



# Catholic Schools

**United in Faith and Community**

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 3, 2024

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**

**Pontiac, Illinois  
January 28, 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](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 6:30-6:50 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](mailto: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](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: **\$9,937.40**

Building Maintenance Fund Collection was \$2,083.00.

School Collection: Next weekend.

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish.



## Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 27 (St. Angela Merici)

4:00 p.m. 2nd ann Rhonda Steinbach

Sunday, January 28 (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:00 a.m. Patricia Lyons

9:30 a.m. Parish

Monday, January 29

7:00 a.m. Marsha Follett Pauly

Tuesday, January 30

7:00 a.m. Marie Mies

Wednesday, January 31 (St. John Bosco)

7:00 a.m. Edward A. Christesen

Thursday, February 1

8:15 a.m. 1st ann Rita Schaeffer

Friday, February 2 (Presentation of the Lord)

7:00 a.m. James & Janet Cadle

Saturday, February 3 (St. Blaise; St. Ansgar)

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

4:00 p.m. Jean Jones

Sunday, February 4 (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Colleen Murphy

**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 FOR FALLEN AWAY CATHOLICS:** Every First Saturday 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, February 3!**

**MASS AT LOCAL NURSING HOME:** Mass will be offered at on **Friday, February 2 at Evenglow at 10am.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Parishioner Leo Cuttill will be celebrating his 106th birthday on February 8. Cards of well wishes can be mailed to Leo at 215 E. Washington St., Pontiac, IL 61764

**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.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK  
JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 3**



St. Mary's School invites everyone to our **OPEN HOUSE** after 7am and 9:30am Masses this Sunday, January 28. Please us the Main Street or old gym door entrances.



The Knights of Columbus will also be serving breakfast this Sunday, January 28 from 7:30-11:30am. Scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy, hashbrowns and drink. \$10 per person, \$40 family maximum. Please join us after checking out the Open House at St. Mary's School.

**ATTENTION LADIES IN YOUR 20'S AND 30'S:** Join us the **third Wednesday 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.

**LECTORS FOR FEBRUARY**

4:00pm Earline Devito, Jerry LoPiccalo  
7:00am Mick Peterson  
9:30am Kim Frauli, Bob Kane

**EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS FOR FEBRUARY**

4:00pm Mary Lynn Schopp, Pat Bednar, Gary Doughan  
7:00am Vicki McBeath, Joan Duffy  
9:30am Katie Wille, Carol Schopp, Margo law

**GREETERS & USHERS FOR FEBRUARY**

4:00pm Phyllis Moritz, Lynn DiNardi, Joe Cleary, Bill Bertram, Mike VanSickle  
7:00am Joyce Ashcraft, Jackie Trachsel, Pat Duffy, Brad Follmer, Dan Smith, Chad Trachsel  
9:30am Peg Meier, Bill Halpin, Sue Smith

**SANCTUARY CLEANERS FOR FEBRUARY**

Arlene Fry, Katie Wille, Florence Masching, Linda Minar

**PART-TIME CUSTODIAN NEEDED:** St. Mary's Parish is looking to hire an able-bodied individual to serve as a part-time custodian for St. Mary's School. Qualifications for this position include: striving to live a Christian life - be practicing the faith if Catholic, if not Catholic, have a respect for the Catholic Church and be comfortable working in a Catholic environment, possessing knowledge, skills, and experience in handling janitorial equipment and basic maintenance tools; assisting the head custodian in duties/projects as needed; maintaining security of buildings, equipment, and tools. Duties would be cleaning of classrooms, hallways, gym following games, offices, pre-K area, and the parish hall, setting up and taking down of tables and chairs as needed, making sure all lights are out and doors are locked, and collecting trash or anything else determined by the maintenance director. Hours would be late afternoon/early evening. If interested, please send a letter of interest, stating qualifications and references, to Fr. Joseph Baker, P.O. Box 374, Pontiac, IL 61764 or drop it off at the church office.



**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](mailto:jones.karen@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](http://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](http://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.

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:** 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](mailto:jmbill83@gmail.com). To learn more about the practice of Spiritual Direction, take a look at [spiritualdirection.com](http://spiritualdirection.com), a website run by the Avila Institute, a Catholic movement dedicated to spiritual formation of the faithful.





# Catholic Schools Week 2024

<b>Sunday, January 28 - Parish</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● KC Breakfast 7:30-11:30am in Parish Hall</li> <li>● Student-led Mass 9:30am</li> <li>● School Open House after 7am &amp; 9:30am Mass</li> </ul>
<b>Monday, January 29 - Nation</b>  <b>"In God We Trust"</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Casual dress day: Wear red/white/blue</li> <li>● Team Building Games</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday, January 30 - Students</b>  <b>"Relax, Jesus has it All under Control"</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Casual dress day: Wear PJs</li> <li>● Movie &amp; Popcorn afternoon</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, January 31 - Community/Family</b>  <b>"Faith, Family &amp; Friends"</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Casual dress day: Dress like a community person</li> <li>● Donate a soup can for the pantry</li> <li>● Parent-student lunch 12-12:30pm</li> <li>● Family Night - Ice Skating Rink 4-7:00pm                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All children must be accompanied by parent</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, February 1 - Vocations/Staff</b>  <b>"It's A Great Day to be a Saint"</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Casual dress day: Dress like a saint or patron saint</li> <li>● Catholic Games</li> </ul>
<b>Friday, February 2 - School</b>  <b>"SMS is the Best!"</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Casual dress day: Wear spirit wear or blue/white</li> <li>● Hog Dog Luncheon (food provided)</li> <li>● Bingo</li> <li>● 1:30pm Dismissal</li> </ul>

