certain other parish activities. Those times are announced with the activity announcement and may include older children as needed..

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of Children ages 3-12 that is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the Church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Divided into three age “levels”, it is based on the belief that young children can and do experience God. Children gather in an “atrium”, a prepared space containing simple yet beautiful materials that they use to explore and reflect on scripture, prayer, church history and liturgical events. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is offered on Sunday mornings from 8:30 am until 9:45 am in St. Theresa Hall and at other specific times as announced. Mrs. JoAnn Waycaster and Mrs. Lisa Ward are catechists. Ask for a tour of the Atrium.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD

CLW is for children 3 yrs through 4th grade. The children and their teachers leave 10:00 am Sunday Mass to go to St. Theresa Hall to study the Liturgy of the Word at the children’s age levels. They return to Mass at Offertory time.

KCYO SAINTS

KCYO is for youth in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. It meets on Sunday afternoons in St. Theresa Hall . Mrs. Jennifer Combs, oversees the program.

JCYO

JCYO is the younger group of our Catholic Youth Organization. Members are 6th, 7th and 8th grade. JCYO meets on Sunday evenings in St. Theresa Hall.. Mrs. Jennifer Combs oversees the program.

CYO

CYO is comprised of students 9th through 12th grades. CYO meets every Sunday night in St. Theresa Hall. Mrs. Jennifer Combs is adult director.

Youth do not have to be students at Cathedral School to participate in our youth activities.

**ADULTS WHO WISH TO VOLUNTEER IN ANY AREA OF YOUTH WORK MAY
CALL JENNIFER COMBS AT 601 445-5616..**

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is the response to the hunger of the child who wants to be close to God. Rooted in scripture and liturgy, the curriculum is structured so that it accommodates and nurtures the faith, moral, and psychological states of the child's growth. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is offered on Sunday mornings during the school year from 8:30 – 9:45 in the Atrium in St. Theresa Hall. It is best to consider this program as a multi-year commitment since each session builds on previous sessions and each year builds on the child's experiences the previous year.

The Atrium

The environment, known as the atrium, is a special setting, child-sized and beautiful, where the child may come to know and enjoy the presence of God in his or her life. This place has often been described as a peaceful, prayerful experience for the child.

The Curriculum

Because children respond in the same way to elements of the Christian message, the core curriculum includes the following.

- ✘ COVENANT...the celebration of our relationship with God and with all people.
- ✘ CHRISTOLOGY...the study of Jesus.
- ✘ LITURGY...the language of "signs" as a vital aspect of our worship.
- ✘ SACRAMENTS...gestures and words that help us on our life's journey and join us together with God and other people through Jesus.

These themes are offered in such a way as to develop the religious potential present in every child...the capacity to love and be loved.

History

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd originated in 1954 in Rome, Italy. Inspired by Montessori principles of education, this program can be found in many areas such as Africa, South America, Brazil, Colombia, and Argentina, Chad, Mexico, Australia, Canada, and the United States. Atriums can be found in homes, churches, and schools.

The program runs from approximately September through May. Please check the church bulletin for upcoming registration dates. A reminder mailing will be sent to registered parishioners.

For further information or to become involved as a volunteer please contact JoAnn Waycaster (601-445-2024) or Lisa Ward (601-442-6201).

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. MARY

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Building & Maintenance

Paul Dawes 601-442-2828
pdawes@natchez.ms.us

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| 1. Landscaping | 4. Repairs to building, sidewalks |
| 2. Usage of the physical plant | 5. Insurance on physical plant |
| 3. Maintenance of physical plant | 6. Restoration work |

Community Services

Charlene Rushing
318-336-9127
charlene.rushing@gmail.com

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Emergency Aid: food, clothing, utilities, medicine | 6. Catholic Charities Liason |
| 2. Knights of Columbus | 7. Habitat for Humanity |
| 3. Service Day | 8. Senior Social (Young at Heart) |
| 4. Stewpot | 9. Blood Drive |
| 5. Food Pantry | 10. Christmas Adopt a Family |

