

# Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Whoever does not carry his own cross  
and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27



**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
Pontiac, Illinois  
September 4, 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](http://www.stmaryspontiac.org)

Facebook: St. Mary's Parish-Pontiac

**PASTOR:** Fr. Adam Cesarek

[father.adam@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:father.adam@stmaryspontiac.org)

**PERMANENT DEACON:** Dcn. Jim Wallace

[servant518@outlook.com](mailto:servant518@outlook.com)

**PARISH SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER:** Patti Zehr

[zehr.patti@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:zehr.patti@stmaryspontiac.org)

**DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR:** Danielle Gill

[gill.danielle@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:gill.danielle@stmaryspontiac.org)

**EVANGELIZATION & YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR:**

Megan Lauritsen

[lauritsen.megan@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:lauritsen.megan@stmaryspontiac.org)

**LEADERSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP DIRECTOR:** Kel Krenz

[krenz.kel@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:krenz.kel@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 8:15 am

**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](mailto:jones.karen@stmaryspontiac.org)

Facebook: St. Mary's School

Instagram: 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:** SCRIP is now an electronic only format using the RaiseRight app or at [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com). If you do not have an online account and would like to set one up, please contact Taryn Tissiere at [tissiere.taryn@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:tissiere.taryn@stmaryspontiac.org) or 815-979-7663.



**STEWARDSHIP**

**Collection last Sunday: \$11,441.00**

**School Collection:** This weekend.

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

**THANK YOU** to those who regularly support our parish.



*Mass Intentions*

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF MASS TIME ON MONDAY DUE TO THE HOLIDAY**

**Saturday, September 3 (St. Gregory the Great, pope)**

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

4:00 p.m. Jim & Mary Bertrand

**Sunday, September 4 (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. 38th ann Vincent Murphy

**Monday, September 5 (Labor Day)**

8:00 a.m. Karen Ferguson

**Tuesday, September 6**

7:00 a.m. Richard & Lorene Horaney

**Wednesday, September 7**

7:00 a.m. 9th ann Betty Giordano

**Thursday, September 8 (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**

8:15 a.m. Katy Grove

**Friday, September 9 (St. Peter Claver)**

7:00 a.m. Sharilyn Ryan

**Saturday, September 10**

4:00 p.m. Kathleen Kane

**Sunday, September 11 (24th Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. 40th ann Art Drach

**Servers for Saturday, September 10**

4:00 p.m. Nicholas & Carter Doughan

**Servers for Sunday, September 11**

7:00 a.m. Volunteers

9:30 a.m. Jonathan & Zach Becker, Kaylee Delheimer

**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.

**BAPTISM PREP CLASS:** If you are looking to get your first child baptized, or are expecting your first child and would like to be prepared for the sacrament of Baptism when they arrive, please call the parish office at 815-844-7683 to set up a date and time for Baptism prep class.

**BABY BOTTLES FOR HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER:** We are still 9 bottles short. Whether they are filled or not, please bring the bottle to church or the parish office as soon as possible so we can return them to the Hope Pregnancy Center.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Ray & Judy Masching who will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on September 8. Cards of well wishes can be sent to the couple at 215 E. Washington St. #701, Pontiac





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

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:** St. Mary's will offer a vicariate-wide Bereavement Support Group beginning **Monday, September 12 from 6:30-8pm** and ending on November 2 with the All Souls' Mass which will be held to remember the loved ones of the support group members as well as relatives and friends of St. Mary's Parish who have passed away in the last year. The group will meet in the Parish Center (old rectory) and follow a series of readings and discussions. All are welcome, no matter who you have lost or how long it has been since your loss. To register or for more information, please call St. Mary's Parish office at 815-844-7683, Margo Law at 815-579-5102, or Katie Wille at 815-842-1233.

**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY SEWING CIRCLE** will meet **Thursday, September 8 from 9am to 12:30pm** in the parish hall.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** will meet **Thursday, September 8 at 6:30pm** in the Our Lady of the Rosary Room of the parish hall.

**LEGION OF MARY:** Want to tell the world about Jesus through Evangelization? Become a disciple. Join the Legion of Mary **every Thursday at 7:00pm** in the parish center. Please use the back door.

**ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP:** All high school students are invited to join us every Sunday evening from 6:30-8:30pm starting September 11. Youth group meets in the upstairs of the Parish Center (former rectory). Please use the back door.

**CCD/FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION:** If you have children in Grades K-8 who attend public school, then you will want to sign-up for Religious Faith Formation (CCD) classes. Classes will be held on Sundays between the Masses beginning September 11. New registrations welcome! Please call Karen at 815-822-3282 to set up a meeting

**CCD/FAITH FORMATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Do you love our Church? Are you ready to hand on our Catholic Faith to children? Then contact Karen at 815-822-3282. We need to fill a teacher position and aide position, and you can always join the sub list.

