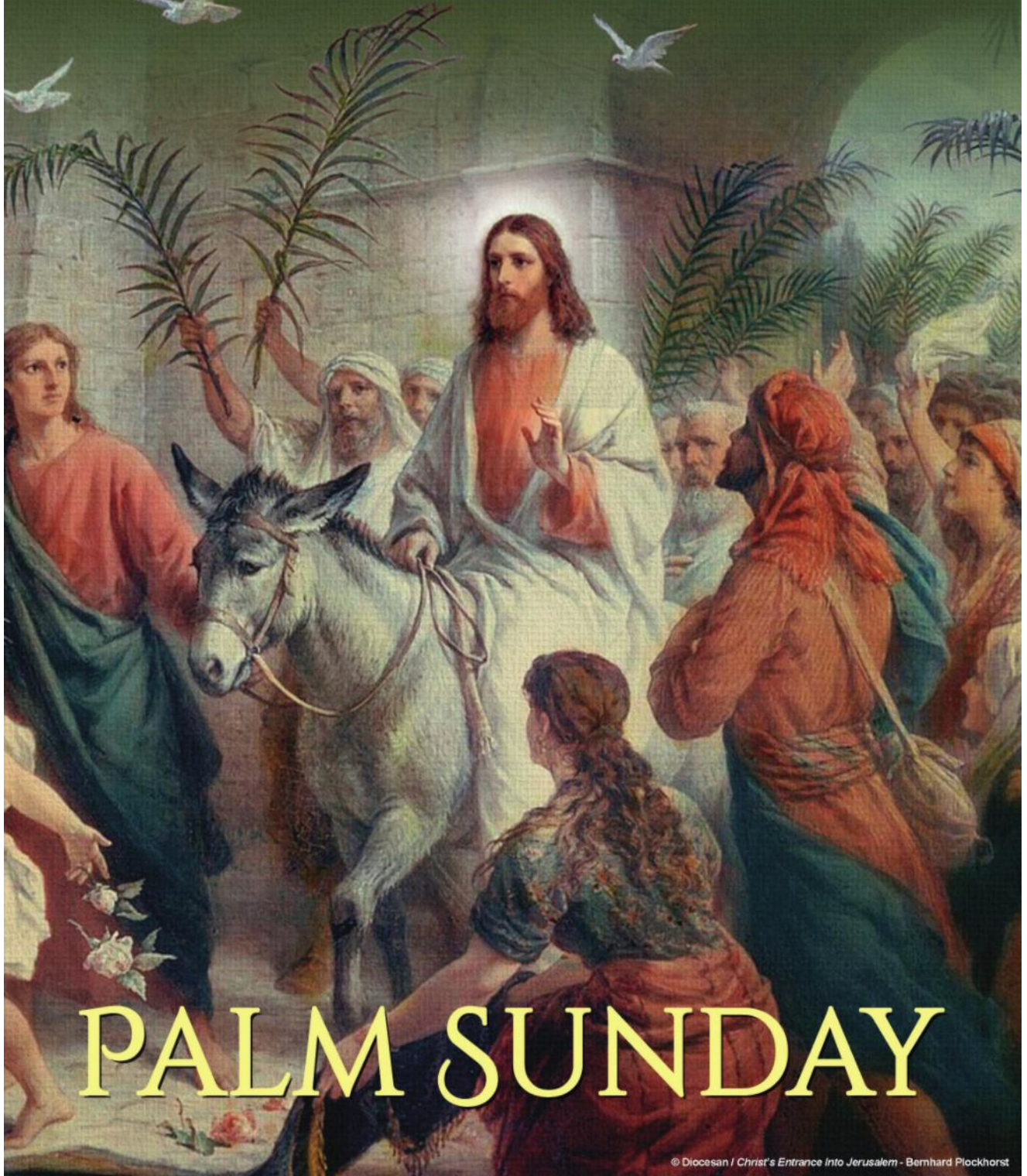


**“Blessed is He who comes in the name
of the LORD!”**

Mark 11:9



PALM SUNDAY

© Diocesan / Christ's Entrance Into Jerusalem - Bernhard Plockhorst

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Pontiac, Illinois

March 24, 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: \$16,330.19

Building Maintenance Fund Collection was \$2,577.00.

Holy Land Collection will be taken up at the Good Friday
Service.

