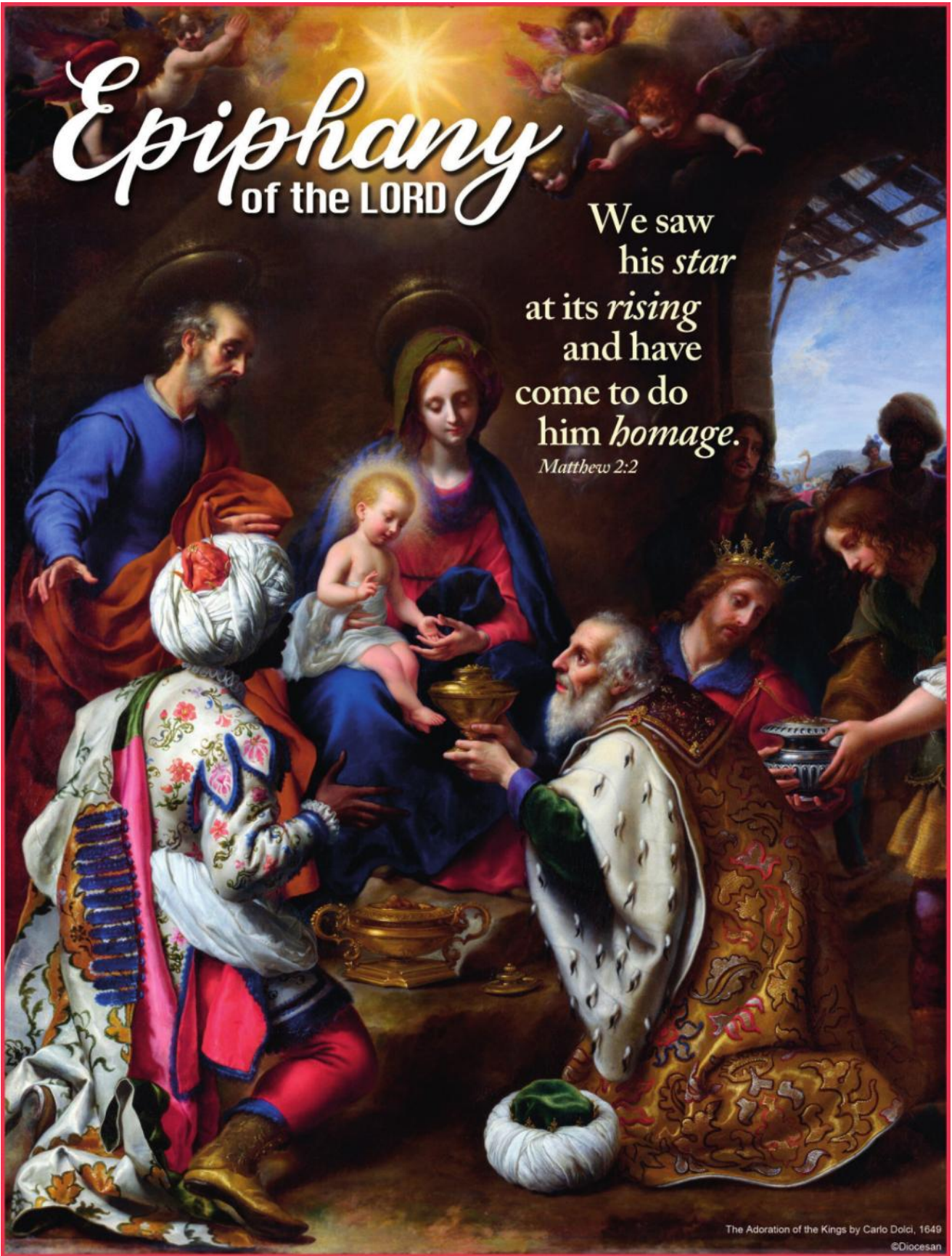


Epiphany of the LORD

We saw
his star
at its *rising*
and have
come to do
him *homage*.

Matthew 2:2



The Adoration of the Kings by Carlo Dolci, 1649
©Diocesan

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
January 8, 2023

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

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

Building Maintenance Fund Collection: Next weekend.

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 7 (St. Raymond of Penafort)

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

4:00 p.m. Parish

Sunday, January 8 (The Epiphany of the Lord)

7:00 a.m. John Giovanini

9:30 a.m. 9th ann Jan Brubaker

Monday, January 9 (The Baptism of the Lord)

7:00 a.m. 5th ann Bernice Edwards

Tuesday, January 10

7:00 a.m. In honor of Fr. David Roche

Wednesday, January 11

7:00 a.m. Bob Jones

Thursday, January 12

8:15 a.m. 7th ann Andrew Garwood

Friday, January 13 (St. Hilary)

7:00 a.m. 1st ann Taja Marie Heinrich

Saturday, January 14

4:00 p.m. Paul & Mary Rittenhouse

Sunday, January 15 (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:00 a.m. Larry Kennedy

