

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
December 31, 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 6:30-6:50 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: \$12,272.25

School Collection: Next weekend.

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish. We
now offer Online Giving through our website. Check it out at
www.stmaryspontiac.org



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 30

4:00 p.m. Frances Russow, Pat, Jeanne, Roseanne,
Theresa & Kay Lyons

Sunday, December 31 (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Patricia Smith

12:00 midnight For a Healthy, Holy & Happy 2024

Monday, January 1 (Mary, the Holy Mother of God)

7:00 a.m. *** NO MASS ***

9:30 a.m. Jane Ellis

Tuesday, January 2 (Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen)

7:00 a.m. In honor of Dr. David Roche

Wednesday, January 3 (The Most Holy Name of Jesus)

7:00 a.m. David Fry

Thursday, January 4 (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)

7:00 a.m. Ben Erickson

Friday, January 5 (St. John Neumann)

7:00 a.m. Larry Russell

Saturday, January 6 (St. Andre Bessette)

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

4:00 p.m. Mary Jo Murphy

Sunday, January 7 (The Epiphany of the Lord)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Jan Brubaker

Servers for Saturday, January 6

4:00 p.m. Nicholas & Carter Doughan

Servers for Sunday, January 7

7:00 a.m. Haidyn & Harper Francis

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 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
Evenglow on **Friday, January 5 at 10am.**

MASS FOR FALLEN AWAY CATHOLICS: Every First Sat-
urday of the month, we offer a Mass at 8am for all the fallen away
Catholics from our parish and families. A rosary is prayed at
7:30am prior to Mass. Please join us on **Saturday, January 6!**

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.



**Soup
Supper**

**ST. MARY'S
STUDENT COUNCIL
SOUP SUPPER
TO BENEFIT
"OUR MILITARY KIDS"**

**Friday, January 12
5-7 pm
St. Mary's Parish Hall**

Menu and price will be posted next week. Please come and help support a worthwhile cause. Thank you.



**NEW YEAR'S EVE
MIDNIGHT MASS**

On December 31, the church will be open for Adoration from 9pm to midnight, then Fr. Joe will offer Mass at midnight for a Healthy, Holy & Happy 2024!

Champagne & cookies will be available after Mass

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEN'S NIGHT: The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a dinner and gathering for ALL MEN of St. Mary's Parish on the evening of **Friday, January 19** in our parish hall. The meal is free for any and all men in our community, whether you are a Knight or not. We will have drinks available and will be serving bbq pork burgers and regular hamburgers. **We'll begin our meal at 6:30pm, but come as early as 5:30pm for fraternity if you'd like.** Fr. Joe will offer a presentation on how the Knights have impacted our Church globally and nationally and also share how the Knights have supported community activities locally at St. Mary's Church, school, and beyond. Our hope is to spark interest in more men being active in the Knights of Columbus. If you are a man or know any men 18 years or older in our community (and that's ALL of you!!), please tell them about this and encourage them to come, listen, and enjoy an evening of fraternity with other Catholic men. The future of the Knights of Columbus Council here at St. Mary's is contingent upon more men demonstrating a commitment to our Order.

LECTORS FOR JANUARY

- 4:00pm Patti Zehr
7:00am Brenda Matuszewski
9:30am Debbie Alsdorf & Bernie Timmerman
- EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS FOR JANUARY**
- 4:00pm Jack & Mary Timmerman, Joanne Coriell
7:00am Bryan & Susan Schweigert
9:30am Nancy Milhauser, Linda Rhodes, Jenn Murphy
- GREETERS & USHERS FOR JANUARY**
- 4:00pm Donna Cahill, Nathan Joerndt, Margaret Legner, Joanne Coriell, Joe & Kristy Duda, Bill Bertram
7:00am Jill Francis, Mike Follmer, Jeff & Kenzie Meister
9:30am Tammy Johns, Vic & Victor Johns, Bob Kane, Doug Zick

