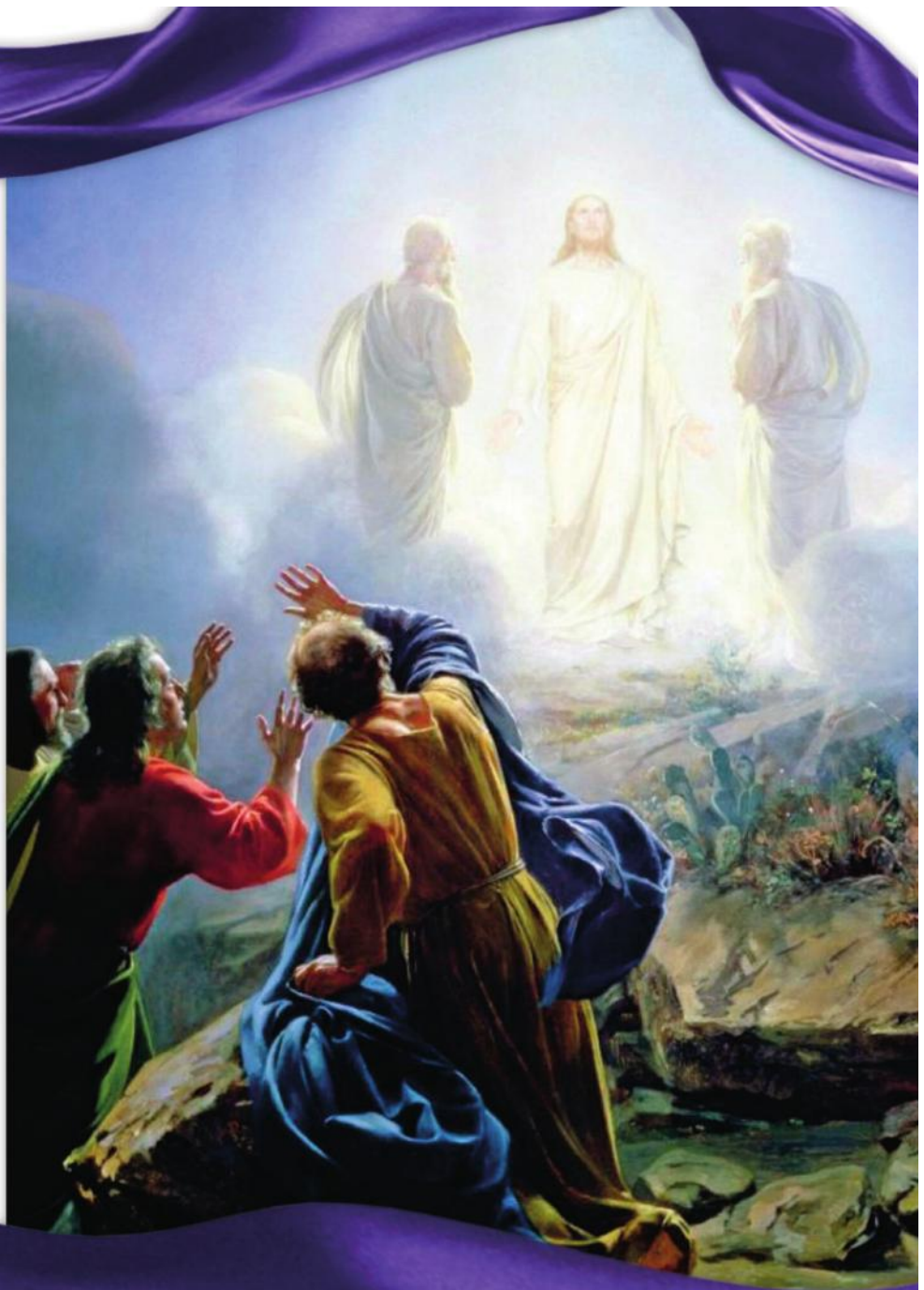


Jesus took Peter,
James, and John
and led them up
a high mountain
apart by
themselves.
And he was
transfigured
before them,
and his clothes
became dazzling
white.

