

**Amen, I say to you,
this generation will
not pass away until
all these things have
taken place. Heaven
and earth will pass
away, but my words
will not pass away.
“But of that day or
hour, no one knows,
neither the angels in
heaven, nor the Son,
but only the Father.”**

Mark 13:30-32

33
ORDINARY
TIME

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
November 17, 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

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

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.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 16 (St. Margaret of Scotland;
St. Gertrude)

5:00 p.m. Ernie Charlier

Sunday, November 17 (33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Gertrude Kennedy & Margaret Haluska

Monday, November 18 (Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter
& Paul; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne)

7:00 a.m. Deceased members of Legion of Mary

Tuesday, November 19

5:30 p.m. 18th ann Kathy Murphy Jackson

Wednesday, November 20

7:00 a.m. 31st wedd ann Bryan & Susan Schweigert

Thursday, November 21 (Presentation of the Blessed Virgin
Mary)

8:15 a.m. 2nd ann Mary Jo Murphy

Friday, November 22 (St. Cecilia)

7:00 a.m. Evelyn Ribordy

Saturday, November 23 (St. Clement I, pope; St. Columban,
Bl. Miguel Augustin Pro)

5:00 p.m. Jim Broerman

Sunday, November 24 (Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the
Universe)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Raymond Grove

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. *We could especially use additional people for Adoration on Tuesdays in the church.*

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. *Do not select godparents until the class has been attended, this topic will be covered.

MASS AT OSF ST. JAMES HOSPITAL is offered every **Wednesday at 11:30am**. All are welcome to attend.

MASS AT LOCAL NURSING HOME: Mass will be offered at Accolade Health Center on **Friday, November 22 at 9:30am**.



STEWARDSHIP

Collection last Sunday: **\$15,364.75**

Building Maintenance Fund Collection: This weekend.

Campaign for Human Development Collection: This weekend.

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish.

Visiting us for the weekend? Gone for the weekend or the winter? Forgot your envelope? Not a registered parishioner and don't get envelopes? Use this QR code to access Online Giving for recurring or one-time gifts to the Church, School, Food Pantry and Building Maintenance collections. Your gifts are greatly appreciated!





Join us for our upcoming monthly Holy Hour for Vocations which will include time for quiet prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament, group prayers for Vocations, and will conclude with Benediction.

Thursday, November 21 at 6:30pm

Our diocese and our world need many good, holy priests and consecrated men and women, in addition to faithful marriages, to continue God's mission on this earth. Please join us to pray for all vocations.

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.

Nov 19 Commandments/Love of Neighbor

Dec 17 Communion of Saints/Blessed Virgin Mary

ST. MARY'S WOMEN'S GUILD will meet **Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30pm** in the Rosary Room. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will meet **Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30pm** in the Our Lady of the Rosary Room of the parish hall.

ATTENTION LADIES IN YOUR 20'S AND 30'S: Join us the **third Wednesday of every month** for fellowship as we work our way through the Gospel of Luke in 2024. Come to as few or as many as you can make. If interested or if you have any questions, text or call Kate Harrold at 815-848-1705.

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, November 24 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.

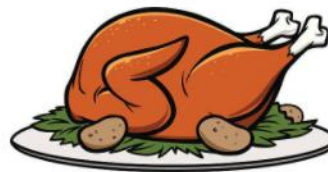
GONZAGA YOUTH RETREAT! Get ready for an unforgettable experience! The Gonzaga Youth Retreat is happening right here at St. Mary's! This overnight retreat is open to all 8th graders through high school seniors. It starts on Saturday, January 4, 2025, at 10:00 AM and goes until Sunday, January 5 at 3:00 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!



FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR FR. JOSEPH BAKER

Sunday, November 24
after 9:30 Mass until 12:30pm
in the parish hall

Please stop by to thank Fr. Joe for his time with us and to wish him well at Holy Cross Parish in Champaign



ST. MARY'S FOOD PANTRY TURKEY PROJECT: You can provide a turkey for a family in need. Special envelopes are available in the pews. St. Mary's Pantry hopes to distribute approximately

200 frozen turkeys to pantry patrons in November in time for a nice Thanksgiving meal. Any additional dollars collected will be used to buy other Thanksgiving dinner items such as canned sweet potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, gravy, chicken broth, pie filling, canned cranberries, etc. Donations of these kinds of food items may be dropped off at the pantry on Thursdays from 9am-3 pm. **Thank you for your support!**

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY BOOTIE

TREE: At the doors of the church you will find baskets with "booties" for needy babies. Please take a bootie (or 2 or 3), purchase the item on the bootie, then return the bootie and item to the bin in the back vestibule no later than December 1. Please do not wrap the gift. Sizes needed are newborn and preemie. Thank you for your help.



FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED FOR FUNERAL DINNERS:

If you would be willing to provide a side dish or dessert for a funeral dinner when called upon, please contact the parish office at 815-844-7683 to volunteer. You do not have to be a member of the Women's Guild to help with this ministry.

DISHES LEFT BEHIND FROM FUNERAL DINNERS:

The following parishioners have a dish to claim from a funeral dinner: **Joanne Coriell, Carole Peterson, Cherry Cole, SP, Cece White, Shirley Eckel and many more, including two crockpots with no names.** Contact the church office if you need to pick up a dish.

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.



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

ATRIUM NEEDS: The children of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd would greatly appreciate your holy cards and images for their prayer work in the Atrium. Any size or kind will do, including Easter or Christmas cards. Various charitable organizations often send unsolicited items in the mail, and we would put them to good use! Donations can be left at the school office. **THANK YOU!**



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



ST. MARY'S WOMEN'S GUILD would like to thank all the people who helped make our Thanksgiving Dinner a successful event! Thank you to those who enjoyed a meal, purchased 50/50 raffle tickets and bid on silent auction items. Thank you to those who prepared food, set up, served, cleaned up, and donated food or monetary gifts.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY would like to thank all the volunteers who worked the Thanksgiving Dinner, and those who helped our group in any way. Also, to all who stopped by our tables after the dinner and purchased boutique items, or made donations, and all who took a bootie from the tree.

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. Thank you.

SET YOUR HEARTS ON CHRIST

Today's Gospel passage is part of a conversation between Jesus and the apostles in the Temple. It began with the apostles walking through the city of Jerusalem and being amazed at the beauty of the Temple. They said to Jesus, "Look, teacher, what stones and what buildings!" (Mk 13:1) It is no wonder that they were in awe as they saw the Temple. The temple compound was one of the most magnificent structures known in the ancient world and the center of Jewish life for almost 1,000 years.

So what did the apostles see that was so overwhelming in its beauty and grandeur? Josephus, the Jewish historian, documents that the temple was covered on the outside with gold plating, and when the sun shone it was blinding. Where there wasn't gold, there were blocks of marble that were pure white. The stones used to build the temple were massive. The limestone blocks used in the retaining wall for the temple compound alone are enormous and can still be seen today. Some of them are 50 feet wide, 25 feet high, and 15 feet deep.

Jesus responds to his closest followers with the disconcerting statement that not one of these stones would be left on a stone. In the eschatological discourse that followed, Jesus exhorted his disciples and the Church to have faith and to be obedient through the trials that confront them before Jesus' return in power and glory. No one but the Father knows the precise time of the Second Coming.

This Gospel passage about the tribulation to come was particularly unsettling, and for us could even seem terrifying. For the apostles, whose lives with Jesus up to that time had been filled with teaching, healing the sick, and prayer, this may have seemed to them like a sharp turn in the road. When we hear this Gospel proclaimed we may wonder with alarm if we are seeing the signs of the end occurring in the world.

Notice that Jesus didn't advise his followers to be worried and terrified. He exhorted us to be vigilant, to watch, and to have faith. His words will not pass away, and he will return in glory to gather to himself those who have believed in him.

I think it would be best to take our cue from Peter who wrote in his first letter: "Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, live soberly, and set your hopes completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Like obedient children, do not act in compliance with the desires of your former ignorance but, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct, for it is written, 'Be holy because I [am] holy'" (1 Pt 1:13-16).



ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST

Act of Adoration of the Holy Sacrament

Jesus Christ, my Lord and my God, whom I believe is really and truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar: receive this most profound act of adoration as a token of my desire to worship You without ceasing, and in thanksgiving for the love Your Sacred Heart has for me. I cannot better repay your sentiments of love than by offering You all the acts of worship, of resignation, of patience, and of love that this same Heart made during Its mortal life, and that It still makes, and will eternally make, in heaven. This I offer in order to love You, praise and worship You through It as much as possible. I unite myself to this divine offering that You made to Your divine Father, and I consecrate to You all of my being, asking You to destroy the sin in me, and to not allow me to ever be separated from You.

~St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647 - 1690)

Dear Parishioners,

It is with a heavy heart that I put into writing the news I mentioned last weekend from the pulpit. I assume most have already heard, but if perhaps word has not gotten to you, I wish to share that I have been asked to move to Holy Cross Church in Champaign after next weekend. The move will formally take place on November 27.

As I explained last week, there are many factors to this move, but suffice it to say there are needs at Holy Cross that are not currently being met. Here at St. Mary's, Fr. Sabel will take over as the administrator in addition to continuing to serve as pastor in Flanagan, Lexington, and Chenoa. Fr. David Whiteside, who has been serving as the chaplain of a Carmelite community in Minnesota will be returning to our diocese and stepping in as an assistant at St. Mary's.

