

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
December 18, 2022

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

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: \$12,915.25

Collection for the Retired Religious was \$2,045.00.

Building Maintenance Fund Collection: This weekend.

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish.



Mass Intentions

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE TO THURSDAY'S SCHEDULE

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

Monday, December 19

7:00 a.m. Irene Fraher

Tuesday, December 20

Jim Cahill 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 21 (St. Peter Canisius)

7:00 a.m. Dick & Millie Johnson

Thursday, December 22

7:00 a.m. Bernie Cassady

Friday, December 23 (St. John of Kanty)

Barbara Ries 7:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

4:00 p.m. Mullen Family

8:00 p.m. Parish

Sunday, December 25 (The Nativity of the Lord)

Fr. Tim Hirten 7:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Mary & Paul Rittenhouse

Servers for Sunday, December 25

7:00 a.m. Christopher Corrigan

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Adoration is open each weekday, 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR parishioner Harold Cunningham, Rick Householder (husband of Ann Householder), Diane Coons (sister of Ed Corrigan), and Jordann Trainor (daughter of John Trainor) R.I.P. Our sympathy to their families and friends.

CONGRATULATIONS to the parents and family of Brooke Lynn Mackinson, daughter of Matt & Amy Mackinson, who was recently baptized as a member of our faith.



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.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY SEWING CIRCLE will meet Thursday, December 22 from 9am to 12:30pm in 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.



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:

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!

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.

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: \$69,135 (as of Dec. 5)



Fourth Week of Advent: Trusting God's Love

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.

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.

CONFESSION TIMES THIS WEEK Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri: 6:25-6:55am

Tuesday, Dec 20: Penance Service at 6:30pm with extra priests on hand for individual confessions.

Wednesday, Dec 21: 12noon-1pm Thursday, Dec 22: 5:30-7pm NO CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAY, DEC 24

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	
VOUR NAME	

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

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



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.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 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.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL SECRETARY JOB OPENING

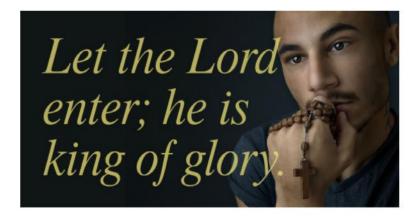
We are seeking an individual who is a faithful professional, desiring to be a Saint and helping others to become Saints. The candidate should be able to share their faith, be joyful and always willing to put God and others before themselves. This individual should be comfortable working with a team who prays together and actively lives out their faith through daily interactions with staff, students, and parents. Duties/Responsibilities will be discussed during the interview. Salary: TBD Start Date: July 5, 2023 Secretarial experience desired, but not required. Please send a cover letter, resume, and 3 letters of recommendation to: Mrs. Karen Jones, Principal. We plan to begin interviews by the end of January. Thank you for your interest.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

Mon. Dec. 19 Start of 3rd Quarter

Tues. Dec. 20 4th/5th Boys Basketball at home at 5:30pm

Dec. 21-Jan. 3 Christmas Break Wed. Jan. 4 School Resumes





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.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2022

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

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Monday

Lk 1:5-25

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38 Tuesday

Wednesday St. Peter Canisius

Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; **Thursday**

Lk 1:46-56

Friday St. John of Kanty Mal 3:1-4, 23-24;

Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9,10 & 14; Lk 1:57-66

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14 a, 16; Saturday

Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Lk1:67-79

Sunday The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

> Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Mass during the Night: Is 9:1-6;

Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Mass at Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12;

Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10;

Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or

Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

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)

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.

SPIRIT

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 LoPiccalo 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!





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.

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 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
Mon Dec 26	Cleveland & Amy Jean Jacques Family, Grace Becker's Family
Tues Dec 27	Mary Johnston Family, Champ Daily's Family
Wed Dec 28	Lorraine Hughes Family, Adrian & Bianca Gill's Family
Thurs Dec 29	Vic & Susan Johns Family, Zander Miller's Family
Fri Dec 30	Jean Jones Family, Ryann Krenz's Family



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!





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Council #854 www.KofC.org

Grand Knight: Bill Bertram (815) 690-7072

Rev. Adam Cesarek, Chaplain

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