

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"No disciple is superior
to the teacher; but when
fully trained, every disciple
will be like his teacher."

Luke 6:40



St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
February 27, 2022

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
119 E. HOWARD ST., P.O. BOX 374
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS 61764

Phone: 815-844-7683 Fax: 815-842-4345

Parish & School Website: www.stmaryspontiac.org

Facebook: St. Mary's Parish-Pontiac

PASTOR: Fr. Adam Cesarek

father.adam@stmaryspontiac.org

PERMANENT DEACON: Dcn. Jim Wallace

servant518@outlook.com

PARISH SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER: Patti Zehr

zehr.patti@stmaryspontiac.org

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR: Danielle Gill

gill.danielle@stmaryspontiac.org

EVANGELIZATION & YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR:

Megan Lauritsen

lauritsen.megan@stmaryspontiac.org

MUSIC DIRECTORS: Marie Kane, Merryn Krenz,
& Kathy Schulz

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9:00 am to 12 noon and 1:00-4:30 pm

Closed on Friday afternoons Memorial Day to Labor Day

MASS TIMES:

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 7:00 am & 9:30 am

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am

Thursday 8:15am (School Mass)

CONFESSION TIMES:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 6:25-6:55 am

Wednesday 12 noon -1:00 pm

Saturday 2:30-3:30 pm

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL:

414 N. Main St., Pontiac, IL 61764

Phone: 815-844-6585

Principal: Mrs. Karen Jones, jones.karen@stmaryspontiac.org

Facebook: St. Mary's School

Instagram: [stmaryspontiac](https://www.instagram.com/stmaryspontiac)

ST. MARY'S FOOD PANTRY: 401 E. Water St. Open to
Livingston County residents every Thursday from 12 noon to 3 pm.
Phone: 815-844-FOOD(3663)

SCRIP: Orders are accepted on the first and third Sundays of
the month. Place orders in the box in the back vestibule after Mass
or get them to Taryn Tissiere by 3:00pm Sunday. Cash-n-Carry
sales are being suspended for now.



STEWARDSHIP

Collection last Sunday: \$11,011.50

Building Maintenance Fund Collection was \$2,340.00.

Aid Eastern Europe Churches: At all Ash Wednesday Masses.

School Collection: Next weekend.



Mass Intentions

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGES TO THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 26

4:00 p.m. Rosemary Brady

Sunday, February 27 (Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Rhonda Steinbach

Monday, February 28

7:00 a.m. James Berta

Tuesday, March 1

7:00 a.m. Lee Chapman

Wednesday, March 2 (Ash Wednesday)

6:00 a.m. Jack & Shirley Nolan

8:15 a.m. Betty Lame

5:30 p.m. Connie Santini

Thursday, March 3 (St. Katharine Drexel)

7:00 a.m. Deceased members Weller & Berns Families

Friday, March 4 (St. Casimir)

7:00 a.m. Special Intentions of Bishop Louis Tylka

Saturday, March 5

8:00 a.m. Prodigals of St. Mary's Parish

4:00 p.m. Michelle Ocean

Sunday, March 6 (First Sunday in Lent)

7:00 a.m. Henry Hogan

9:30 a.m. Parish

Servers for Saturday, March 5

4:00 p.m. Carrington Gray

Servers for Sunday, March 6

7:00 a.m. Hunter Trainor

9:30 a.m. Abe Jean-Jacques, Riley Rogers

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION is open each weekday, Monday
-Friday from 8am until 8pm. Adoration is in the Chapel except for
Thursdays when it is held in the church. If you would like to spend
an hour with Jesus or share an hour with someone on those days,
please contact Darlene DeMattia at 815-674-2375 or the Parish
Office at 815-844-7683.

CHENOA & LEXINGTON MASS CHANGES: St. Mary's
Church in Lexington will resume Masses in their church this week-
end after the fire nearly a year ago. Masses in Lexington will be
Saturday at 4pm and Sunday at 9am. Masses at St. Joseph Church
in Chenoa will return to their regular schedule of Saturday at
5:30pm and Sunday at 11am.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER NEEDED: St. Mary's School is
seeking a Kindergarten teacher who knows and loves Jesus and His
Church, to begin August 2022. We seek someone with a desire to
make disciples of their students and grow in discipleship with other
staff. Candidates must portray abilities of healthy teamwork
among colleagues along with a desire to share their knowledge and
love of Jesus and their Catholic faith with students and staff.
Please send 3 letters of recommendation, along with your resume
and cover letter. Please include a copy of your transcripts to Mrs.
Karen Jones, St. Mary's School, 414 N. Main St. Pontiac, IL 61764

