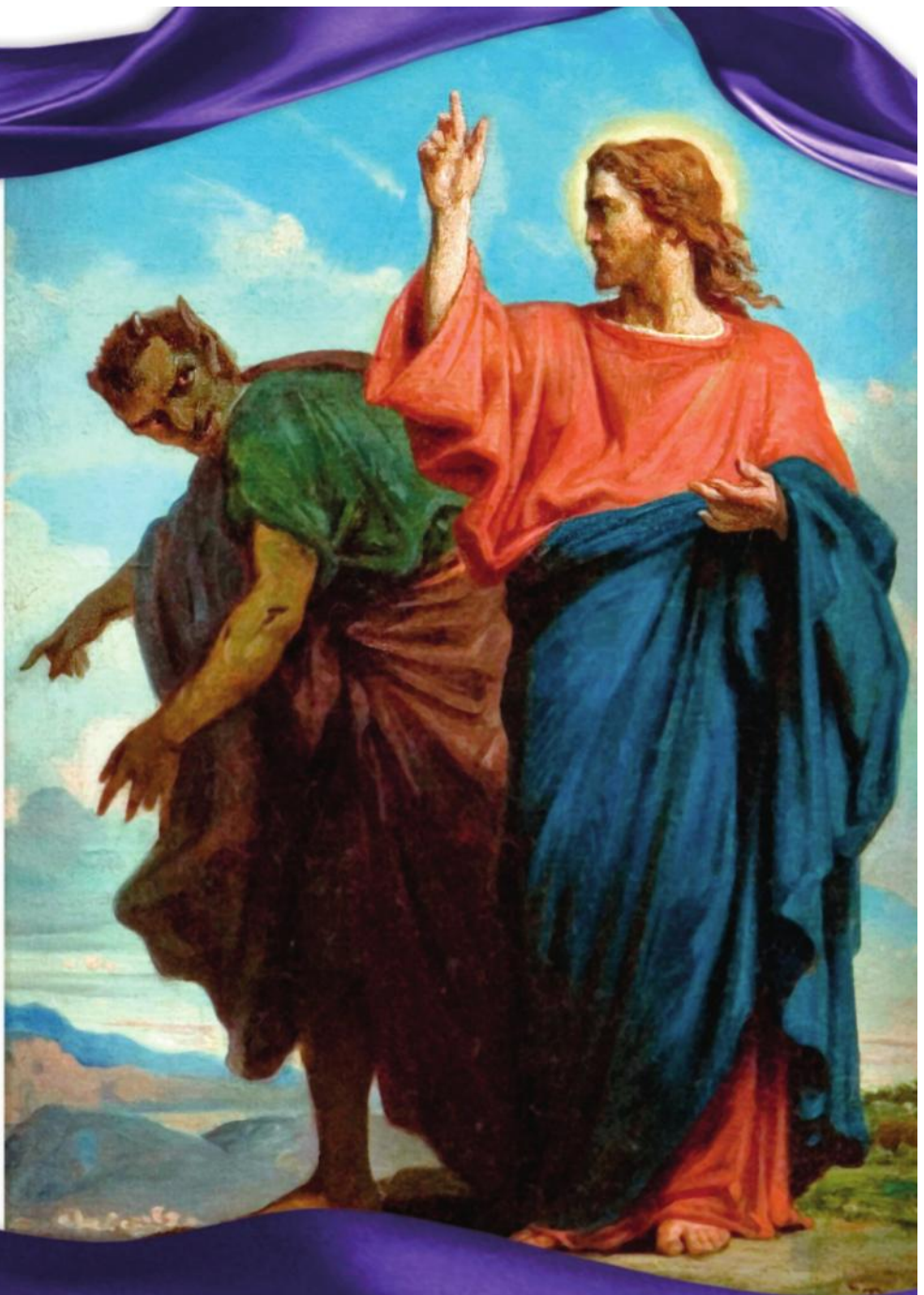


The Spirit  
drove Jesus  
out into the  
desert, and he  
remained in  
the desert  
for forty days,  
tempted by  
Satan.  
He was among  
wild beasts, and  
the angels  
ministered  
to him.

