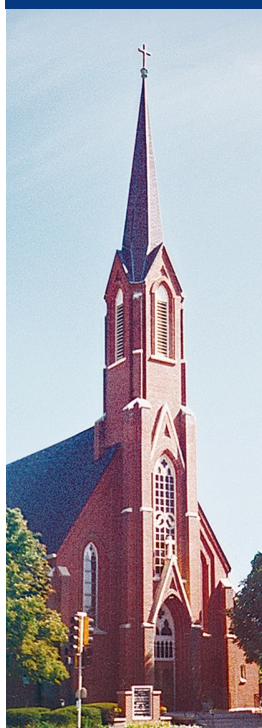


APRIL 2022  
VOL XXI NO. 8

# ~ St. Mary's Parish ~

## Lenten/Holy Week Schedule



### Voice of St. Mary's

Parish Monthly  
Newsletter

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Permanent Deacon

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Vicar

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### Wednesday, April 6

Penance Service 6:30 PM

Extra priests on hand to hear confessions  
**Palm Sunday**

Saturday April 9—Mass 4:00PM

Sunday, April 10, - Mass 7:00AM, 9:30AM

### Monday of Holy Week, April 11

6:30-6:50AM – Confessions

7:00AM – Mass

12:00 – 1:00PM – Confessions

6:30-8:00PM – Confessions



### Tuesday of Holy Week, April 12

6:30-6:50AM – Confessions

7:00AM – Mass

### Wednesday of Holy Week, April 13

6:30-6:50AM – Confessions

7:00AM – Mass

12:00-1:00PM – Confessions

6:30PM - Stations of the Cross with Scenes  
from *The Passion of the Christ*  
Confessions during and after  
Stations of the Cross



### Holy Thursday, April 14

8:15AM – School  
Mass

7:00PM - Mass of  
the Lord's Supper  
Visitation of  
Churches

10:30PM - Adora-  
tion Closes

### Good Friday, April 15

12:00PM -  
Passion Ser-  
vice

1:00-2:00PM  
– Confessions

5:30-7:00PM -  
Confessions



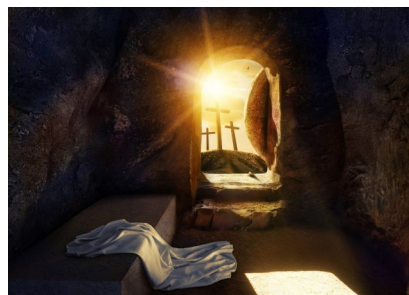
### Holy Saturday, April 16

8PM - Easter Vigil

### Easter Sunday, April 17

7:00AM - Easter  
Sunday Mass  
9:00AM - Easter  
Sunday Mass  
10:30AM - Easter  
Sunday Mass

*Alleluia!!!*



# Holy Week 2022

**Monday of Holy Week,  
April 11**

**6:30-6:50 AM-  
12:00 - 1:00PM -  
6:30-8:00 PM-  
Confessions, Pontiac**

**Wednesday of Holy Week, April 13  
6:30PM - Stations of the Cross with  
Scenes from *The Passion of the Christ*,  
Pontiac**

**- Confessions during & following  
Stations of the Cross (around  
8:00pm), Pontiac**

**Holy Thursday, April 14  
7:00PM - Mass of the Lord's Supper  
- Visitation of Pontiac, Chenoa &  
Odell Churches  
10:00PM - Adoration Closes, Pontiac**

**Good Friday, April 15**

**Passion Service, Pontiac 12:00PM  
Passion Service, Flanagan 4:00PM  
Passion Service, Lexington 5:30PM  
Passion Service, Chatsworth 6:30PM  
Passion Service, Chenoa 7:00PM**

**Holy Saturday, April 16**

**Easter Vigil, Chenoa 7:30PM  
Easter Vigil, Pontiac 8:00PM**

**Easter Sunday, April 17**

**Pontiac 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 10:30AM  
Flanagan 8:00AM  
Lexington 9:00AM  
Chatsworth 10:00AM  
Chenoa 11:00AM**