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 23 (St. Turibius of Mogrovejo)

4:00 p.m. 2nd ann Sharil Ryan

Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord)

7:00 a.m. Parish
9:30 a.m. Ken Russow, Louie Lyons, Gene Lyons,
Edward Lyons, Joe Rathbun

Monday, March 25

7:00 a.m. Bill & Inez Craig

Tuesday, March 26

7:00 a.m. Patricia Lyons

Wednesday, March 27

7:00 a.m. 28th ann Eileen Gschwendtner

Thursday, March 28 (Holy Thursday)

7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, March 29 (Good Friday)

3:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

Saturday, March 30 (Holy Saturday)

7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, March 31 (Easter Sunday)

7:00 a.m. Celeste Margherio
9:00 a.m. 16th ann Patricia Rich
11:00 a.m. Parish

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: The Adoration Chapel is
open each weekday, Monday-Friday from 8am until 8pm and Sat-
urday 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, please call the parish office at 815-844-7683 to re-
serve your spot in our Baptism preparation class which takes 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.

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 Chap-
lain 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 !

NEW ALTAR SERVERS: If you are interested in being an
Altar Server please call or text Julie Wenger at (815) 252-5947.

FALLEN AWAY CATHOLICS: Do you know a member of
our church who has stopped attending Masses since Covid, or for
another reason? We would like to reach out to these church mem-
bers. Please call the parish office at 815-844-7683 with names.

CONGRATULATIONS to the parents and families of **Jonah
Matthew Limberg**, son of Erik & Grace Limberg, and **Ada Lee
Ralph**, daughter of Jake & Ashley Ralph, who were recently
baptized as members of our faith.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Jill Amm (sister of Joanne Sancken) and
Mike Murphy (brother of Patrick Murphy), R.I.P. Our sympathy to
their families and friends.

**Soup
Supper**



**ST. MARY'S
STUDENT COUNCIL
SOUP SUPPER
TO BENEFIT
"OUR MILITARY KIDS"**

**Friday, April 5
5-7 pm
St. Mary's Parish Hall**

Chili, Turkey Noodle Soup, Potato Soup,
Grilled Cheese & drink. \$10 per person.
This event was postponed in January. Please come
and help support a worthwhile cause. Thank you.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY SEWING CIRCLE will meet
Thursday, March 28 from 9am to 12:30pm in the parish hall.

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.

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, lin-
ens, toys, household items, decorations and miscellaneous items.
NO CLOTHES! Start saving your items. Drop off information
will be provided closer to the sale date.

**SAVE THE DATE ~ SMS GOLF OUTING
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
MORE DETAILS COMING IN MAY**



HOLY WEEK

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held at 12:00 noon on
Good Friday.

PLANTS NEEDED FOR GETHSEMENE GARDEN: We
are in need of all sizes of green plants for our Holy Thursday
display. Plants can be dropped off at the church during Holy
Week before Wednesday at noon, then picked up on Good Fri-
day before 10am.

ATTENTION ADORERS: The Adoration Chapel will be
closed from 6pm on Holy Thursday until Easter Sunday.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Monday, March 25

6:30-6:50am – Confessions
7am – Mass

Tuesday, March 26

6:30-6:50am – Confessions
7am – Mass

Wednesday, March 27

6:30-6:50am – Confessions
7am – Mass

12-1pm – Confessions

5-6pm - Confessions

Holy Thursday, March 28

7pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

12 Midnight - Adoration Closes

Good Friday, March 29

12pm - Stations of the Cross

3pm - Passion Service

Holy Saturday, March 30

12-2pm - Confessions

7:30pm - Easter Vigil Mass (NO 4pm Mass)

Easter Sunday, March 31

Masses at 7am, 9am and 11am

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE AT AREA CHURCHES

Holy Thursday: Chenoa & Chatsworth at 7pm

Good Friday: Flanagan at 5pm, Lexington at 5:30pm,
Chenoa & Chatsworth at 7pm

Easter Vigil: Chenoa at 7:30pm

Easter Sunday: Flanagan at 8am, Lexington at 9am,
Chatsworth at 10am, Chenoa at 11am

2023 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

We are almost there! If you have not yet made a gift to the ADA, please
consider doing so. All gifts are greatly appreciated!