9:30 a.m. Parish

Servers for Saturday, January 14

4:00 p.m. Volunteers

Servers for Sunday, January 15

7:00 a.m. Tyson Cramer

9:30 a.m. Kate, Drew & Abby Lauritsen

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 Bap-
tism prep class.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Dorothy Gaydos (sister-in-law of Janet
Hurt) and Dennis Anderson (uncle of Kel Krenz), R.I.P. Our sym-
pathy to their families and friends.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

BUCK\$ 4 BOOK\$: Christ Child Society Pontiac Circle, in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week, and in keeping with our commitment to our CCS Literacy Campaign, is sponsoring a **Buck\$ 4 Book\$** campaign. All money raised from this campaign will go directly to St. Mary's School teachers for wish list books for their classrooms. Envelopes will be in the pews the first two weekends of January. Donations will be collected through the month of January. After envelopes are removed from the church, donations can be mailed to the school at 414 N. Main St., Pontiac, IL. 61764. All checks should be made payable to St. Mary's School with a designation to **Buck\$ 4 Book\$**. Please **do not** make cash donations without an envelope.

JOIN US FOR AN EXPLANATORY MASS! Have you ever wondered why we do some of the things we do at Mass? Then join our next RCIA class on **Wednesday, January 11 at 6:15pm** in the church for an explanatory Mass where Fr. Adam will walk us through the Mass parts and their significance.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY SEWING CIRCLE will meet **Thursday, January 12 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.

BOOK BORROWING LIBRARY has been set up in the back vestibule of the church by the Legion of Mary for all to use. On the honor system, you may take home and enjoy books, CDs, DVDs, cassette tapes and videos to assist in your spiritual growth.

Join us for
Praying the Gospels
with **Fr. Mitch Pacwa:**
Jesus' Miracles in Galilee

Groups will run for six weeks on:
Tuesday: 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Tuesday: 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 6:00-7:00 p.m.




To sign up, scan the QR code or contact Kel at krenz.kel@stmaryspontiac.org or 815-419-5027

Groups begin the week of January 9th.

CHALKING THE DOOR
The Epiphany House Blessing

Blessing homes on the feast of the Epiphany is a centuries-old Christian tradition of asking for God's blessing on your home. One way of honoring this tradition is to take a piece of blessed chalk and write the following above or on your home's door:

20 + C + M + B + 23



The "20" and "23" refer to the current year.
The "+" between the letters and numbers symbolize the cross of Christ.
The "C M B" initials represent the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.
It is also popularly believed that the Kings' initials stand for "*Christus mansionem benedict*" ("Christ bless this house").

God of Light, bless our home. Make it a haven of rest for all in need of your warmth and care. And when we go out from this place, may we never lose sight of that Epiphany star. We mark our door with the symbols of the Magi, 20+C+M+B+23. May all who enter throughout the year, find love and light; for Christ has come to dwell in this home and in these hearts. Amen.

ST. MARY'S MEN'S GROUP

SECOND AND FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
7:30-9:00PM

Join in fellowship, Bible study, prayer and discussions relating to challenges for Catholic men in a modern world.

To sign up, scan the QR code or Contact Kel Krenz at krenz.kel@stmaryspontiac.org or 815-419-5027
Meeting location TBD



**As iron sharpens iron,
so one man sharpens another.**
-Proverbs 27:17

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.

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

- January 9 4/5 Boys Basketball at home, 5:30pm
- January 10 7/8 Girls Volleyball at St. Michael-Streator
- January 12 Children's Mass at 8:15am
7/8 Girls Volleyball at home, 5:30pm
- January 14 7/8 Boys Basketball Shootout at Marseilles



2023-2024 TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP
RESERVATION OPENS

RESERVATION OPENS

6:30 PM

CLICK TO SUBMIT

7:00 PM



For more information, visit
EmpowerIllinois.Org/Apply



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 8, 2023

Sunday	The Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
Monday	The Baptism of the Lord Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10; Mt 3:13-17
Tuesday	Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab & 5, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday	Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday	Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday	Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3 & 4bc, 6c-7, 8; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday	Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34



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 JANUARY

For educators: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.



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!



EPIPHANY

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ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILIES THIS YEAR

*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 Jan 9 | Todd & Julie Jacobs Family, Knox Grundler's Family |
| Tues Jan 10 | Bill & Kathy Kallas Family, Leo Kapper's Family |
| Wed Jan 11 | Marshall & Patricia Johnson Family,
McKinlee & Kallen Morgan's Family |
| Thurs Jan 12 | Mike & Joan Kane Family, Sophia Forbes' Family |
| Fri Jan 13 | Bob & Marie Kane Family, Graham Mennenga's Family |
| Mon Jan 16 | Leo Kelly Family, Carol Hepner Family |
| Tues Jan 17 | Jan Kennedy Family, Marie Becker Family |
| Wed Jan 18 | Philip & Michael Ann Kelly Family, Anne Corrigan Family |
| Thurs Jan 19 | Bob & Steph Kennedy Family, Patsy Delheimer Family |
| Fri Jan 20 | Jeff Keller Family, Katy Sartoris Family |



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!

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