

LABOR DAY

Together with a culture of work, there must be a culture of leisure as gratification. To put it another way: people who work must take the time to relax, to be with their families, to enjoy themselves, read, listen to music, play a sport.

Pope Francis



St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
September 3, 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. Joseph A. Baker

fjrbaker@stmaryspontiac.org 309-657-0966

PERMANENT DEACONS:

Dcn. Jim Wallace servant518@outlook.com

Dcn. Ray White deacon.ray@stmaryspontiac.org

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 when school is in session

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: \$10,667.00

School Collection: This weekend.

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

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 2

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

4:00 p.m. Patricia Collette

Sunday, September 3 (22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Randy Brubaker

Monday, September 4 (Labor Day)

8:00 a.m. 39th ann Vincent Murphy

Tuesday, September 5

7:00 a.m. Richard & Lorene Horaney

Wednesday, September 6

7:00 a.m. 1st ann John "Jack" Schaefer

Thursday, September 7

8:15 a.m. Joe & Virginia Smith

Friday, September 8 (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

7:00 a.m. Isabel Vega Eloriaga

Saturday, September 9 (St. Peter Claver)

4:00 p.m. Mary Jo Murphy

Sunday, September 10 (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. 5th ann Sharon Beller

Servers for Saturday, September 9

4:00 p.m. Volunteers

Servers for Sunday, September 10

7:00 a.m. Volunteers

9:30 a.m. Ella Ashcraft, Brooklyn & Kaylee Delheimer

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: The Adoration Chapel is
open each weekday, Monday-Friday from 8am until 8pm and Sat-
urday from 8am until 3pm. 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 have 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 reserve your spot. Baptism
preparation classes will take place on the **third Thursday of each
month at 6:00pm**. *Please do not ask godparents until the class
has been attended, as this will be a topic that is covered.

BABY BOTTLES FOR HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER: We
are still 21 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 Center.

MASS ON LABOR DAY, Monday, September 4, will be at 8am

MASS AT LOCAL NURSING HOME: Mass will be offered at
Accolade Health Center on **Friday, September 8 at 9am**.

PLEASE PRAY FOR parishioner Rita Bolen, R.I.P. Our sym-
pathy to her family and friends.

God Bless America!

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

CCD REGISTRATION: If you have children in Grades K-8 who attend public school, then you will want to sign-up for Religious (CCD) classes to be held on Sundays between the Masses beginning September 10. New registrations welcome! Please call Karen at 815-822-3282 to set up a meeting.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: St. Mary's will offer a vicariate-wide Bereavement Support Group beginning **Monday, September 25 from 6:30-8pm** and ending on November 2 with the All Souls' Mass. The group will meet in the Rosary Room of the parish hall 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 or Margo Law at 815-579-5102.

ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP: All high school students are invited to join us **every Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm beginning September 10**. Youth group meets in the upstairs of the Parish Center (former rectory). Please use the back door. Youth Group will NOT meet Labor Day weekend.

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 SCHOOL QUICK DRAW: You could win money all year long. Tickets are \$25 each and are good for all drawings from September 2023 through May 2024. Prizes of \$200, \$100, or \$50 will be given away five times each month throughout the school year plus three bonus drawings of \$250 each. Every ticket is in every drawing, so there is no limit on a person's chances to win! Tickets can be purchased from any SMS student or call Julie Wenger at 815-252-5947.

THANK YOU: A huge thank you from the WATCH team for a very successful Fanning the Flame Retreat. We appreciate all who were able to attend and made it one of our most well attended one day retreats. We are hoping to catch those whose schedule wouldn't allow them the time with us, will be able to make the next one. The Holy Spirit descended upon the day and filled hearts with an abundance of good graces, love and fellowship. Future dates for our next three-day WATCH retreat will be March 22, 23 and 24. Mark your calendars, pray about it and look for further details as it gets closer.

SANCTUARY CLEANERS FOR SEPTEMBER


Sherri Hatzer, Florence Masching, Mary Timmerman, Darlene Demattia

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS
Friday, September 15

Fr. Joe will offer a special mass on **Friday, September 15 at 5:30pm**, the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows., for all those who have lost a child, including miscarriage. We will offer our sorrow to Our Blessed Mother, Mary, who knows the sorrow of losing her Son. If this pertains to you, please join us as we remember and honor your child. All are welcome to bring a picture of their child and place it in front of the altar for this Mass.

Ready to Bring the Love of Jesus
2023 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Did you know that ADA supports Vocations?



