CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS TO OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS



St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
May 5, 2024

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

frjbaker@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

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: \$10,960.50

School Collection: This weekend.

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

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, 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

Monday, May 6

7:00 a.m. James & Ileene McGinn

Tuesday, May 7

7:00 a.m. Msgr. William Watson

Wednesday, May 8

7:00 a.m. Dorothy Trainor & Starr Kohn

Thursday, May 9

8:15 a.m. Jeff Legner

Friday, May 10 (St. John of Avila; St. Damien de Veuster)

7:00 a.m. 4th ann Jose Gonzalez

Saturday, May 11

4:00 p.m. Parish

Sunday, May 12 (The Ascension of the Lord)

7:00 a.m. Mary Weber 9:30 a.m. Mary Jo Murphy

EUCHARISTIC 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, please call the parish office at 815-844-7683 to reserve 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 Goldwater Care on Friday, May 10 at 9:15am.

OUR GRATITUDE to parishioners Isabelle Matthews, Angela Mote and Cece White, who were successful in completing the level one certification for the United States Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd! We look forward to having these ladies assist in our Atrium with the youth in our school and CCD program. May God bless you for your willingness to support this ministry!

PLEASE PRAY FOR parishioner Mari Anne Arnolts, and Debi Fitzsimmons (daughter of Sandra Moore), R.I.P. Our sympathy to their families and friends.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



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

GRADUATES MASS: This year's Senior Graduates Mass will be celebrated on **Sunday**, **May 19 at the 9:30am Mass**. Invitations have been sent out. If you have a senior graduate and did not receive this invitation, please contact the parish office. RSVPs can be returned in the collection basket or mailed to the parish office.

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

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.

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.

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, 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. MARY'S SCHOOL PRINCIPAL KAREN JONES FOR BEING NAMED THE DIOCESE OF PEORIA DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL FOR THE 2023/24 ACADEMIC YEAR! WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE MRS. JONES LEAD OUR SCHOOL!



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

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.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: Have you felt a desire to grow closer to God through prayer and the sacramental life of the Church? Do you sense a nagging tug to take a step toward greater devotion and love of Jesus, His Church, and the Blessed Mother or maybe you just need a pick-me-up in your life with God? If so, Spiritual Direction might be something for you. Spiritual Direction is an ancient practice in the Church in which one Christian meets with another to discuss his/her personal life with God with the goal of growing in intimacy and relationship While many priests and religious offer Spiritual Direction, we're also blessed here at St. Mary's to have a parishioner, Mary A. Billington, who is a licensed Spiritual Director, having graduated from the Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence School of Spiritual Direction in Florida in 2010. Mary is trained in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola, a specific form of direction in the Church, and is passionate about helping others grow deeper in knowledge and love of Jesus. If this is something that speaks to you, reach out to Mary at (815) 674-7197 or jmbill83@gmail.com. To learn more about the practice of Spiritual Direction, take a look at spiritualdirection.com, a website run by the Avila Institute, a Catholic movement dedicated to spiritual formation of the faithful.

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

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

2024-2025 K - 8 Registration Open

Why choose

- Full, state private school recognition
- Certified teachers
- Scholarships available
- K 8 building, one class of each us? Music, Art, PE, and Computers

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd religion program

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 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.

EMMAUS DAYS

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.

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



ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST

I pray, Lord, that by this holy and living mystery of Your Body and Blood, which we in the Church Militant continually feed upon and are nourished, and by which we are cleansed and sanctified, and through which we have been made to participate of Your One and highest Deity, that You grant unto me Your holy virtues, so that with a right conscience I may receive this great Sacrament, which is indeed my very life and well-being. You my Lord, said "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live

forever" [John 6:51]. O Holy Bread! Living Bread! Come into my heart, enter into my soul, and heal and sanctify me through and through. Thus fortified by You, I might arrive at Your triumphant Kingdom where I will see You not in mystery! Not veiled like now, but face to face. Then You will be wholly in us, and will fulfill me with wonderful abundance so that I shall never hunger, nor thirst, throughout all eternity.