Mark 9:2,3

Transfiguration of Jesus
by Carl Bloch, 1872



2ND SUNDAY OF
LENT

©Diocesan

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
February 25, 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

frijbaker@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: \$11,030.50

Building Maintenance Fund Collection was \$2,013.00.

School Collection: Next weekend.

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 24

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

Sunday, February 25 (Second Sunday of Lent)

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

9:30 a.m. Parish

Monday, February 26

7:00 a.m. Phyllis LoPiccalo

Tuesday, February 27 (St. Gregory of Narek)

7:00 a.m. Ron Wilken

Wednesday, February 28

7:00 a.m. Frances Russow

Thursday, February 29

8:15 a.m. Tim Speck

5:30 p.m. Special Intention Jim Flaherty Family

Friday, March 1

7:00 a.m. Ron Fogarty

Saturday, March 2

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

4:00 p.m. Patricia Ochs

Sunday, March 3 (Third Sunday of Lent)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. 50th wedd ann Bob & Evy Broerman
& Larry & Peg Meier

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.

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, March 2!**

MASS AT LOCAL NURSING HOME: Mass will be offered at Evenglow on **Friday, March 1 at 10am**

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

**ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, THERE
WILL BE A LENTEN HOLY HOUR AT
4:30PM FOLLOWED BY MASS AT 5:30PM**

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



**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

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.

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.

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.

LECTORS FOR MARCH

4:00pm Ann Finnegan
7:00am Beth Legner, Nancy Smith
9:30am Carol Faust, Nick Milhauser

EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS FOR MARCH

4:00pm Earline Devito, Susan Ledford, Joanne Coriell
7:00am Bryan & Susan Schweigert
9:30am Deb Bromberek, Marie Haag, Sara Dunham

GREETERS & USHERS FOR MARCH

4:00pm Arlene Fry, Margaret Legner, Paula Rosenbaum, Bill Bertram, Lynn DiNardi, Mike Linskey, Jim Sporrer
7:00am Beth Legner, Mary Follmer, Tim Kelly, Joe Stock, Don Verdun
9:30am Amanda Lauritsen, Pat Martin, Dan Smith, Doug & Linda Zick

SANCTUARY CLEANERS FOR MARCH

Linda Rhodes, 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.



**4-H GRAYMONT
ACHIEVERS**

**PANCAKE &
SAUSAGE
BREAKFAST**



Sunday, March 3rd

**Graymont Grade School
228 Lydia St, Graymont IL**

7 AM- 12 PM

**\$8 FOR AGES 10 AND UP
\$5 FOR AGES UNDER 10**

Sponsored by:

Teacher-Parent Organization



**GRAND PRIZE
\$5,000!**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13
FEATURING DJ BLAKE STADEL AS EMCEE**

**TOP 10
WIN
CASH
PRIZES!**

Your \$100 ticket admits two adults to Pontiac Elks Lodge for the event and includes dinner, beer, a chance to win fantastic prizes, and the opportunity to participate in live & silent auctions. Tickets can be purchased at the school or on our website school.stmaryspontiac.org.

5:15 pm Doors open
5:30 - 7:30 pm Buffet dinner served
6:30 pm DrawDown of tickets begins
followed by Live Auction

ONLY 300 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD. • NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN. • THIS EVENT IS FOR ADULTS 21+ ONLY.

St. Mary's School • 414 N. Main St. • Pontiac, IL 61764 • 815-844-6585 • school.stmaryspontiac.org



ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST

All the good that is in me is due to Holy Communion. I owe everything to it. I feel that this holy fire has transformed me completely. Oh, how happy I am to be a dwelling place for you, O Lord! My heart is a temple in which you dwell continually.
~St. Faustina Kowalska

All videos shown the past few months can be viewed at:
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>



AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION DESIGNED AND
CREATED BY [CARLO ACUTIS](#) THE SERVANT OF GOD

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 1st through Sunday, March 10th
In the Parish Hall.

