WELCOME TO SAINT MARY & SAINT BARBARA PARISHES

We're blessed to have you worship with us today. If you're visiting, may God guide and bless you on your journey. If you're seeking a church home, we warmly invite you to consider joining our church family. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like to learn more about our parish community.

December 21, 2025

Pastor

Fr. Abraham Mupparathara MCBS

E-mail: smuppara@hotmail.com 906-369-0028, emergency only

Saint Mary Parish

401 Main Street Norway, MI 49870

Weekend Mass Schedule

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

Saint Barbara Parish

W5058 Main Street, Vulcan

Mail: 401 Main St Norway, MI 49870

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 6:00pm Sunday: 8:00am

Confessions at St. Mary

Saturday from 11:00am-Noon

Sunday from 9:15-9:45am, before 10:00am Mass Tuesday from 4:30-4:50pm before 5:00pm Mass

Website: www.stmarybarbara.org E-mail: saintmary@norwaymi.com

Parish Office: 906-563-9845 Fax Number: 906-563-7623

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

Parish Personnel

Secretary: Sharon Halloran Bookkeeping: Mary Lindstrom

Email: smbookkeeping1878@gmail.com

Music/Liturgy: Kelli McGeehan Email: smmusic1878@gmail.com

Faith Formation Coordinator: Jen Murvich Email: religioused@norwaymi.com

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Michelle Chartier Email: youthgroup@norwaymi.com

Holy Spirit Catholic School

Principal: Cathy Menghini

Email: info@hscsnorway.org 906-563-8817

St. Vincent de Paul Store 906-563-7302 906-774-3323 Catholic Social Services



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:21

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56 Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk Tuesday:

1:57-66

Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5,

27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts Thursday:

13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1

-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc

and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 3:12-21

or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Mass Intentions

12/22 MON - No Mass

12/23 TUE - 5:00pm SM - William VanPeymbroeck and Jennie Onorato

12/24 WED - **4:00pm SM Christmas Eve** - St. Mary Parish Family

12/24 WED - **6:00pm SB Christmas Eve** - Edward Rozine 12/25 THUR - **10:00am SM Christmas Day**- For the People of St. Mary and St. Barbara Parishes

12/26 FRI - 8:30am SM - John Radlinger

12/27 SAT - 4:00pm SM - Willine Miner

12/27 SAT - 6:00pm SB - For the People of St. Barbara and St. Mary Parishes

12/28 SUN - 8:00am SB - Carrie Élaine DeRidder

12/28 SUN - 10:00am SM - Tony Baciak

When there is a funeral, daily Mass will NOT be cancelled

What's happening this week:

12/21 Sun. 9:15-9:45am, Confession, SM

<u>12/22 Mon.</u> 6:00pm, SM Adult Choir Practice, SM Choir Loft <u>12/23 Tue.</u> 10am, AA Meeting in classroom, use St. Joseph Center entrance in parking lot

12/23 Tue. 4:30-4:50pm, Confession before Mass at St. Mary

12/24 Wed. PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

12/25 Thu. PARISH OFFICE CLOSED- MERRY CHRISTMAS!

12/26 Fri. 6:00am, Men's Prayer Group, St. Mary

12/27 Sat. 11am-12pm, Confession/Eucharistic Adoration, SM

Vocational View: Stop asking for a sign and become one. Consider becoming a priest or religious. (Isaiah 7:10-14)

Spirit Lifters

- **Dec. 21**st Christmas is a time to remember timeless stories from days of your, A time to ponder what's ahead, A time to open another door.
- **Dec. 22nd** Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love. H.W. Mabie
- **Dec. 23rd** Not what we give, But what we share, For the gift without the giver is bare. J. R. Cowell.
- **Dec. 24**th Christmas is the delight of loving and being loved in return, not for gifts tied with bows, but for gifts of the Spirit offered with an open heart every day of the year. Pearl Buck.
- **Dec. 25**th "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11
- **Dec. 26**th It's a little too much to save, And a little too much to dump. There's nothing to do but eat it, That makes the housewife plump.
- Dec. 27th The greatest thing in life is to be needed.