Family Life

Ruth McWilliams
601-445-5616
ruthmcw@cableone.net

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|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Marriage Preparation Programs | 9. Children/Family Activities |
| 2. Parenting Programs | a. Children's Activities |
| 3. Family/Marriage Sunday | b. Family/Children Dinners |
| 4. Family/Support Groups | c. Children's Liturgy |
| 5. Natural Family Planning | d. Vacation Bible School |
| 6. Marriage Encounter/Enrichment | e. Liturgy of Word |
| 7. Develop Policy of Marriage/Family | f. Nursery During Mass |
| 8. Ministry to Special Groups, e.g. single, widowed, divorced | |

Liturgy

Pat Tumminello
601-442-9804
ptumminello@bellsouth.net

1. Liturgical Roles: Usher, Greeter, Lector, Server, Gift Bearer, Eucharistic Minister, Cross Bearer
2. Music, Songfest-Congregational Singers
3. Liturgy Planning, Special Masses
4. Spiritual Programs, Missions/Renewal, Prayer Days
5. Altar Society, Flower Guild
6. Seasonal Activities: Lent, Easter, Advent

Parish Life

Ruth McWilliams
601-445-5616
ruthmcw@cableone.net

1. Social Committee: Socials, Coffees, Newcomers
2. Telephone Committee/Email Groups
3. Outreach to Inactive Catholics
4. Parish Newsletter
5. Visitation/Communion of the Sick, Homebound, Nursing Homes
6. Radio, TV Programs
7. Parish Pictorial Directory
8. Food Bank for Bereaved, St. Theresa Hall Angels

Religious Education

Donna Martello
601-442-7554
ddmartello@yahoo.com

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Coordination of Parish School of Religion, K-12 | |
| 2. Cathedral School | |
| 3. Adult Education, Bible Study | 10. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd |
| 4. Msgr. Fullam Parish Library | 11. Archives Committee |
| 5. RCIA | |
| 6. Sacramental Preparation | |
| 7. Vocations/Ministries Promotion, Orientation, and Training | |
| 8. Theology Studies, e.g. Springhill, Limex, etc. | |
| 9. Respect for Life | |

Youth Commission

Jennifer Russ

1. Exploration of the needs of Junior High and High School youth
2. Support of the youth coordinator for each group by working committees
3. Development of programs to be undertaken by standing committees
4. Standing committees consisting of youth and adults
5. Ongoing training in program development and leadership
6. CYO Activities, JCYO Activities, KCYO Activities

St. Mary Basilica Census Form 2012

Family Name: _____ **Today's Date:** _____
Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____
Mailing Address: _____ **Zip Code:** _____
Email Address: _____ **Envelope #:** _____

SINGLE ADULT

First Name: _____ **Middle Name:** _____
Date of Birth: _____ **Place of Birth:** _____
Occupation: _____ **Name of Employer:** _____
In Natchez Since: _____ **Work Phone:** _____
Religion: _____ **Place of Baptism:** _____
Have you ever been married: _____ **Location/Church of marriage:** _____
Maiden Name: _____ **Divorced:** _____ **Widowed:** _____

MARRIED

	Husband	Wife
First Name:		
Middle Name:		
Family Maiden Name:		
Occupation:		
Name of Employer:		
Work Phone Number:		
Date of Birth:		
Place of Birth:		
In Natchez Since:		
Religion:		
Place of Baptism (location and church):		

Marriage:	Date:	Place/Church:
Is marriage blessed by the Catholic Church?	Yes: _____ Church/Location:	No: _____

CHILDREN

DEPENDENT CHILDREN (Including college-age, unmarried children) First, middle, and last names	Date of Birth	Baptized Catholic Yes/No (Date)	1st Communion Yes/No (DATE)	Confirmation Yes/No (DATE)	School & Grade/College & Year

OTHER ADULTS AT SAME RESIDENCE

NAME	Date of Birth	Religion	Relationship to head of household	Status: Active Retired Homebound

PARTICIPATION IN PARISH PROGRAMS

1. List the programs, activities, committees in which you and/or your spouse participate(s).

2. Is there a specific volunteer work or activity that you and/or your spouse is/are interested in doing for the church? (Be specific)

Please complete and return to the church office. Drop completed form in the collection basket or mail it to:

St. Mary Basilica
P.O. Box 1044
Natchez, MS 39121