

# 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous? Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Matthew 20:15-16

The Pharisees Question Jesus by James Tissot, between 1886 & 1894 © Diocesan

# St. Mary's Catholic Church Pontiac, Illinois September 24, 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 frjbaker@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 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

**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 <u>tissiere.taryn@stmaryspontiac.org</u> or 815-979-7663.



#### STEWARDSHIP

Collection last Sunday: \$12,487.00

Building Maintenance Collection was \$2,219.00.

School Collection: Next weekend.

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

# Aass Intentions

Saturday, September 23 (St. Pius of Pietrelcina) 4:00 p.m. Robert A. Legner Sunday, September 24 (25th Sunday in Ordinary Time) 7:00 a.m. Parish 9:30 a.m. 2nd ann Robert Harty Monday, September 25 7:00 a.m. Jean Jones Tuesday, September 26 (Sts. Cosmas & Damian) 7:00 a.m. Robert Trainor Wednesday, September 27 (St. Vincent de Paul) 7:00 a.m. Fayetta Thorne Thursday, September 28 (St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz & companions) 8:15 a.m. Jose Gonzalez Friday, September 29 (Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels) 7:00 a.m. Germaine Knudsen Saturday, September 30 (St. Jerome) 4:00 p.m. George Woll Sunday, October 1 (26th Sunday in Ordinary Time) 7:00 a.m. Parish 9:30 a.m. 15th ann Betty Murphy Servers for Saturday, September 30 4:00 p.m. Sean Finnegan Servers for Sunday, October 1

7:00 a.m. Volunteers 9:30 a.m. Finan, Rosie & Ryann Krenz

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:** The Adoration Chapel is open each weekday, Monday-Friday from 8am until 8pm and Saturday 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 18 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.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Deanna Lynn Polen**, a resident of Accolade Health Center, who was recently baptized and confirmed as a member of our faith.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Rachel Germain (daughter of Wayne Germain) and Delores Sabel (aunt of Fr. David Sabel), R.I.P. Our sympathy to their families and friends.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS NOW AVAILABLE. TALK TO FR. JOE IF NEEDED.

#### **SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**

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



#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST

Sunday, September 24 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the parish hall

Scrambled eggs, breakfast casserole, sausage patties, pancakes & drink

\$10 per person \$40 family maximum

PLEASE JOIN US!



This breakfast is being held in lieu of our annual Tootsie Roll Drive with all proceeds going to those with intellectual disabilities in our community.

**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.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY SEWING CIRCLE will meet Thursday, September 28 from 9am to 12:30pm in the parish hall.

**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 are being held on Sundays between the Masses and began on September 10. New registrations welcome! Please call Karen at 815-822-3282 to set up a meeting.

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

**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.

**DISHES LEFT BEHIND FROM FUNERAL DINNERS:** The following parishioners have a dish to claim from a funeral dinner. The hall will be open this Sunday for the KC Breakfast. Please stop in to pick up your dish: Kelli Trainor, M. Baker, Sue Smith, Joanne Coriell, Mary Timmerman, Brenda Shaughnessy, Paula Rosenbaum, Jane Kuerth, Jamie Drilling, and many more with no names.

**RCIA CLASSES HAVE BEGUN BUT YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP:** If you would like to learn more about becoming Catholic, contact the parish office at 815-844-7683.

Ready to Bring the Love of Jesus 2023 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL Did you know that ADA supports Discipleship? Do you worry about our young people losing their faith in college? Newman Centers are places where they can get to know Jesus on a deeper level and accept His invitation to become His disciples. Among our priests and religious are many who found their vocation while at a Newman Center. Other students experience Catholic Faith for the first time in one of our five Newman Centers and decide to become Catholic. Your ADA gift has no small impact - it helps shape our future generations. Give online at www.cdop.org/ada.

The 2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal is now underway in our parish. Thank you to all who have already pledged to the appeal. No gift is too small, and our parish is trying to reach 100% participation. If you received your pledge card in the mail, please complete it and mail it back to the diocese. If you did not receive a card in the mail, there are pledge cards at the doors of the church that can be returned in the collection basket. Our goal this year is \$89,801. Every dollar raised over our goal will be returned to our parish.

### 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

#### LECTORS FOR OCTOBER

4:00pm Earline Devito

7:00am Beth Legner

9:30am Nick Milhauser, Nanette Marx

**EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS FOR OCTOBER** 

4:00pm Joanne Coriell, Mary Timmerman, Mary Lynn Schopp

- 7:00am Bryan & Susan Schweigert
- 9:30am Jenn Murphy, Debbie Alsdorf, Katie Wille

#### GREETERS & USHERS FOR OCTOBER

- 4:00pm Joanne Coriell, Lynn DiNardi, Jim Sporrer
- 7:00am Linda & Betty Benedino, Don Verdun
- 9:30am Joyce Ashcraft, Pat Hepperly, Vic & Victor Johns, Dan Smith, Megan & Jacob Lauritsen

SANCTUARY CLEANERS FOR OCTOBER Dianne Hanley, Joan Duffy, Nanette Marx, Linda Rhodes Dear Parishioners.

