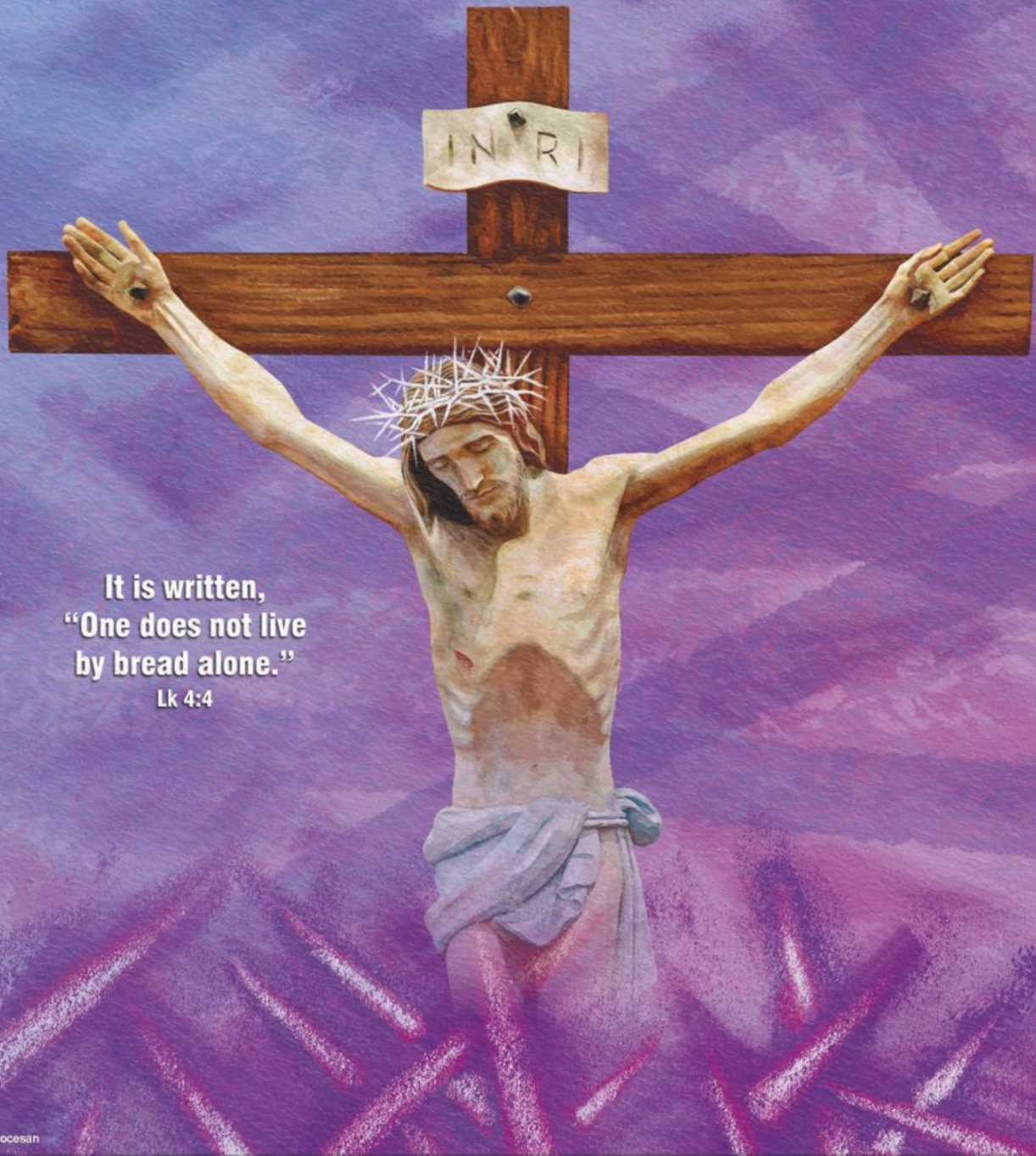


First Sunday of LENT



St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
March 9, 2025

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

ADMINISTRATOR: Fr. David Sabel
fr.david.sabel@gmail.com

PAROCHIAL VICAR: Fr. David Whiteside
frdwhiteside@gmail.com

PERMANENT DEACONS:
Dcn. Ray White deacon.ray@stmaryspontiac.org
Dcn. Jim Wallace servant518@outlook.com
Dcn. George Wagner 815-848-3147

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 & Merryyn Krenz

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9:00am-12 noon and 1:00-4:30pm

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. Questions? Contact Taryn Tissiere at tissiere.taryn@stmaryspontiac.org or 815-979-7663.