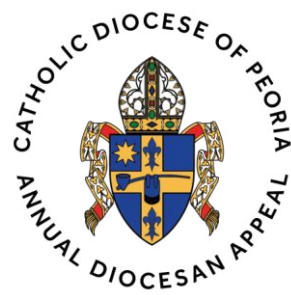


**TEACHER NEEDED**

St. Mary's School has an **immediate teacher opening for Junior High ELA (Language Arts and Literacy):** Must have a valid Illinois teaching certificate, Middle school/Junior High Endorsement in ELA preferred. *We have hired a long term substitute to fill this position until a full time teacher can be found.*

We are seeking a Jr. High ELA Teacher who knows and loves Jesus. 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 with students and staff.

Please send 3 letters of recommendation and a copy of your transcripts, along with your resume and cover letter to Mrs. Karen Jones, St. Mary's School, 414 N. Main St. Pontiac, IL 61764 or you may email these items to: [jones.karen@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:jones.karen@stmaryspontiac.org)



**2022 ANNUAL  
DIOCESAN APPEAL**

**THIS YEAR'S GOAL:  
\$78,088**

(over \$13,000 LESS than last year)

**Be watching your mailbox for this year's brochure and pledge card.**

**Checks should be made payable to DIOCESE OF PEORIA and mailed directly to Peoria in the return envelope included. Pledges can be paid in full, or payments can be arranged over 6 months. You can also make a pledge and payment online at [cdop.org/ada](http://cdop.org/ada) Any funds raised over our goal will be returned to our parish.**

Annual Diocesan Appeal supports EVANGELIZATION. When we experience the love and joy that comes with knowing and loving Jesus, we want to proclaim the difference Christ has made in our life and help bring others to him. Ministries and programs include support for all our Catholic grade schools and high schools, Totus Tuus - the summer parish program for youth, Newman Centers outreach to college students, Catholic Charities programs and more. **Go to [www.cdop.org/ada](http://www.cdop.org/ada) to learn more about the ministries supported by ADA and to watch the ADA videos.**

"I always thought that my friends would make fun of me, but I noticed that those friends that I would hang out with weren't really my friends. The friends I have now are friends that go to church with me, go to RCIA classes with me and are preparing to receive their sacraments with me. Father Dittmer has inspired me to follow Jesus Christ. He encourages us a lot to be faithful and to continue to grow in our relationship with Jesus for the rest of our lives."

- Iván Sánchez, catechumen

**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL QUICK DRAW:** You could win money all year long. Tickets are \$25 each and are good for all drawings from September 2022 through May 2023. Prizes of \$200, \$100, or \$50 will be given away five times each month throughout the school year and three bonus drawings of \$250 each. For more details or to purchase a ticket, contact any St. Mary's School family or the school office. Or you can put \$25 in the collection basket or mail it to the church and we will get you a ticket. Every ticket is in every drawing, so there is no limit on a person's chances to win!



**12th ANNUAL VERMILION RIVER CLEANUP:** **Saturday, September 17 from 8am to 12noon.** Volunteers and canoes are needed for the Annual Vermillion River Cleanup. Free lunch provided after the cleanup. If you can help or provide a canoe, please RSVP to Judy at 815-257-3729 or [judy.campbell88@gmail.com](mailto:judy.campbell88@gmail.com) or visit their website [livingstoncountyenvironmental.org](http://livingstoncountyenvironmental.org).

ST. MARY'S PARISH  
JUNE 2022



*"They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed; every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which he has given you."*

~ Deuteronomy 16:16-17

**WE THANK YOU**

We continue to be truly humbled by the generosity of our parishioners. Thank you to those who answered the call to increase their offertory for St. Mary's this year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and much needed to support our current and continued operations and ministries.

**A QUARTERLY UPDATE ON OUR  
FINANCIAL JOURNEY**

	Previous Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30, 2021	Current Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30, 2022
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>\$2,162,213.94</b>	<b>\$1,443,576.86</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,424,217.94</b>	<b>\$1,452,591.56</b>
<b>GAIN/(LOSS)</b>	<b>\$737,996.00</b>	<b>(\$9,014.70)</b>

- Report covers both Parish and School Operations

Please be reminded that last fiscal year we had received a very generous bequest of farm land from the Fitzgerald Family totaling \$740,731.00. This money has been set aside for future needs and is not being used for ordinary expenses such as salaries and utilities. Our Increased Offertory Appeal was well received and helped up keep Sunday Collections on budget for the year. Unfortunately, our investments did not fair well, and with the increased cost of everything, we ended the year in a deficit.



**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](http://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.



**R C I A**

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

**Have you been thinking about joining the church?**

**Do you have friends you would like to introduce to the Catholic faith?**

**Want to learn more about the depth and beauty of a 2000-year-old faith tradition?**

**Do you desire to grow closer to God with the support of a faith community?**

The next session of RCIA will begin this September.

