

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
**Pontiac, Illinois**  
**December 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](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

**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: \$10,004.25**

**Bishop's Seminarian Appeal** was \$1,321.00.

**School Collection:** This weekend.

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



*Mass Intentions*

**Saturday, December 2**

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

4:00 p.m. Ray Broerman

**Sunday, December 3 (First Sunday of Advent)**

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Chuck Landrus

**Monday, December 4 (St. John Damascene)**

7:00 a.m. 9th ann Ron Paris

**Tuesday, December 5**

7:00 a.m. Evelyn Ribordy

**Wednesday, December 6 (St. Nicholas)**

7:00 a.m. 4th ann Pat Mullen

**Thursday, December 7 (St. Ambrose)**

7:00 a.m. Angela Brady

5:30 p.m. Jo Reilly

**Friday, December 8 (Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**

7:00 a.m. John Gschwendtner

8:15 a.m. 2nd ann Lori Bristow

5:30 p.m. Parish

**Saturday, December 9 (St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin)**

4:00 p.m. Grace & Elmo DeJaynes

**Sunday, December 10 (Second Sunday of Advent)**

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Mary Caviezel

**Servers for Saturday, December 9**

4:00 p.m. Sean Finnegan

**Servers for Sunday, December 10**

7:00 a.m. Volunteers

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

**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.

**MASS AT LOCAL NURSING HOME:** Mass will be offered at  
Goldwater Care on **Friday, December 8 at 9:00am**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Dolores Roberts (great aunt of Fr. Joe  
Baker), R.I.P. Our sympathy to her family and friends.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF  
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**MASS TIMES**

**Thursday, December 7**

Pontiac 5:30pm

Lexington 5:30pm

Chatsworth 6pm

**Friday, December 8**

Pontiac 7am, 8:15am, 5:30pm

Flanagan 6pm

Chenoa 7pm



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

**ADVENT DIVINE MERCY SERVICE:** All are invited to celebrate Advent by attending a Pontiac Vicariate-wide Divine Mercy Service on **Sunday, December 10 at 5:00 pm** at **St. Joseph Church in Chenoa**. The Illinois Wesleyan choir, under the direction of Dr. Scott Ferguson, will provide beautiful music for this prayer service where we will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and have confession and benediction.

**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.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST**

**Sunday, December 3  
7:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
in the parish hall**

Pancakes with topping bar, Breakfast Casserole,  
French Toast Casserole, Sausage and drink.

\$10 per person, \$40 family maximum.

**"PURPLE IS FOR PREPARATION"  
ATRIUM ADVENT FAMILY EVENT**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 IN THE  
PARISH HALL IMMEDIATELY  
FOLLOWING 9:30 MASS**

**YOUR CHILD CAN SHARE WITH YOU THE  
ATRIUM WORKS INCLUDING THE LITURGICAL  
CALENDAR AND LITURGICAL COLORS.  
WE WILL HAVE SOME TABLES AND CRAFTS  
TO KICK OFF ADVENT.**

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WILL ALSO BE  
SERVING BREAKFAST. ALL ARE WELCOME!**

The Atrium can use old Christmas and Easter cards with holy and beautiful images. They can also use scrapbooking paper with classic or solid design, embroidery scissors, crafting felt of all colors, and Catholic religious items received in the mail, but no longer wanted. There will be some cutting work for parishioners if you want to watch for Ziploc bags in the back of church in the coming weeks.

★ ★ OUR ★ ★  
**MILITARY**  
**KIDS**

St. Mary's Student Council will be having a Bake Sale on **Sunday, December 3** during the Knights of Columbus Breakfast. The money raised from the bake sale will be going to "Our Military Kids". This organization is the Illinois Association of Junior High Student Council State Service project this year. St. Mary's Kate Lauritsen is the Mideast District Representative that presented this project to the IAJHSC board and won. Let's help support a worthy cause!



**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.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE: Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m.** in the church. Extra priests will be on hand to help with individual confessions.

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES**

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Pontiac</b>   | <b>4:00 &amp; 8:00 pm</b> |
| <b>Lexington</b> | <b>4:00 pm</b>            |
| <b>Flanagan</b>  | <b>6:00 pm</b>            |
| <b>Chenoa</b>    | <b>8:00 pm</b>            |

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES**

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Pontiac</b>    | <b>7:00 &amp; 9:30 am</b> |
| <b>Lexington</b>  | <b>9:00 am</b>            |
| <b>Chatsworth</b> | <b>10:00 am</b>           |
| <b>Chenoa</b>     | <b>11:00 am</b>           |

**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** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

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



## 2024-2025 REGISTRATION DATES

### Kindergarten

- Registration for current PreK4 students and current SMS families begins 12/4/23.
- New family registration begins 1/10/24.

### 4-year old PreK

- Registration for current PreK3 students and current SMS families begins 12/4/23.
- New family registration begins 1/10/24.

### 3-year old PreK

- Registration for current SMS families begins 3/1/24.
- New family registration begins 4/3/24.