## PRAY FOR OUR SCHOOL & CHURCH FAMILIES THIS YEAR

*For 2022, we ask everyone to pray for specific church and school families each weekday. A list will be published each month in both the bulletin & in our newsletter. Please remember these families in your prayers each day for them to grow in their faith this year. Thank you.*



Mon. Apr. 18	Donna Cahill's Family Isaac & Henry Yedinak's Family
Tues. Apr. 19	Todd & Patsy Campbell's Family Aron Trevino's Family
Wed. Apr. 20	Agile & Yvonne Carter's Family Nora & Wilson Sweitzer's Family
Thurs. Apr. 21	Carrie Carroll's Family Charley & Lily Sipe's Family
Fri. Apr. 22	Mike & Shirley Casey's Family Reese & Gavin Wheri's Family
Mon. Apr. 25	Raquel Calle's Family Izzy, Evelyn & Myers Hinz' Family
Tues. Apr. 26	David Carroll's Family Josie Wenger's Family
Wed. Apr. 27	Brad & Angels Campbell's Family Maddie & Cameron Mikeworth's Family
Thurs. Apr. 28	James Carrol's Family Scout Minnaert's Family
Fri. Apr. 29	Charles & Jenny Cassidy's Family Callum, Palmer, & Eva Masching's Family
Mon. May 2	Jacob Campbell's Family Nolan & Graham Mennega's Family
Tues. May 3	Randy & Sandy Carlsen's Family Everett & Bruce Meiner's Family
Wed. May 4	Janet Cassidy's Family Jaxson Rambo's Family
Thurs. May 5	Rick ^ Cathy Campbell's Family McKinlee & Kallen Morgan's Family
Fri. May 6	John & Jeanne Cassidy's Family Grayson & Keeley Monros's Family
Mon. May 9	Crystal Chalkey's Family

Tues. May 10

Wed. May 11

Thurs. May 12

Fri. May 13

Ella Ashcraft's Family  
Thomas & Jane Cassidy's Family  
Jaxson Rich's Family  
Lance & Vicki Champlain's Family  
Blythe & Vaughan Schulta's Family  
Jerry & Nancy Cohlman's Family  
Gavin Schaidle's Family  
Jorg Ann Casson's Family  
Case Owne's Family

A CALL TO **CATHOLIC**  
**MEN OF FAITH**  
Fighting for Faith & Family  
**ANNUAL MEN'S MARCH & MASS**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022**

8:30am- Confessions at the Peoria Riverfront  
9:00am- Gathering & Opening Prayer  
9:15am- Men's Rally Begins  
9:45am- March to Cathedral  
10:30am- Mass with Bishop Lou Tylka at the Cathedral of St. Mary  
11:45am- Fellowship & Food Following the Mass at Spalding Pastoral Ctr.  
\*Food & Beverages will be available for purchase

# News & Notes Around St. Mary's Parish



\*\*\* The tradition of the Annual St. Patrick's day game between the 3rd & 4th graders each year at SMS goes wayyyyyyy back. Students dress up, alumni return to watch, parents and grandparents dress up. Even former parish secretaries get involved. For the record, the game ended in a tie...and the stories continue...

## \*\*\* LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE

- June 1 -11 Security system installed
- June 12-17 Totus Tuus returns for GS & HS students
- June 19 Father's Day
- June 19 Corpus Christi Procession to Pontiac town square following 9:30 Mass
- June 24-25 Women's Guild Rummage Sale Fundraiser

\*\*\*There's still time! Easter flowers may once again be purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one as part of our church decorating for Easter. All memorials will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Place your donation and the intention with your name inside an envelope and deposit in the collection basket or mail it to the Parish Office. Available purchases include; Lily (\$10); Small Mum (\$15); Large Mum (\$20); Azalea (\$30).



\*\*\*LAST Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry Suppers is scheduled for April 8., 5-7 in the Parish hall. Come and enjoy a wonderful Lenten meal. Carry-outs available. Christ Child Society will have display tables for purchases with all proceeds going to local agencies.



\*\*\* STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held on April 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the church. LAST one before Good Friday.

