

**“Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

**Mark 10:43-45**

**29**  
**ORDINARY**  
**TIME**

**St. Mary’s Catholic Church**  
**Pontiac, Illinois**  
**October 20, 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

MASS TIMES:

Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 7:00 am & 9:30 am

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am

Tuesday 5:30 pm

Thursday 8:15 am when school is in session

CONFESSION TIMES:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 6:30-6:50 am

Tuesday 5:00-5:25 pm

Wednesday 12 noon - 1:00 pm

Saturday 3:45-4:45 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: \$9,591.25

Building Maintenance Fund Collection: This weekend.

World Mission Sunday Collection: This weekend.

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish.



## Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 19 (Sts. John de Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues & companions)

5:00 p.m. Robert A. Legner

Sunday, October 20 (29th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:00 a.m. Amy Wyant

9:30 a.m. Parish

Monday, October 21

7:00 a.m. 17th ann Agnes Masching

Tuesday, October 22 (St. John Paul II, pope)

7:00 a.m. Lori Duffy

Wednesday, October 23 (St. John of Capistrano)

7:00 a.m. COMMUNION SERVICE ONLY

Thursday, October 24 (St. Anthony Mary Claret)

8:15 a.m. Kay Cordani

Friday, October 25

7:00 a.m. Pamela Sopiars

Saturday, October 26

5:00 p.m. Bob Fraher

Sunday, October 27 (30th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Mary Caviezel & George Caviezel

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** The Adoration Chapel is open weekdays, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8am until 8pm and Saturday from 8am until 3pm. On Tuesday, Adoration is in the church from 8am to 5:30pm. 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, parents need to attend a Baptism preparation class which takes place on the **third Thursday of each month at 6:00pm**. Call the parish office at 815-844-7683 at least one week in advance to reserve your spot to help us prepare. \*Please do not select godparents until the class has been attended, as this will be a topic that is covered.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the parents and family of **Emersyn Grace Keneipp**, daughter of Trevor & Ashlee Keneipp, who was recently baptized as a member of our faith.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** parishioner Yvonne Carter, and Raymond Jensen (father of Patsy Fogarty), R.I.P. Our sympathy to their families and friends.

## ***CHANGES FOR THIS WEEK***

***The priests will be out of town on Tuesday, Oct. 22 and Wednesday, Oct. 23 for Priest Assembly Days.***

***Therefore, Tuesday's Mass will be at 7am with NO Confessions or Mass Tuesday afternoon.***

***Deacon Ray will offer Benediction at 5:30pm.***

***On Wednesday, Deacon Ray will offer a Communion Service at 7am***

***in place of the regular daily Mass.***

***There will also be NO noontime confessions.***

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

**MASS AT OSF ST. JAMES HOSPITAL:** There will be NO MASS on Wednesday, October 23.

**MASS AT LOCAL NURSING HOME:** Mass will be offered at Accolade Health Center on **Friday, October 25 at 9:30am.**

**ALL SOUL'S DAY MEMORIAL MASS:** As parishioners and family of parishioners pass away we try to acknowledge these people in the bulletin each week. The Bereavement Group is putting together a Memorial Mass to be held on **Saturday, November 2 at 10:30am** They have taken names from the bulletin over the past year. If you have lost a loved one since November of last year and did not see their name in the bulletin, please call the Rectory at 844-7683 to add their name to our Memorial list.

**ADULT EDUCATION/OCIA (RCIA):** Classes will be offered on **Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8pm in the parish hall.** This program is designed for:

-Anyone who is contemplating joining the Catholic Church

-Non-Catholics who have questions or concerns about Catholicism

-Catholics who would like a review of authentic Catholic teaching

Our goal is to prepare all participants to apply Christian virtues to their daily lives and establish a basis for our beliefs. Please plan to join us for any, or all, of our upcoming classes.