STEWARDSHIP

Collection last Sunday: **\$9,532.00**

School Collection was \$3,138.00.

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

Building Maintenance Fund Collection: Next weekend.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 8 (St. John of God)

5:00 p.m. James Berta

Sunday, March 9 (First Sunday of Lent)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. WATCH Intentions

Monday, March 10

7:00 a.m. 17th ann Tim Murphy

Tuesday, March 11

5:30 p.m. Celeste Margherio

Wednesday, March 12

7:00 a.m. Joan Crowley

Thursday, March 13

8:15 a.m. Kelly Zehr

Friday, March 14

7:00 a.m. Owen Lyons

Saturday, March 15

5:00 p.m. Parish

Sunday, March 16 (Second Sunday of Lent)

7:00 a.m. Mac McCorvie

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.

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 LOCAL NURSING HOME: Mass will be offered at Goldwater Care on **Friday, March 14 at 9:30am**.

PLEASE PRAY FOR parishioner Ricky Matuszewski Jr., R.I.P. Our sympathy to his family and friends.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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!



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
LENTEN FISH FRY**

**Friday, March 14
5-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall**

**Fried pollack, baked cod, tuna noodle casserole,
shrimp, grilled cheese, mac & cheese,
fries, cole slaw, dessert & drink**

\$14 for adults, \$8 for children ages 6-12, \$45 family max

**Other Fish Frys will be offered on
Fridays, March 21 and April 4 & 11**

ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP will meet **this Sunday, March 9 from 6:30-8pm** in the upstairs of the Parish Center (former rectory). All high school students are invited and encouraged to attend.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY SEWING CIRCLE will meet **Thursday, March 13 from 9am to 12:30pm** in the parish hall.

ADULT EDUCATION/OCIA (RCIA): This program is 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 on joining us for, any or all, of our upcoming classes.

3/11 Reconciliation, Anointing; 3/25 Holy Orders, Matrimony; 4/08 The Mass Explained. **All classes will be offered on Tuesday evenings 6:30-8:00 in the Parish Hall.** Please contact Jim at 815-419-4022 or Mary at 815-674-7197 with questions.

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.



HOME ROSARY GROUPS: Fr. Whiteside is encouraging parishioners to create a Home Rosary Group to meet in your home once a month to pray the Rosary. Fr. Whiteside would also like to join you for your group. The prayer time can involve a meal or snack but is not essential to the gathering.

If you coordinate a Rosary Group, please call the parish office to let Fr. Whiteside know of your date and place so he can join you.

ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP BUTTERBRAID SALE

Youth Group members are taking orders for Butterbraid pastries, cookie dough and pretzels. Orders will be accepted through March 23 by contacting any youth group member. Orders will also be taken **after all Masses March 22/23** at the Sacristy entrance. Proceeds from the sales will help support summer trips to the Steubenville Conference and Catholic Heart Work Camp. Please support our youth group! Orders will be delivered starting April 7 in plenty of time for Easter.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held each Friday of Lent, except Good Friday, at 5:30 p.m. in the church.

LENTEN RESOURCES AVAILABLE: A booklet with the 54 Day Rosary Novena, and copies of The Word Among Us, with daily Lenten Reflections, are free to pick up at all the doors of the church to help you on your Lenten journey.