SANCTUARY CLEANERS FOR JANUARY

Bernie Timmerman, Bernie Brown, Karen Peissig, Josie Ahrends

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AT ST. MARY'S: Have you felt a desire to grow closer to God through prayer and the sacramental life of the Church? Do you sense a nagging tug to take a step toward greater devotion and love of Jesus, His Church, and the Blessed Mother or maybe you just need a pick-me-up in your life with God? If so, *Spiritual Direction* might be something for you. *Spiritual Direction* is an ancient practice in the Church in which one Christian meets with another to discuss his/her personal life with God with the goal of growing in intimacy and relationship. While many priests and religious offer Spiritual Direction, we're also blessed here at St. Mary's to have a parishioner, Mary A. Billington, who is a licensed Spiritual Director, having graduated from the Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence School of Spiritual Direction in Florida in 2010. Mary is trained in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola, a specific form of direction in the Church, and is passionate about helping others grow deeper in knowledge and love of Jesus. If this is something that speaks to you, reach out to Mary at (815) 674-7197 or jmbill83@gmail.com. To learn more about the practice of Spiritual Direction, take a look at spiritualdirection.com, a website run by the Avila Institute, a Catholic movement dedicated to spiritual formation of the faithful.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY: Are you a local business owner? In the coming months, St. Mary's School will host our annual Kevin Casson Memorial Basketball Tournament, the St. Mary's DrawDown, and the SMS Scramble Golf Outing. These fundraising events, sponsored by our Teacher-Parent Organization (TAPS), are great ways for your business to advertise. Contact Director of Development, Danielle Gill at gill.danielle@stmaryspontiac.org for more information.



**CHRISTMAS
FLOWER
MEMORIALS**

Helen Green-Karen Moen
Mike Loughran-Marge & family
Melinda Vallow-Michael Vallow
Deceased Knights of Columbus-Pontiac Council 854



**CHRISTMAS
FLOWER
HONORS**

Bob & Kelly Eckhoff-The Grands



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

While the Magi acknowledged and worshipped the baby that Mary cradled in her arms as the one awaited by the nations and foretold by the prophets, today we can also worship him in the Eucharist and acknowledge him as our Creator, our Lord and Savior.

~Pope Benedict XVI

Lord Jesus, I remember most especially every Holy Communion I received this past year, and I am grateful for this gift of union with You. Help me, united with Mary, to treasure, as she did, all the graces and blessings of my life.

Prayer taken from: Meditations after Holy Communion-Guided Meditations for Every Sunday and Other Holy Days

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday (1/21): After 7am Mass Coffee/Doughnuts/Eucharistic Video in the MPR (old gym)

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE AND THANK YOU!

You would think that with all the darkness in the world, short winter days, Holy Land and Ukraine wars, unrest in our country, that there is not any light! But there is light when we trust that God is close to us. He is close to us when we come and visit him in His church, in your homes in prayer, when we come to His sacraments. He is the "Light of the World" that will bring us peace. I believe that, I hope you do too! I know there is light out there when I see and receive the Christmas wishes and gifts from you parishioners. Thank you for caring for your priests! As we enter the new year and we know that the physical church is going to change, let's remember that the real church is the relationships of God with His people. This also means that the real church will be the new relationships that we will forge when we let Jesus guide our hearts, minds and souls. God bless you all! Merry Christmas and a Happy, Holy New Year and let's believe that the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, is just waiting for His Light to shine through us to help conquer the darkness.

Fr. David



SPALDING SCHOLARSHIPS: Your child can attend a Catholic School, Financial Assistance Available

Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2024-2025 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed. Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria or on the Diocesan website www.cdop.org under Catholic Education and then under Financial Assistance. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award. Parents must apply online at: online.factsmgt.com/aid. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2024-2025 school year must reapply. Deadline date for the completed application is April 26, 2024. Notification of grant awards will be made in June of 2024.

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 31, 2023

Sunday	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2: 22-40
Monday	Mary, the Holy Mother of God Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday	Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday	The Most Holy Name of Jesus 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34
Thursday	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42
Friday	St. John Neumann 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100; 1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51
Saturday	St. André Bessette 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or Lk 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
Sunday	The Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE
HOLY FATHER FOR JANUARY

For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church: Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.



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, Baby Bulls Restaurant & 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!

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.



**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 Jan 1 | Mike Vallow Family, Gemma Bagnell Family |
| Tues Jan 2 | Don Verdun Family, Marcos Borrego Family |
| Wed Jan 3 | Nick Vogt Family, Angelene Wertz Family |
| Thurs Jan 4 | John Vanek Family, Ben Ehrgott Family |
| Fri Jan 5 | Don & Susan Verdun Family, Leo Kapper Family |
| Mon Jan 8 | Carole Voigts Family, Taelynn Limberg Family |
| Tues Jan 9 | Mike VanSickle Family, Ava & Emma Lind Family |
| Wed Jan 10 | Nancy Verdun Family, Kloey Wagner Family |
| Thurs Jan 11 | Mary Beth Voigts Family, Leleu Thurston Family |
| Fri Jan 12 | Mark & Sharon Vaughn Family, Talon Simmons Family |



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!

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For further information, please call the parish office.

Carley FAMILY DENTAL

Dr. Ryan Carley | Dr. Natalie Carley
cfidental@frontier.com
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"Ask a Knight what you can do for the Parish."

Pontiac KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Council #854
www.KofC.org

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

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