It Pays to Advertise ~ Our parishes benefit significantly from the ads placed in this bulletin. The advertising dollars pay for our bulletin service. Many thanks to those who have continued to renew, and the new advertisers that joined us this past year. When patronizing those businesses that advertise with us, please let them know you saw their ad on our bulletin.

This week's feature ad is:

First National (906)774-2200 www.fnbimk.com

St. Mary's Collection - December 14, 2025

Envelopes & Holy Day \$2,868.00 Loose 249.00 Christmas Flowers 90.00 School Support 22.00 Maintenance 100.00 Total: \$3,329.00

St. Barbara's
Collection - December 14, 2025
Envelopes & Holy Day \$2,241.00
Loose 100.00
Christmas Flowers 50.00
School Support 20.00
Maintenance 20.00
Total: \$2,431.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Thank you for sharing your time, talents and treasure in building God's Kingdom. Your generosity strengthens our parish community.

To support financially, you may drop envelopes at Mass or the church mailbox, mail it in or give online through our website e-Giving option:

https://giving.stmarvbarbara.org/give



Please pray for our parishioners in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, are homebound and those who suffer in silence. Special prayers for healing were requested for: Mike Opolka, Bob

Chartre, Marjorie Corozolla, Sue Giesen, Peyton & Paisley Pietrantonio, David Hoheisel, Sharon Harder, Joe Haferkorn, Gina Zanon, Missy Marcelini, Cathy Baciak, Cory Groeneveld, Danielle Ball, Georgeanne Van Wolvelaere and Ginger Moore. If you need continued prayers or would like to request prayers for someone else, please email or call the parish office.

Norway SVDP Prepares for the Holidays

As we prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of the Christ Child during this wonderful season of giving, St. Mary and St. Barbara Conference continues to prepare for the needs of those less fortunate. This past fiscal year (Oct.1, 2024--September 30, 2025) we were able to provide over \$42,547.00 of assistance for utility bills, rent, prescriptions, food, shoes for back-to-school, and other necessities. The number of individuals and families in need of assistance has increased significantly since last year. In addition, we spent \$1,556.00 on additional conference and operating expenses.

The conference office for assistance is available on <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>Wednesday</u>, or <u>Thursday from 9-11 a.m.</u>, or by special appointment if needed.

Monetary or food donations may be brought to us at anytime, Monday thru Friday from 9:00am to 3:30pm.

During December we will need canned kidney beans or chicken noodle soup and toothpaste. Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Note: The pantry and store will be closed during the Christmas holidays from December 22 through January 2, and re-open on January 5.

We are truly appreciative of the ongoing monetary or pantry donations which have made such a difference in the lives of so many people and hope your continued generosity and prayers will help to provide for those in need.

Thank you and be assured you are in our prayers. May the infant Jesus smile down on you and your love ones during this Blessed Christmas season. God Bless!

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please have all bulletin announcements to St. Mary Parish Office by Tuesday at Noon. Announcements need to be typed, emailed or written out. Thank you.

<u>Communion Call Visits:</u> If you are home bound or know someone who is and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please call the parish office to be added to our Communion Call list.

A note from Fr. Abraham

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas!

Christmas touches what is most beautiful in our lives and our faith: Emmanual, God with us. Christmas shows us that God wants to be close to us and wants us to be close to Him. It brings joy, light and hope to our lives.

May we be a people of faith and joy that rejoices in the light and hope that Christmas brings. This light truly does shine in a world full of darkness, and this light must penetrate our hearts. We are called to be the light of Jesus to the world, so that one person at a time, one soul at a time, we can start bringing that light to a world that so desperately needs it.

As we approach the most joyous time of the year, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we are grateful for the blessings bestowed upon us throughout the year. It is also a time to reflect on the importance of community, faith, and service. Your presence and participation are what make our community and parishes strong and vibrant.

With gratitude for all you have been and done I hold all of you in my heart and in my prayer this Christmas season, asking God to bless you with peace, joy, hope and love and may He keep all of us in His loving care.

Once again, I wish all of you a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

With love and prayers, Fr. Abraham, MCBS





Deputy Grand Knight Wally Zychowski of Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus Council #9523 presents a check to Norway Vulcan area schools Special Education Department from the recent Tootsie Roll Sale. Pictured with Wally are: Sadie Smiley, Owen Falls, Wyatt McConnell and Rylan Grumlin.

