



St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
December 10, 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

EVANGELICAL CATHOLIC COORDINATOR: Margo Law

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

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 tissiere.taryn@stmaryspontiac.org or 815-979-7663.



STEWARDSHIP

Collection last Sunday: \$12,157.25

School Collection was \$3,196.00.

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

Building Maintenance Fund Collection: Next weekend.



Mass Intentions

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

Monday, December 11 (St. Damasus I, pope)

7:00 a.m. John Benedino

Tuesday, December 12 (Our Lady of Guadalupe)

7:00 a.m. Marsha Follett Pauly

Wednesday, December 13 (St. Lucy)

7:00 a.m. Thanksgiving for the Blessings of Raul &
Cynthia Mangubat

Thursday, December 14 (St. John of the Cross)

8:15 a.m. Jean Jones

Friday, December 15

7:00 a.m. 8th ann Jim Masching

Saturday, December 16

4:00 p.m. Irene Fraher

Sunday, December 17 (Third Sunday of Advent)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. William Crowley

Servers for Saturday, December 16

4:00 p.m. Chloe & Bailey Cox

Servers for Sunday, December 17

7:00 a.m. Volunteers

9:30 a.m. Gavin Schaidle, Chris Gray

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.

MASS AT LOCAL NURSING HOME: Mass will be offered at
Evanglow on **Friday, December 15 at 10am**.

PLEASE PRAY FOR parishioner Joan Dittmer, R.I.P. Our
sympathy to her family and friends.

THANK YOU for all the generous donations that you made at
the student council bake sale last Sunday for Our Military Kids
Organization. I hope you all know what a difference you've made
in some child's life. Altogether we raised over \$650. It was a huge
success thanks to all of you! Thanks again, Kate Lauritsen

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WOULD LIKE TO THANK
everyone who attended last week's Christmas Breakfast. We had a
great turnout and greatly appreciate your support of our efforts!

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



**NATIVITY
WALK**

This weekend after all Masses. Please join us in the old gym to view nativities of our school and church families and be reminded of the reason for the season.

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.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY SEWING CIRCLE will meet **Thursday, December 14 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.

CGS ATRIUM CAN USE old Christmas cards with sacred 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. Thank you for your support of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at St. Mary's!

SCRIP FOR CHRISTMAS: Just a reminder that SCRIP orders are now placed through the app Raise Right. The program has moved to 100% electronic. When you are shopping, you **MUST** select "E-cards" **ONLY.** Any orders for physical gift cards will not be processed. For any questions, email Taryn Tissiere at tissiere.taryn@stmaryspontiac.org



Words do not do justice for this level of gratitude regarding what our family has experienced in support, care, and love! We have had hardships, stress and loss dealt to us these past days and years and our struggles in all areas have been massive! We could not have made it

through all these tough times without the support and care of this St. Mary's school and church community that we consider our **FAMILY!** It is with great emotion and great warmth and an abundance of **LOVE** that we offer our deepest **THANKS** to each one of you that came forward to assist us and help us these past couple of months! We can only hope to pay this support forward in the years to come! God Bless each one of you for helping our family!

With all our Love and Thanks!

The Herkert Family, David, Madyson, and Dominik



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.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SHUT-INS: In the pews this weekend, you will find Christmas cards that we are asking everyone to sign. Please sign as many cards as you can. We want lots of signatures so our shut-ins know we care!

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: **Tuesday, December 12 in the church.** PreK-3rd Grade at 6:15pm. 4th-8th Grades with Living Nativity at 7:00pm

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.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS: Baskets are at the doors of the church for those wishing to donate non-perishable food items or paper products to the St. Mary's Food Pantry.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Pontiac	4:00 & 8:00 pm
Lexington	4:00 pm
Flanagan	6:00 pm
Chenoa	8:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Pontiac	7:00 & 9:30 am
Lexington	9:00 am
Chatsworth	10:00 am
Chenoa	11:00 am

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



Kindergarten and PreK4 registration for new families begins January 10, 2024.

We are...

- combining Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.
- providing a safe and welcoming environment for all students.
- partnering with parents in the faith formation of their children.
- setting high standards for student achievement.
- preparing students to be productive citizens and future leaders.
- instilling the value of service to others in our students.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

Why choose us?

- Full, state private school recognition
- Certified teachers
- Scholarships available
- PK - 8 building, one class of each
- Eureka math curriculum, which has been the most successful amongst Diocesan schools
- Music, Art, PE, and Computers
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program
- Teacher-Student Ratio 1:14
- Flexible tuition payment plans

LITTLE DISCIPLES PRESCHOOL

Why choose us?

- Full-day 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Combined 3 and 4-year old classroom*
- Certified teachers
- Structured and creative playtime
- Music, Art, PE, and technology
- Minimum one hour daily rest time
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program
- Teacher-Student Ratio 1:10
- Flexible tuition payment plans

*Age as of September 1.

CONTACT US TODAY:

St. Mary's School
(815) 844-6585
school.stmaryspontiac.org



ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST

The mark of the Christian is the willingness to look for the divine in the flesh of a babe in a crib, the continuing Christ under the appearance of bread on the altar.
~Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

Lord Jesus, all through Mass, I wait for the intimate moment when I receive You in Holy Communion. Let my heart and my entire body long for Your coming---in the Eucharist, on Christmas Day, and at the end of time.

Prayer from: Meditations after Holy Communion-Guided meditations for every Sunday and other Holy Days

Here is the link to the video shown a couple weeks ago:

What Early Christians Believed About the Eucharist: Matt Fradd Pints With Aquinas
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbqxxPtjtw0>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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)

St. Mary's School
Annual Fund Drive
is underway and we've
already raised more
than \$25,000!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Please help us reach
our \$36,000 goal!
school.stmaryspontiac.org



St. Mary's Church uses Flocknote to keep our parishioners informed of special Masses and events and any changes or cancellations that may occur. If you do not receive texts or emails from us, there are two ways to sign up. Text the word PONTIAC to 84576 OR click the Flocknote link at the bottom of the homepage of our website: church.stmaryspontiac.org



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10, 2023

Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8
Monday	Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday	Our Lady of Guadalupe Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday	St. Lucy Is 40:25-31; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	St. John of the Cross Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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.



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 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.catholicspiritradi.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://llsa.social/HC>



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

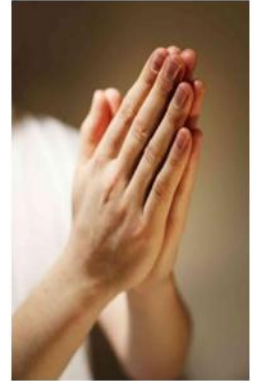
PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILIES THIS YEAR

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 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 |
| Mon Dec 18 | Mark & Kelli Trainor Family, Isaac & Cameron Mackinson Family |
| Tues Dec 19 | Mary Lou Tronc Family, Palmer, Callum & Eva Masching Family |
| Wed Dec 20 | John Trainor Family, Beckett Legner Family |
| Thurs Dec 21 | Pat & Vicki Trainor Family, Briggs Yantis Family |
| Fri Dec 22 | Albert & Anne Trost Family, Bryson Hall Family |



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!

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For further information, please call the parish office.

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www.KofC.org

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

Greg Kurtenbach
State Farm Agent
800-284-8343

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