



5TH SUNDAY  
*of Easter*

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
**Pontiac, Illinois**  
**April 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

[frijbaker@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:frijbaker@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: \$9,129.25

Building Maintenance Fund Collection was \$2,294.00.

School Collection: Next weekend.

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish.



*Mass Intentions*

Saturday, April 27

4:00 p.m. Deceased members McCarthy & Lyons  
Families

Sunday, April 28 (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Paul Rittenhouse

11:30 a.m. First Communion Mass

Monday, April 29 (St. Catherine of Siena)

7:00 a.m. 46th wedd ann Steve & Linda Renner

Tuesday, April 30 (St. Pius V, pope)

7:00 a.m. James & Claudia McGinn

Wednesday, May 1 (St. Joseph the Worker)

7:00 a.m. Bill Wallace

Thursday, May 2 (St. Athanasius)

8:15 a.m. 11th ann Jim Brown

Friday, May 3 (Sts. Philip & James, Apostles)

7:00 a.m. Connie Larkin

Saturday, May 4

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

4:00 p.m. Selma Simpson

Sunday, May 5 (Sixth Sunday of Easter)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Bernard & Gertrude Gschwendtner

**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.

**MASS AT LOCAL NURSING HOME:** Mass will be offered at  
Evanglow on **Friday, May 3 at 10am**.

**MASS FOR FALLEN AWAY CATHOLICS:** Every First Sat-  
urday 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, May 4**.

**GARDENING ANGELS NEEDED:** Volunteers are needed to  
help with designated areas around the parish campus. Some areas  
have perennials already in place, so just weeding and pruning are  
needed in those areas. If you would like to help, please contact the  
parish office at 815-844-7683.

**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.

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

**GRADUATES MASS:** This year's Senior Graduates Mass will be celebrated on **Sunday, May 19 at the 9:30am Mass**. Invitations will be sent out soon.

**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.

**LECTORS FOR MAY**

4:00pm Cara Enriquez  
7:00am Beth Legner  
9:30am Margo Law & Lisa M. Martin

**EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS FOR MAY**

4:00pm Gary Doughan, Mary Lynn Schopp, Joanne Coriell  
7:00am Bryan & Susan Schweigert  
9:30am Linda Rhodes, Jim & Nanette Marx

**GREETERS & USHERS FOR MAY**

4:00pm Mary Timmerman, Joanne Coriell, Mike Linsky, Jim Sporrer, Mike VanSickle  
7:00am Andy & Shirley Eckel, Vicki McBeath, Brad Follmer, Bob Fox, John Kelly, Mick Peterson  
9:30am Tammy Johns, Karen Moen, Joe & Mary Baker, Vic & Victor Johns

**SANCTUARY CLEANERS FOR MAY**

Harriet Hughes, Katie Wille, Earline Devito, Peg Meier



**TEACHER NEEDED**

**St. Mary's School has a teacher opening for Junior High Math: Job will start August 2024.** Must have a valid Illinois teaching certificate, Middle school/Junior High Endorsement in Math preferred.

We are seeking a Jr. High Math 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)

**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.



This Sunday at a special Mass, the following students will receive their First Holy Communion. Our congratulations to:

Sabrina Ahrends	Cameron Mackinson
Avery Alsdorf	Eva Masching
Boston Alsdorf	Mia Newkirk
Harper Bachman	Vinney Rexcoat
Alexis Brown	Riley Salinas
Parker Casner	Jaxson Sancken
Jasmine Kennedy	Audrey Swartz
Adam Legner	Wilson Sweitzer
Beckett Legner	Josie Wenger

Dear Parishioners,  
Please see the note below pertaining to the upcoming "huddle"



event hosted by Evangelical Catholic. If you haven't heard about or read previously, Evangelical Catholic (EC) is a nation-wide evangelization movement in which St. Mary's has invested for around a year now, along with several other parishes and Newman Centers in our diocese. Over the course of several weeks, EC seeks to form parishioners by training them in a small group setting to be equipped with the skills to evangelize the larger community. Those who go through the training also receive tools to grow deeper in love with Jesus and the Catholic Church.

The event on May 8 at 6:30pm is an additional opportunity for parishioners to gather for fellowship, discussion, and formation beyond the normal EC setting. BBQ sandwiches, veggies and dessert will also be provided, **free of charge!** While each training group is limited to a small number, the goal is to eventually allow all interested parishioners to experience the EC training. With that said, **ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED** to the May 8 event, whether you've previously been a part of EC or not. If you want the message of Jesus Christ and His Holy Church to be better known, you're invited. I hope to see you on May 8!

Fr. Joe



*Think you're the only one who struggles to feel God's presence? "Spiritual Dryness" is a very common experience-even for the saints. Come to this event for practical tips on what to do when God seems distant.*

*You'll receive:*

- An inspirational message by Jason Simon, President of the Evangelical Catholic
- Practical tips for seeking the Lord through the ups and downs of faith
- Time for personal reflection and small group discussion
- Resources for ongoing growth in prayer and the spiritual life

**EVANGELICAL CATHOLIC HUDDLE  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 at 6:30PM**

**at the Parish Offices**

**Light meal provided at no cost**

**RSVP to 815-844-7683**

# ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

## 2024-2025 K - 8 Registration Open

### Why choose us?

- Full, state private school recognition
- Certified teachers
- Scholarships available
- K - 8 building, one class of each
- Music, Art, PE, and Computers
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd religion program

### We are...

- providing a safe and welcoming environment for all.
- partnering with parents in the faith formation of their children.
- setting high standards for student achievement.
- preparing students to be productive citizens and future leaders.
- instilling the value of service to others in our students.