Your son, grandson or nephew may have attended Emmaus Days this year. Or maybe you have a newly ordained priest or transitional deacon in your parish. Did you know that ADA helps with vocation discernment programs like Emmaus Days and with education of our future priests?

Please consider giving to ADA in gratitude for all the graces received through the hands of your parish priests throughout the years.

Give online at www.cdop.org/ada.

Next weekend, September 9-10, we will begin our Annual Diocesan Appeal, which is an opportunity to help the Catholic Diocese of Peoria raise necessary funds for many ministries and apostolates that we as a single parish cannot offer. This week, parishioners throughout the Diocese will receive a mailing asking for a pledge to support the Appeal. The mailing will include a pledge card and a return envelope addressed directly to the Diocese. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge over eight months or a one time gift. We will have pledge cards available in the pews next weekend for those who have not received them in the mail. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish, diocese, and the work of the Church throughout the world.



RCIA

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, be a part of the team, or ask questions, please contact the Parish Center (815-844-7683), Kate Harrold (815-848-1705, kate.russow@gmail.com), or Tyler Shrewsbury (815-674-5569, tshrewsbury94@gmail.com).

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

- September 13, 27
- October 11, 25
- November 8, 15, 29
- December 13
- January 10, 24
- February 7, 14, 28
- March 13, 20
- April 3, 10