**Oct 22 God the Holy Spirit**

**Nov 5 Commandments/Love of God**

**Nov 19 Commandments/Love of Neighbor**

**Dec 17 Communion of Saints/Blessed Virgin Mary**

Please contact Jim (815-419-4022) or Mary (815-674-7197) with questions or suggestions.

**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY SEWING CIRCLE** will meet **Thursday, October 24 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 students in Grades 8 through high school Seniors are invited and encouraged to join us on **Sunday, October 27 from 6:30-8pm** in the upstairs youth group room of the parish offices for some time in fellowship, faith and fun. Jamie Woolford is offering her time and talents to the youth group while we search for new leadership. **The gathering planned for this Sunday, October 20 has been cancelled.**

**DO YOU FEEL CALLED TO LEAD OUR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH?** We are in need of an individual, or perhaps a married couple, to lead our high school youth group program. If interested, or if you have any questions, please contact Fr. Joe.

**GONZAGA YOUTH RETREAT!** Get ready for an unforgettable experience! The Gonzaga Youth Retreat is happening right here at St. Mary's! This overnight retreat is open to all 8th graders through high school seniors. It starts on Saturday, January 4, 2025, at 10:00 AM and goes until Sunday, January 5 at 3:00 PM. The cost is just \$25. Applications are available in the back vestibule of church. For any questions or concerns, reach out to Jamie Woolford at woolford.jamie@stmaryspontiac.org or call/text 815-674-4061. Don't miss out!



**VOLUNTEERS & FOOD NEEDED FOR PARISH THANKSGIVING DINNER:** Workers, as well as desserts and food items are needed for our dinner on November 10. Please go to:

**[www.stmaryspontiac.org](http://www.stmaryspontiac.org) and click on the link**

to sign up. If you do not have a computer or are having trouble signing up, please call Bernie Timmerman at 815-822-2961 to sign up with your times or food donations. If donating a pie, it would be appreciated if it was in a non-returnable container in case someone wants to purchase a whole pie. **We are also accepting donations of items for our Silent Auction.** If you have an item to donate, please call Karen Gregory at 815-844-7837 or drop it off at the parish office. Thank you for your help!

**CAN YOU PRAY FOR AN HOUR IN THE CHURCH DURING TUESDAY ADORATION?** Now that we are holding adoration in the church on Tuesdays from 8am to 5:30pm, we are in need of additional adorers to be present during these hours. On the topic of Eucharistic Adoration, the bishops of the United States have written, "Every effort should be made to ensure that there should be at least two people present. There must absolutely never be periods when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and there is no one present for adoration." I am 100% confident we can have three people signed up during each hour to be with the Lord Jesus on Tuesdays. If you are able to make a weekly commitment on Tuesdays, please contact the parish office at 815-844-7683. The Lord Jesus will repay us multifold for all we offer to Him!

**BENEFIT DINNER FOR NEWMAN CENTER**

The Newman Center serves the students at Illinois State, Illinois Wesleyan and Heartland Community College providing Catholic religious and educational experiences. The proceeds from this benefit will be directed toward enriching Student Enhancement Activities. Everyone is invited!

WHERE: KofC Hall, 1706 RT Dunn Drive, Bloomington

WHEN: Thursday, November 7, 4:30-7pm (or until food runs out)

WHAT: Pasta/Sauce, Italian Style Beef Brisket, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert, Lemonade, Coffee, Cash Bar available

DONATION: Adults \$15 Children under 12 \$10

Reservations Preferred: Call 309-386-6255 or email

[mike@mykeystonehomes.com](mailto:mike@mykeystonehomes.com)

Walk-Ins Welcome

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

Dear Parishioners,

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary, which is one of the Catholic Church's main Marian devotions, making this month a special time to grow closer to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In an effort to accomplish this, I'd like to invite you to consider being enrolled in the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular this weekend, October 19 & 20, after each of our Masses.

FROM THE PASTOR'S



The brown scapular is a small piece of cloth with two rectangular medallions on each side, worn over the shoulders (*the word scapular comes from the Latin word for shoulder scapula*). The cloth is meant to resemble, in a small version, the long scapular cloth worn as a part of the habit by members of the Carmelite Order and other religious communities.