Parish Hall Exhibit Hours:

March 1st: 5-7 PM during K of C Fish Fry

March 2nd: 5-7 PM after 4 PM Mass

March 3rd: 8 AM – Noon (Coffee & Donuts)

March 4th-6th: By Appointment only

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

March 7th: 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 8th: 5-7 PM during K of C Fish Fry

March 9th: 5-7 PM after 4 PM Mass

March 10th: 9:30 – 11:30 AM after CCD

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.factsmtg.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 FEBRUARY 25, 2024

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
Monday	Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday	Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday	Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt 20:17-28
Thursday	Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 16:19-31
Friday	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday	Third Sunday of Lent Ex 20:1-17 or Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

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 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 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.

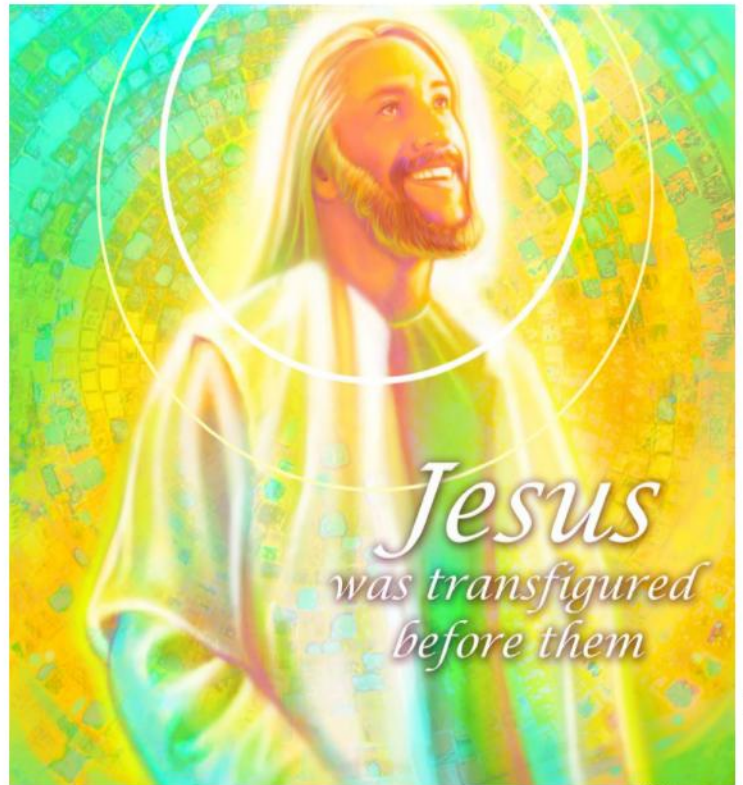
MASS IS BROADCAST EACH MORNING AT 7AM

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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**ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS**

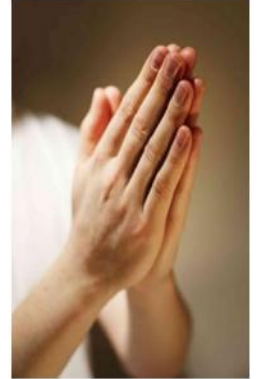
PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILIES THIS YEAR

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 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 |
| Mon Mar 4 | Bud & Rose Whittle Family, Katy Sartoris Family |
| Tues Mar 5 | Larry & Lynda Wink Family, Marie Becker Family |
| Wed Mar 6 | Amber Wooldridge Family, Christy Jones Family |
| Thurs Mar 7 | Don Whittle Family, Jamie Woolford Family |
| Fri Mar 8 | Herman Wipfler Family, Sarah Schopp 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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