Thank you Knights, for all you do!

"GOD IS LOVE. WHOEVER LIVES IN LOV LIVES IN GOD AND GOD IN HIM."

~ St. John, Apostle

St. Mary's card sender is Rosemary Haepers: 906-563-5071 St. Barbara's card sender is Shirley LaValley: 906-563-5011

Holy Day Mass Times

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Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24

Saint Mary: Carols at 3:30pm / Mass at 4:00pm

Saint Barbara: Mass at 6:00pm

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25

Mass at 10am, Saint Mary

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Vigil Wednesday, December 31, Mass at Saint Mary, 5:00pm Thursday, January 1, Mass at Saint Barbara, 8:00am

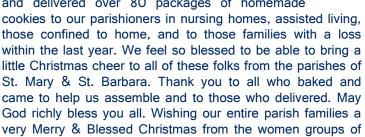
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St. Barbara's annual CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT will take place on Wednesday, December 24th before the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass. Practice will be held on Saturday, December 20, at 10:00am. Please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule of the church. We welcome and encourage all the children of the parish to participate. We are also in need of some parental help. Thank you.

COOKIE MINISTRY THANKS!

Thanks to all for bringing us the beautiful assortment of Christmas cookies we received to assemble our cookie packages this year. We packaged and delivered over 80 packages of homemade





4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOW COULD SO MUCH FAITH IN DREAMS?

St. Mary & St. Barbara.



HE DIDN'T — HE HAD FAITH THAT GOD COULD SPEAK TO HIM ANY WAY GOD WANTED TO!

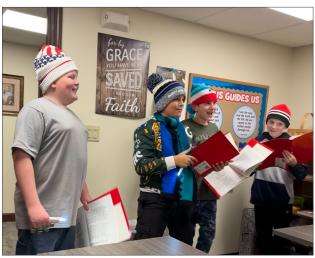
Prayer for Advent - Miracles

Dear God, You are in the miracle business. I still believe that You can move mountains and separate seas. Break into every unknown and astound us with Your goodness and grace. Amen.

Cory, Hannah and their Families would like to thank everyone for the support that has been given to them. The benefit was a huge success. The love and prayers are so appreciated!



~Cory, Hannah and their Families





On December 10th, the Fifth and Sixth grade Faith Formation students caroled to students in the other classrooms, as well as the office staff, and handed out treats to the students too. What a great and talented group!

Pictures below of the Downtown Norway Christmas Festival. The Holy Spirit Catholic School and Faith Formation students participated by walking with the HSCS banner, followed by a float portraying Mary, Joseph and an Angel. The students set up their businesses at Danielson's Greenhouse and sold many items. Awesome job, how fun!













Learn about some unique Christmas traditions from around the world!

VENEZUELA: Every year, roads are closed to traffic in the city of Caracas to let people participate in *las pantinatas* - "the skating" where everyone roller skates to Christmas Mass.



GERMANY: Starting in the 16th Century, Germans hide a pickle somewhere within the branches of their Christmas tree. Whatever child finds it receives a gift!



NEW ZEALAND: On the island, Christmas trees look a little different. Residents use the native pohutukawa tree, with it's bright crimson flowers, as their symbol for Christmas.





