

*Hope*



*Advent*

© Diocesan

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
**Pontiac, Illinois**  
**December 1, 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

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: **\$8,658.75**

School Collection: This weekend.

St. Mary's Food Pantry Collection: Next weekend

THANK YOU to those who regularly support our parish.



## Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 30 (St. Andrew, Apostle)

5:00 p.m. Phyllis LoPiccalo

Sunday, December 1 (First Sunday of Advent)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. Ray Broerman

Monday, December 2

7:00 a.m. 2nd ann Colleen Murphy

Tuesday, December 3 (St. Francis Xavier)

5:30 p.m. 11th ann Ron Paris

Wednesday, December 4 (St. John Damascene)

7:00 a.m. Rockie Rodino & Kristin Walters

Thursday, December 5

8:15 a.m. Kevin Alsdorf

Friday, December 6 (St. Nicholas)

7:00 a.m. Pat Mullen

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

**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 Evenglow on **Friday, December 6 at 10am**.

**MASS FOR FALLEN AWAY CATHOLICS:** Every First Saturday 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, December 7**.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** parishioner John Paul Wolf, and Lela Vallow (mother of Mike Vallow) R.I.P. Our sympathy to their families and friends.

*First Sunday in Advent*



**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.

**BAKE SALE:** 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.

**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.

**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 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 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 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.

**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.

**"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!!**



**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.

**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.

**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



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)

**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!**

We recommend acting soon as this opportunity is on a first come, first serve basis and Caterpillar may reach their cap quickly!



MATCHING GIFTS

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FOUNDATION

CATERPILLAR®

In support of Giving Tuesday, the Caterpillar Foundation will provide a limited-time 2:1 match through their Matching Gifts Program for global employee and U.S. retiree gifts made starting December 2 - 6, 2024 (or once the match total reaches \$2M USD).

Gifts made to St. Mary's School are eligible for the Caterpillar Foundation Matching Gifts Program. Your \$100 gift could be a \$300 gift! Please consider the difference you can make!



St. Mary's School Annual Fund Drive is underway and we have already raised 44% 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

Without the Holy Eucharist there would be no happiness in this world; life would be insupportable. When we receive Holy Communion, we receive our joy and our happiness. The good God, wishing to give Himself to us in the Sacrament of His Love, gave us a vast and great desire, which He alone can satisfy.  
~St. John Vianney



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:

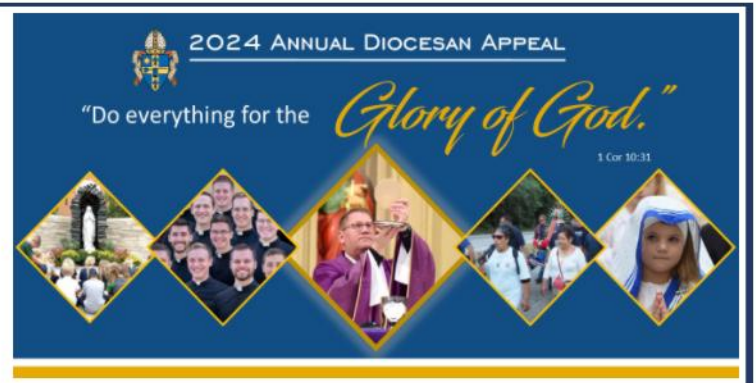
[church.stmaryspontiac.org](http://church.stmaryspontiac.org)

### 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)**



### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: STRENGTHEN YOUR HEARTS

How good is good enough? Do you have to be perfect to get to heaven? In the second reading this Sunday, Paul seems to think so when he tells us to be "blameless in holiness" (1 Thess 3:13.) In fact, he tells the Thessalonians who are pleasing God, to do even more. (4:1) Now Paul never considered himself as perfect: "I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me." (2 Cor 12:7-9) But even with his weakness, Paul always did the best he could. So what should we strive for? Maybe we can take a hint from his phrase "strengthen your hearts."

Think of athletes who try to do their best. A great ball player takes batting practice every day to improve his average. A tennis player will practice her serve to get more aces. A hockey player will keep skating during the summer to get faster. Good athletes are always looking for ways to improve themselves. They keep in shape so they can be stronger, faster, smarter. So what about good Christians? That same attitude is what Paul means by "strengthen your hearts." And Advent is a good time to start.

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord, we can get ourselves in spiritual shape. Spiritual reading can give us a stronger prayer life. But like the athlete who can read about the rules or strategies of the sport, we get a stronger prayer life by actually praying. If our spiritual reading just makes us feel good, we may be wasting our time. Hopefully, it will lead us to try praying more often and more seriously. Likewise, we can read about volunteering to feed the poor, but making the commitment and doing it is what strengthens the heart. And how can we be "blameless in holiness... at the coming of Our Lord?" Not by bragging about our goodness, but confessing what we have done wrong. Only God's forgiveness can make us blameless. Then as the Gospel says, we may have "the strength...to stand before the Son of Man." (Lk 21:36)



**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 1, 2024**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
<b>Monday</b>	Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>St. Francis Xavier</b> Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
<b>Wednesday</b>	Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt 15:29-37
<b>Thursday</b>	Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
<b>Friday</b>	Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Ambrose</b> Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
<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




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.



# ADVENT

C	L	K	D	L	S	R	L	S	B	V	R	E	F	X	
E	I	K	J	U	V	C	C	X	A	E	U	E	J	V	S
B	F	W	K	T	F	A	B	G	V	L	R	J	O	B	Q
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S	B	J	C	R	E	S	A	M	A	R	Y	U	Y	M	L
A	N	G	E	L	P	N	M	Y	A	V	H	R	E	I	Q
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J	E	S	U	S	I	W	R	E	A	T	H	R	D	R	G



## WORDSEARCH

MARY	JOSEPH	REJOICE
ANGEL	PURPLE	SAVIOUR
JESUS	WREATH	EMMANUEL
ADVENT	BELIEVE	GOODNEWS
CANDLE		ISRAEL

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**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**

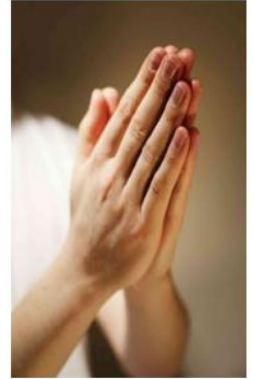
**PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILIES THIS YEAR**

*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 2    | Tim & Mary Kelly Family, Chuck & Connie Kostelc Family      |
| Tues Dec 3   | Chris & Ally Kinate Family, Brennan Krenz Family            |
| Wed Dec 4    | Michael & Maria Kreush Family, Cindy Kridner Family         |
| Thurs Dec 5  | Kel & Kelly Krenz Family, Paul & Lisa Krieghauser Family    |
| Fri Dec 6    | Denny Krippel Family, Jennifer Krueger Family               |
| 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             |



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

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**WILLIAM H. BERTRAM**  
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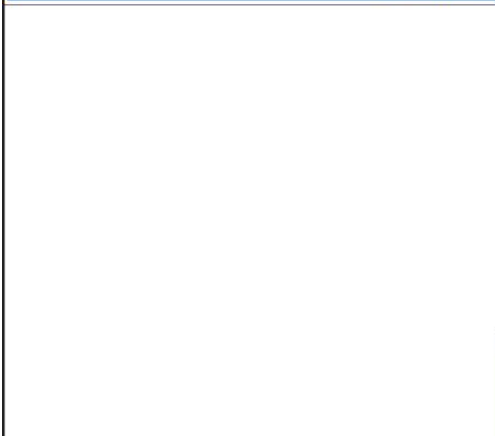
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