

MAY 2022  
VOL XXI NO. 9

# MAY

## Mary's Month at St. Mary's



### Voice of St. Mary's Parish Monthly Newsletter

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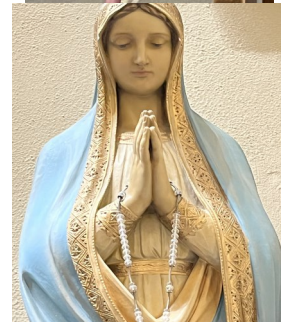
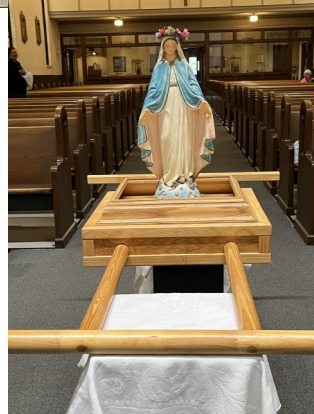
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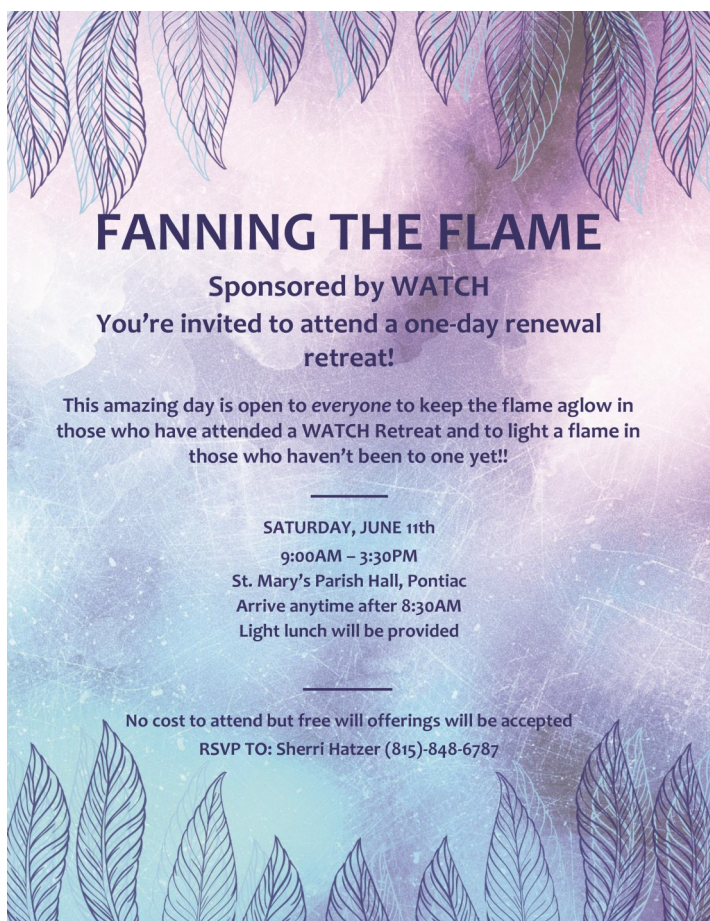
Shari Paris

Other Parish Voices



AVE  
MARIA





## WATCH Returns in June—1 Day Only!

Prior to the pandemic, WATCH retreats were held over a three-day weekend, starting on Friday evening and ending on Sunday afternoon. WATCH returns this June...with a new format...and a little different emphasis...but answering this main question... “Have you ever wanted to do something extra to broaden your spiritual life but didn’t know where to start?”

*FANNING THE FLAME RENEWAL*, sponsored by the St. Mary’s WATCH group, is the answer! This ONE DAY (that’s right!) retreat is open to ALL parishioners---those who have either previously attended a weekend in the past OR for those who might have wanted to attend in the past, but the timing was off. We do know this – this day is guaranteed to light a flame in your soul and leave you wanting more.