LENTEN SCRIPTURE STUDY

"With Jesus to the Cross," a 6 week Scripture Study, will begin Wednesday, March 12 at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall with Margo Law facilitating. The study is designed to reflect on the Scripture passages to be read at Mass on the upcoming Sunday. Please call the parish office at 815-844-7683 to sign up for this Lenten event so books can be ordered for all.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

vs. A.I.R. 66ers



Sunday, March 16

3:00 p.m.

St. Mary's School Gym

Freewill donations at the door, cake raffles, 50/50 drawing, concession stand

All proceeds will go to A.I.R.!

Everyone is invited to attend this fun afternoon which supports A.I.R. (Adaptive & Inclusive Recreation)

All Knights of Columbus members are invited to play.



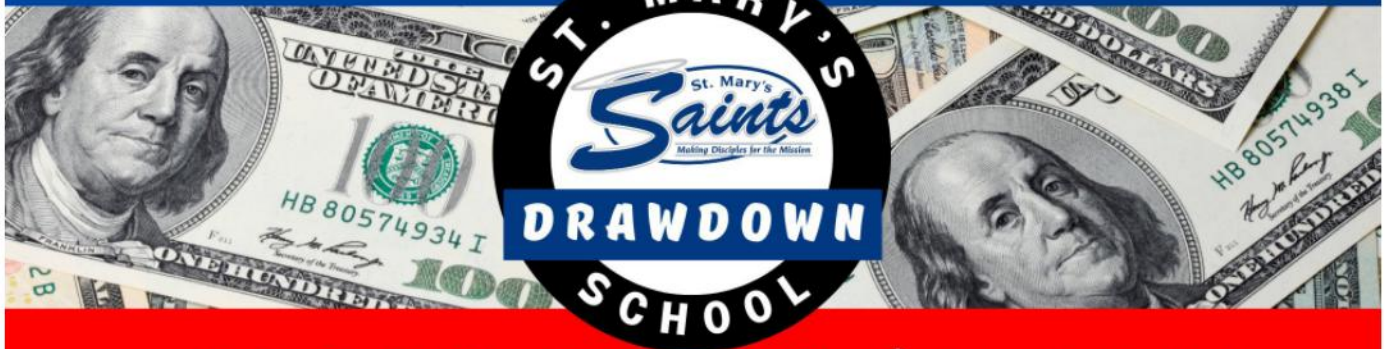
For more information, contact Rod Zehr at 815-260-3592

QUICK DRAW WINNERS: Congratulations to the February winners in the SMS Quick Draw Raffle: Dana Muir, Chris Hindman, David Daluga, Vanessa Kapper and Debbie Johnson. Thank you for your support of St. Mary's School!

FREE PIANO if you move it. Call Joyce Ruff at 815-848-5169.

Sponsored by:

Parent-Teacher Organization



GRAND PRIZE \$5,000!

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
FEATURING DJ BLAKE STADEL AS EMCEE

**TOP 10
WIN
CASH
PRIZES!**

Your \$100 ticket admits two adults to Pontiac Elks Lodge for the event and includes dinner, beer, a chance to win fantastic prizes, and the opportunity to participate in live & silent auctions. Purchase your ticket today at school.stmaryspontiac.org, from any St. Mary's student, or in the school office.



ONLY 300 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD. • NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN. • THIS EVENT IS FOR ADULTS 21+ ONLY.



2025-2026

LITTLE DISCIPLES PRESCHOOL



Now registering 4 year-old students
3 year-old registration begins 5/19/25 (if spots remain).

PROGRAM FEATURES :

- Full-day 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Structured and creative playtime
- Music, art, physical education, and technology
- Minimum one hour daily rest time
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program
- Flexible tuition payment plans

We are celebrating the innocence of early learners and encouraging their sense of wonder. Little Disciples Preschool will prepare children for their academic journey and teach children the culture of school in a structured, inclusive environment. Children have the opportunity for intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual growth.



ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST

After communion, we should remain in profound recollection, adoring our Lord with great humility and saying in our hearts: You see, O God of my soul, my wretched propensity to sin. You see how this passion domineers over me, and that of myself I cannot resist it. It is You who must fight my battles, and if I have any share in the combat, it is from You alone that I must hope for victory. Then addressing ourselves to the Eternal

Father, let us offer Him this Beloved Son, now bestowed upon and dwelling within us. Let us offer Him in thanksgiving for so many benefits received and in order to obtain complete victory over ourselves through His assistance. Let us form a resolution of fighting courageously against that particular enemy from whom we suffer most. And we may expect to conquer, since God will sooner or later crown our endeavors with success, if we are not lacking on our part.

~Lorenzo Scupoli (1530 - 1610)



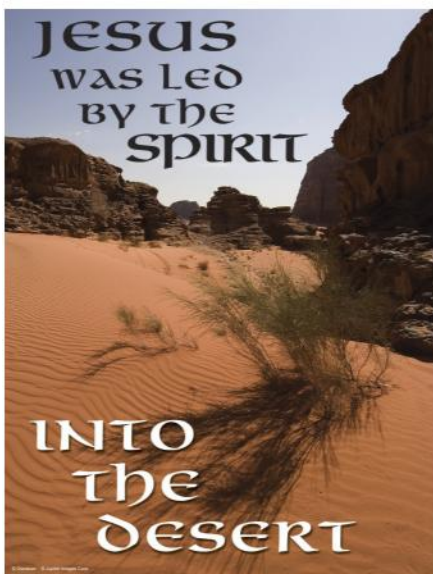
TEACHERS & SUPPORT STAFF NEEDED AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

Second Grade Teacher, Third Grade Teacher, Fourth Grade Teacher, Jr. High Language Arts/
Literature Teacher, Full Time Paraprofessional/Teachers Aide, Interventionist, Business Manager

Teacher applicants 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

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 2025-2026 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 Schools* and then under *John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship*. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist at the bottom of the webpage 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 2025-2026 school year must reapply. Deadline date for the completed application is April 25, 2025. Notification of grant awards will be made June 2025.



LIVINGSTON COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY'S

Pasta for Paws Spaghetti Dinner

Plus Raffles and Silent Auction

Thursday, March 13th, 4:30pm to 7:30pm
St. Mary's Parish Hall, Pontiac, IL

 Dinner Prices:
Ages 3 & under.....free
Ages 4-12.....\$5
Ages 13 & up.....\$10
Family Meal.....\$35

Dinner Meal Includes:
Spaghetti, Green Beans, Bread, and a Dessert
Water & Lemonade available dine-in
Dinner will be cooked and served by
the LACC Culinary Department.
Take Out Available!

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

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

For families in crisis: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 9, 2025

Sunday	First Sunday of Lent Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13
Monday	Lev 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday	Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday	Jonah 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
Friday	Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday	Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday	Second Sunday of Lent Gen 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17-4:1 or Phil 3:20-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36



SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON: Thursday, March 20 from 11am to 1pm at St. Andrew Church in Fairbury. Serving ham, salads, rolls and drinks. Donation only.



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.



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:

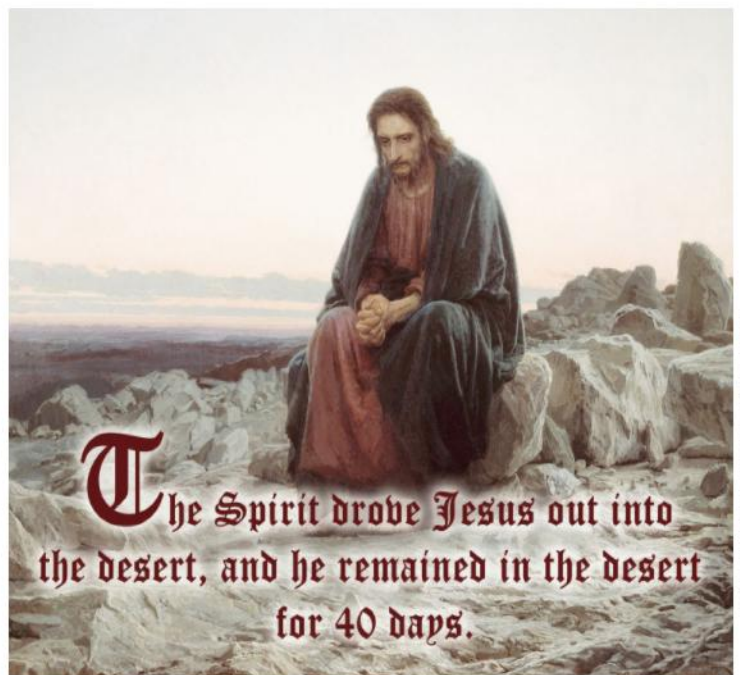
**Everyday at 4:30am and 8:30pm
MASS IS BROADCAST EACH MORNING AT 7AM**

