

JOY

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit



St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
December 11, 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 DEACONS:

Dcn. Jim Wallace servant518@outlook.com

Dcn. Ray White rj.white@me.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

LEADERSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP DIRECTOR: Kel Krenz

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

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: SCRIP is now an electronic only format using the RaiseRight app or at 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 or 815-979-7663.



STEWARDSHIP

Collection last Sunday: \$13,982.25

School Collection was \$2,806.00.

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

Building Maintenance Fund Collection: Next weekend.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 10

4:00 p.m. Ray Broerman

Sunday, December 11 (Third Sunday of Advent)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. William Crowley

Monday, December 12 (Our Lady of Guadalupe)

7:00 a.m. Colleen Murphy

Tuesday, December 13 (St. Lucy)

7:00 a.m. John Ferguson

Wednesday, December 14 (St. John of the Cross)

7:00 a.m. Paul, Shrivastav & Chapel Families

Thursday, December 15

8:15 a.m. 7th ann Jim Masching

Friday, December 16

7:00 a.m. Fr. Michael Bies

Saturday, December 17

4:00 p.m. Keith DeJaynes

Sunday, December 18 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Jerry Reilly

Servers for Saturday, December 17

4:00 p.m. Carrington Gray

Servers for Sunday, December 18

7:00 a.m. Tyson Cramer

9:30 a.m. Zach & Mallory Masching, Ella Ashcraft

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Adoration is open each week-day, Monday-Friday from 8am until 8pm and Saturday from 8am until 3pm. 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, 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.

NEW SECURITY SYSTEM: The new security system is finally in place. We greatly appreciate those who helped bring this project to fruition. The old key fob cards will no longer work for the church. You can dispose of them. New key fobs have been ordered. We will let you know when they arrive and can be distributed to those who need them.

CONGRATULATIONS to the parents and family of **Hudson Wynn Hayner**, son of Nathan & Nicole Hayner, who was recently baptized as a member of our faith.

PLEASE PRAY FOR parishioners Colleen Murphy and Sandra Smith, Mike Halpin (nephew of Christy Jones), and Jack Trainor (cousin to numerous parishioners) R.I.P. Our sympathy to their families and friends.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HAVE CHANGED THEIR MONTHLY MEETING TIME: The Knights will now meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm in the Our Lady of the Rosary Room of the parish hall. The first meeting on their new day will be **Wednesday, December 21.**

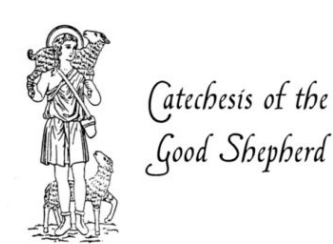
LEGION OF MARY: Want to tell the world about Jesus through Evangelization? Become a disciple. Join the Legion of Mary **every Thursday at 7:00pm** in the Parish Center. Please use the back door.

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.

TRAVELING OVER THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS? Call **1-800-MASS-TIMES** (1-800-627-7846) or log on to www.masstimes.org to find a church and Mass times at your destination. 22,000 parishes and missions are in the database to provide travelers with times of Masses and other worship services, as well as church location, telephone, and handicapped accessibility.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to ring the bell for this holiday season's Red Kettle Campaign. Kettles are inside at County Market and outside at Walmart. Even an hour is appreciated. If you can help, please call Pontiac Salvation Army at 815-844-5005.

 **SCRIP FOR CHRISTMAS:** Just a reminder that SCRIP orders are now placed through the app Raise Right. The program has moved to 100% electronic. When you are shopping, you **MUST** select "E-cards" **ONLY.** Any orders for physical gift cards will not be processed. For any questions, email Taryn Tissiere at tissiere.taryn@stmaryspontiac.org



ATRIUM REQUESTING ITEMS: The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium is looking for Bibles in foreign languages. We already have Catholic Bibles in Greek, Korean and German. In the Atrium, we learn that the Word of God is for all people in all places! We are also looking for smaller Catholic

Bibles (about 5x7 inches) in English, preferably not paperback. Please keep your eyes open if you are a person who likes to browse used bookstores and thrift stores! If you have any of these items and would be willing to donate them to the Atrium, please drop them off at the school or church office. **THANK YOU!**

2022 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL
Thanks to all who made a pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. No gift is too small. If you have not yet made a gift to the ADA, we invite you to do so today. Every dollar raised to make our goal supports important diocesan services and every dollar raised over our goal will be returned to the parish.
This year's goal: \$78,088
Pledged to date: \$57,735 (as of Nov. 3)



JESSE TREES in the front corners of the church will have new ornaments added each week symbolizing the Old Testament people "waiting" for the Messiah. Packets at the doors of the church will name the Old Testament symbols for the four weeks of Advent and the Bible verses which explain them. Pick up a packet and take it home to read the verses indicated for each day of Advent with your family.

BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Join us outside the front of church on **Saturday, December 10 after 4pm Mass** for the Blessing of Christmas lights in honor of St. Lucy.

BLESSING OF THE BABY JESUS: This weekend, **December 10/11**, bring the Baby Jesus from your Nativity to Mass to have it blessed.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: **Tuesday, December 13 in the church.** PreK-3rd Grade at 6:15pm. 4th-8th Grades with Living Nativity at 7:00pm

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE: **Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m.** in the church. Extra priests will be on hand to help with individual confessions.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS: Baskets are at the doors of the church for those wishing to donate non-perishable food items or paper products to the St. Mary's Food Pantry.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Pontiac	4:00 & 8:00 pm
Lexington	4:00 pm
Dwight	4:00 pm & 12 midnight
Chenoa	7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Pontiac	7:00 & 9:30 am
Flanagan	8:00 am
Lexington	9:00 am
Chatsworth	10:00 am
Odell	10:30 am
Chenoa	11:00 am

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS may once again be purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please place your money and the form below in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" and place it in the collection basket. Please print names as you want them to appear in the bulletin.