Please join us Saturday, June 11 in the Parish Hall. Doors will open at 8:30 with the retreat beginning promptly at 9am. A light lunch will be provided. The day will end at 3:30, plenty of time if you wish to attend the 4pm Mass. There is NO cost to this event, but free-will offerings will be accepted.

Please contact Sherri Hatzler (815) 848-6787 to register or for any questions on your mind. The St. Mary’s WATCH team will be praying for the Holy Spirit to guide everyone to this spiritual day of renewal.



## 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. May 16	Don & Carla Chandler's Family Darrin & Zain Pierce's Family	Wed. June 1	Ryan & Jordy Collins' Family Mary Helen McCorvie's Family
Tues. May 17	Daniel Cohrs' Family Hadley & Harlow' Noonan's Family	Thurs. June 2	Michael Cool's Family Christy Jones' Family
Wed. May 18	Patricia Casson's Family TJ & Sara Murphy's Family	Fri. June 3	Mary Corrigan's Family Anne Corrigan's Family
Thurs. May 19	Joe & Cherry Cole's Family Lucas & Amelia Maier's Family	Sat. June 4	John Colvis' Family Carol Duffy's Family
Fri. May 20	Paul & Avis Casson's Family Landry & Wilder Saxton's Family	Sun. June 5	Bonnie Corriel's Family Marie Becker's Family
Mon. May 23	Neil & Teresa Christopher's Family Sammi & Riley Salinas' Family	Mon. June 6	Roger & Paula Corrigan's Family Ashley Folkerts' Family
Tues. May 24	Patricia Collette's Family Adam Vitzthum's Family	Tues. June 7	Lori Conkle's Family Heidi Legner's' Family
Wed. May 25	Roblee Casson's Family Cecilia & Avery Alsdorf's Family	Wed. June 8	Joanne Corriel's Family Amanda Lauritsen's Family
Thurs. May 26	Andy & Joan Collins' Family Flynn Eggleston's Family	Thurs. June 9	Rosemary Corrigan's family Kelly Krenz' Family
Fri. May 27	Mark & Carla Connolly's Family Harper Bachman's Family	Fri. June 10	Doug Corrigan's Family Denise Plenert's Family
Mon. May 30	Edward Corrigan's Family Tristan Bednar's Family	Sat. June 11	Alfredo & Nancy Cortez' Family Kim Cheek's Family
Tues. May 31	Jackie Cool's Family Cayden Masching's Family	Sun. June 12	Harold Cunningham's Family Ellen Yedinak's Family



# News & Notes Around St. Mary's Parish

\*\*\* The Gardening Angels are hosting the first of two (other one being in the fall) "Campus Work Days" on Saturday, May 14 from 9-11am. All the green thumbs and weed-pullers out there are invited to join in and collaborate on making the grounds of St. Mary's as eye-popping as possible. Young or old, male or female, families of all sizes, too—many hands (with gloves, rakes, hoes, and such) make for light work.




\*\*\* Great news! After having several preliminary walk-throughs, the initial phase of the Security System installation project has begun ahead of schedule. The tedious task of pulling the wires throughout the parish complex, which had been scheduled to begin after school ends later this month, has been

underway for the past couple of weeks. Volunteers have steadily made progress in completing wiring in both in the gym and the parish hall, two of the more time-consuming areas of work. Also, the cameras have already arrived. Work will continue to occur when the time and opportunities arrive, but, needless to say, we are excited about the progress and potential for this much-needed project.



\*\*\* TEENS ARE ALL INVITED! All high schoolers and **GRADUATING 8TH GRADERS**—ATTENTION! The St. Mary's IGNITE Youth Group will be hosting an "End of the School Year" party on May 29 in the SMS parking lot. A 6pm dinner will be followed by s'mores, bags, kickball, and other games as well. It will be a great night of relaxing and hanging out! Mark your calendars on those cell phones TODAY! We hope to see you there!

\*\*\* Pretty self-explanatory...start saving those coins today.



