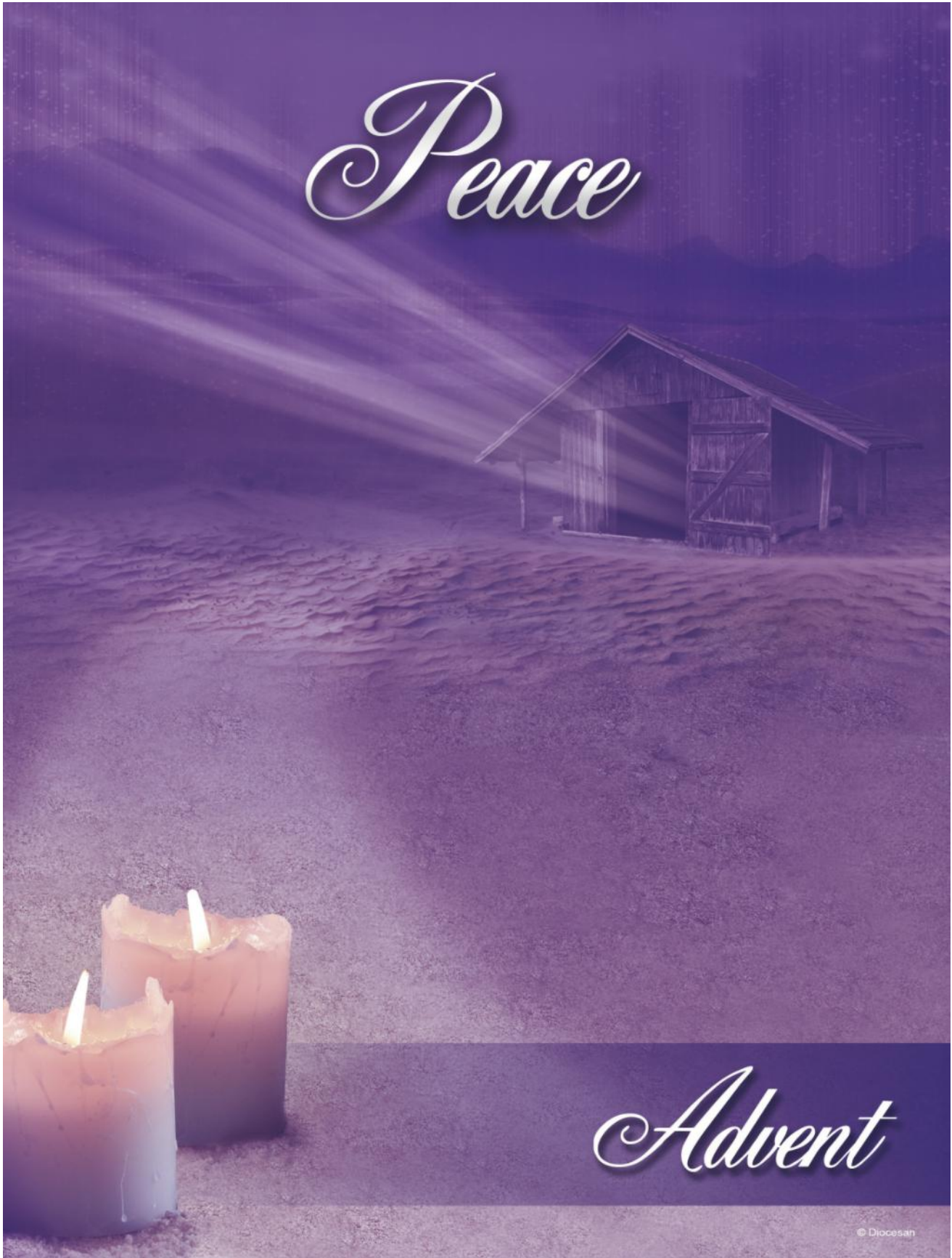


*Peace*



*Advent*

© Diocesan

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
**Pontiac, Illinois**  
**December 8, 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

ADMINISTRATOR: Fr. David Sabel  
[fr.david.sabel@gmail.com](mailto:fr.david.sabel@gmail.com)

PAROCHIAL VICAR: Fr. David Whiteside  
[frdwhiteside@gmail.com](mailto:frdwhiteside@gmail.com)

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,

**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: \$9,002.40

School Collection was \$2,527.00.

St. Mary's Food Pantry Collection: This weekend

Building Maintenance Fund Collection: Next weekend.