**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. For more information, contact parishioner Jerry LoPiccalo at 630-514-6221 or Father David Sabel.

BIBLE STUDY with Catholic Spirit Radio. Attend in-person or via Zoom.

St. Leo the Great said, "What was visible in our Savior has been passed over into the mysteries." In the Eastern Church the sacraments are often referred to as the mysteries. Learn how the mysteries of Christ's incarnate life become present today in the sacraments. Learn how these mysteries have been woven into the very fabric of salvation history. See how they are foreshadowed into the Old and revealed in the New Testament. Join us at Catholic Spirit Radio starting Thursday, March 13 at 6:30 PM for this 11-part series each Thursday. \$20. For more information or to register contact Anthony Pecora at 309-750-9062 or perio2000@frontier.com



**The Spirit drove Jesus out into
the desert, and he remained in the desert
for 40 days.**

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 Mar 10	Kevin & JoAnn Lower Family, Mary Lucus Family
Tues Mar 11	Jerry & Joan LoPiccalo Family, Betty Murphy Family
Wed Mar 12	Jenny Murphy Family, John LoPiccalo Family
Thurs Mar 13	Kevin Murphy Family, Laurie Murphy Family
Fri Mar 14	Mike & Shannon Murphy Family, Patrick Murphy Family
Mon Mar 17	Thomas & Jennifer Murphy Family, Laura Mussari Family
Tues Mar 18	Mark & Susan Nelson Family, Joel & Whitney Newkirk Family
Wed Mar 19	Francis Nolan Family, William Nolan Family
Thurs Mar 20	Tom & Patricia Noonan Family, Jana Norman Family
Fri Mar 21	Theresa North Family, Birdie Ocean Family



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!

BABY BULL'S

FAMILY RESTAURANT
Banquet Room
Rt. 116 West
815-844-5757

LYONS BROTHERS
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.
LENNOX
815-844-3385
727 W MADISON
lyonsbrothers.com

BESTONE PFAFF
TIRE & AUTO CARE TIRE & AUTO INC.
TIRES • ALIGNMENTS • BRAKES • AIR CONDITIONING • TUNE-UPS
CUSTOM EXHAUST • LUBRICATION • SHOCKS • STRUTS
FARM TIRE SERVICE • COMPUTER DIAGNOSTICS
Robert & Sharri Pfaff, Parishioners
815-844-2525
360 S. Deerfield Rd. • PfaffTireandAuto.com

STAMPS BODY SHOP, LLC
920 N Ladd - Pontiac
(815) 844-5727

EWTN.COM/RADIO

Global Catholic Radio
TUNE IN

Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.
Simply go to
www.DM.CHURCH/1252

OSF HEALTHCARE
OSFHealthCare.org

PONTIAC FAMILY KITCHEN
904 CUSTER AVENUE
815-844-3155
BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER COCKTAILS
BANQUET SEATING UP TO 80

DISCOVERMASS

catholicmatch® Illinois

CatholicMatch.com/goll

KITCHEN LADY
MARY D. SOLON, CKD
Certified Kitchen Designer
815-822-0801
mary@kitchenladydesigns.com
Professional Service. Expert Advice.
WOOD HARBOR CABINETRY
QUARTZ & SOLID SURFACE COUNTERTOPS
www.kitchenladydesigns.com

State Bank of Graymont
Offices in Chenoa, Graymont, Pontiac, & Saunemin
www.sbofgray.com

GEM'S
CARPET CLEANING PLUS
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
815.844.4424
FREE ESTIMATES
Gerry & Karen Miller Owners
www.gemscarpetcleaningplusreviews.com



815-842-0360

Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will

For further information, please call the parish office.

brazier "We Treat You Right"

DQ

PONTIAC DAIRY QUEEN
802 N LADD ST.