In the year 1251, in the town of Aylesford in England, Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock, a Carmelite friar. She handed him the brown woolen scapular and said "This shall be a privilege for you and all Carmelites, that anyone dying in this habit shall not suffer eternal life." In time, the Church extended these graces, known as the *Sabbatine Privilege*, to all members of the Church who are invested in the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and who perpetually wear it on their person. The three requirements to be a part of the Confraternity are 1) to be enrolled as a member, 2) to faithfully wear the scapular, and 3) to say three Hail Marys every day.

Enrollment is to be done by a priest according to a specific ceremony, taking roughly fifteen minutes. Several parishioners have asked me about having their brown scapulars blessed or being enrolled in the confraternity, so I thought offering this at our parish on a weekend near the feast day of St. Teresa of Avila, which is on October 15, would be fitting since St. Teresa, also known as St. Teresa of Jesus, is one of the two 16th century Spanish reformers of the Carmelite Order along with St. John of the Cross.

We will have our enrollments for anyone interested after each Mass this weekend, October 19 and 20. If you would like to participate, simply stay after Mass, and we'll have the ceremony (I'll remind everybody next week). Membership in the confraternity is not magic in the sense that being enrolled guarantees admittance to Heaven regardless of one's Christian commitment, but it is a sacramental that remains with the enrolled individual at all times. The idea is that the graces gained from membership aid in living the Christian life. I have personally been a faithful member of the Confraternity for nearly two decades, and I am certain my membership has aided me in my growth as a Christian in ways that will only be made clear in the next life.

Thank you to the St. Mary's Women's Guild for assisting in providing the brown scapulars free of charge for those who would like to be enrolled!

Blessings, Fr. Joe

## THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

The problem of evil is a tough one. When we look around the world we see so much suffering, pain and sin, and it is natural to ask the question, "Why?" For thousands of years the problem of evil has plagued even the best of theologians. Today's first reading starts with the words, "The Lord was pleased to crush him in infirmity." At first glance this doesn't make a lot of sense when we think about a God who loves us unconditionally. How could God be pleased with suffering?

I am not going to pretend to have all the answers to the problem of evil, but I think the first reading today reminds us that we cannot answer the problem of evil fully because we fail to see with the eyes of God.

The first reading goes on to say, "through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear." This brings a little more sense to why God is pleased with infirmity because it is through this suffering that the guilt of many is justified. This does not make it any easier when we are faced with the loss of a loved one, a cancer diagnosis, or any of the other forms of suffering we could face, but it does help us see a glimpse of the workings of God.

We essentially know two things that should give us comfort. The first is that God does not directly cause evil. He may permit it because of free will or other factors, but he does not actively participate in evil. A loving God could not contradict his very nature in this way. The second is that He would only permit evil if a greater good could come from it. This is what makes it difficult because we do not see perfectly with the eyes of God. We cannot see all the good that He is bringing from the suffering that exists.

Let's not forget the worst evil to ever happen. The Son of God became man and suffered and died. From the very greatest of suffering to ever exist, God brought about the salvation of the entire human race. He endured the worst of suffering for me and for you. The problem of evil is tough, especially when it becomes personal and happens in our own lives, but if God himself could suffer and die to bring about the resurrection, then we can be assured that our suffering is also effective in bringing glory to God and his Church. This may not convince us fully but it does allow us to start to see the world how God sees it. He is in charge and he will ultimately make all things new.



## ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST

Remain quiet for a moment after you have come into church; silence is the greatest mark of respect, and the first disposition of prayer is respect. Holy Church expects profound reverence before the Blessed Sacrament, especially when it is exposed. Silence must then be still more absolute, one's behavior still more respectful; the restraint of keeping recollected is already by itself a beautiful homage of virtue. During exposition, holy liturgy rules out the simple genuflection and prescribes the prostration of two knees, in imitation of

the twenty-four ancients before the throne of the Lamb in heaven. Protect your moments of silence and solitude: the soul needs them and God wants them to visit souls and converse with the heart which dwells in his love. Go often to rest in silence before the divine tabernacle. That is how you will renew your strength and rediscover your courage.