*Sow the Seeds of Success:  
Join Our School Family Today!*



### 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.

### EMMAUS DAYS: SESSIONS I & II

Session I *June 7-9* College & Young Adult Men

Session II *June 21-24* High School Juniors & Seniors

Sessions I and II are overnight retreats at St. John's Catholic Newman Center in Champaign. Participants deepen their faith and focus on discerning God's will through prayer and the sacraments. By listening to and spending time with priests and seminarians, participants get a glimpse into their lives.

### EMMAUS DAYS: SESSIONS III & IV

Session III *July 7-10* High School Freshmen & Sophomores

Session IV *July 10-12* Seventh & Eighth Graders

Sessions III and IV are overnight retreats at Peoria Notre Dame High School. Led by seminarians, participants engage in masculine fraternity and learn to become real Christian men. The experience includes prayer, talks and activities like basketball, soccer, ultimate frisbee, card games, and swimming.

To register for any session, go to: [comeandfollowme.org/emmausdays](http://comeandfollowme.org/emmausdays)

*TOTUS TUUS 2024: Mark your calendars for July 7-11 for junior high and high school students, and July 8-12 for those entering 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades.*



## ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST

Since this is First Communion Sunday, we thought it would be appropriate to challenge all of you to reflect on your First Holy Communion Day and encourage you to offer prayers of thanksgiving for the beautiful gift of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. And to also ask Our Lord to deepen your appreciation and understanding of this wonderful gift of unity with Him. The following reflection may help you to ponder more deeply and aid you in prayer. God's Blessings to all!!

My dear little friends, this sweet day, the object of your desires, so rich in the happiness and holy joy you have heard spoken of so often, will soon arrive. This day will be beautiful, great and solemn. It will fill your young hearts with consolations. It will be a precious memory, since, for the first time, you will be given a place at the heavenly banquet, where you will be nourished with the Body of God. You will be washed and your thirst quenched in his Blood, intimately united with his divinity and blessed with the grace of his love.

Ask Jesus, our Savior, to come prepare a place for himself in your young hearts so there will be nothing to grieve him when he arrives. Think only of Jesus, since he is choosing to rest in your souls. Make his dwelling place like a sanctuary of innocence and peace.

O my dear children, we would have to have the hearts of angels to receive Our Lord as he deserves, so try to receive him with as much faith, humility, and love as you can. And when Our Lord is in your heart, trust Him completely and dwell in the delights of his presence. Love, worship, listen, praise. Oh, the happy moment! Eternity alone holds greater joys for us.

Take Advantage of Our Lord's presence to ask for all kinds of graces, for yourselves, your parents, for all those who prepared you for this important act, for the Church, for our Holy Father the Pope, for the dear souls in Purgatory, for poor sinners.

~St. Bernadette Soubirous (1844-1879)

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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](http://eucharisticcongress.org)



NATIONAL  
Eucharistic  
Congress

JULY 17-21, 2024 | INDIANAPOLIS, IN

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 28, 2024

Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8
Monday	St. Catherine of Siena Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday	Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday	Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday	St. Athanasius Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11
Friday	Sts. Philip and James, Apostles 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Jn 14:6-14
Saturday	Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5; Jn 15:18-21
Sunday	Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17



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 MAY

For the formation of religious and seminarians: We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.



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:

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Golf "FORE" St. Paul  
Juli Sullivan-Mike Moyemont Memorial

Sun. June 9th  
Registration- 11:30a.m.- 12:30p.m.  
Shotgun Start 1:00p.m.



\$70 per golfer- includes green fees, cart & meal

Silent Auction, Raffles (donations welcome), 50/50 and "Beat the Pro"

For questions or to reserve a foursome, contact Jess @ 815-674-9867



**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 Apr 29  
Tues Apr 30  
Wed May 1

Jim & Mary Billington Family, Donna Cahill Family  
Kim Boden Family, Harold & Bernice Brown Family  
Gary & Kristina Brunner Family,

John Cyril & Karen Castillo Family

Thurs May 2  
Fri May 3  
Mon May 6  
Tues May 7  
Wed May 8  
Thurs May 9  
Fri May 10

Raquel Calle Family, Linda Benedino Family  
Kim Brown Family, Neil & Theresa Christopher Family  
Barbara Brunskill Family, Andy & Joni Collins Family  
Brad & Angela Campbell Family, Crystal Chalkey Family  
Mary Lee Brown Family, Chris & Callie Clement Family  
John Brunskill Family, Hannah Collins Family  
Jacob Campbell Family, Lance & Vicki Champlain 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

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[www.KofC.org](http://www.KofC.org)

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

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