MASKS ARE OPTIONAL

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
LENTEN FISH FRY

Ash Wednesday, March 2
5-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Fried pollack, baked cod, fried shrimp,
grilled cheese, mac & cheese, potato,
vegetable, cole slaw, dessert & drink

\$12 for adults, \$7 for children ages 6-12, \$40 family max

*Due to a significant increase in the cost of fish, we will NOT
be offering All-You-Can-Eat. Cost above is per plate.
We apologize for the inconvenience.*

“Making Disciples for the Mission” Program

Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted your Commitment Card. For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to submit their card, a final letter will be mailed to you with a personalized Commitment Card. We invite all faithful parishioners to complete a card as our parish goal is 100% participation! You may return your card by: mailing it to the church using the pre-addressed envelope included with the letter, or bringing it to Mass next weekend, or you may visit our parish website at www.church.stmaryspontiac.org and complete an electronic Commitment Card. **All cards need to be returned to the parish by Sunday, March 20.** As a friendly reminder, *Online Giving* is an easy, safe and secure way to support St. Mary's Catholic Church. To set-up a recurring weekly, or monthly gift or to make a one-time donation directly from your bank account or credit card, please visit our website and follow the instructions. **WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

GONZAGA RETREAT FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH: The annual Gonzaga retreat for high schoolers will return this **March 11th and 12th!** It will be held right here at St. Mary's. If you are in high school and are interested in attending, or you know someone who would like to attend, pick up a registration form in the back of the church. Completed forms and registration fee can be turned into the parish office or given to Megan Lauritsen.

LECTORS FOR MARCH

4:00pm Mike Van Sickle
7:00am Nancy Smith
9:30am Bernie Timmerman & Carol Faust

EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS FOR MARCH

4:00pm Jack & Mary Timmerman, Earline Devito
7:00am Bryan & Susan Schweigert
9:30am Marie Haag, Jen Murphy, Lisa M. Martin,
Sarah Bowling, Ray White

THE CATHOLIC POST: Those who subscribe to our excellent diocesan newspaper, **The Catholic Post**, have received materials to renew their subscriptions for another year. As Lent is about to begin, we encourage *all members* of our parish to receive and support this valuable resource for Catholic living and unity. Subscribe instantly via credit or debit card online at thecatholicpost.com; by calling (309) 671-1550 during business hours; or sending a check to **The Catholic Post**, P.O. Box 1722, Peoria, IL 61656. The subscription rate remains at \$30.



ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2: Masses will be held at 6:00am, 8:15am (School Mass so please sit in the back of church) & 5:30pm. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses. We will also take up the Collection to Aid Eastern Europe Churches.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held each Friday of Lent, except Good Friday, at 5:30 p.m. in the church.

REGULATIONS FOR LENT AND THE EASTER TRIDUUM

1. Lent is the principal season of penance in the Christian Year. Priests, religious and laity are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial, attentiveness to prayer, and especially to works of charity and mercy.

2. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, March 2, and all the Fridays of Lent.

3. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday, March 2 and Good Friday, April 15.

4. On these two days of fast and abstinence, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

5. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is a serious matter.

LENTEN DIVINE MERCY SERVICE: Sunday, March 6 at 5:00pm at St. Joseph Church, Chenoa. Holy hour, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and confessions will be available as we begin our 40 day Lenten preparation for Easter. Dr. Scott Ferguson and the Illinois Wesleyan choir will provide the reflective music as we spend time with Our Lord and remember His 40 days in the desert.

DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR ST. NICHOLAS CHARITY ON WHEELS: St. Nicholas Charity on Wheels is a ministry of Catholic Charities serving families in need across the Peoria Diocese. To aid this mission, Catholic Women are organizing a Diocesan collection of supplies by vicariate each month with March designated for the Pontiac Vicariate. **St. Mary's will collect supplies at Masses the weekend of March 5/6 only. Items needed in March: Laundry Soap, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper. Visa, Walmart and gas gift cards in any amount are also needed. Bulk items can be left at the doors of the church. Gift cards can be placed in the collection basket.** This project will help families in need throughout the Peoria Diocese to make ends meet, care for their families and experience the Catholic faith in action. Matt 25:35 "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,.... Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Let us take this Bible verse to heart in giving to the St. Nicholas Charity. This is a Promotion Project of the Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in cooperation with Catholic Charities.

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST: Sunday, March 6 from 7am to 12 noon at Graymont School. In person breakfast with take out available. \$8 for ages 10 and up, \$5 for those under age 10. Hosted by Graymont Achievers 4-H Club.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEW FAMILY REGISTRATION FOR GRADES K-8

for the 2022-2023 school year has begun.

Why choose us?