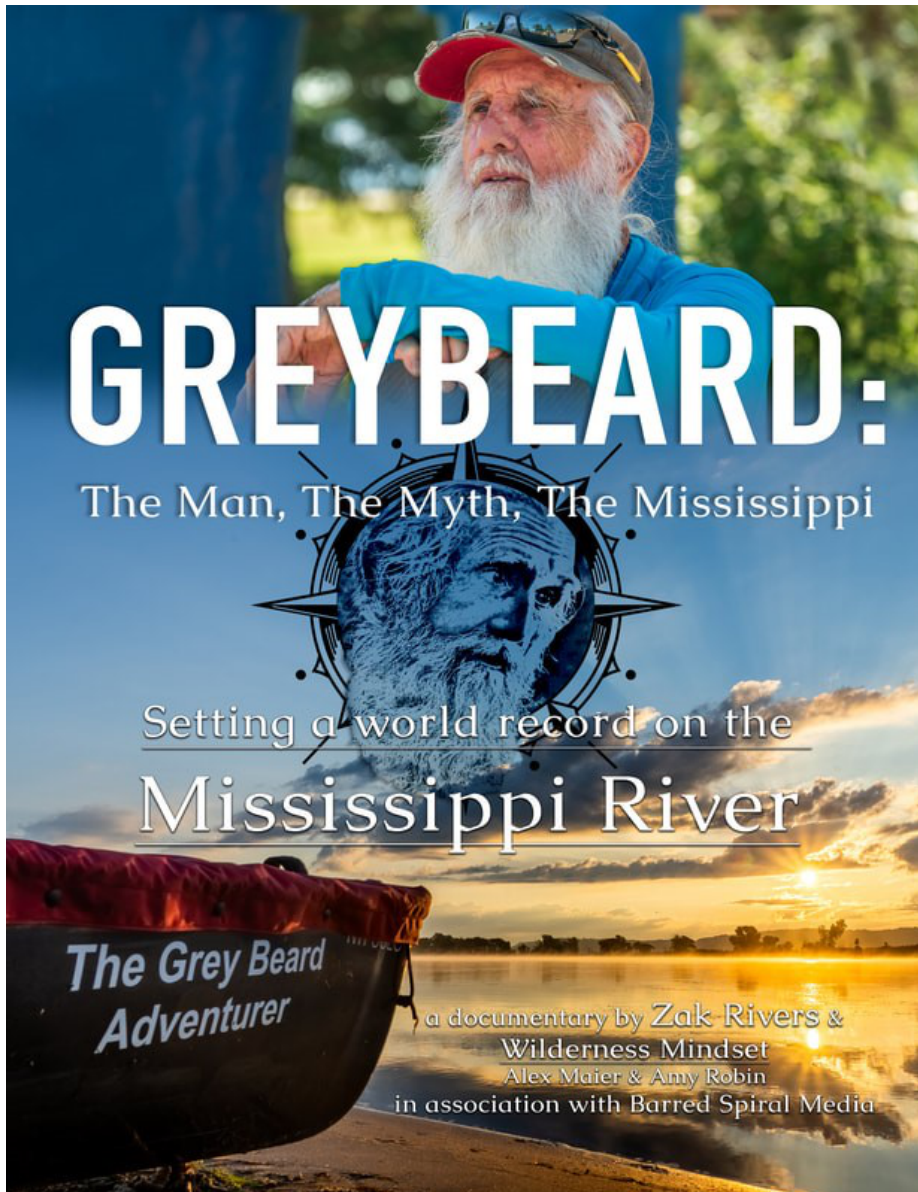
EUCCHARISTIC CORNER

December 2023 will mark the 118th Anniversary of the release of Sacra Tridantina by Pope Pius X - now Pope St. Pius X. Here is just a short excerpt of a meditation on this document from a book entitled, "Mystery of the Altar: Daily Meditations on the Eucharist". I encourage you to ponder this often this week and ask Our Lord to show you what small step(s) or practices you can start to do to bring you and maybe your family in closer relationship with Our Lord in Holy Communion. God Bless!

"Motivated by his extraordinary piety and love of the faith, Pope St. Pius X (1835-1914) fearlessly opposed theological modernism and sought to renew all things in Christ. His devotion to the Blessed Sacrament led him to lower the age of First

Communion from twelve to seven and to exhort the laity to frequent, even daily, reception of Communion. Because the clerics and laity alike feared such liberality, the Pope promulgated Sacra Tridantina, settling the requirements for reception of the Eucharist."

The following are the first 2 recommendations found in Sacra Tridantina. (I would encourage you to read the whole document sometime.) 1) Frequent, even daily, Communion is open to all the faithful who are in the state of grace, and who approach the Sacred Table with right intentions. 2) This condition of mind implies that the Blessed Sacrament should be received not from habit, or vanity, or any worldly motives, but from a desire to please God, to be united to Him in the bonds of charity, and to provide against the various trials and tribulations to which flesh is heir.



SHOWING AT ST. MARY'S PARISH HALL

In honor of the Livingston County Environmental Association's 20th Anniversary, please join us for a FREE presentation of

"Greybeard: The Man, The Myth, The Mississippi."

This full length feature film tells the story of Dale "Greybeard" Sanders and how he set a Guinness World Record as the oldest person (87 years old) to paddle the entire length of the Mississippi River.

Pontiac resident Dan Faust, husband of parishioner Carol Faust, paddled along on this trip.

Both presentations will also feature a live appearance by Dale Sanders himself. Don't miss this opportunity to meet a living legend.

Saturday, September 2
Doors open at 2pm
Movie starts at 3pm

Sunday, September 3
Doors open at 4pm
Movie starts at 5pm

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



Ready to Bring the Love of Jesus
2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As members of the Church, we form part of the Body of Christ. And as such, our heart beats with the Heart of Jesus. Sharing Jesus' love – right here in the “Heart of Illinois” – we can transform our families, our communities, and our world. This is a great blessing; it is also a great responsibility. Our Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA) is one of the ways that we all work together to serve our brothers and sisters out of love for Christ. The theme for the Annual Diocesan Appeal this year is Ready to bring the love of Jesus.

As our Holy Father, Pope Francis, stated, “Mission is at once a passion for Jesus and a passion for His people.” Knowing that there are so many who have yet to encounter Jesus' love for them should compel us all the more to put forth our best efforts to love as Jesus loves. I am grateful for all the ways that I see this happening across our diocese.

I ask for your generous support of the ADA to ensure our efforts of bringing the love of Jesus to others. The good that is accomplished is a direct result of our willingness to respond to the Holy Spirit's promptings to participate in the mission of Jesus. We see this in so many ways. This year, we are blessed to ordain four priests to serve in our parishes. Our Catholic Newman Centers on college campuses are reaching out to many hungry souls to encounter Christ in the Church. The promotion of the dignity of life is as important as ever and we are standing up for the rights of the unborn, the sick, and the elderly. Our Catholic Schools are not only educating our young people, they are also capturing their hearts and minds for Jesus. All of these examples – and many more – are indicative of our passion for Jesus and for His people.

Once again, I ask you to join with me in supporting the ADA through prayer and by making a financial gift. Each day, I carry you in my prayers. My hope for the future is strengthened by knowing that together, we are “Ready to bring the love of Jesus.”

God love you and God bless you!

