

The EPIPHANY of the Lord

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

Mt 2: 1-2



© Diocesan

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
January 7, 2024

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

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

School Collection: This weekend.

St. Mary's Food Pantry 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, 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

Monday, January 8 (Baptism of the Lord)

7:00 a.m. John Giovanini

Tuesday, January 9

7:00 a.m. 6th ann Bernice Edwards

Wednesday, January 10

7:00 a.m. Bob & Margaret Trainor

Thursday, January 11

8:15 a.m. Darrell Condon

Friday, January 12

7:00 a.m. 17th ann Bob Jones

Saturday, January 13 (St. Hilary)

4:00 p.m. Parish

Sunday, January 14 (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:00 a.m. Larry Kennedy

9:30 a.m. Paul & Mary Rittenhouse

Servers for Saturday, January 13

4:00 p.m. Sean Finnegan

Servers for Sunday, January 14

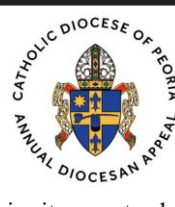
7:00 a.m. Volunteers

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

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.

MASS AT LOCAL NURSING HOME: Mass will be offered at Goldwater Health Care on **Friday, January 12 at 9am**.



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: \$66,613.22 (as of Dec. 5)



**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.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY SEWING CIRCLE will meet **Thursday, January 11 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.

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.



**MONTHLY
Holy Hour
for VOCATIONS**

Beginning in 2024, we will have a monthly Holy Hour at **6:30pm** in the church, some on Tuesdays, some on Thursdays. The Holy Hour will include time for quiet prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament, group prayers for Vocations, and will conclude with Benediction.

Dates for the Holy Hours will be:

Tuesday, January 16	Thursday, February 22
Thursday, March 21	Thursday, April 18
Tuesday, May 14	Tuesday, June 18

Our diocese and our world need many good, holy priests and consecrated men and women, in addition to faithful marriages, to continue God's mission on this earth. Please join us to pray for all vocations.

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.

SANCTUARY CLEANERS NEEDED: Would you like to help out the Women's Guild and volunteer to clean the Sanctuary and sacristy once a week, a few times a year? If you can help, please call the parish office at 815-844-7683.

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.

BE A BULLETIN SUPPORTER! We are fortunate to have so many bulletin sponsors to defray the publishing costs of this bulletin and our parish newsletter. There are still some spaces available. If you own a business or you work for a business that is not currently advertising in our bulletin, please consider placing an ad. This can be done anytime by contacting Susie at 269-226-0064 or sboone@diocesan.com.



TEACHER NEEDED: St. Mary's School has a teacher opening for **Junior High ELA (Language Arts and Literacy):** **Job will start August 2024.** Must have a valid Illinois teaching certificate, Middle school/Junior High Endorsement in ELA preferred.

We are seeking a Jr. High ELA Teacher who knows and loves Jesus. We seek someone with a desire to make disciples of their students and grow in discipleship with other staff. Candidates must portray abilities of healthy teamwork among colleagues along with a desire to share their knowledge and love of Jesus with students and staff.

Please send 3 letters of recommendation and a copy of your transcripts, along with your resume and cover letter to Mrs. Karen Jones, St. Mary's School, 414 N. Main St. Pontiac, IL 61764 or you may email these items to: jones.karen@stmaryspontiac.org



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 Word made flesh in Nazareth is no less present on the altar at Holy Mass. Below, St. John Chrysostom reflects on the gravity of approaching this burning table of sacrifice, cautioning Christians to prepare for the coming of so great a King when they receive Holy Communion.

"If there is anything evil, banish it from your soul. Does anyone have an enemy? Has he been wronged in a great way? Let him banish the enmity; let him check any disorder of mind so that no one might be distracted nor disturbed. For under your roof, you are about to receive the King in communion. And as the King enters your soul, you should be found in tranquility, profound silence, and deep peace of mind."

~St. John Chrysostom (349-407)

UPCOMING EVENTS

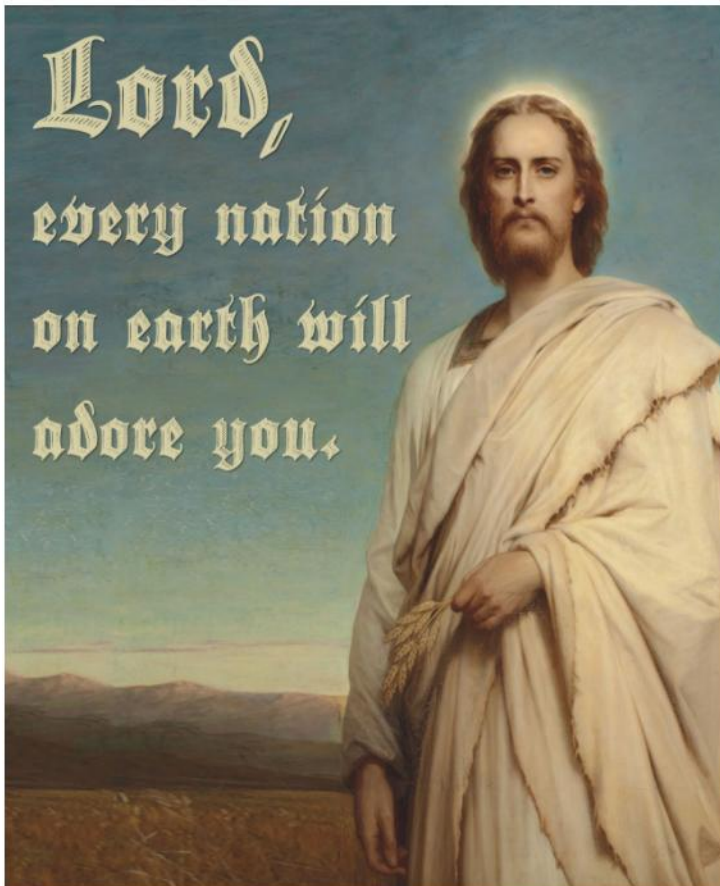
Sunday (1/21): After 7am Mass Coffee/Donuts/Eucharistic Video in the MPR (old gym)

Sunday (1/28): After 9:30am Mass Catholic Schools Week Open House

Sunday (2/11): After 9:30 Mass Coffee/Donuts/Eucharistic Video in the MPR (old gym)



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



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
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 7, 2024

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
Monday	Baptism of the Lord Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Mk 1:7-11
Tuesday	1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; PS 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Mk 1:29-39
Thursday	1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
Friday	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-17, 18-19; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday	St. Hilary 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

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 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.

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.



Pray For Peace



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**

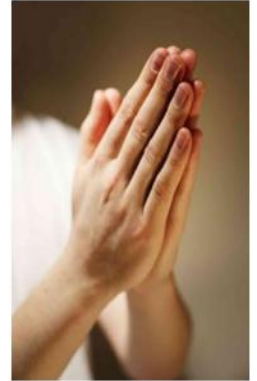
PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILIES THIS YEAR

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 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
- Mon Jan 15 Jack Vietti Family, Avery Van Waes Family
- Tues Jan 16 Dean & Karen Wahls Family, Marilyn Hoke Family
- Wed Jan 17 Kenneth & Cecilia Velez Family, Rita Mackinson Family
- Thurs Jan 18 Bill & Debra Vietti Family, Val Wellman Family
- Fri Jan 19 Rita Wakey Family, Mary Helen McCorvie 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

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Fr. Joseph Baker, Chaplain
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