*Mark 1:12,13*

The Temptation of Christ by the Devil  
by Félix Joseph Barrias, 1860



1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF  
**LENT**

©Diocesan

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
**Pontiac, Illinois**  
**February 18, 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: \$11,889.75

**Building Maintenance Fund Collection:** This 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](http://www.stmaryspontiac.org)



## Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 17 (The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order)

4:00 p.m. 21st ann Dick Masching

Sunday, February 18 (First Sunday of Lent)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. 13th ann Jo Schultz

Monday, February 19

7:00 a.m. Mary Cotter

Tuesday, February 20

7:00 a.m. Marsha Follett Pauly

Wednesday, February 21 (St. Peter Damian)

7:00 a.m. Special Intention of Barbara Duda

Thursday, February 22 (The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle)

8:15 a.m. Patrick C. Green

Friday, February 23 (St. Polycarp)

7:00 a.m. Jean Jones

Saturday, February 24

4:00 p.m. 2nd ann David Fry

Sunday, February 25 (Second Sunday of Lent)

7:00 a.m. 40th wedd ann John & Sue Kelly

9:30 a.m. Parish

**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.

**2023 TAX RECEIPTS** have been mailed to all parishioners who gave a total of \$250 or more in the collection baskets this past year. If you did not receive a statement but need one, please call the parish office at 815-844-7683.

**MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** If you have any news or photos for the mid-March newsletter, deadline to submit is Tuesday, March 5. Info can be emailed to [zehr.patti@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:zehr.patti@stmaryspontiac.org)

**MASS AT LOCAL NURSING HOME:** Mass will be offered at Accolade Health Care on **Friday, February 23 at 9:30am**

## 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 Feb 5)**

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



Join us for our upcoming monthly Holy Hour at **6:30pm** in the church. 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:

**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.

**ST. MARY'S WOMEN'S GUILD** will meet **Tuesday, February 20 at 5:30pm** in the parish hall. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** will meet **Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30pm** in the Our Lady of the Rosary Room of the parish hall.

**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY SEWING CIRCLE** will meet **Thursday, February 22 from 9am to 12:30pm** in the parish hall

**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.

**ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP:** All high school students are invited to join us every Sunday evening from 6:30-8pm. Youth group meets in the upstairs of the Parish Center (former rectory). Please use the back door.

**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.

**IGNITING THE FLAME RETREAT** will be happening at St. Mary's Church on **Saturday, March 23rd**. This one day retreat will be in lieu of the annual three day WATCH retreat. Even though the length of the retreat is reduced, the opportunities to enhance our personal relationships with Jesus, and fellow people of faith, will not be diminished. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst" Mt.18:20. Invite a family member or friend (or both!) and join us for a day of prayer, presentations, scripture, fellowship, and more. Cost for the day: spending the 6th Saturday of Lent giving praise to the one who gave it all for us. Contact Linda Rhodes @ 815-848-2506 to register.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
LENTEN FISH FRY**

**Friday, March 1  
5-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall**

**Fried pollack, baked cod, fried shrimp,  
grilled cheese, mac & cheese, cole slaw,  
vegetable, dessert & drink**

**\$12 for adults, \$7 for children ages 6-12, \$40 family max**

**Other Fish Frys will be offered on Fridays, March 8 & 15**



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be held each Friday of Lent, except Good Friday, at 5:30 p.m. in the church.

**LENTEN DIVINE MERCY SERVICE: Sunday, February 18 at 5:00pm** at St. Joseph Church, Chenoa. Holy hour, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and confessions will be available as we begin our 40 day Lenten preparation for Easter. Dr. Scott Ferguson and the Illinois Wesleyan choir will provide the reflective music as we spend time with Our Lord and remember His 40 days in the desert.