The last couple weeks several people have commented on the "new" monstrance in our Adoration Chapel, seen in the picture taken by Sue Smith (thanks, Sue!). The comments I've heard have been unanimous that the monstrance is truly beautiful. I happen to agree, but I wanted to let you know where the monstrance and



some of the other items that have recently shown up at our Masses came from.

Shortly after coming here I went out to St. John's Church in Cullom which, as you know, is unfortunately no longer in use. Looking around out there I noticed a plethora of beautiful items, such as the monstrance now in our adoration chapel, candle sticks, other crosses, sacred vessels, vestments, etc. All these items have been sitting unused in a closet or box for multiple years. Seeing how beautiful they are and also knowing that, in some cases, dedicated parishioners of St. John's purchased them for sacred use, I thought it would be most fitting to bring them to St. Mary's and use them as originally intended.

In the case of the monstrance, St. Mary's was already blessed to have a very beautiful one, though of a different style than the one from Cullom. It's recommended that priests consecrate a new host every month or two to be used in adoration so that the same host doesn't stay in the monstrance for long periods of time. When we go through this process, it's



known as Renewing the Blessed Sacrament, and the previous host is simply broken up at a Mass and consumed by the priest or the faithful when they receive Holy Communion. As such, I've decided to begin renewing the Blessed Sacrament each month at our First Saturday Mass. My intention is to then alternate monstrances we use in our adoration chapel by consecrating a new host for our original monstrance at our next First Saturday Mass and then placing that monstrance in our chapel for the next month. When the first Saturday of November comes, I'll do the same thing again, only that time we'll switch back to the monstrance from Cullom. In operating in this fashion we'll have an opportunity to pray in front of both monstrances and will just switch them out once a month!

On an entirely unrelated note, I would also like to posthumously thank Janet Hurt who at her passing left a generous gift of an Inherited IRA to St. Mary's Church. The IRA is currently valued at around \$14,000 and is counted toward our parish's extraordinary income, meaning it's not taxed by the diocese but is given entirely to our community. We are most grateful to Janet, who as many are aware, had one of the most beautiful deaths imaginable. Her gift, and others like it, are a testament to the strong community and family that St. Mary's Church has been for more than 150 years and will continue to be for many years into the future.

I wish you many blessings in this final week of September, Fr. Joe



Bishop Lou Tylka has established five foundations on which to build the future of the Diocese of Peoria, to become an even more vibrant, mission-driven and sustainable Church. The five foundations are: empower evangelization, so as to share the saving name of Jesus, inspire discipleship in each baptized follower of Jesus, strengthen vocations to the priesthood and religious life, deepen our awareness of the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and continue the legacy of Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

Growing Disciples is designed to help Catholics build these foundations. It's a multiyear pastoral planning process for the Catholic Diocese of Peoria to renew discipleship and enhance relationships with Jesus Christ

in every corner of our region. The Bishop will be examining the current structure of parishes in the diocese to evaluate how they can best meet the needs of the faithful and address challenges facing the Church today.

The first round of draft parish models for parish planning areas was designed to gather feedback about which communities it made sense to bring together under one pastor. The Bishop has received feedback from pastors, priests, the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Commission, which includes lay leaders from each vicariate, Key Parish Leaders and other diocesan leaders.

Based on the feedback, and after review of the parish sacramental trends, building conditions, finances and other parish data from every parish in the Diocese, the Growing Disciples Core Team, made up of parish priests, the Director of Vocations, the Chief of Mission, the Director of Information Management and members of the Catholic Leadership Institute, has refined the first set of draft parish models to create a second set of draft models, which will be shared with pastors, priests, deacons, Key Parish Leaders and the lay faithful for their feedback.

Priests have provided their feedback for the proposed second draft models through a series of focus groups. Parishes will now host meetings to present the second draft models and gather feedback from parishioners throughout the month of October. This feedback is important and will aid the Bishop in making a well-informed decision for the spiritual well-being of the diocese, looking at the input of the people and the needs of the diocese. The Bishop's decision will be made public by Pentecost (May 2024).

Please check out cdop.org/pastoral-plan for more information, and please continue to pray that all our efforts today will bear fruit for a brighter tomorrow.