- Full, state private school recognition
- Certified teachers
- Scholarships available
- K-8 building, one class of each
- Religion, music, art, PE and computer classes
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd religion program (grades K-3)

Register online at school.stmaryspontiac.org. For more information, or to schedule a tour, contact the school office at 815-844-6585.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

We strive to ensure that our youth are able to receive a Catholic education despite the possible inability to pay. Through the Invest in Kids Act, K - 12 students have the opportunity to receive Illinois tax credit scholarships to attend private schools. This scholarship opportunity is available to all income-eligible St. Mary's families. Scholarships cover up to 100% of private school tuition and fees and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications for the 2022-2023 school year will be accepted beginning January 12, 2022. If you have financial need, please take advantage of this opportunity. Confidentiality is maintained in this process. For complete details on income eligibility guidelines or to submit an application, visit the Empower Illinois website. You may also contact the school office for more information.

SPALDING SCHOLARSHIPS: Your child can attend a Catholic School, Financial Assistance Available

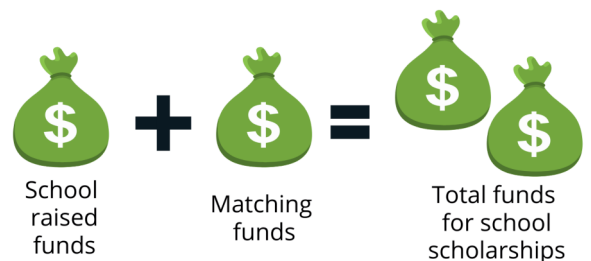
Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2022-2023 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed. Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria or on the Diocesan website www.cdop.org under **Catholic Education** and then under **Financial Assistance**. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award. Parents must apply online at: online.factsmgt.com/aid. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2022-2023 school year must reapply. Deadline date for the completed application is **April 29, 2022**. Notification of grant awards will be made by the end of June 2022.

Another funding opportunity is also available due to the Invest in Kids Act legislation in Illinois. Students may be eligible for up to 100% of tuition and fees under a new program for tax credit scholarships (TCS). Details on how to apply and who qualifies are available on the Empower Illinois website at www.empowerillinois.org. Students who receive a TCS are ineligible to receive a Spalding award.

MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

Through the Invest in Kids Act, students living at or below the federal poverty level can receive a scholarship to attend St. Mary's School. Scholarships cover up to 100% of private school tuition and fees. **We have 24 students (with tuition totaling \$79,200) who have qualified and are on the waiting list, hoping to receive a scholarship for the 2022-2023 school year.** We are pleased to announce that a generous donor has created a 1:1 matching gift program. For every dollar donated, this donor will match the gift up to \$10,000! **We need to raise \$10,000 by April 15 to unlock the full gift.** Additionally, Caterpillar employees and retirees can have their gift matched by the Caterpillar Foundation. A \$1,000 gift matched twice becomes \$3,000 to SMS! All donations must be made directly to Empower Illinois, our Scholarship Granting Organization. Donors will receive a 75% state tax credit for their donation. If you can help, call the school office at (815) 844-6585 or email Danielle Gill at gill.danielle@stmaryspontiac.org.

What is a matching gift program?



JOIN US FOR OUR 29TH ANNUAL
ST. MARY'S SCHOOL DRAWDOWN

LIGHTS, CAMERA,

Auction!

*Featuring
Blake Stadel
as emcee*

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

\$85 TICKET ADMITS 2 / PONTIAC ELKS LODGE

**GRAND
PRIZE
\$2,000**

Your \$85 ticket admits two adults to the event and includes dinner, draft beer, a chance to win fantastic prizes, and the opportunity to participate in live & silent auctions.

5:00 pm	Doors open
5:30 - 7:30 pm	Buffet dinner served
5:30 pm	DrawDown of tickets begins followed by Live Auction

RESERVE YOUR TICKET AT SCHOOL.STMARYSPONTIAC.ORG

ONLY 300 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD! NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN. THIS EVENT IS FOR ADULTS 21+ ONLY.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 27, 2022

Sunday	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sir 27:4-7/ Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16/ 1 Cor 15:54-58/ Lk 6:39-45
Monday	1 Pt 1:3-9/ Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9 & 10c/ Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday	1 Pt 1:10-16/ Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/ Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Jl 2:12-18/ Ps 51: 3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 & 17/ 2 Cor 5:20-6:2/ Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday	Dt 30:15-20/ Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6/ Lk 9:22-25
Friday	Is 58:1-9a/ Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/ Mt 9:14-15
Saturday	Is 58:9b/ Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Lk 5:27-32
Sunday	First Sunday of Lent Dt 26:4-10/ Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15/ Rom 10:8-13/ Lk 4:1-13



St. Mary's Parish is now offering Online Giving.