To join or ask questions, please contact the Parish Center (815-844-7683),

Kate Harrold (815-848-1705, [kate.russow@gmail.com](mailto:kate.russow@gmail.com)),

or Tyler Shrewsbury (815-674-5569, [tshrewsbury94@gmail.com](mailto:tshrewsbury94@gmail.com)).

RCIA will meet Wednesday evenings from 6:15 - 8:00 pm  
in the Parish Hall on the following dates:

September 7, 21

October 5, 19

November 9, 16, 30

December 14

January 11, 25

February 8, 22

March 1, 15, 29

April 12, 26



## The Good News: St. Mary's Way

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### **Come and be part of The Good News: St. Mary's Way**

When- Thursdays from September 15th through  
October 27th, 6:30-8:00

Where: St. Mary's Parish Hall. St. Mary's Church is  
located at 119 E. Howard Street, in Pontiac IL. The Parish  
Hall is located behind the church on Chicago Street

What: Fellowship, faith formation, spiritual growth,  
and sacramental life

Topics presented include, but are not limited to:

Why do we exist?  
Parish Teamwork  
Tangible Faith  
Living in Joy  
Unceasing Prayer

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3 ways to sign up (sign up ends Monday September 5th):

1. Online through SignUpGenius -  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA5AD28A7FAC52-thegood>
2. Email Kel Krenz at [krenz.kel@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:krenz.kel@stmaryspontiac.org)
3. Call the parish office at 815-844-7683

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE NOW HAVE AN AMAZONSMILE

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**How does AmazonSmile work?**

Go to our website [church.stmaryspontiac.org](http://church.stmaryspontiac.org) > Stewardship > Amazon Smile. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) every time you shop.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2022**

Sunday	Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 9:13-18b; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 & 17; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33
Monday	1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps: 5:5-6, 7, 12; Jn 10:27; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday	1 Cor 6:1-11; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a & 9b; Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday	1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 13:6ab, 6c; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23
Friday	St. Peter Claver 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12; Jn 17:17b, 17a; Lk 6:39-42
Saturday	1 Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116:12-13, 17-18; Lk 6:43-49
Sunday	Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 or Lk 15:1-10



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

**For the abolition of the death penalty:** We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

**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](http://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.

**ROSARY ON CATHOLIC SPIRIT RADIO: Everyday at 4:30am and 8:30pm.**

Five ways to listen! Catholic Spirit Radio on 88.3 FM online at [www.catholicspiritradio.com](http://www.catholicspiritradio.com)

Roku Channel Store, Alexa play Catholic Spirit Radio Audio now 605-472-9380

**MASS IS BROADCAST EACH MORNING AT 7AM**

**CATHOLIC SPIRIT RADIO PILGRIMAGE:** You're invited to join Catholic Spirit Radio on a pilgrimage to visit Mother Angelica's hometown of Canton, Ohio where you will visit the Mother Angelica Museum campus and the Rhoda Wise Miracle House and Grotto. One of the dining experiences will be from That Little Italian Kitchen which was featured on EWTN. There's also a stop at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana to tour the Mother Theodore Guerin Shrine and the Sisters of Providence. Travel days are September 29th and 30th. Bus pick-up will be in Wapella, Normal, and Champaign. Our spiritual guide for this trip will be Fr. Jeff Windy. For more details and to make reservations, visit [catholicspiritradio.com](http://catholicspiritradio.com) or call Kathy at 309-828-6554.

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT: September 23-25.** Has the abortion experience left you feeling empty and alone? Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is available in our diocese for any man or woman who has struggled with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. This healing weekend is for singles or married couples, mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings or anyone suffering the effects of an abortion loss. If you are searching for peace and inner healing from an abortion experience, this retreat is for you. Register now by calling 309-264-1489 or e-mailing [rvrpeoria@gmail.com](mailto:rvrpeoria@gmail.com). All communications are strictly confidential. For more information please visit [www.cdop.org/offices/respect-life/rl-programs-resources/rachels-vineyard/](http://www.cdop.org/offices/respect-life/rl-programs-resources/rachels-vineyard/) or the national Rachel's Vineyard website at [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)



**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 Sept 5	John & Lisa Giordano Family, Oliver & Case Owen's Family
Tues Sept 6	Ellen Gayon Family, Charlie Popp's Family
Wed Sept 7	Paul Giordano Family, Alex Ralph's Family
Thurs Sept 8	Janice Golliday Family, Elaine Runyon's Family
Fri Sept 9	Wayne & Jacerie Germain Family, Ann Vogt's Family
Mon Sept 12	Frank & Nancy Giovanini Family, Aariv Chaudhari's Family
Tues Sept 13	Santos Gonzalez Family, Weston Haan's Family
Wed Sept 14	Tera Graves Family, Kennedy Krenz's Family
Thurs Sept 15	Pete & Jodi Giovanini Family, Amelia, Adam & Alexis Legner's Family
Fri Sept 16	Todd & Mary Gould Family, Bruce & Everett Meiner's Family



**MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!**

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