+The Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Bishop of Peoria

YOUR GIFT IN ACTION

Eucharistic Revival – 17%

- Cathedral
- Divine Worship Office
- Pontifical Liturgies
- High School Eucharistic Conference
- Diocesan Operations*

Vocations – 18%

- Vocations Recruitment
- Seminary Preparation
- Continuing Education for Priests
- Preparation of Permanent Deacons
- Clergy Healthcare
- Clergy Financial Aid
- Diocesan Operations*



Discipleship – 33%

- Retreat Center
- Family Life
- Development
- Newman Centers
- Hispanic Ministry
- Marriage Tribunal
- Diocesan Operations*

Evangelization – 32%

- Catholic Schools
- Respect Life
- Catholic Charities
- Evangelization
- Communications
- The Catholic Post
- Information Management
- Chief of Mission
- Diocesan Operations*

*Diocesan Operations include: Bishop's Office, Chancery, Finance, Human Resources, Spalding Center

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

Sunday	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27
Monday	1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1 & 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13; Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday	Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10, 11; Lk 4:38-44
Thursday	Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Lk 5:1-11
Friday	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6ab, 6c; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or Mt 1:18-23
Saturday	St. Peter Claver Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6 & 8; Lk 6:1-5
Sunday	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Ez 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

ST. PAUL SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT: St. Paul School will host a Family Trivia Night on **Saturday, September 9**, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Odell. Doors will open at 6:30, and questions will begin at 7pm. Due to limited space, reservations are required and can be made by calling or texting Kim Frauli at 815-382-0479. Teams can contain 8-10 people, and the cost is \$10 a person. This event is kid-friendly, and children are welcome to play. In between rounds of questions will be game breaks in which teams also can compete. Food and snacks will be available for purchase. Teams are encouraged to come up with a team name and dress according to their team's theme. A prize will be given for the best-costumed table. If you have any questions, please contact Kim at the number above.

13th ANNUAL VERMILLION RIVER CLEANUP: **Saturday, September 16 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 or visit their website livingstoncountyenvironmental.org.

**THE PARISH DIRECTORIES
ARE HERE!!**

If you had your picture taken, you can pick up your free directory at the parish office, Monday-Thursday 9am to 4pm, Friday 9am to noon.

Extra copies are available to purchase for \$20 each



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

For people living on the margins: We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.



**CATHOLIC
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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 & 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

Catholic Spirit Radio has a new free app.

They upgraded so that listeners with newer phones, tablets, and other listening devices can access Catholic Spirit Radio programs and podcasts.

Go to Google Play or Apple App store to find the new app:

Catholic Spirit Talk Radio.

New App - Same Quality Catholic Programs!



I am making another pilgrimage to the Holy Land beginning October 1, 2024 and I am inviting you to join me. This is the same trip I took last time so

I am no longer a rookie. It was a beautiful experience. I hope to have the same guide and bus driver who made the pilgrimage a spiritually strengthening and fun-filled trip. I made many new friends and hope to make more this trip. Instead of printing out information and applications, I will email you the info so you can look at it in the comfort of your own home. Email me at fr.david.sabel@gmail.com if you want the information you need to make an informed decision. You can also catch me at church or call the office. Let the Holy Land and Our Lord build your faith!

Fr. David



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

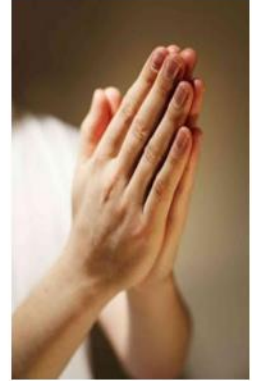
PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILIES THIS YEAR

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 Sept 4 | Ron & Kim Schulz Family, Chase, Rhys, & Olivia Carley Family |
| Tues Sept 5 | Nancy Schneeman Family, Parker & Kash Casner Family |
| Wed Sept 6 | Mary Lynn Schopp Family, Caroline & Evelyn Cavanagh Family |
| Thurs Sept 7 | Bill & Karen Schulz Family, Kasen Ward Family |
| Fri Sept 8 | Chris & Jan Schneider Family, Emmett Fornero Family |
| Mon Sept 11 | Brad Schwahn Family, Knox & Tucker Grundler Family |
| Tues Sept 12 | Ray & Sue Schnell Family, Addison & Leo Hassinger Family |
| Wed Sept 13 | Theresa Schopp Family, Annie Vogt Family |
| Thurs Sept 14 | Marianne Schwahn Family, Henry Schopp Family |
| Fri Sept 15 | Bryan & Susan Schweigert Family,
Liam, Brooks & Finley Lawrence Family |



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!

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