

**31<sup>st</sup>** Sunday  
*in Ordinary Time*

“Whoever exalts himself will be humbled;  
but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

*Matthew 23:12*

© Diocesan

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
**Pontiac, Illinois**  
**November 5, 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](http://www.stmaryspontiac.org)

Facebook: St. Mary's Parish-Pontiac

PASTOR: Fr. Joseph A. Baker

[fjrbaker@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:fjrbaker@stmaryspontiac.org) 309-657-0966

PERMANENT DEACONS:

Dcn. Jim Wallace [servant518@outlook.com](mailto:servant518@outlook.com)

Dcn. Ray White [deacon.ray@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:deacon.ray@stmaryspontiac.org)

PARISH SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER: Patti Zehr

[zehr.patti@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:zehr.patti@stmaryspontiac.org)

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR: Danielle Gill

[gill.danielle@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:gill.danielle@stmaryspontiac.org)

EVANGELICAL CATHOLIC COORDINATOR: Margo Law

[law.margo@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:law.margo@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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:tissiere.taryn@stmaryspontiac.org) or 815-979-7663.



## STEWARDSHIP

Collection last Sunday: \$15,159.59

School Collection: This weekend.

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

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish.



## Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 4 (St. Charles Borromeo)

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

4:00 p.m. Charlene Austraco

Sunday, November 5 (31st Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Margaret Trainor

Monday, November 6

7:00 a.m. John F. Schopp

Tuesday, November 7

7:00 a.m. Frank Duff, founder of Legion of Mary

Wednesday, November 8

7:00 a.m. Melinda Vallow

Thursday, November 9 (Dedication of the Lateran Basilica)

8:15 a.m. Rita Schaeffer

Friday, November 10 (St. Leo the Great, pope)

7:00 a.m. 1st ann Irene Fraher

Saturday, November 11 (St. Martin of Tours)

4:00 p.m. George Renner

Sunday, November 12 (32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. John DiNardi

Servers for Saturday, November 11

4:00 p.m. Sean Finnegan

Servers for Sunday, November 12

7:00 a.m. Volunteers

9:30 a.m. Payton Rogers, Abe Jean Jacques, Hudson Simmons

**EUCCHARISTIC 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.

**DO YOU FEEL CALLED TO LEAD OUR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH?** We are in need of an individual, or perhaps a married couple, to lead our high school youth group program. If interested, or if you have any questions, please contact Fr. Joe.

**7:00AM SUNDAY LECTORS NEEDED:** Anyone interested in being a lector at the 7am Sunday Masses, please contact Bernie Timmerman at 815-822-2961.

**MASS AT LOCAL NURSING HOME:** Mass will be offered at Accolade Health Center on **Friday, November 10 at 9:30am**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** parishioner Mary Jo Corrigan, R.I.P. Our sympathy to her family and friends.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the parents and family of **Violet Therese Matthews**, daughter of Chris & Isabelle Matthews, who was recently baptized as a member of our faith.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



Our congratulations to the following students who will be confirmed this Sunday, November 5 at a special 1:00pm Mass.

Ella Ashcraft	Tiffany Legner
Gregory Bradshaw	Noelle Logan
Aden Brummel	Lucas Maier
Bevin Brummel	Lanie McGuckin
Chloe Cox	Leo Ramirez
Brooklyn Delheimer	Payton Rogers
Jack DeYoung	Azul Romero
Carter Doughan	Ivan Romero
Harper Francis	Gavin Schaidle
Christopher Gray	Josephine Stock
Maggie Harmon	Genevieve Stock
Brady Hart	Brylee Taylor
Madyson Herkert	Gavin Wehri
Isabella Hinz	McKenna Woodcock
Katherine Lauritsen	Jalene Woolford
Alexis Legner	

A CELEBRATION OF BLESSINGS

PARISH THANKSGIVING DINNER

Sunday, November 12

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

St. Mary's Parish Hall

Please use the Main Street door or enter from the east at the courtyard between the buildings. Carryouts use Chicago Street entrance.

Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, sweet potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce, roll, dessert & drink

\$10 for adults

\$5 for children Grades 1-8

Free for children 5 and under

\$30 family max—immediate household

Silent Auctions & 50/50 Drawing

Need not be present to win



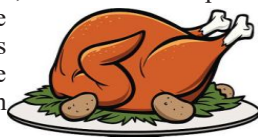
HOSTED BY ST. MARY'S WOMEN'S GUILD

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

**VETERANS DAY PROGRAM:** Calling all Veterans and their families! St. Mary's Student Council invites you to their annual Veterans Day Program on Friday, November 10 at 2pm in the gym. We are creating a slideshow of local Veterans and would like to include yourself or others. Please send pictures to Mrs. Corrigan via email at [corrigan.anne@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:corrigan.anne@stmaryspontiac.org) and include with the photo your name, branch of service, and years of service. Also, if any Veteran would like to come in to read a story to any of the younger classes on November 10, please email Jordi Cavanagh, [cavanagh.jordi@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:cavanagh.jordi@stmaryspontiac.org), or Mrs. Jones, [jones.karen@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:jones.karen@stmaryspontiac.org). Thank you for your service!