~St. Antonius of Florence (1389-1459)

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 17–21: 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis > https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/register

ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST WEB PAGE

Visit: church.stmaryspontiac.org > News & Events > Encounter the Eucharist



We want to provide you an update regarding Bishop Tylka's discernment process as part of the Growing Disciples initiative, the multi-year pastoral planning process for the Catholic Diocese of Peoria to renew discipleship and enhance relationships with Jesus Christ in every corner of our region. Bishop Tylka is reading, listening to and praying about all the feedback he is receiving. In the meantime, we want to share with you how he plans to announce his decisions.

On the weekend of May 18 and 19 (Pentecost weekend), each pastor will read a letter from the Bishop at every weekend Mass. The letter will include information specific to each parish and will be shared at all the Masses that weekend.

Between 5 pm and 6 pm on Saturday, May 18, the Diocese will be making the information public regarding all parish changes and priest announcements on its website (growingdisciplescdop.org). That website will also include a glossary of terms, a section of Frequently Asked Questions and a personal message from the Bishop. The website also currently includes materials to help guide you in praying a Novena before the announcement Pentecost weekend. Please join us in praying this Novena for the nine days leading up to Pentecost for the people of the Diocese of Peoria. We will begin together May 10. Through these prayers, we will reflect on our history and legacy in the region. Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the faithful will be empowered to go make disciples in our new, mission-driven, sustainable structure of parishes.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 5, 2024

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

Monday Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b;

Jn 15:26 — 16:4a

Tuesday Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8;

Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14;

Jn 16:12-15

Thursday Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 16:16-20 Friday Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 16:20-23 Saturday Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10; Jn 16:23b-28

Sunday The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13; Mk 16:15-20

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.





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 <u>www.stmaryspontiac.org</u> 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.



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.

ROSÂRY 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:

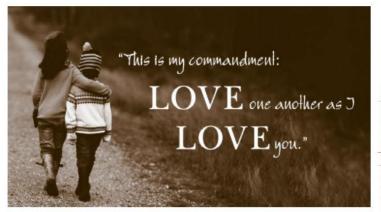
Catholic Spirit Talk Radio.

New App - Same Quality Catholic Programs!

Conoce alguna persona que estaría interesada en escuchar la radio católica en Español? Todos pueden escucharla usando la Pagina Web <u>catholicspiritradio.com</u> y hacer un clic Listen Live después otro clic Listen Live: Spanish. Adicionalmente, todos pueden escucharla por medio de <u>catholicspiritradio.com/copy-of-listen-live-1</u> (Ambas opciones también se pueden usar con la aplicación {app} Catholic Spirit Talk Radio.)

Do you know anyone who might be interested in listening to Catholic talk radio in Spanish? People can listen by using the website <u>catholicspiritradio.com</u> and clicking <u>Listen Live</u> then clicking <u>Listen Live</u>: <u>Spanish</u>. Additionally, people can hear it at <u>catholicspiritradio.com/copy-of-listen-live-1</u>. (Both options also work with the free listening app, <u>Catholic Spirit Talk Radio.</u>)

Catholic Spirit Radio continues to broadcast in English here on your local radio frequency **88.3 FM.** You can also go to the website <u>catholicspiritradio.com</u> and click the *Listen Live* tab or use the *Catholic Spirit Talk Radio* app



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.

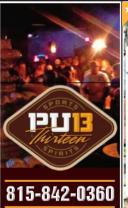
Please remember these families in your prayers each day for them to grow in their faith this year.

Mon May 6	Barbara Brunskill Family, Andy & Joni Collins Family
Tues May 7	Brad & Angela Campbell Family, Crystal Chalkey Family
Wed May 8	Mary Lee Brown Family, Chris & Callie Clement Family
Thurs May 9	John Brunskill Family, Hannah Collins Family
Fri May 10	Jacob Campbell Family, Lance & Vicki Champlain Family
Mon May 13	Valerie Brown Family, Jerry & Nancy Cohlman Family
Tues May 14	Betty Buck Family, Don & Carla Chandler Family
Wed May 15	Rick & Kathy Campbell Family, Daniel Cohrs Family
Thurs May 16	Todd & Patsy Campbell Family, Ryan & Jordan Collins Family
Fri May 17	Agile & Yvonne Carter Family, Kim Cheek Family



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!







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Fr. Joseph Baker, Chaplain

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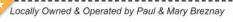
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Richard Gutknecht





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