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

YOUR NAME _____

Poinsettia 6 1/2 inch pot \$10.00 Poinsettia 7 inch pot \$15.00
Poinsettia 8 inch pot \$20.00

LITTLE DISCIPLES
PRESCHOOL



2023-2024 REGISTRATION

Kindergarten

- Registration for current PreK4 students and current SMS families begins 12/5/22.
- Registration for new families begins 1/4/23.

4-year old PreK

- Registration for current PreK students, re-enrolling in PreK, and current SMS families begins 12/5/22.
- Registration for new families begins 1/4/23.

3-year old PreK

- Registration for current SMS families begins 3/1/23.
- Registration for new families begins 5/1/23.

For more Information:

school.stmaryspontiac.org

815-844-6585



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

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

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 2023-2024 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.factsmtg.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 2023-2024 school year must reapply. Deadline date for the completed application is April 28, 2023. Notification of grant awards will be made in June of 2023. 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 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.

***TOTUS TUUS 2023: Mark your calendars
for June 25-29 for junior high and high school students,
and June 26-30 for those entering 1st-6th grades.***

We recommend acting soon as this opportunity is on a first come, first serve basis and Caterpillar may reach their cap quickly!



**CATERPILLAR
FOUNDATION**



In support of Giving Tuesday, the Caterpillar Foundation will provide a limited-time 2:1 match through their Matching Gifts Program for global employee and U.S. retiree gifts made starting November 28 through December 12, 2022 (or once the match total reaches \$2M USD).

**Gifts made to St. Mary's School are eligible for the Caterpillar Foundation Matching Gifts Program.
Your \$100 gift could be a \$300 gift!
Please consider the difference you can make!**

St. Mary's School
Annual Fund Drive
is underway.



Help us reach our
\$35,514 goal!

school.stmaryspontiac.org

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 > 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 every time you shop.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11, 2022

Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11
Monday	Our Lady of Guadalupe Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday	St. Lucy Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday	St. John of the Cross Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday	Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b; Lk 7:24-30
Friday	Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36
Saturday	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Advent Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24



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 DECEMBER

Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations: We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



CATHOLIC SPIRIT RADIO

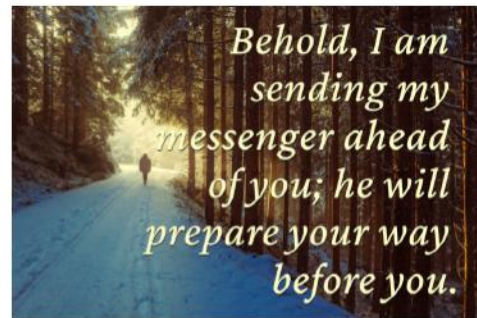
7 days a week, 24 hours a day! Catholic Spirit Radio broadcasts EWTN and local programming for you! It's lively, entertaining, and informative. Catholic Spirit Radio is on 89.5 FM and 92.5 FM, and now on 88.3 FM in the Pontiac area, and online at www.catholicspiritradio.com We would like to thank the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

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

MASS IS BROADCAST EACH MORNING AT 7AM

This fall, let's fall in love with God through the sacraments and thanks to helpful homilies. Another method for inspiration available any day or time is to listen to the variety of ways the hosts at Catholic Spirit Radio share their relatable insights. **Listen on 88.3 FM from Pontiac. You can also use their free app or listen online at catholicspiritradio.com or tell Alexa: "Alexa, Play Catholic Spirit Radio Eighty Nine Point Five."** May God embrace you through the words that you hear!



FAST and PRAY for



"But this kind is not cast out but by prayer and fasting." Mt 17:21



Heavenly Father, You have given us great hope by gifting us with the reversal of Roe v. Wade. Bless the State of ILLINOIS with good and holy leaders to guide and place us on the right path. We offer You our prayers and fasting in thanksgiving and for this intention.

PRAY & FAST every Friday for the CONVERSION of ILLINOIS.

(Clip out this prayer & keep as a reminder)

**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 Dec 12 Mike & Mary Hoffman Family, Owen & Lydia Kelly's Family
- Tues Dec 13 Patricia Honig Family, Jack & Kevin MacZura's Family
- Wed Dec 14 Judy Hoffrichter Family, Avery Van Waes' Family
- Thurs Dec 15 Jennifer Horrie Family, Maddie & Cameron Mikeworth's Family
- Fri Dec 16 Janet Hogan Family, Emma & Ava Lind's Family
- Mon Dec 19 Ann Householder Family, Hadley & Harlow Noonan's Family
- Tues Dec 20 Glenda Hoegger Family, Leleu Thurston's Family
- Wed Dec 21 Joseph Hogan Family, Barrett & Holland Tissiere's Family
- Thurs Dec 22 John & Sabrina Howard Family, Kloey Wagner's Family
- Fri Dec 23 Harriet Hughes Family, Flynn Eggleston's Family



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!

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for the Parish."*

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www.KofC.org

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(815) 690-7072
Rev. Adam Cesarek, Chaplain
www.facebook.com/kofc854Pontiac

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