This year's goal: \$89,801

Pledged to date: \$88,863.22 (as of March 4)

Sponsored by:

Teacher-Parent Organization



DRAWDOWN

**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. Very few tickets remaining. Call the school office to check ticket availability.

- 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

The mark of the Christian is the willingness to look for the Divine in the flesh of a babe in a crib, the continuing Christ under the appearance of bread on an altar, and a meditation and a prayer on a string of beads.

~Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

All Eucharistic videos shown the past few months can be viewed at:
church.stmaryspontiac.org > News & Events > Encounter the Eucharist

UPCOMING EVENTS

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>

Be There When God Moves

July 17-21, 2024, tens of thousands of passionate Catholics will experience an outpouring of grace on a scale this generation has never seen. This historic moment is called the 10th National Eucharistic Congress. Catholics from every corner of the U.S. will be in Indianapolis for this transformative gathering, and YOU are invited to represent our parish at this pivotal moment!

Whether you join us for the full experience or one day, you'll enjoy world-class teaching from some of the most trusted Catholic voices in the United States. Come encounter and worship Jesus in a new way, and be anointed to share those graces with our community when you return home.

More than ever, you will be proud to be Catholic and excited about the future of the Church in America.



Scan the code to learn more about the event and explore the full schedule for each day. Contact our parish office for more information about registering with your fellow parishioners.

eucharisticcongress.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 MARCH 24, 2024

Sunday	Palm Sunday Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16; Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1—15:47 or Mk 15:1-39
Monday	Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday	Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday	Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34; Mt 26:14-25
Thursday	Holy Thursday Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
Friday	Good Friday Is 52:13—53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1—19:42
Saturday	Easter Vigil Gn1:1—2:2 or Gn 1:1, 26-31a; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20 and 22; Gn 22:1-18 or Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15- 18; Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11; Ex 14:15—15:1; Ex 15:1- 2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11- 12, 13; Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Rom 6:3-11; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mk 16:1-7
Sunday	The Resurrection of the Lord Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9

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.



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 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 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.



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

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILIES THIS YEAR

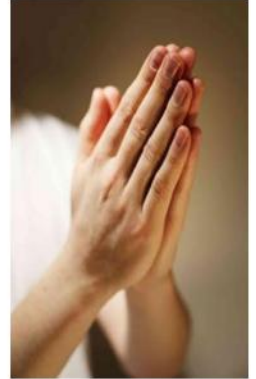
We ask everyone to pray for specific church and school families each weekday.

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 25
Tues Mar 26
Wed Mar 27
Thurs Mar 28
Fri Mar 29
Mon Apr 1
Tues Apr 2
Wed Apr 3
Thurs Apr 4
Fri Apr 5

Rita Wright Family, Amber Bartolo Family
Glenn & Jan Zehr Family, Tracy Arduini Family
Kelly Zehr Family, Joan Baier Family
Cindy Baker Family, Ed & Andrea Bartolotta Family
Barbara Barton Family, Mike & Jennifer Armstrong Family
Frank & Carol Arnolts Family, Joe & Mary Baker Family
Tim & Virginia Bassett Family, Larry & Candice Bradshaw Family
Mari Anne Arnolts Family, Kevin Billington Family
Mike & Jane Barr Family, Stanley & Beth Boguszewski Family
Jennifer Bauknecht Family, Chris & Josephina Brady Family



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!

BABY BULL'S

FAMILY RESTAURANT

Banquet Room
Rt. 116 West
815-844-5757

LYONS BROTHERS
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.
LENNOX
815-844-3585
727 W MADISON
lyonsbrothers.com

BESTONE PFAFF
TIRE & AUTO CARE TIRE & AUTO INC.
TIRES • ALIGNMENTS • BRAKES • AIR CONDITIONING • TUNE-UPS
CUSTOM EXHAUST • LUBRICATION • SHOCKS • STRUTS
FARM TIRE SERVICE • COMPUTER DIAGNOSTICS

Robert & Sharri Pfaff, Parishioners
815-844-2525
360 S. Deerfield Rd. • PfaffTireandAuto.com

STAMPS BODY SHOP, LLC
920 N Ladd - Pontiac
(815) 844-5727

EWTN.COM/RADIO
EWTN Global Catholic Radio
TUNE IN

Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.