**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.







## ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST

If we truly understand the Eucharist; if we make the Eucharist the central focus of our lives; if we feed our lives with the Eucharist, we will not find it difficult to discover Christ, to love him, and serve him in the poor.  
~St. Teresa of Calcutta

Here is the link to the video shown after Mass last weekend, if you would like to view it:

**Fr. Mike Schmitz: The Eucharist:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h53Ca6k0vMs&t=14s>

All videos shown the past few months can be viewed at:  
[church.stmaryspontiac.org](http://church.stmaryspontiac.org) > News & Events > Encounter the Eucharist

### UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1-10: The Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit SEE DETAILS BELOW

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

> <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/register>



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Carlo's exhibition presents a selection  
of the main Eucharistic Miracles  
(about 136, collected in 166 panels).

Through these panels you can  
"virtually visit" the places where the  
miracles happened.

St. Mary's Pontiac will have the Exhibit on  
Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>  
In the Parish Hall.

#### Parish Hall Exhibit Hours:

March 1<sup>st</sup>: 5-7 PM during K of C Fish Fry

March 2<sup>nd</sup>: 5-7 PM after 4 PM Mass

March 3<sup>rd</sup>: 8 AM – Noon (Coffee & Donuts)

March 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>: By Appointment only

Call [Dcn Ray](#): 815-674-5520

March 7<sup>th</sup>: 2:30 – 7 PM Exhibit Open

4:30 PM Exposition (Church)

4:30 – 6:30 PM Adoration (Church)

6:30 PM Rosary (Church)

7:00 PM Benediction (Church)

March 8<sup>th</sup>: 5-7 PM during K of C Fish Fry

March 9<sup>th</sup>: 5-7 PM after 4 PM Mass

March 10<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 – 11:30 AM after CCD



### 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)

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18, 2024**

Sunday	First Sunday of Lent Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15
Monday	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday	Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday	Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Jl 2:12-13; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday	The Chair of Saint Peter 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6; Mt 16:18; Mt 16:13-19
Friday	Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday	Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday	Second Sunday of Lent Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

**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).



**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.**

*New App - Same Quality Catholic Programs!*

**DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR ST. NICHOLAS CHARITY ON WHEELS:** St. Nicholas Charity on Wheels is a ministry of Catholic Charities serving families in need across the Peoria Diocese. To aid this mission, Catholic Women are organizing a Diocesan collection of supplies by vicariate each month with March designated for the Pontiac Vicariate. **St. Mary's will collect supplies at Masses the weekend of March 2/3 and 9/10. Items needed: paper towels, toilet paper, toothbrushes & toothpaste, household cleaner, dish soap, hand soap and deodorant. Visa, Walmart and Casey's gas gift cards in any amount are also needed. Bulk items can be left at the doors of the church. Gift cards can be placed in the collection basket.** This project will help families in need throughout the Peoria Diocese to make ends meet, care for their families and experience the Catholic faith in action. This is a Promotion Project of the St. Mary's Women's Guild and Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in cooperation with Catholic Charities.



**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 Feb 19   | John Wolf Family, Sandy Erickson Family               |
| Tues Feb 20  | Maria White Family, Donna Gray Family                 |
| Wed Feb 21   | John & Katie Wille Family, Patti Zehr Family          |
| Thurs Feb 22 | Joe & Mary Wolf Family, Mark Corrigan Family          |
| Fri Feb 23   | Mary White Family, Taryn Tissiere Family              |
| Mon Feb 26   | David & Marilee Williams Family, Anne Corrigan Family |
| Tues Feb 27  | Chris & Ally Kinate Family, Danielle MacZura Family   |
| Wed Feb 28   | Deacon Ray & Cece White Family, Danielle Gill Family  |
| Thurs Feb 29 | Chad Wink Family, Kelly Krenz Family                  |
| Fri Mar 1    | James & Diana Woodburn Family, Patsy Delheimer Family |



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

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Jackie Mustread, Broker 815-674-2923  
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**Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will**

For further information, please call the parish office.

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**Pontiac KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** Council #854  
[www.KofC.org](http://www.KofC.org)

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

**Greg Kurtenbach**  
State Farm Agent  
800-284-8343

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