#### **SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**

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



## **ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST**

"The soul hungers for God, and nothing but God can satiate it. Therefore He came to dwell on earth and assumed a Body in order that this Body might become the Food of our souls." -St. John Vianney

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sunday, September 24 after 7:00 and 9:30 Masses Eucharistic Video in the parish hall at the Knights of Columbus Breakfast Sunday, October 15 after 9:30 Mass Coffee/Donuts/Eucharistic Video in the MPR (old gym) Tuesday, November 7 at 6:00pm Holy Hour in Church with Diocese of Peoria Traveling Monstrance



815.842.2484 or www.pontiachope.org

### Speaker: Kelly Lester

SCAN TO RSVP



"Have you had enough?" It was just four words, but it was a turning point question in Kelly Lester's life. For 15 years, Kelly had been running from the Lord, desperate to fill the hurting places in her heart with men, drugs, and every other kind of coping mechanism. But after nearly losing her life in a violent domestic fight, Kelly came to a place of surrender to the question God was asking of her. But God. do you know the things I've done?

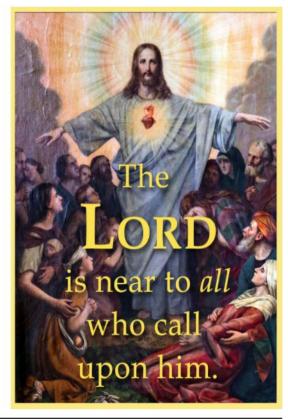
asking of her. But God, do you know the things I've done? "Yes, Kelly, but if you follow me, I will make beauty from ashes." Kelly's story is one that covers so many difficult and painful topics in our world

Kelly's story is one that covers so many difficult and painful topics in our world today. Child molestation, raped as a teen, several abortions, drug dealing, eating disorders, homosexuality, pornography, prostitution, and even working in the

disorders, homosexuality, pornography, prostitution, and even working in the clinic where she had her first abortion. But beauty triumphs from the ashes, and Kelly is a testament to how God can clean all the dirty parts of a painful life story and make it brand new. Now a wife and mother of six children, Kelly loves to share her story to give hope to the most desperate situations proving that God can save anybody.

She is currently a client advocate for LoveLine Ministries, works in Outreach and Government Engagement for And Then There Were None and Pro-Love Ministries, and a board member for Village Ansanm: Living Stones Ministries.





#### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**

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Sunday	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	ls 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18;	
	Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a	
Monday	Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6;	
	Lk 8:16-18	
Tuesday	Sts. Cosmas and Damian Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20;	
	Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Lk 8:19-21	
Wednesday	St. Vincent de Paul Ezr 9:5-9;	
	Tobit 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6	
Thursday	St. Wenceslaus & St. Lawrence Ruiz	
	Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a & 9b; Lk 9:7-9	
Friday	Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels	
	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab; Ps 138:1-2ab,	
	2cde-3, 4-5; Jn 1:47-51	
Saturday	St. Jerome Zec 2:5-9. 14-15a;	
	Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45	
Sunday	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Phil 2:1-11 or	
	Phil 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32	



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 <u>fr.david.sabel@gmail.com</u> 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* 



#### 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 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 & 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

#### 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!

#### **BIBLE STUDY AT CATHOLIC SPIRIT RADIO**

Why attend Mass? Our very lives depend on it! It's the summit of God's plan for our salvation. So where do we find the Mass in the Bible? What's the relationship between the two? *Parousia: The Bible and the Mass*, an interesting and informative 10-lesson video-study featuring Scott Hahn, answers these questions and more. Sign up for this Bible Study hosted by Catholic Spirit Radio. It begins **Thursday October 12 at 6:30pm**. Attend in-person at Catholic Spirit Radio (108 Boeykens Place in Normal) or participate using "Zoom" program. \$25 materials fee. Contact Tony Pecora (309-750-9062) for registration and to pay by September 30.

#### HELP SAVE OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM!

The "Invest in Kids" Illinois tax credit scholarship program provides income-eligible families with critical scholarships to private schools like St. Mary's. Over the last five years, this program has provided dozens of scholarships to SMS students. Unfortunately, this program is due to expire at the end of this calendar year. We need your help! Please scan this QR code to send an email to your state legislator asking them to 'remove the sunset' so this program does not expire.



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#### **SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**

## 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 25	Kelly Shoemaker Family, Crew Spaniol Family	
Tues Sept 26	Harry & Pat Simpson Family,	
_	Nora, Wilson & Otis Sweitzer Family	170
Wed Sept 27	Humberto & Rosa Serna Family, Josie & Noah Wenger Family	
Thurs Sept 28	Karen Sholders Family, Olivia & Eli Miller Family	
Fri Sept 29	Tim & Rebecca Shafer Family, Sophia & Jozie Brannan Family	
Mon Ôct 2	John & Linda Shrewsbury Family, Bailey & Chloe Cox Family	1111
Tues Oct 3	Jean Smetzer Family, Harper Francis Family	121
Wed Oct 4	Dan & Rose Smith Family, Madyson & Dominik Herkert Family	
Thurs Oct 5	Tyler & Brooke Shrewsbury Family,	
	Izzy, Evelyn & Myers Hinz Family	
Fri Oct 6	Eldon & Nancy Smith Family,	
	Alexis, Adam & Amelia Legner Family	

## MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!