*Mass Intentions*

**Saturday, December 7 (St. Ambrose)**

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

5:00 p.m. Josephine Reilly

**Sunday, December 8 (Second Sunday of Advent)**

7:00 a.m. 3rd ann Lori Bristow

9:30 a.m. Parish

**Monday, December 9 (Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**

7:00 a.m. Charles Maubach

**Tuesday, December 10 (Our Lady of Loreto)**

7:00 a.m. Helen & Herman Vill

**Wednesday, December 11 (St. Damasus I, pope)**

7:00 a.m. Ellen Gayon

**Thursday, December 12 (Our Lady of Guadalupe)**

8:15 a.m. Louise Wilson

**Friday, December 13 (St. Lucy)**

7:00 a.m. Lorenzo Ugarte

**Saturday, December 14 (St. John of the Cross)**

5:00 p.m. Parish

**Sunday, December 15 (Third Sunday of Advent)**

7:00 a.m. Keith & Rose Mills

9:30 a.m. Chuck & Mary Landrus

**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 Goldwater Care on **Friday, December 13 at 9:30am**.

**THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** is pushed back to Monday, December 9 due to the Second Sunday of Advent, however, it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

***THIS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10,  
THERE WILL BE NO ADORATION  
IN THE CHURCH AND  
NO EVENING MASS DUE TO THE  
SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.  
THERE WILL BE MASS ON  
TUESDAY AT 7AM INSTEAD.***

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



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST**

**Sunday, December 8  
7:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
in the parish hall**

Pancakes with topping bar, Scrambled Eggs,  
Breakfast Casserole, Sausage and drink.

\$10 per person, \$40 family maximum.

*Fr. Whiteside will be at the Breakfast after 9:30 Mass  
for those who would like to stop by and meet him.*



**CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SHUT-INS:** In the pews this weekend, you will find Christmas cards that we are asking everyone to sign. Please sign as many cards as you can. We want lots of signatures so our shut-ins know we care!

**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** **Tuesday, December 10** in the church. PreK-3rd Grade at 6:15pm. 4th-8th Grades with Living Nativity at 7:00pm

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE:** **Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m.** in the church. Extra priests will be on hand to help with individual confessions.

**JESSE TREES** in the front corners of the church will have new ornaments added each week symbolizing the Old Testament people "waiting" for the Messiah. Packets at the doors of the church will name the Old Testament symbols for the four weeks of Advent and the Bible verses which explain them. Pick up a packet and take it home to read the verses indicated for each day of Advent with your family.

**FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS:** Baskets are at the doors of the church for those wishing to donate non-perishable food items or paper products to the St. Mary's Food Pantry.

**"PURPLE IS FOR PREPARATION"  
ATRIUM ADVENT FAMILY EVENT**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 IN THE  
PARISH HALL IMMEDIATELY  
FOLLOWING 9:30 MASS**

**PLEASE JOIN US AS WE MAKE  
ROOM IN OUR HEARTS FOR  
THE BIRTH OF JESUS,  
THE PROMISED GIFT!!**



St. Mary's Student Council will be having a bake sale on **Sunday, December 8** during the KofC Breakfast. The money raised will go towards the IAJHSC State Service Project. This year's service project is "Feeding Illinois". This organization helps those children who are in need of food be able to have nutritious meals. Thank you for your support.

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

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

**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.

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES**

<b>Pontiac</b>	<b>4:00 &amp; 8:00 pm</b>
<b>Lexington</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>
<b>Flanagan</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>Chenoa</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES**

<b>Pontiac</b>	<b>7:00 &amp; 9:30 am</b>
<b>Lexington</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
<b>Chenoa</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** may once again be purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please place your money and the form below in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" and place it in the collection basket. Please print names as you want them to appear in the bulletin.

**IN MEMORY OF** \_\_\_\_\_

**IN HONOR OF** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettia 6 1/2 inch pot \$10.00      Poinsettia 7 inch pot \$15.00  
Poinsettia 8 inch pot \$20.00

**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.

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



**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)

**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL 2025-2026 REGISTRATION DATES**

Kindergarten and PreK4 registration for current SMS families begins: 1/13/25  
Kindergarten and PreK4 registration for new families begins: 2/3/25  
PreK3 registration for current families begins (if spots are available): 5/1/25  
PreK3 registration for new families begins (if spots are available): 5/19/25

**SMS SPIRIT WEAR FOR CHRISTMAS:** We are opening our online Spirit Wear store and offering parishioners an opportunity to purchase Saints spirit wear before Christmas! Orders must be received by Thursday, December 12 to ensure they arrive in time for Christmas. Please visit this link to purchase your Saints spirit wear: <https://fastlanewraps-f2bf48f0-1356-4228-ae03-6a72e2cb13e6.printavo.com/merch/saint-marys-spirit-wear> As a reminder, The General Store also carries Saints spirit wear and our fleece jackets, as well as blankets, beanies and Saints duffle bags for students in sports! For these items, you can stop in and place orders directly with The General Store.