Fr. Whiteside was ordained in 1997 and has experience in many parishes and communities within our diocese. As I shared last weekend, he is a very kind, devoted, and faithful man. He has great knowledge of the Church's devotions and spiritual life, and I know he will be an asset to the St. Mary's family.

This news is not something I had expected, even recently. It all developed quite quickly, but is something that seems to be in the best interest of the various needs within the larger diocese, even if it is highly unfortunate for our own parish. From the bottom of my heart, I have TRULY enjoyed being with so many of you, becoming a part of your family, and most especially, offering you the Holy Sacraments and providing the grace of Jesus Christ in a way that only a priest can do. Nothing gives me more joy than sharing our Catholic faith with those whom Jesus calls me to minister. My intention and hope was to be here for a lot longer than I have been, but the Lord has had other plans and it is evident that I must go elsewhere. While I will miss you, I will have esteem for Pontiac and all the good people at St. Mary's, and I hope I may be able to visit from time to time.

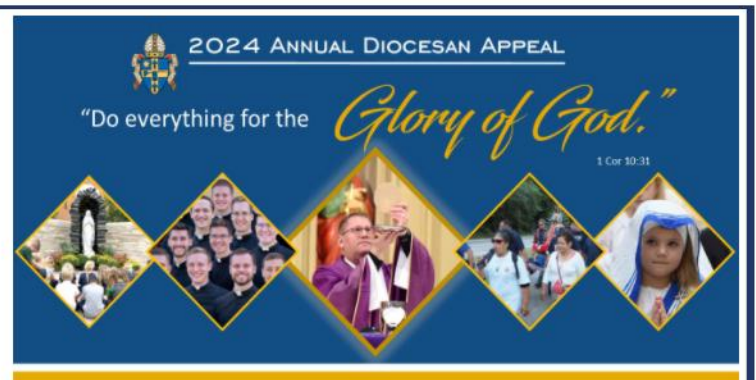
Please know of my continued prayers, that you would receive God's blessings, that you would know how much He loves you, that His love would come forth from you to all you meet, and also that our paths would meet again if it be in God's plans. *Fr. Joe*



2024 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Thanks to all who have made a pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. No gift is too small. If you have not yet made a gift to the ADA, we invite you to do so today. Every dollar raised to make our goal supports important diocesan services and every dollar raised over our goal will be returned to the parish.

This year's goal: \$80,751
Pledged to date: \$55,851 (as of October 9)



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

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

For anyone who has lost a child: We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17, 2024

Sunday **Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Dn 12:1-3; Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11; Heb 10:11-14, 18;
Mk 13:24-32

Monday **Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul;
St. Rose Philippine Duchesne**
Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday **Rv 3:1-6, 14-22; Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5;
Lk 19:1-10**

Wednesday **Rv 4:1-11; Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 19:11-28**

Thursday **Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Rv 5:1-10; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b;
Lk 19:41-44

Friday **St. Cecilia** Rv 10:8-11;
Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Lk 19:45-48

Saturday **Sts. Clement I, Pope and St. Columban;
Bl. Miguel Agustín Pro**
Rv 11:4-12; Ps 144:1, 2, 9-10; Lk 20:27-40

Sunday **Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**
Dn 7:13-14; Ps 93:1, 1-2, 5; Rv 1:5-8; Mk 11:9, 10;
Jn 18:33b-37



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 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 NETWORK
PILGRIMAGE TO MOTHER ANGELICA'S SHRINE OF
THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT IN HANCEVILLE, AL
AND EWTN STUDIOS IN IRONDALE, AL
MONDAY, AUG. 18 to THURSDAY, AUG. 21, 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 LoPiccalo 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 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.

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

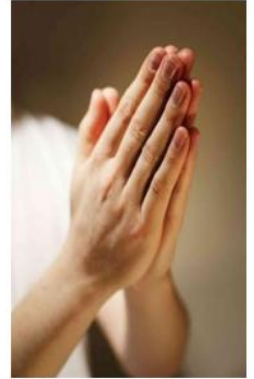
PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILIES THIS YEAR

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 Nov 18 | Eric & Lisa Kelley Family, Delores Kelly Family |
| Tues Nov 19 | John & Sue Kelly Family, Ashlee Keneipp Family |
| Wed Nov 20 | Jan Kennedy Family, Nikki Kiest Family |
| Thurs Nov 21 | Alex & Corinne Klus Family, Leo Kelly Family |
| Fri Nov 22 | Patrick & Seely Kelly Family, Bob & Stephanie Kennedy Family |
| Mon Nov 25 | Seth Kennedy Family, Philip & Michael Kelly Family |
| Tues Nov 26 | Ryan Kelly Family, Kevin Knittel Family |
| Wed Nov 27 | Madison Knowles Family, Bruce Koerner Family |
| Thurs Nov 28 | Shannon Knittel Family, Samuel Kelly Family |
| Fri Nov 29 | Tom & Becky Kelly Family, Ralph Kohn Family |



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!

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