Online Giving can be used to give to:

- Sunday Offering
- School Collection
- Food Pantry
- Building Maintenance Fund
- Memorials/Gifts
- School Annual Fund
- Scholarships

Start giving online today!

1. Visit our website at www.stmaryspontiac.org and click on the online giving link.
2. Create an account.
3. Schedule your gift. Gifts given via checking or savings account have no service charge. Debit and credit card gifts will be assessed a 3% fee.

Please prayerfully consider giving online. If you have any questions, contact the parish office at 815-844-7683. Online Giving is provided by Our Sunday Visitor, a Catholic not-for-profit organization serving parishes for more than 100 years.

**PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE
HOLY FATHER FOR MARCH**

For a Christian response to bioethical challenges: We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.



CATHOLIC SPIRIT RADIO

7 days a week, 24 hours a day! Catholic Spirit Radio broadcasts EWTN and local programming for you! It's lively, entertaining, and informative. Catholic Spirit Radio is on 89.5 FM and 92.5 FM, and now on 88.3 FM in the Pontiac area, and online at www.catholicspiritradio.com

We would like to thank the following local businesses for underwriting the

efforts of Catholic Spirit Radio: Knights of Columbus Council #854, Edinger's Filling Station, Fogarty's Garage & Lyons-Sullivan Realty. If you would like to support CSR, please contact Jerry LoPiccolo at 630-514-6221.

CHILDREN'S ROSARY ON CATHOLIC SPIRIT RADIO:

Every Sunday and Wednesday at 8:30pm, tune in to hear St. Mary's School students pray the Rosary. Five ways to listen!

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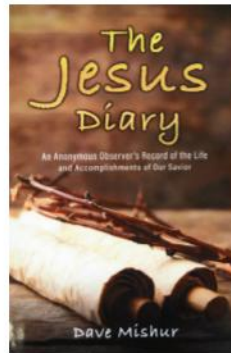
MASS IS BROADCAST EACH MORNING AT 7AM

PRAYERFUL PILGRIMAGE TO SUPPORT VOCATIONS:

Explore France with Father Timothy Hepner September 24-October 4, 2022 with an optional pre-tour to Lourdes September 21-25, 2022. For more information, please contact co-host Bonnie Newman at (309) 737-0059 or email bonnie@bluehorizon.net. Proceeds from this tour will go to the Monsignor Carton Scholarship Fund to help finance the seminarians in the Diocese of Peoria.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND WITH FATHER DAVID:

October 29-November 9. Deacon Matt Levy will guide this trip with Fr. David offering Masses at each stop along the pilgrim Way of Jesus Christ to the cross. Call Fr. David at 309-536-0027 for more information.



"The Jesus Diary"

by parishioner Dave Mishur is on sale at Amazon and available for purchase at the parish office, \$15 per copy with the purchase price going to the church.

"Mishur takes the widely known-but highly condensed-Gospel accounts and adds imaginary color...Readers share the sense of marvel at Jesus' works and teachings"

—Tom Dermody, Editor, The Catholic Post

"Would you like an uplifting escape from the present malaise in Church and Country? Then read Dave Mishur's 'The Jesus Diary:...an outstanding Christmas gift. Highly recommended."

—Peggy Moen, Editor, The Wanderer
"This book is tailor made for real life understanding without all the jargon that feels stuffy and judgmental."

—Amazon customer

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS**

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILIES THIS YEAR

*For 2022, we ask everyone to pray for specific church and school families each weekday.
A list will be published here in the bulletin and in the newsletter you receive in the mail.
Please remember these families in your prayers each day for them to grow in their faith this year.*

Mon Feb 28	Janet Bier Family; Kloey Wagner's Family
Tues Mar 1	Dave & Mary Billington Family, Ben Ehrgott's Family
Wed Mar 2	Mark & Lori Boatman Family, Hunter Fosdick's Family
Thurs Mar 3	Sarah Bowling Family, Ava & Eli Faber's Family
Fri Mar 4	Jim & Mary Billington Family, Keylee Thomas & Gemma Bagnell's Family
Mon Mar 7	Mark & Kim Boden Family, Megan, Kate, Jacob & Grace Lauritsen's Family
Tues Mar 8	Larry & Candice Bradshaw Family, Jaxson Rambo's Family
Wed Mar 9	Kevin & Michelle Billington Family, Madyson & DJ Herkert's Family
Thurs Mar 10	Stanley & Bethany Boguszewski Family, Daxell & Remi Collins' Family
Fri Mar 11	Chris & Josephina Brady Family, Tiffany & Chris Legner's Family



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Rev. Adam Cesarek, Chaplain
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