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL





## ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST

They who say, "Our Father, who art in heaven," are those who are now of the Father, reborn through water and spirit. Thus, they call upon Him in confidence, saying, "give us this day our daily bread." This bread is Christ Himself, the Bread of Life, who descended from heaven to give life to the world (John 6:51). And we rightly ask in the Lord's Prayer that Christ Himself be given to us daily, so that we who live and abide in Christ do not fall away from His sanctification and from His Body.  
~St. Ildefonsus of Toledo (607-667)

Here is the link to the video shown after Mass last weekend, if you would like to view:  
[www.theveilremoved.com](http://www.theveilremoved.com)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- > Designed & created by Blessed Carlo Acutis: (166) panels of (136) Eucharistic Miracles
- > More details & viewing schedule will be shared in upcoming bulletins

July 17-21: 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis

- > 10% Off valid thru January 31 for full event & day passes with code: EMMANUEL
- > <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/register>

### SMS ANNUAL ST. MARY'S DRAWDOWN

Join us **Saturday, April 13**, at Pontiac Elks Lodge for the longest running DrawDown in Pontiac! Your \$100 ticket will admit two adults to the event and includes dinner, beer, a chance to win amazing prizes and the opportunity to participate in live & silent auctions. Grand prize this year is **\$5,000!** Tickets will go on sale February 1st and can be purchased after all Masses the weekend of Feb. 3/4 or from any SMS student. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

### 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: \$77,863.22 (as of Jan. 19)**

### ST. MARY'S PARISH DECEMBER 2023



### WE THANK YOU

Prayers of thanksgiving are offered daily for our parishioners who give so generously for the financial security of our parish and school. Please continue to donate whatever you can, whenever you can.

### A QUARTERLY UPDATE ON OUR FINANCIAL JOURNEY\*

	Previous Fiscal Year July 1 - Dec. 31, 2022	Current Fiscal Year July 1 - Dec. 31, 2023
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>\$921,934.46</b>	<b>\$995,285.40</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$829,348.99</b>	<b>\$751,959.05</b>
<b>GAIN/(LOSS)</b>	<b>\$92,585.47</b>	<b>\$243,326.35</b>

- Report covers both Parish and School Operations

Revenue to date is better than last year and expenses to date have been significantly lower than last year. We try to be good stewards with the gifts we have been given.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 28, 2024

Sunday	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28
Monday	2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday	2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday	St. John Bosco 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday	1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Mk 6:7-13
Friday	The Presentation of the Lord Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22-32
Saturday	St. Ansgar and St. Blaise 1Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; Mk 6:30-34
Sunday	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

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](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 FEBRUARY

For the Terminally Ill: We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.



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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**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).

**FESTIVAL CHOIR TOUR TO IRELAND AND SCOTLAND:**

The St Anthony Camerata Chorale Festival Choir is leading a tour to Ireland and Scotland with an optional 4-night extension to London, July 29 through August 7, 2024. You don't have to be a choral person to join us, all travelers are most welcome! Anyone wishing to sing with the choir living out of the area to comfortably make rehearsals for the tour, we will gladly send you music you can rehearse on your own. Deadline has been extended another month... we would love to have you join our merry band as we enjoy the wondrous sights and sounds of our Gaelic adventure! Text or email Mary Ann Fahey-Darling for a brochure. Text: 309-678-9166 or [faheyirish19@gmail.com](mailto:faheyirish19@gmail.com)

**PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA & LOURDES:** Please join us on a pilgrimage with Fr. Charles Robinson, F.I. to Fatima and Lourdes, with a stop in Avila, Spain, as well as Azpeitia, Spain where St. Ignatius of Loyola was born, and more! Daily Mass. September 10-19, 2024. \$3595/per person. **\$150 early bird discount if registered by Feb. 15th, 2024.** For more information please visit [www.QoHTours.com](http://www.QoHTours.com) or call us at 1-800-213-4295





**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 29  | Larry & Marla Weber Family, Linda Rhodes Family     |
| Tues Jan 30 | Mike & Jean Ann Wenger Family, Fr. Joe Baker Family |
| Wed Jan 31  | Ron & Lynn Watson Family, Fr. David Sabel Family    |
| Thurs Feb 1 | Ed & Karen Doughan Family, Adam Lawrence Family     |
| Fri Feb 2   | Leo & Rita Weller Family, Carol Hepner Family       |
| Mon Feb 5   | Kristine Wertz Family, Karen Jones Family           |
| Tues Feb 6  | Marissa Weaver Family, Heidi Legner Family          |
| Wed Feb 7   | Gary & Val Wellman Family, Carol Duffy Family       |
| Thurs Feb 8 | Betty Weber Family, Ellen Yedinak Family            |
| Fri Feb 9   | Erika Wells Family, Amanda Lauritsen Family         |



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

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**Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will**

For further information, please call the parish office.

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