**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.

**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!

**ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP:** All students in Grades 8 through high school Seniors are invited and encouraged to join us on **Sunday, December 15 from 6:30-8pm** in the 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 from Saturday, January 4 at 10am until Sunday, January 5 at 3pm. 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](mailto:woolford.jamie@stmaryspontiac.org) or call/text 815-674-4061.

**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. David.

**EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS TO THE HOMEBOUND NEEDED:** If you are a current Extra Ordinary Minister, would you prayerfully consider ministering to the homebound and those in our local nursing homes? We currently minister to 95 people and we need more help. Would you consider taking a few names to visit once a month in their homes, or visit one nursing home once a month and distribute to residents? If you can help out, or if you have any questions, please contact the parish office at 815-844-7683.

*St. Mary's School  
Annual Fund Drive  
is underway and we have  
already raised 50%  
of our goal!*

*YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!*



Please help us reach  
our \$41,000 goal!  
[school.stmaryspontiac.org](http://school.stmaryspontiac.org)



## ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST

He is The Bread sown in the virgin, leavened in the Flesh, molded in His Passion, baked in the furnace of the Sepulchre, placed in the Churches, and set upon the Altars, which daily supplies Heavenly Food to the faithful. ~ St. Peter Chrysologus



St. Mary's Church uses Flocknote to keep our parishioners informed of special Masses and events and any changes or cancellations that may occur. If you do not receive texts or emails from us, there are two ways to sign up. Text the word PONTIAC to 84576 OR click the Flocknote link at the bottom of the homepage of our website:

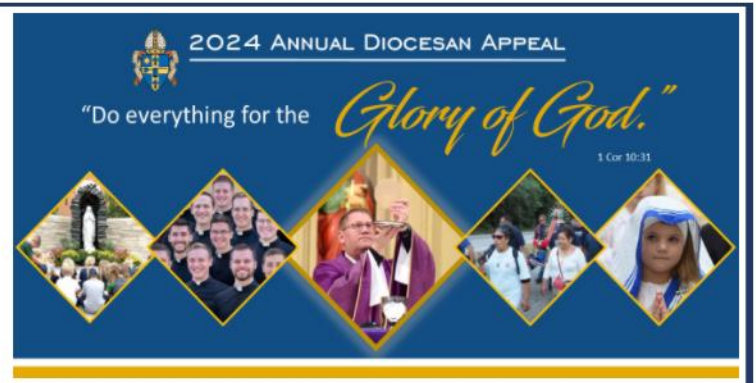
[church.stmaryspontiac.org](http://church.stmaryspontiac.org)

### 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: \$68,526 (as of November 7)**



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: COULD NACHOS BE BAD?

It seems the early Church had a different view of Advent than we do. Christmas was not even celebrated in the first two centuries after Christ. Easter was the original great feast of the Church. After the resurrection, Christians looked for Jesus to return in glory. They expected this return to happen soon, so we see references in Paul's letters to the "coming of the Lord Jesus" (1 Thess 3:13) or to the "day of Christ Jesus." (Phil 1:6) So in a sense, the rest of their lives were a long Advent, a time of waiting for the Lord.

In the second reading this week, we hear what Paul recommends for the people of Philippi as they wait for the Lord to return. He prays that their love will grow and mature, so that they will be able to "discern what is of value." (Phil 1:10) This may sound vague, but is very good advice, even for us today.

As we grow to be better Christians, we learn to love what is important. Remember when you were young and loved junk food? As you grew up, you learned to like healthier foods. That doesn't mean that some foods are bad, (how could nachos be bad?) just that there are better choices. So Paul encourages us to make better choices: friends we like, books we read, how we spend our free time, causes we donate to, and values we teach to our children. For example, it is good to teach our children to work hard and save money; it may be better to teach them to answer God's call and to be generous to the poor. A good way to relax might be reading a novel by our favorite author; a better way could be reading a good spiritual book.

