

Almsgiving ☉ Praying 🌿 Fasting

LENT



St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
March 6, 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: \$10,370.75

School Collection: This weekend.

St. Mary's Food Pantry Collection: Next weekend.

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our church.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 5

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

4:00 p.m. Michelle Ocean

Sunday, March 6 (First Sunday of Lent)

7:00 a.m. Henry Hogan

9:30 a.m. Parish

Monday, March 7 (Sts. Perpetua & Felicity)

7:00 a.m. Marie Smith

Tuesday, March 8 (St. John of God)

7:00 a.m. Jim Cahill

Wednesday, March 9 (St. Frances of Rome)

7:00 a.m. Jim & Ileene McGinn

Thursday, March 10

8:15 a.m. 14th ann Tim Murphy

Friday, March 11

7:00 a.m. Martha Vitzthum

Saturday, March 12

4:00 p.m. 23rd ann Donald Ocean

Sunday, March 13 (Second Sunday in Lent)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Patricia Gallivan

Servers for Saturday, March 12

4:00 p.m. Sean Finnegan

Servers for Sunday, March 13

7:00 a.m. Christopher Corrigan

9:30 a.m. Jonathan & Zach Becker

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 has resumed Masses in their church 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 Sun-
day 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

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: If you have any news
or photos for the mid-March newsletter, deadline to submit is Tues-
day, March 8.

PLEASE PRAY FOR parishioner David Fry, R.I.P. Our sym-
pathy to his family and friends.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
LENTEN FISH FRY**

**Friday, March 11
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!**

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY SEWING CIRCLE will meet **Thursday, March 10 from 9am to 12:30pm** in the parish hall.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will meet **Thursday, March 10 at 6:30pm** in the Our Lady of the Rosary Room of the parish hall.

GONZAGA RETREAT FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH: The annual Gonzaga retreat for high schoolers will return this **March 12th and 13th!** 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.

LEGION OF MARY: Want to tell the world about Jesus through Evangelization? Legion of Mary meetings have resumed. Please join us **every Thursday at 7:00pm** in the rectory (NOTE CHANGE OF TIME). Please use the back door.

ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP has resumed meetings! All high school students are invited to join us every Sunday evening from 6:30-8:30pm. Youth group meets in the upstairs of the Parish Center (former rectory). We hope to see you there!



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

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.

THE CATHOLIC POST: Did you know that you can place a message atop a page of our diocesan newspaper, **The Catholic Post**? Your special message will be seen in 10,000 Catholic households! Memorialize a deceased loved one; give thanks for blessings such as a new grandchild or a marriage anniversary; or give a shout-out to a pastor or teacher. A page sponsorship of \$100 is one suggested level of giving in **The Catholic Post's** subscription drive now underway on the theme of "Spread the Word!" Contribute instantly via credit or debit card online at thecatholicpost.com; call (309) 671-1550 during business hours; or send a check to **The Catholic Post**, PO Box 1722, Peoria, IL 61656. The regular subscription rate remains at \$30.



BE ON THE LOOKOUT for a large, white, three-ring binder that is filled with patterns and instructions for items to sew. It belongs to the Christ Child Society. If you have ANY information, or maybe have seen it, please contact the parish office or Shari at 815-419-8620. No one will be held accountable. We just need it back, if possible. Thank you for your cooperation!

PLEASE CLAIM YOUR DISHES: Dishes left over from funeral dinners and other events can be found in the school foyer. Please stop by between 8am and 3pm to claim. Names on dishes: **Nancy Milhauser, Carole Peterson, Jamie Drilling, Kelli Trainor, Sue Smith, Dianne Hanley, Pat Hepperly, Nanette Marx, Val Brown, Diana Woodburn, Shirley Eckel, Brenda Shaughnessy, Jeanette Kuerth, Heather Machroli** and numerous other containers without names. If these items are not picked up, they will be donated to the Women's Guild Rummage Sale in June.

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

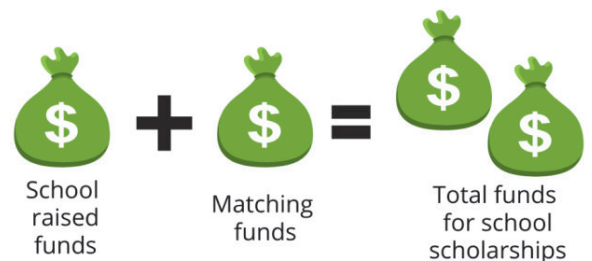
Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2022-2023 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll 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?



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



St. Mary's School

414 North Main Street, Pontiac, Illinois 61764

Phone 815-844-6585 Fax 815-844-6987

Father Adam Cesarek, Administrator

Mrs. Karen Jones, Principal

St. Mary's DrawDown Ticket Order Form

Saturday, April 2, 2022 @ Pontiac Elks Lodge

\$85 per ticket, admits 2. This event is for adults (21+) only.

Each ticket admits two adults to the event and includes dinner, draft beer, a chance to win amazing prizes, and the opportunity to participate in live & silent auctions. The dinner menu will feature fried chicken, mostaccioli, baked potato, green beans, lettuce salad, and dinner roll.

All tickets will be at the registration table the night of the event

Please complete and return by March 18, 2022.

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please mark one of the following:

____ 2 Guests will be attending and enjoying dinner.

____ 1 Guest will be attending and enjoying dinner.

____ We will not be attending the dinner but would still like to purchase a DrawDown ticket.

Donation opportunities:

____ I will make a dessert to be auctioned. Type of dessert _____

____ I will donate a prize to be auctioned. Type of prize _____

____ I am interested in being a DrawDown sponsor. Please contact me to discuss sponsorship levels.

Payment:

Order form and payment may be delivered to St. Mary's School office or placed in the church collection basket.

____ Check enclosed. Please make all checks payable to **St. Mary's School**.

____ My payment has been made via my FACTS prepay account labeled TAPS (SMS parents only).

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION!

(Office Use) Date Received _____ Ticket # _____

school.stmaryspontiac.org

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 6, 2022

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
Monday	Sts. Perpetua and Felicity Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday	St. John of God Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday	St. Frances of Rome Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday	Est C: 12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138: 1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
Friday	Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday	Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119: 1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday	Second Sunday of Lent Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17-4:1 or Phil 3: 20-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36



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! Catholic Spirit Radio on 88.3 FM online at www.catholicspiritradio.com

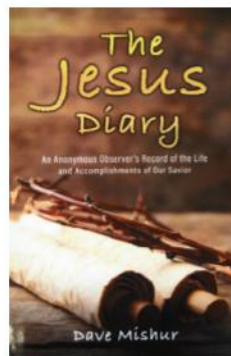
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MASS IS BROADCAST EACH MORNING AT 7AM

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 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
Mon Mar 14	Dona Blair Family, Payton Roger's Family
Tues Mar 15	Nancy Boitnott Family, Adrian & Bianca Gill's Family
Wed Mar 16	Cal & Mary Brainard Family, Adam Vitzthum's Family
Thurs Mar 17	Maria Blair Family, Liam & Brooks Lawrence's Family
Fri Mar 18	Joan Bolan Family, Mallory Masching's Family



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!



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www.KofC.org

Grand Knight: Bill Bertram
(815) 690-7072
Rev. Adam Cesarek, Chaplain
www.facebook.com/kofc854Pontiac

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