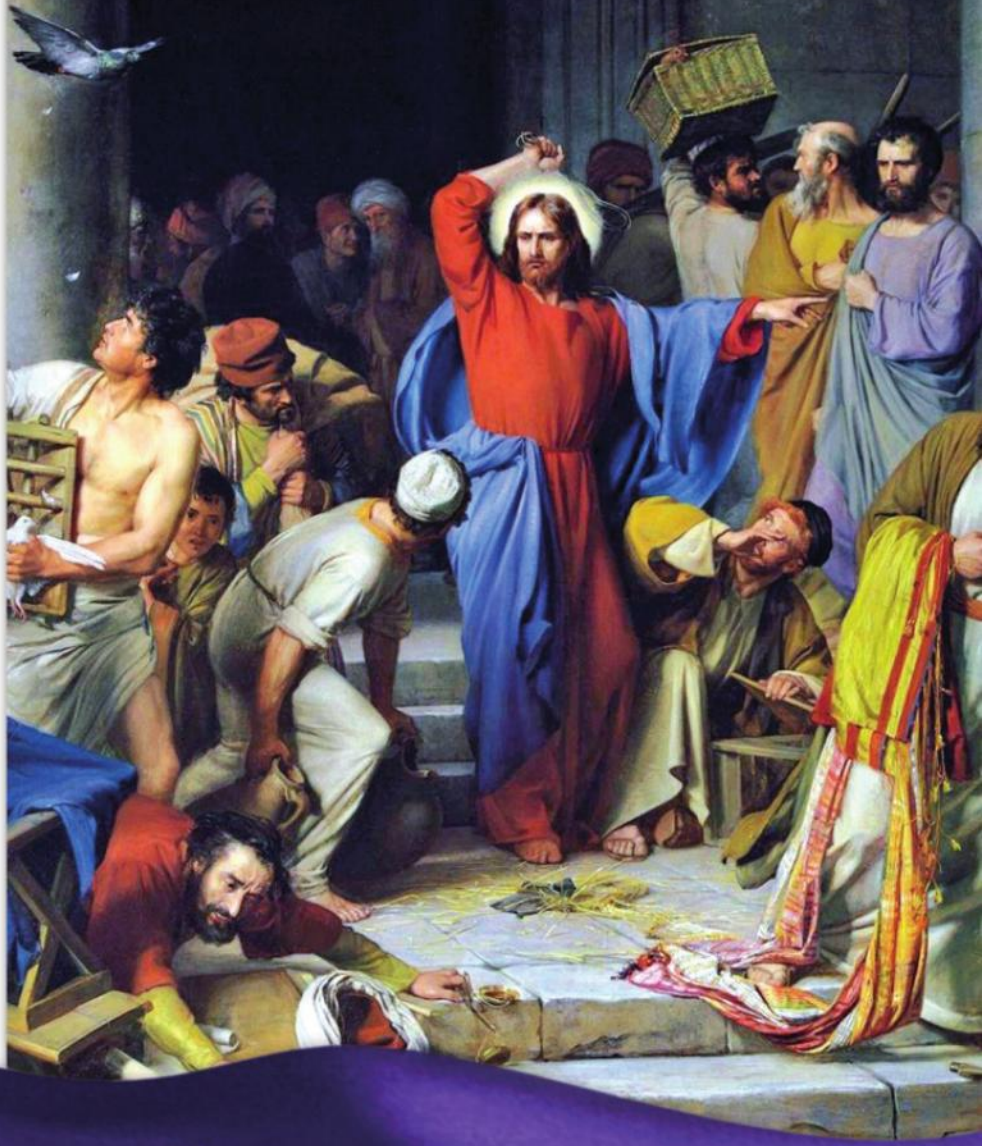


He made a whip  
out of cords  
and drove them  
all out of the  
temple area.  
“Take these out  
of here, and  
stop making my  
Father’s house  
a marketplace.”

*John 2:15,16*

Jesus Casting Out the Money  
Changers at the Temple  
by Carl Bloch, circa 1800s



3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF  
**LENT**

©Diocesan

**St. Mary’s Catholic Church**  
**Pontiac, Illinois**  
**March 3, 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: \$9,595.50

School Collection: This weekend.

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

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish.