Simply go to www.DM.CHURCH/1252

OSF HEALTHCARE
OSFHealthCare.org

PONTIAC FAMILY KITCHEN
904 CUSTER AVENUE
815-844-3155

BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER COCKTAILS
BANQUET SEATING UP TO 80

...or scan

catholicmatch® Illinois

CatholicMatch.com/goll

KITCHEN LADY
MARY D. SOLON, CKD
Certified Kitchen Designer
815-822-0801
mary@kitchenladydesigns.com
Professional Service. Expert Advice.

WOOD HARBOR CABINETRY
QUARTZ & SOLID SURFACE COUNTERTOPS
www.kitchenladydesigns.com

DISCOVERMASS

State Bank of Graymont
Offices in Chenoa, Graymont, Pontiac, & Saunemin
www.sbofgray.com

GEM'S
CARPET CLEANING PLUS
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
815.844.4424
FREE ESTIMATES
 Gerry & Karen Miller Owners
www.gemscarpetcleaningplusreviews.com



815-842-0360

LIVINGSTON STONE Company

FINE QUALITY AGRICULTURAL LIMESTONE
Crushed Stone To Your Specifications

RR NO. 4, PONTIAC
www.livstoneco.com
815-844-6341

brazier®
"We Treat You Right"

DQ

PONTIAC DAIRY QUEEN
802 N LADD ST.



LYONS SULLIVAN REALTY INC

815-842-1400
321 W Madison St.

Terry Sullivan,
Designated
Managing Broker

Tim Bassett, Broker 815-822-8182
Brett Graves, Broker 815-674-1458
Jackie Mustread, Broker 815-674-2923
www.LyonsSullivanRealty.com

ZEPHYR ROOFING

ROOFING, SIDING, GUTTERS & MORE!
Residential • Commercial • Industrial

Chris Matthews
OWNER

815-884-0580
thezephyrteam.com

Kelly Electric

815.844.5921

Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will

For further information, please call the parish office.

Carley FAMILY DENTAL

Dr. Ryan Carley | Dr. Natalie Carley
cfidental@frontier.com
815.844.5200
1521 W. Reynolds St • Pontiac, IL

WILLIAM H. BERTRAM
ATTORNEY at LAW

bill@whbltdpc.com
318 North Mill St. | Pontiac, IL
815-842-1100

Flawless Family Home Care

Servicing Livingston, Grundy, and LaSalle Counties
(855) 815-1585
WWW.FLAWLESSFAMILYHOMECARE.COM

JOHN DEERE | **PRAIRIE STATE TRACTOR**

Your local and reliable Full Service John Deere Dealer!

805 E Howard St.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-842-1149
prairiestatetractor.com

Bank of Pontiac

Bloomington • Coal City • Delavan • Dwight • Fairbury
Forrest • Melvin • Minier • Odell • Paxton • Piper City • Pontiac
Toll FREE 855-844-6151 | www.bankofpontiac.com
Member FDIC

DRISCOLL GMC

601 S Newport Rd, Pontiac • 1-815-842-1143 or
1-800-851-7605
Driscollmotors.com
Service • Sales • Parts • Detailing

Smith's
Plumbing, Heating & A/C
DAN • STEVE
smithsplumbingandheatingil.com
822 East Howard St. - 815-844-7868

Pontiac KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Council #854
www.KofC.org

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

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

Pontiac KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Council #854
www.KofC.org

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

Greg Kurtenbach
State Farm Agent
800-284-8343

📍 GIBSON CITY
📍 FAIRBURY
📍 PONTIAC

State Farm

MADISON STREET
FAMILY RESTAURANT
SERVING AMERICAN & MEXICAN FOOD
(815) 844-2755 / 107 E MADISON ST.
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

Mexican • Breakfast • American
DINE-IN OR DELIVERY
Only Delivered to Pontiac, Illinois
DAILY SPECIALS
Visit us on Facebook

Locally Owned & Operated by Paul & Mary Breznay

Free Hamburger with purchase of any item

One coupon per visit.
Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/24.
Redeemable Only at Pontiac McDonalds

i'm lovin' it

ADVERTISE HERE

Promote your Business AND Support your Parish.

Susie Boone - 269-226-0064
sboone@diocesan.com

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Richard Gutknecht

DIOCESAN To Advertise 1-800-783-1623 Online at Diocesan.com/Business VISA 1252