**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 FOOD PANTRY TURKEY PROJECT:** You can provide a turkey for a family in need. Special envelopes will be available at all Masses over the next couple weekends. St. Mary's Pantry hopes to distribute approximately 200 frozen turkeys to pantry patrons in November in time for a nice Thanksgiving meal. Any additional dollars collected will be used to buy other Thanksgiving dinner items such as canned sweet potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, gravy, chicken broth, pie filling, canned cranberries, etc. Donations of these kinds of food items may be dropped off at the pantry on Thursdays from 9am-3 pm. Thank you for your support!



**VOLUNTEERS & FOOD NEEDED FOR PARISH THANKSGIVING DINNER:** Workers, as well as desserts and food items are needed for our dinner on Nov 12. Please go to:

[www.stmaryspontiac.org](http://www.stmaryspontiac.org) and scroll down to

"What's Happening at St Mary's"

Use the arrows to find the Thanksgiving link to sign up. If you do not have a computer or are having trouble signing up, please call Bernie Timmerman at 815-822-2961 to sign up with your times or food donations. If donating a pie, it would be appreciated if it was in a non-returnable container in case someone wants to purchase a whole pie. Thank you for your help!

**BOOTIE TREE:** The Christ Child Society will have a Christmas tree in the parish hall on November 12 (at the Thanksgiving Dinner), adorned with "booties" for needy babies. Please take a bootie (or 2 or 3), purchase the item on the bootie, then return the bootie and item to the bin in the back vestibule no later than November 26. Please do not wrap the gift. Sizes needed are newborn and preemie. Thank you for your help.

**BOUTIQUE TABLE:** The Christ Child Society will also have a Boutique Table at the Thanksgiving Dinner with handmade items that can be purchased to help fund the work of the Society in providing layettes to newborns in need. There will also be a quilt, made by one of the talented members of the Society, that will be up for raffle.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS STATE OF ILLINOIS VOCATIONS RAFFLE:** Raffle tickets to support the Knights of Columbus State of Illinois Vocations Program are available at all doors of the church. A book of 15 tickets is \$15 with a chance to win \$10,000! Take a book and return it to the collection basket the following weekend with your check made payable to Knights of Columbus. Proceeds from this raffle will allow us to support seminarians from our Diocese who are needed to help make our churches strong and lead our Church into the future. If you have any questions, please call Mark Corrigan at 815-848-3066.

## 2024-2025 NEW FAMILY INFORMATION

### Class Size and Admission Priority:

We do expect that our preschool and kindergarten classes will reach capacity with a waiting list next fall. All applications will be prioritized according to the Admission Priority listed on our website.

### Schedule a Visit:

All new families are required to visit St. Mary's School/Little Disciples Preschool prior to registration in January. Current visit times available are:

November 8: 9:00, 9:30, 10:30, and 11:00 am

November 10: 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am

### For more Information:

[school.stmaryspontiac.org](http://school.stmaryspontiac.org)  
or 815-844-6585



## 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.



Attention SMS Alums: Did you or your children graduate from St. Mary's School? Help us keep our alumni database current by sending us contact information for SMS graduates. Go to [school.stmaryspontiac.org](http://school.stmaryspontiac.org) and click on "Alumni". Thank you!



ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

Dear Parishioners,

As Christian believers, we profess Jesus is always with us, and He is with us in no more profound manner than in the Holy Eucharist. As Dt. 4:7 asks rhetorically, "What great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us?" The answer professed by all Christian believers of Churches that trace their roots back to the Apostles (both Catholic and Orthodox) is that no nation is closer to God than we are! We are the closest people to God, particularly when Jesus' Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity is united to our own frail human bodies when we receive the Eucharist in Holy Communion! No other nation has a god so near as the Lord our God is to us!

Despite this, many statistics point toward a decline in Eucharistic belief and devotion, so as I've shared previously, the bishops of the USA have initiated a three year program, called a *Eucharistic Revival running through summer 2024, with the goal of inviting people back into a profound, personal relationship with our Eucharistic Lord.*

As a part of the Eucharistic Revival, the Diocese of Peoria commissioned a special diocesan monstrance which is traveling throughout our diocese and has been on display at special Holy Hours in every parish in the 26 countries of the diocese. This *traveling monstrance, as it's called, began at our Cathedral in Peoria on Monday November 7, 2022 and will conclude at St. Philomena's parish in Peoria on the evening of Thursday June 27, 2024.*