With less than three weeks of Advent remaining, let us ask the Lord to help us "discern what is of value" in our lives. We also await His coming and we have the advantage of knowing that the Lord comes to us in Word and Sacrament. We don't have to wait for the end of time or even till Christmas, so why not try to be ready now?

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

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

**For pilgrims of hope:** We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8, 2024**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
<b>Tuesday</b>	Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14
<b>Wednesday</b>	Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b> Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
<b>Friday</b>	<b>St. Lucy</b> Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. John of the Cross</b> Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18



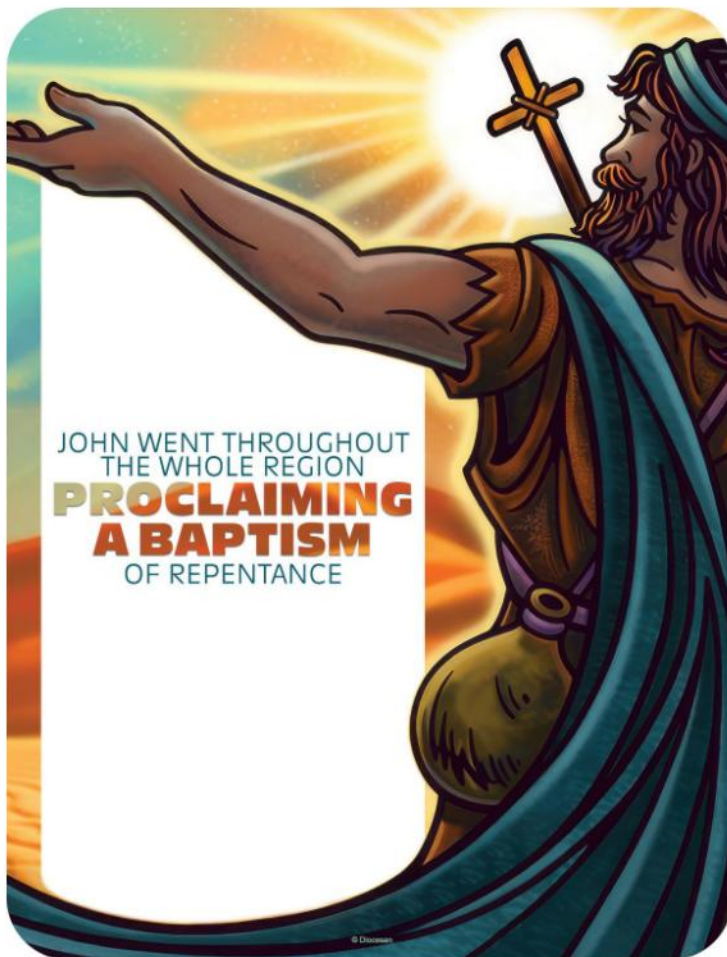
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**ROSARY ON CATHOLIC SPIRIT RADIO:**

**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](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**

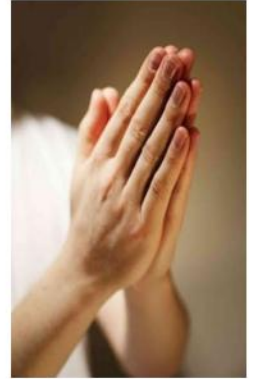
**PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILIES THIS YEAR**

*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 Dec 9    | Mary Kilbride Family, Pat & Paulette Krippel Family          |
| Tues Dec 10  | Jane Kuerth Family, Tom Kurtenbach Family                    |
| Wed Dec 11   | Jeff & Karen Kuska Family, George & Georgette Kutsor Family  |
| Thurs Dec 12 | Don & Linda Lambert Family, Amber Lanning Family             |
| Fri Dec 13   | Dale & Jenny Larkin Family, Deanna Lauer Family              |
| Mon Dec 16   | Mick & Amanda Lauritsen Family, Jane Larkin Family           |
| Tues Dec 17  | Margo Law Family, Sue Ledford Family                         |
| Wed Dec 18   | Alicia Legner Family, Janine Leonard Family                  |
| Thurs Dec 19 | Erik & Grace Limberg Family, Beth Legner Family              |
| Fri Dec 20   | Jane LoPiccalo & Suzanne Gullo Family, Marge Loughran Family |



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

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*For further information, please call the parish office.*

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**Avery Murphy**

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