

**The next day
John was there
again with two of
his disciples, and
as he watched
Jesus walk by, he
said, "Behold,
the Lamb of
God."
John 1:35-36**

2
**ORDINARY
TIME**

© Diocesan

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
January 14, 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](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: \$15,483.00

School Collection was \$3,521.00.

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

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish.



Mass Intentions

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

Monday, January 15

7:00 a.m. Ron Wilken

Tuesday, January 16

7:00 a.m. Earl Gschwendtner

Wednesday, January 17 (St. Anthony)

7:00 a.m. Patricia Ochs

Thursday, January 18

8:15 a.m. 14th ann Jo Reilly

Friday, January 19

7:00 a.m. DeJaynes Family

Saturday, January 20 (St. Fabian, pope; St. Sebastian)

4:00 p.m. Rose Ann Lyons

Sunday, January 21 (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:00 a.m. Amy Follmer Wyant

9:30 a.m. Parish

Servers for Saturday, January 20

4:00 p.m. Chloe & Bailey Cox

Servers for Sunday, January 21

7:00 a.m. Volunteers

9:30 a.m. Brooklyn & Kaylee Delheimer

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.

REGISTER WITH THE PARISH OFFICE: We find that many young adults who have been members of the parish all their lives do not re-register themselves when they move out on their own. A simple phone call to the parish office at 815-844-7683 is all it takes to properly register your new household. Please call.

MASS AT LOCAL NURSING HOME: Mass will be offered at The Pointe on **Friday, January 19 at 10am.**

CONGRATULATIONS to the parents and family of **Walter Michael Meiner**, son of Michael & Amanda Meiner, who was recently baptized as a member of our faith.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Jo Anne Fosdick (grandmother of Jamie Drilling) R.I.P. Our sympathy to her family and friends.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

ATTENTION LADIES IN YOUR 20'S AND 30'S: Join us the **third Tuesday of every month** for fellowship as we work our way through the Gospel of Luke in 2024. Come to as few or as many as you can make. If interested or if you have any questions, text or call Kate Harrold 815-848-1705.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will meet **Wednesday, January 17 at 6:30pm** in the Our Lady of the Rosary Room of 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.

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.



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.

Dear Parishioners,
This Sunday we return to Ordinary Time and wear green



vestments again until the beginning of Lent on 2/14. While the Christmas Season is now over, prior to the revisions of the Church's calendar in the late 1960s, the Christmas Season continued until February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus. This is the event, 40 days after Jesus' birth, in which Joseph and Mary, following the Jewish law, presented Him to God in the temple in Jerusalem. Candles were also traditionally blessed in the Church on this day. As such, 2/2 has been known as Candlemas, meaning the bookends of the season in which we celebrate Jesus' birth were previously known by the monikers Christmas and Candlemas. The Feast of Jesus' Presentation and the blessing of candles also has a connection to the phenomenon of Groundhog Day.

With all this in mind, and seeing as how everyone loves Christmas decorations (there's something wrong with you if you don't!!), I would like to keep our Christmas decorations on display at St. Mary's until February 2. I think by that time we'll be ready to move on, but at least for a few more weeks, it will be good to be reminded when we come to the church that Jesus has been born among us, Emmanuel!

I also want to use this opportunity to comment on the recent changes to our distribution of Holy Communion. I spoke about this two Sundays ago, but in case you missed it, we have recently had some mishaps with Holy Communion. Having received feedback from the diocese, I've decided that we will now have 4 communion stations at the front of the church, meaning those in the back of the church will come to the front to receive communion, though we'll still take communion to those at the break with physical limitations. One usher will also be posted on each side of the church during communion simply to observe and ensure everyone places the Eucharist in their mouth after receiving communion. If you happen to notice anyone walking away with the Holy Eucharist, please notify an usher or even approach me or the deacon to let us know.

Lastly, the Living Scripture Retreat, the biannual diocesan retreat for those suffering from the effects of an abortion, is this upcoming February 9-11. It will also be held in the Fall on October 25-27. Abortion has wounded many, many people, both women and men, a larger number of whom have lived with a secret shame for a long time. If this pertains to you or someone you know, please take one of the brochures in the back of the church. If this is a personal pain about which you've never spoken to anyone, please reach out to me privately and I can give you information about the retreat. It is completely confidential and those attending remain anonymous. You will receive healing.

Continued blessings to you in this New Year 2024!

Fr. Joe

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.

Pray For Peace



Thank you to all our priests and Key Parish Leaders from across the Diocese of Peoria for hosting Growing Disciples parish meetings to explain the second set of draft models and how parishioners could provide feedback. Gathering information from those parish meetings is a critical element in the ability to move forward in this important pastoral planning process.

The Growing Disciples Core Team received over 2600 electronic and paper surveys. Bishop Tylka received several hundred personal letters from parishioners and community members, sharing their feelings about the process and what our possibilities could be as we look to the future. The feedback has come from all over the diocese and all parishes. Not everyone in every parish, or even every family, agreed on the steps we should take moving forward.

What is clear is that this process is awakening within all of us that desire for us to continue to be the Church and to grow the Church. We are passionate about our faith. We are passionate about our parishes. We are passionate about our mission that Jesus has given to us to share the Good News.

We also know we are living in very different times. The generations that preceded us had their own challenges and opportunities to live out our faith. Ours is a very different time and we must discern a way forward to build a more sustainable, mission driven, vibrant church for tomorrow.

In the coming months, our Growing Disciples Core Team, our Diocesan Commission and ultimately the Presbyteral Council will be discerning recommendations, based on the feedback, to be given to the Bishop, who will make the final decision.

Let us remain a people of prayer: praying for each other and supporting one another as we go through this process.

The Diocese of Peoria is constantly updating the website (growingdisciplescdop.org), so check back frequently. Please continue to pray that all our efforts today will bear fruit for a brighter tomorrow.



ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST

Since man is a twofold creature, composed of body and soul, it is necessary that the elect receive the Author of salvation by both these component parts. The soul has the means and opportunity for salvation by its union with him through faith; for, union with life implies fellowship and communion in life. On the other hand, the body uses a different means in partaking and mingling with the Savior...

... Nothing else except the Body of Christ has been shown to be superior to death and has thus become the first-fruits of our life. For, in the manner that - as the Apostle says - a little leaven assimilates itself into the whole lump, so in like manner that Body that has received immortality by God, when it is in our own body, translates and transmutes the whole into itself.

~St. Gregory of Nyssa (c. 335 - 395)

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)
 - March 1-10: The Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit will be here at St. Mary's
- > More details & viewing schedule will be shared in upcoming bulletins



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



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 14, 2024

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
Monday	1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23; Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday	1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28; Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday	St. Anthony 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mk 3:1-6
Thursday	1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13; Mk 3:7-12
Friday	1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11; Mk 3:13-19
Saturday	St. Fabian, Pope; St. Sebastian 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Ps 80:2-3, 5-7; Mk 3:20-21
Sunday	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

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 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.catholicspiritradiocom

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:

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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.



**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 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 |
| Mon Jan 22 | Chuck & Lisa Vitzthum Family, Marcia Hills Family |
| Turs Jan 23 | Dcn. Jim & Laura Wallace Family, Dianne Hanley Family |
| Wed Jan 24 | Sarah Walters Family, John Mackinson Family |
| Thurs Jan 25 | Judy Weber Family, Margaret Legner Family |
| Fri Jan 26 | Rita Washko Family, Judy Donze Family |



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!

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