~St Peter Julian Eymard (30-day Eucharistic Revival)



### TEACHER NEEDED AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL: Third Grade Teacher:

Must have a valid Illinois teaching certificate. We are seeking Teachers who know and love 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)


**REGISTER WITH THE PARISH OFFICE:** We find that many young adults who have been members of the parish all their lives do not re-register themselves when they move out on their own. A simple phone call to the parish office at 815-844-7683 is all it takes to properly register your new household. Please call!

**NEED CELL NUMBERS:** If you no longer have a landline, we would appreciate having your cell number. Please call the parish office to share your cell number.

**BE A BULLETIN SUPPORTER!** We are fortunate to have so many bulletin sponsors to defray the publishing costs of this bulletin and our parish newsletter. There are still some spaces available. If you own a business or you work for a business that is not currently advertising in our bulletin, please consider placing an ad. This can be done anytime by contacting April at 612-867-9831 or [apaprocki@diocesan.com](mailto:apaprocki@diocesan.com).


### VOLUNTEER GRANTS & MATCHING GIFTS AVAILABLE:

Do you or a family member work for Caterpillar or State Farm? Employees of Caterpillar and State Farm are eligible to participate in a volunteer service match program. For every 10 hours of volunteerism at St. Mary's School, the Caterpillar Foundation will give a \$100 grant to the school. For every 40 hours volunteered at SMS, State Farm will give \$500 to SMS. Perhaps you work for one of these companies and volunteer at the concession stand. Or maybe a grandparent is employed at Cat or State Farm and helps in the lunchroom or library. Additionally, State Farm, Caterpillar and Exelon have a matching gifts program for donations made to St. Mary's School. For more information, contact Danielle Gill at [gill.danielle@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:gill.danielle@stmaryspontiac.org). Thank you.

 **2024 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL**

*"Do everything for the Glory of God."*

1 Cor 10:31



The 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal is now underway in our parish. Thank you to all who have already pledged to the appeal. Your gift supports Newman Centers on college campuses to keep our young adults engaged in their faith and draw in new people looking for a Christian home. No gift is too small, and our parish is trying to reach 100% participation. If you have not given yet, please consider filling out a pledge card today and mail it to the Diocese. Additional pledge cards can be found at the doors of the church. Our goal this year is \$80,751. Every dollar raised over our goal will be returned to our parish.

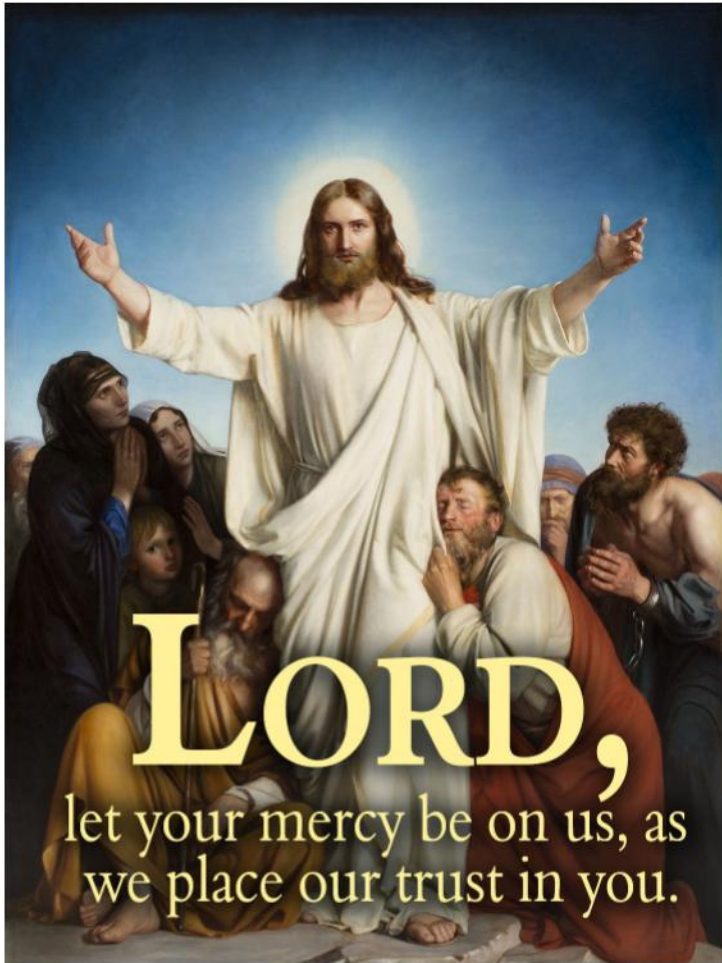
ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

**PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE  
HOLY FATHER FOR OCTOBER**

**For a shared mission:** We pray that the Church continues to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 20, 2024**

Sunday	Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 53:10-11; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; Heb 4:14-16; Mk 10:35-45 or Mk 10:42-45
Monday	Eph 2:1-10; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4ab, 4c-5; Lk 12:13-21
Tuesday	St. John Paul II, Pope Eph 2:12-22; Ps 85:9ab-10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 12:35-38
Wednesday	St. John of Capistrano Eph 3:2-12; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Lk 12:39-48
Thursday	St. Anthony Mary Claret Eph 3:14-21; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19; Lk 12:49-53
Friday	Eph 4:1-6; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 12:54-59
Saturday	Eph 4:7-16; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Lk 13:1-9
Sunday	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jer 31:7-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Heb 5:1-6; Mk 10:46-52



Seven days a week, 24 hours a day! Catholic Spirit Radio broadcasts EWTN and local programming for you! It's lively, entertaining, and informative. 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**

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SACRAMENT IN HANCEVILLE, AL AND  
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MONDAY, AUG. 11 to THURSDAY, AUG. 14, 2025**  
\$1,100 per person includes tour bus transportation, 3 nights double-occupancy in a hotel, all meals on Tuesday and Wednesday, breakfast on Thursday, snacks, water and entertainment on the bus. Only 40 seats available. Early-bird special: Reserve your seat before January 31, 2025, with a deposit of \$500, and receive \$100 off the total price. Any remaining balance is due May 31, 2025. For more information, contact parishioner Jerry LoPiccolo at 630-514-6221 or Father David Sabel.



**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.



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

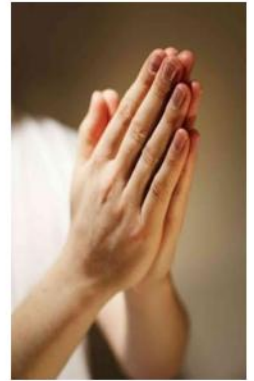
**PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILIES THIS YEAR**

*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 Oct 21	Rick & Donna Higgins Family, Kayla Highland Family
Tues Oct 22	Gwen Hilsabeck Family, Tom & Karen Hinz Family
Wed Oct 23	Tom & Jamie Hinz Family, Vinnie & Abby Hobart Family
Thurs Oct 24	Angela Hoegger Family, Andrew & Donnell Hoeniges Family
Fri Oct 25	Mike & Mary Hoffman Family, Glenda Hoegger Family
Mon Oct 28	Judy Hoffrichter Family, Paul Huter Family
Tues Oct 29	Patricia Hogan Family, Jennifer Horrie Family
Wed Oct 30	Ann Householder Family, Tom Hogan Family
Thurs Oct 31	John & Sabrina Howard Family, Harriet Hughes Family
Fri Nov 1	Patricia Honig Family, Lorraine Hughes Family



**MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!**

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