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



## HARVEST MASS

*Tuesday, December 12  
5:30 pm in Blackstone*



To celebrate another beautiful year of prosperity for our farmers of the Pontiac Vicariate, we want to thank God for all the blessings that Our Lord has endowed upon us. We will celebrate this by having a Harvest Mass for the farmers of our churches on **Tuesday, December 12, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, at the John Duffy Farm (address: 16383 East 3200 North Road, Blackstone, IL)** The service will begin with the rosary of our Blessed Mother at 5.30pm with Mass at 6pm. After Mass, we will have a fellowship meal as a farming community. The meal will be hosted by the parishioners of St. Patrick's Church in Dwight. Please RSVP to St. Mary's (815-844-7683) or St. Patrick's (815-584-3522) by December 5th so we can plan for the meal. I will also take signups for your farms to be blessed for the next planting season. Come, let's thank the Lord for the food He gives us! We will have tables and chairs but bring a lawn chair just in case!

**The Eucharist began at Bethlehem in Mary's arms. It was she who brought to humanity the Bread for which it was famishing, and which alone can nourish it. She it was who took care of the Bread for us. It was she who nourished the Lamb whose life-giving flesh we feed upon. She nourished him with her virginal milk; she nourished him for the sacrifice, for she foreknew his destiny.**

**~St. Peter Julian Eymard**

Sunday (12/3): Atrium Advent Family Event in the parish hall after 9:30 Mass  
 Saturday (12/9) & Sunday (12/10): Nativity Walk in the MPR after all Masses  
 Sunday (1/21): After 7am Mass Coffee/Doughnuts/Eucharistic Video in the MPR (old gym)



**A** **B** **C**

ST. MARY'S SAINTS ST. MARY'S SAINTS ST. MARY'S SAINTS SAINTS SAINTS

**D** **E** **F**

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The library used our design for their book on youth volunteerism. You go! The library used our design for their book on youth volunteerism. You go! Pray like a champion. Pray like a champion.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3, 2023

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Sunday    | First Sunday of Advent<br>Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16,<br>18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37                 |
| Monday    | Is 2: 1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9;<br>Mt 8:5-11  |
| Tuesday   | Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24  |
| Wednesday | Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt 15:29-37  |
| Thursday  | St. Ambrose Is 26:1-6;<br>Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27   |
| Friday    | Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin<br>Mary Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1; 2-3ab, 3cd-4;<br>Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38 |
| Saturday  | Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6;<br>Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8  |
| Sunday    | Second Sunday of Advent Is 40:1-5, 9-11;<br>Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8                               |

**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 DECEMBER**

**For persons with disabilities:** We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



**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](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, Baby Bulls Restaurant & 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.**

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**FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY:** Single Catholic Women 20-35: Franciscan Sisters invite you to in-person and on-line Discernment Events designed for you. Discover your calling and purpose. Visit <https://fsc-calledtobe.org> or contact Sr. Julie Ann 920-323-9632.

**LIFE LINE SCREENING:** There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions. These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor. We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site on **Wednesday, January 3 at St. Mary's Parish Hall** to conduct these valuable screenings. These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://lisa.social/Hc>

**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 Dec 4    | Diane Thomas Family, Cameron & Maddie Mikeworth Family   |
| Tues Dec 5   | Margaret Tolbert Family, Kallen & McKinlee Morgan Family |
| Wed Dec 6    | Brad Trainor Family, Riley & Sammi Salinas Family        |
| Thurs Dec 7  | Sam Tomasello Family, Holland & Barrett Tissiere Family  |
| Fri Dec 8    | Doug & Maranda Trainor Family, Boston Alsdorf Family     |
| Mon Dec 11   | Kim Trainor Family, Harper Bachmann Family               |
| Tues Dec 12  | Christina Trevino Family, Lexi Brown Family              |
| Wed Dec 13   | Edward Trainor Family, Leo & Elliott Bauman Family       |
| Thurs Dec 14 | Marcus Trevino Family, Jasmine Kennedy Family            |
| Fri Dec 15   | Jim Trainor Family, Reagan Mackinson Family              |



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

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Brett Graves, Broker 815-674-1458  
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[www.LyonsSullivanRealty.com](http://www.LyonsSullivanRealty.com)



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ATTORNEY at LAW

[bill@whbtdpc.com](mailto:bill@whbtdpc.com)  
318 North Mill St. | Pontiac, IL  
815-842-1100

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*"Ask a Knight what you can do  
for the Parish."*

Pontiac **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** Council #854  
[www.KofC.org](http://www.KofC.org)

Grand Knight: Bill Bertram  
(815) 690-7072  
Fr. Joseph Baker, Chaplain  
[www.facebook.com/kofc854Pontiac](http://www.facebook.com/kofc854Pontiac)

**Greg Kurtenbach**  
State Farm Agent  
800-284-8343

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[www.KofC.org](http://www.KofC.org)

Grand Knight: Bill Bertram  
(815) 690-7072  
Fr. Joseph Baker, Chaplain  
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