\*\*\* At the Easter Vigil Service on April 16, we will welcome several new members to our parish family. Eight candidates and one catechumen will complete their Faith journeys that evening and become full-fledged of Christ in the Catholic Church. Congratulations and continued prayers for these individuals and their families: Samantha Farris, Cory Farris, Tory Farney, Amanda Cleary, Alicia Cunningham, Jesus Madrigal, Sam Kelly, Scott Stover, and Cheyenne Coon. Welcome to our parish!

\*\*\* We welcome Tory Farney to our Parish Staff. Tory has been working as our new part-time custodian at the school, and he is adding cleaning duties at the church and groundskeeping for the parish campus to his repertoire. Looks like he's going to be pretty busy.

\*\*\* Several pieces of news regarding our updated security/sound/video systems:

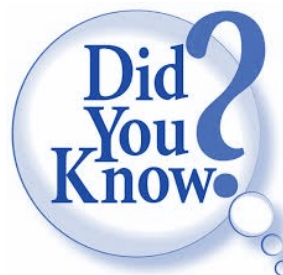


- Word came from the diocese that our projects have been approved
- The new sound system, along with the updated position of our the video camera for Mass, has been completed. Hopefully now, the quality will be better than ever.
- A walk-through for the Security system was recently completed with workers getting lined up for

placement and process of putting lines, cameras, and other equipment in the proper locations. Work is scheduled to begin right after school gets out. And with our recent rock through the window incident in the parish hall, this couldn't come at a better time

## \*\*\* LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY

- May 1 1st Communion Mass for 12 students
- May 5 May Crowning Mass for St. Mary's students
- May 8 Mother's Day
- May 15 Mass honoring our 8th grade graduates & HS grads
- May 24 8th Grade Graduate Luncheon
- May 25 8th Grade Graduation Mass
- May 30 Memorial Day Mass at St. Mary's Cemetery



## ... the History behind the Stations of the Cross?

The Stations of the Cross are a Catholic devotion which commemorates the Passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each of the fifteen stations represents an event which occurred during Jesus' Passion and death at Calvary on Good Friday.

The Stations were originally performed many centuries ago by Christian pilgrims who visited the Holy Land and the sites of Jesus' Passion. Promotion of the devotion to the Stations began in earnest with the Franciscans, who were given custody of the Holy Places in the Holy Land in the 1300s. Countless Catholics have all enriched their spiritual lives with this powerful devotion.

Devotion to the Stations of the Cross spread rapidly throughout the Roman Catholic world in the 18th century, largely as a result of the preaching of the Franciscan, St. Leonard of Port-Maurice, who erected stations and promoted the devotion in over five hundred churches and places throughout Italy. His work was supported by the popes of his time, who saw the devotion as a means of strengthening faith.

Another 18th century saint, St. Alphonsus Liguori, wrote a brief work on the stations that is still in use today. Religious communities like the Jesuits and the Passionists made the devotion part of their missions and retreats. By the 19th century, the Stations of the Cross had become a staple in Catholic prayer books and in churches throughout England, Ireland and North America.

In recent years some variations have been introduced in the traditional devotion. One of these is the addition of a 15th station - the Resurrection of Jesus. Another is a series of scriptural stations, which begin with the Agony of Jesus in Gethsemane and omit some of the traditional non-scriptural stations in favor of incidents mentioned in the Gospels.

*Courtesy of Catholic Center's Online Stations of the Cross*



# From the Principal's Desk...



Just a couple of tidbits from our school as we get back from spring break vacation:



Congratulations to Coach Francis, the rest of the coaching staff, and, especially, our 8th grade volleyball team. After their dominating victory over Nettle Creek to win the Sectional title, the girls qualified for the Class 1A State Tournament. Even though they didn't advance, this team really had a tremendously successful year.