January 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fr. Abraham	Holy Spirit		Weekend Mass	1 SOLEMNITY	6am Men's Prayer Group	3 Confessions &
Mupparathara MCBS	Catholic School	ol No.	SATURDAY	OF MARY, MOTHER	Daily Mass 8:30am-SM	Adoration, 11a-12p
smuppara@hotmail.com	906-563-8817		4pm-St. Mary	OF GOD - Holy	. ,	
			6pm-St. Barbara	Day of Obligation	ADORATION, St. Mary	- Happy -
Parish Office	Saint Mary	Saint Barbara		8:00am Mass at	9:00am - 3:00pm	NEW
saintmary@norwaymi.com	Card Sender	Card Sender	SUNDAY	St. Barbara		YEAR
906-563-9845	Rosemary Haepers	Shirley LaValley	8am-St. Barbara	Parish Office Closed		
Fax: 906-563-7623	906-563-5071	906-563-5011	10am-St. Mary	HAPPY NEW YEAR!!		
4 Confess. 9:15-9:45am	5	6 Confession 4:30-4:50pm,	7 Daily Mass 8am-SM	8 Daily Mass 8am-SB	9 6am Men's	10 Confessions &
Adult Choir at 10am Mass		Daily Mass 5pm-SM	,	followed by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena	Prayer Group Daily Mass 8:30am-SM	Adoration, 11a-12p
Coffee Donut		1:00pm - SB Women's	Mass at Evergreen, 1pm	Perpetual Help Novena	Daily Wass 6.30aili-3W	
Social after Mass		League Meeting	Faith Formation			
		5:30pm - Women of	1st-6th 3:20-4:30PM at S.M.			MIT THE
12.2.2	SM Adult Choir	SM Meeting	CHILDREN'S CHOIR Practice	OCIA, 6:30pm-St. Mary		→ * ≫(*)(**+
	Practice 6:00pm	6:00pm Finance	4:30-5:00pm, St. Mary	St. Joseph Center		AT AN
EPIPHANY		Council Meeting	Women's Book Club, 6pm			**
11 Confess. 9:15-9:45am	12 No Daily Mass	13 Confession 4:30-4:50pm,	14 Daily Mass 8am-SM	15 Daily Mass 8am-SB	16 6am Men's	17 Confessions &
Youth Choir, 10am Mass	La readily mass	Daily Mass 5pm-SM	1-4	followed by Our Lady of	Prayer Group	Adoration, 11a-12p
· ·			Faith Formation	Perpetual Help Novena	Daily Mass 8:30am-SM	Adoration, Tra 12p
Baptism Lord.		5.45mm 1/ of O				
	SM Adult Choir	5:45pm - K of C	1st-6th 3:20-4:30PM at S.M.	5:30pm Food,		
Holy Face Rosary 11:am, St. Mary		Rosary at Evergreen	CHILDREN'S CHOIR Practice	•		
11.aiii, St. Wary	Practice 6:00pm	K of C Meeting, 7pm	4:30-5:00pm, St. Mary Women's Book Club, 6pm	Fellowship & Faith at St. Barbara		
10	40 No Poilu Mass	20 Confession 4:30-4:50pm,		22 Daily Mass 8am-SB	23 6am Men's	24 0
18 Confess. 9:15-9:45am	No Daily Mass	Daily Mass 5pm-SM	21 Daily Mass 8am-SM	followed by Our Lady of	Prayer Group	24 Confessions &
Adult Choir, 10am Mass				Perpetual Help Novena	Daily Mass 8:30am-SM	Adoration, 11a-12p
Faith Formation			Faith Formation			
7th-11th 10a-12:30P, SM		(A)	1st-6th 3:20-4:30PM at S.M.			And Section 1
		Pro-Life	CHILDREN'S CHOIR Practice	OCIA, 6:30pm-St. Mary		
Pro Life Walk	SM Adult Choir		4:30-5:00pm, St. Mary	St. Joseph Center		
	Practice 6:00pm		-			
	·		Women's Book Club, 6pm			
25 Confess. 9:15-9:45am	26 No Daily Mass	27 Confession 4:30-4:50pm,	28 Daily Mass 8am-SM	29 Daily Mass 8am-SB	30 6am Men's	31 Confessions &
Youth Choir, 10am Mass		Daily Mass 5pm-SM		followed by Our Lady of	Prayer Group Daily Mass 8:30am-SM	Adoration, 11a-12p
Youth Mass		CELEBRATING	Faith Formation	Perpetual Help Novena	Daily Iviass 6.3Udili-3IVI	
		CATHOLIC SCHOOLS			B-5 72 W	
Faith Formation	OM Adult Ob at:	WEEK	1st-6th 3:20-4:30PM at S.M.			
7th-11th 10a-12:30P, SM	SM Adult Choir		CHILDREN'S CHOIR Practice			
	Practice 6:00pm		4:30-5:00pm, St. Mary		A B A B A	
			Women's Book Club, 6pm			



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