## Mass Intentions

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  
and Larry & Peg Meier

Monday, March 4 (St. Casimir)

7:00 a.m. Rosemary Brady

Tuesday, March 5

7:00 a.m. Kay Cordani

Wednesday, March 6

7:00 a.m. 61st wedd ann Dcn. Jim & Laura Wallace

Thursday, March 7 (Sts. Perpetua & Felicity)

8:15 a.m. Rita Bolen

Friday, March 8 (St. John of God)

7:00 a.m. 1st ann Jean Dietz

Saturday, March 9 (St. Frances of Rome)

4:00 p.m. Judith Bohm

Sunday, March 10 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. 16th ann Tim 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.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the parents and family of **Oliver Jerome Henson**, son of Tim & Cheyenne Henson, who was recently baptized as a member of our faith.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Mark Cretsinger, R.I.P. (nephew of Kathy Sporrer). Our sympathy to his family and friends.

**MASS AT LOCAL NURSING HOME:** Mass will be offered at Goldwater Care on **Friday, March 8 at 9am.**

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED AT HOSPITAL:** We are looking for 5 Eucharistic Ministers to offer Communion to any Catholic patients at St. James Hospital in the event that the Chaplain would be absent. If you would be willing to assist in this very important ministry please call Bryan Schweigert at (815)-867-0958. Your help would be greatly appreciated !

**MEN & WOMEN NEEDED FOR DEEP CLEANING OF THE CHURCH:** It has been several years since we did a deep cleaning of the church. Volunteers are needed on **Saturday, March 16 from 9am to 12noon** to wash down pews, paneling and doors. Please bring your own bucket & rags.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
LENTEN FISH FRY**

**Friday, March 8  
5-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall**

**Fried pollack, baked cod, tuna noodle casserole,  
shrimp alfredo, garlic bread, vegetable,  
dessert & drink**

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

**Other Fish Frys will be offered on Friday, March 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.

**ATRIUM LENTEN PRESENTATION:** Kelly Krenz, director of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium will be giving a Lenten presentation to adults on **Thursday, March 14 from 10-11 am** at Heartland Community College Pontiac Campus, Room 220 (second floor of Pontiac Public Library, there is an elevator). All are welcome to attend.

**WOMEN'S GUILD RUMMAGE SALE FUNDRAISER:** The Women's Guild will be holding a Rummage Sale Fundraiser in the parish hall on **Friday, June 7 & Saturday, June 8**. Donated items in good condition are needed for the sale such as books, jewelry, linens, toys, household items, decorations and miscellaneous items. **NO CLOTHES!** Start saving your items. Drop off information will be provided closer to the sale date.



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

**LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE: Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m.** in the church. Extra priests will be on hand to hear individual confessions.

**EASTER FLOWERS** may once again be purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one to help decorate the church for Easter. All memorials and honors will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please place money and the form below in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" and place it in the collection basket.

**PLEASE PRINT NAMES AS YOU WANT THEM TO APPEAR IN THE BULLETIN.**

**IN MEMORY OF** \_\_\_\_\_

**IN HONOR OF** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

Lily—\$10    Small Mum—\$15    Large Mum—\$20    Azalea—\$30

**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**



**St. Mary's School**

414 North Main Street, Pontiac, Illinois 61764  
Phone 815-844-6585 Fax 815-844-6987

Father Joseph Baker, Pastor  
Mrs. Karen Jones, Principal

**St. Mary's DrawDown Ticket Order Form**

**Saturday, April 13, 2024 @ Pontiac Elks Lodge**

**\$100 per ticket, admits 2. This event is for adults (21+) only.**

Ticket includes dinner for two, beer, a chance to win amazing prizes, and the opportunity to participate in live & silent auctions. The dinner menu will feature fried chicken, mostaccioli, potatoes, green beans, lettuce salad, and dinner roll.

**All tickets will be at the registration table the night of the event.**

**Doors open at 5:15. Dinner served from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Please complete and return by March 17, 2024.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mark one of the following:**

\_\_\_\_ # of guests attending and enjoying dinner.  
\_\_\_\_ # of guests who would like takeout.

**Optional donation opportunities:**

\_\_\_\_ I will make a dessert to be auctioned.  
\_\_\_\_ I will donate a prize to be auctioned (due by Mar. 17.)