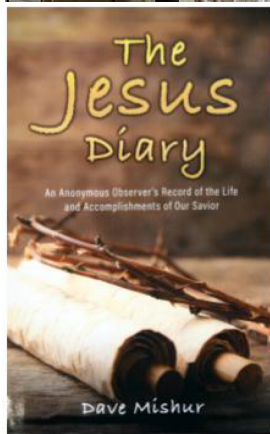
## FIRST COMMUNION CLASS 2022



After receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in late March, this group of twelve students are counting the days before their 1st Communion on May 1. Please sign their board in church and keep them in your prayers.

# Drawdown 2022: A Fun Time for All!

Good food! Camaraderie! Fellowship! Auction items! Laughter! Winners! All these made the 2022 Drawdown a HUGE success! After a two year absence, the people of St. Mary's came together at the Elks for a festive night for the benefit of our school! Congrats to the big winners: MAGGIE CLARK (Wheelbarrow) & to JAKE & ASHLEY RALPH (Cash Prize). Congrats also to the committee for all their hard work in bringing back one of the true staples of St. Mary's Parish. As one person put it, "It was just great to see so many people smiling again."



## "The Jesus Diary"

by parishioner Dave Mishur is on sale at Amazon and available for purchase at the parish office, \$15 per copy with the purchase price going to the church.

"Readers not only share the sense of marvel at Jesus' works and teachings, but also the confusion and doubt even his closest followers experienced before they embraced him as the Son of God."

—Tom Dermody, Editor,  
The Catholic Post

"The description of Judas' spiritual ruin is one of the highlights of this book. As

Judas continues to deny all of Jesus' teachings the diarist writes, 'for one brief moment I was sure I was looking in the face of the devil himself.'

—Peggy Moen



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.

# From The Back Page

by Mick Peterson

"You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord." (Eph. 5:8-10)

For the past twenty-five months, we've experienced plenty of darkness. Covid hit our world harder than any other issue in our lifetime so far. Even here in little old Pontiac, we've had to adjust our lives, in some cases, dramatically. Many of us either experienced ourselves or knew someone who caught the virus, perhaps went into intensive care, maybe even passed away.

Those first few months around St. Mary's were tough as well. No masses, no adoration, no sacraments, priests getting ill. But slowly, we came out of it...starting with little messages from Father Adam online each day. Then Masses returned, first with no congregation, then slowly the people returned, roped off to every other pew, wearing masks, but worshipping nonetheless. Drive-thru Communion on Sunday morning were well-attended. We even had "Drive-thru" confessions for a while. Eventually, restrictions were slowly lifted, and the post-Covid "Norm" returned.

And all this time, the Diocese of Peoria had granted all of us a dispensation from our Sunday obligation to attend Mass. Even these past several months, when things eased, people didn't have to come. They could just watch the Mass online if they chose to, or, even more conveniently, not even worry about it. It was okay. "The Bishop said we didn't have to come." I know I made that choice a few times along the way. It was easy. But no more!

The dispensation is over. Bishop Tylka announced recently that the obligation to attend Mass resumes on Palm Sunday weekend – April 9-10. *"The time has come to rescind the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Each year on Palm Sunday, we mark Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem as we begin Holy Week,"* the Bishop wrote in a letter to his parishes.

*"This year, it will also mark our Church's triumphant renewal of Sunday worship."*

And he added this point. **"It must be noted that watching Mass on TV or via the internet—even when it is live-streamed—does not fulfill the Sunday obligation."** That covered the convenience factor. Then he concluded, **"As has always been the case, those who are ill or homebound, along with those who care for them, are not obliged to attend Mass. Charity indicates that if you are contagious, you should stay home."** That covered the homebound.



We will continue to livestream our Sunday masses. We will also continue to stream our weekday Masses. For some people, like those at our nursing homes or assisted living complexes, these are a Godsend. They have nothing else.

But for the rest of us...it's decision time. This is our chance to shine, to *live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.* Goodness... righteousness...truth...all virtues we can use...day in and day out.

St. Mary's is here for ONE reason...to lead our people to Heaven. That includes you...and me. Him...and her. We are ALL in need of redemption, of resurrection. Whether you're a regular churchgoer or if you haven't been in a while, let's believe, "We are always welcome here." Let's all *try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.*

We're getting ready for Holy Week. Easter is just around the corner....See you at Mass.

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