**This week the Traveling Monstrance is with us at St. Mary's through this coming Tuesday evening, November 7, when we will host a holy hour in the church at 6pm. In the time prior to our Holy Hour on Tuesday, you can see the monstrance in our adoration chapel. You can see the full schedule of the traveling monstrance and other dates of Holy Hours in our area at this link: [cdop.org/eucharisticrevival/traveling-monstrance/](http://cdop.org/eucharisticrevival/traveling-monstrance/). I invite you to consider attending the Holy Hour on November 7. The evening will include a brief reflection on the Eucharist, some additional prayers, time for silent prayer in front of the Eucharist and conclude with benediction.**

If you've never been to something like this, and especially if you're reading this and thinking "That sounds nice, but I'm not into that sort of thing," or maybe you're thinking, "I don't even know what a Holy Hour or a monstrance are," then I challenge YOU especially: Come to this event. Delve into this Catholic Tradition. Sit before Jesus who is present in the Blessed Sacrament. He'll teach you what you need to know. You may be surprised to hear the Eucharistic Lord speak to you. You just may encounter Him in a new way for the first time in your life.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes what we have believed for nearly 2,000 years, "**The Eucharist is 'the source and summit' of the Christian life.** The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it."

In this Eucharistic Revival and in the traveling monstrance of our diocese, may this essential belief be revived within the souls of many who will allow Jesus to touch their hearts. I hope to see you Tuesday!

Fr. Joe

FROM THE PASTOR'S

DESK



## ***HOLY HOUR WITH THE TRAVELING MONSTRANCE*** ***Tuesday, November 7 at 6:00pm***

The evening will include a brief reflection on the Eucharist, some additional prayers, time for silent prayer in front of the Eucharist and conclude with benediction. Please join us!



## ***ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST***

The bread and the wine of the Lord's table, not sensibly but intellectually, not by destruction but by assumption, not through the door of the flesh contrary to the Scriptures, but according to the scriptures, are changed into the whole body and blood of Christ...We believe that nothing is contained in the whole which is not in each separate part.

*Guitmund of Aversa (d. 1090)*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Tuesday, November 7 at 6:00pm

Holy Hour in Church with Diocese of Peoria Traveling Monstrance

If you have never been to Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction or are curious about what it even is, come! Bring the family! We'll see you there!!

Saturday, November 18 after 4:00 Mass

Wine/Cheese/Crackers/Eucharistic Video in the MPR (old gym)

Saturday (12/2) & Sunday (12/3): Atrium Open House after all Masses

Saturday (12/9) & Sunday (12/10): Nativity Walk in the MPR after all Masses

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 5, 2023

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10; Ps 131:1, 2, 3; 1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13; Mt 23:1-12
<b>Monday</b>	Rom 11:29-36; Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36; Lk 14:12-14
<b>Tuesday</b>	Rom 12:5-16ab; Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3; Lk 14:15-24
<b>Wednesday</b>	Rom 13:8-10; Ps 112:1b-2,4-5, 9; Lk 14:25-33
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome</b> Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22
<b>Friday</b>	<b>St. Leo the Great, Pope</b> Rom 15:14-21; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Lk 16:1-8
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Martin of Tours</b> Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11; Lk 16:9-15
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; 1 Thes 4:13-18 or 1 Thes 4:13-14; Mt 25:1-13

**HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Come volunteer with OSF Hospice! We have a variety of opportunities that help serve our patients and their families. Available opportunities: visiting with patients, crocheting prayer shawls, sewing fidget blankets, office help etc. Training is provided. For more information on requirements or to obtain an application please call 309-451-5925 Ext 7 or email [Mary.Cox@osfhealthcare.org](mailto:Mary.Cox@osfhealthcare.org).



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](http://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 NOVEMBER**

**For the Pope:** We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.



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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](http://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**

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**2023 ANNUAL  
DIOCESAN APPEAL**

Thanks to all who have 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: \$89,801**  
**Pledged to date: \$47,996 (as of Sept. 29)**





**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 Nov 6 Matt & Charlotte Stock Family, Greg Bradshaw Family
- Tues Nov 7 Brian Studnicki Family, Jack DeYoung Family
- Wed Nov 8 Douglas & Patty Swartz Family, Chris Gray Family
- Thurs Nov 9 Mark & Tricia Stoeckel Family,  
Kate, Jacob & Grace Lauritsen Family
- Fri Nov 10 Dave & Mary Jo Sullivan Family, Lanie McGuckin Family
- Mon Nov 13 Mike & Angie Sweeting Family, Gavin Wehri Family
- Tues Nov 14 Sabrina Stotler Family, Henry Yedinak Family
- Wed Nov 15 Dennis & Nancy Sullivan Family,  
Harlow & Hadley Noonan Family
- Thurs Nov 16 Keith & Judy Sypult Family, Conner Trachsel Family
- Fri Nov 17 Scott & Madeline Stover Family, Avery & Cecilia Alsdorf Family



**MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!**

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for the Parish."*

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