**New this year:**

Pre-purchase raffle tickets to win our *Hydration Hauler* (formerly *Wheelbarrow Game*). Win a folding utility wagon full of adult beverages, lottery tickets, and cash. Raffle ticket prices: 1 ticket \$5, 3 tickets \$10, and 8 tickets \$20.

**Payment:**

How many DrawDown tickets are you purchasing? (\$100 each)		Total cost for DrawDown tickets	
If you would like raffle tickets, how many? (1 for \$5, 3 for \$10, 8 for \$20)		Total cost for raffle tickets	
		Total amount due	

\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed. Please make all checks payable to **St. Mary's School**.  
\_\_\_\_ My payment has been made via my FACTS prepay account labeled TAPS (SMS parents only).

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION!**

Student selling ticket \_\_\_\_\_ Table point person \_\_\_\_\_  
(only needed if you are part of a group of 8+ and purchase ticket by Feb. 29.)

school.stmaryspontiac.org



## ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST

Once the words of consecration are spoken, the entirety of the Divine Liturgy is accomplished, complete, and the gifts sanctified. The sacrifice is complete, and the great and divine complete, and the gifts sanctified. The sacrifice is complete, and the great and divine Sacrificial Victim, slain for the world, is seen lying upon the holy table. The bread of the Lord's body is no longer a type or simple gift, as if it merely bore an image of the true gift. Nor does it merely bear in itself an inscription of the saving sufferings as upon a tablet. Rather, it is the true gift, the all-holy body of the Master who truly endured all those insults, arrogant mistreatment, and bruises. After truthfully testifying before Pontius Pilate, His body was crucified and slain: this body was beaten, tortured, endured spittings, and tasted gall. Likewise, the wine is the blood that gushed forth from that slain body. This is the body and the blood that was conceived from the Holy Spirit, born of the Blessed Virgin, buried, rose on the third day, taken up into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father.

~Nicholas Cabasilas (c. 1322 - 1392)

All Eucharistic 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

Sunday, April 14: After 7 & 9:30 AM Masses Coffee/Donuts/Eucharistic Video in MPR

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

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



AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION DESIGNED AND  
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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

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 3, 2024

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

Monday 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9;  
Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20;  
Mt 5:17-19

Thursday Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23

Friday Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14  
and 17; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent  
2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6;  
Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

**SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON:**  
Thursday, March 21 from 11am to 1pm  
St. Andrew Catholic Church,  
110 E. Ash Street, Fairbury. Serving  
Ham, Salads, Rolls & Beverages. By  
Donation Only. Carry-outs available.  
Hosted by the Altar & Rosary Society  
of St. Andrew Church.



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**

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE  
HOLY FATHER FOR MARCH

**For the new martyrs:** We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.



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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 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:

**Catholic Spirit Talk Radio.**

*New App - Same Quality Catholic Programs!*

**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.



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

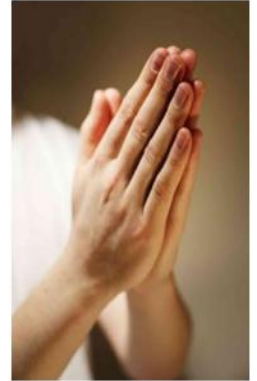
**PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILIES THIS YEAR**

*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 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              |
| Mon Mar 11   | Annette Wooldridge Family, Charlene Aaron Family        |
| Tues Mar 12  | Robert & Lori Wright Family, Debbie Alsdorf Family      |
| Wed Mar 13   | Rod & Patti Zehr Family, Les & Josie Ahrends Family     |
| Thurs Mar 14 | Ann Worthington Family, Carol Antolik Family            |
| Fri Mar 15   | Leonard & Connie Wydajewski Family, Carol Alford 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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Dr. Ryan Carley | Dr. Natalie Carley  
[cfidental@frontier.com](mailto:cfidental@frontier.com)  
**815.844.5200**  
1521 W. Reynolds St • Pontiac, IL

**WILLIAM H. BERTRAM**  
ATTORNEY at LAW

[bill@whbltdpc.com](mailto:bill@whbltdpc.com)  
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- GIBSON CITY
- FAIRBURY
- PONTIAC



*"Ask a Knight what you can do for the Parish."*

**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)

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[sboone@diocesan.com](mailto:sboone@diocesan.com)



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Richard Gutknecht