EVERGLOW
THRESHOLD LIVING
more to life

New Assisted Living Facility
Contact us today for more information about a tour or our Luncheon Learn date!
815.844.6131
1200 Everglow Ln, Pontiac

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Avery Murphy

LYONS-SULLIVAN REALTY

Terry Sullivan,
Designated
Managing Broker
815-842-1400
321 W. Madison St.
www.LyonsSullivanRealty.com

ZEPHYR ROOFING

ROOFING, SIDING, GUTTERS & MORE!
Residential • Commercial • Industrial

Chris Matthews
OWNER
815-884-0580
thezephyrteam.com

Kelly Electric

815-244.5921

JOHN DEERE | **PRAIRIE STATE TRACTOR**

Your local and reliable Full Service John Deere Dealer!

805 E Howard St.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-842-1149
prairiestatetractor.com

Bank of Pontiac

Bloomington • Coal City • Delavan • Dwight • Fairbury
Forrest • Melvin • Minier • Odell • Paxton • Piper City • P
Toll FREE 855-844-6151 | www.bankofpontiac.com
Member FDIC

WILLIAM H. BERTRAM
ATTORNEY AT LAW

bill@whbltdpc.com
318 North Mill St. | Pontiac, IL
815-842-1100

Flawless Family Home Care

Servicing Livingston, Grundy,
and LaSalle County
(855) 815-1582
WWW.FLAWLESSFAMILYHOMECARE.COM

Carley FAMILY DENTAL

Dr. Ryan Carley | Dr. Natalie Carley
cfdental@frontier.com
815.844.5200
1521 W. Reynolds St • Pontiac, IL

Gray's Garage
HEAVY DUTY SERVICE • PARTS • TOWING •

14437 E 2000 North Rd. • Pontiac IL 61764
815-844-6163
www.graysgarage.net

DRISCOLL GMC

601 S Newport Rd, Pontiac • 1-815-842-1144, or
1-800-851-7605
Driscollmotors.com
Service • Sales • Parts • Detailing

Smith's
Plumbing, Heating & A/C
DAN • STEVE
smithsplumbingandheatingil.com
822 East Howard St. - 815-844-7868

ADVERTISE HERE

Promote your Business
AND Support your Parish.

April Paprocki ~ 612-867-9831
apaprocki@diocesan.com

"Ask a Knight what you can do for the Parish."

Pontiac **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** Council #854
www.KofC.org

Grand Knight: Nick Ehrgott
(217) 248-0455
Fr. Joseph Baker, Chaplain
www.facebook.com/kofc854Pontiac

Greg Kurtenbach
State Farm Agent
800-284-8343

GIBSON CITY
FAIRBURY
PONTIAC

State Farm

#ThankYouForYourPriesthood

EWTN.COM/RADIO

EWTN Global Catholic Radio
TUNE IN

MADISON STREET

Mexican • Breakfast • American
DINE-IN OR DELIVERY
Only Delivered to Pontiac, Illinois
DAILY SPECIALS
Visit us on Facebook

FAMILY RESTAURANT
SERVING AMERICAN & MEXICAN FOOD
(815) 844-2755 / 107 E MADISON ST.
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

CHESTNUT RIDGE AUDIOLOGY

- Diagnostic Testing for Pediatrics thru Geriatrics
- Hearing Aid Services
- Custom-made Earplugs

31085 E. 2800 North Rd. • Dwight
Call for an appointment: **815.941.4700**

When was the last time you had your hearing checked?

THE POINTE At Pontiac
Extraordinary Senior Living

WE ACCEPT MEDICAID | 815.844.6300
thepointeatpontiac.com