Please join

## Hope Pregnancy Center's Baby Bottle Project




From

### Mother's Day to Father's Day

Take a baby bottle home with you today.  
Drop your spare change, dollars, or a check into the bottle  
and watch it fill to the top!

Then bring the bottle back to church on Father's Day.  
The spare change collected will be used to help mothers  
and their babies.

**Your change can change lives!**

May 8th - June 19th



Bottles can be picked up in the back of church

\*\*\*START SAVING NOW! The Women's Guild has set June 24-25 for their Annual Rummage Sale Fundraiser. The parish hall will be filled with ALL kinds of items, from books, jewelry, linens, toys,, household items,, decorations...but

no clothes, please. Next month, we will share drop off information for your items.

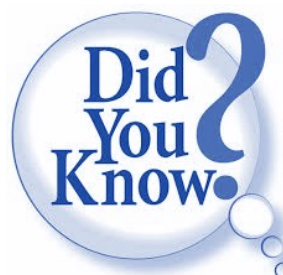
\*\*\* Special Congratulations to our Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper Patti Zehr, who was recognized by the Diocese of Peoria for her 25th Anniversary of serving St. Mary's Parish in that capacity. Here Patti is shown with Bishop Lou Tylka after receiving her award. Congratulations Patti, and thanks for all you do to keep our parish functioning!



\*\*\* And we welcome with open arms the new members of our parish family who were



completed their RCIA journey at the Easter Vigil Service last month. Our 2022 class includes: Amanda Cleary, Cheyenne Coon, Alicia Cunningham, Tory Farney, Samuel Kelly, Jesus Madrigal, and Scott Stover. Let's keep these people and their families on our prayers as they begin their new faith journeys.



## ...the story and origin behind "Hail Holy Queen?"

One of the favorite Marian prayers said by Catholics is "Hail Holy Queen." The prayer has an interesting origin.

*Hail Holy Queen* or *Salve Regina* is a choral anthem going back to the eleventh century. Since the


thirteenth century it is the last evening chant in many religious communities. The authorship is not clearly defined.

The *Salve* is first mentioned in a meditation by Anselm II, Bishop of Lucca, 1073-86 (PL 184, 1078-98) and (erroneously) to Hermannus Contractus (1013-54) of Reichenau. The "Hail, Holy Queen" is a salutation *deprecatonia*, a greeting of petition and intercession. Mary is called mother of mercy because Christ her Son, is the incarnation of God's love and mercy. Giving us Christ, she gave us, sinful humans, the life and hope we need (as baptized children of Eve) to survive in this vale of tears. This antiphon is not part of the rosary but represents the same spirit. It is part of the official prayer of the Church (Liturgy of the Hours: Vespers and/or Compline) and thus is even more precious than the rosary. Sung, it becomes a wonderful expression of our spiritual intimacy with Mary.

## Hail Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,  
our life, our sweetness and our hope.  
To you do we cry,  
poor banished children of Eve,  
To you do we send up our sighs,  
mourning and weeping in this  
valley of tears  
Turn then, most gracious advocate,  
your eyes of mercy toward us,  
and after this exile  
show unto us the blessed  
fruit of thy womb,  
Jesus.  
O clement, O loving,  
O sweet Virgin Mary.

## Amen





# From the Principal's Desk...



Several weeks ago, we had a mama duck, Mary Daphne, build a nest in one of our planter boxes outside the music room in the courtyard. Students and teachers watched her daily as she laid eggs, then proceeded to sit on her eggs. Last week, the eggs hatched, and we had fourteen new “students” at St. Mary’s. Excitement was contagious as we saw the babies crack open their eggs and new life appeared!



On a Friday, Mary Daphne jumped out of the planter box and coaxed her babies to follow her. With fear the babies would hurt themselves when they fell to the ground, many teachers and students watched this happen with baited breath all before school began for the day. All fourteen babies survived the fall out of the planter box, and Mama then talked her babies into following her in the grass for a much-needed rest. Once they had rested for a bit, Mama and her babies waddled onto the parking lot and then across the street to find water. We all said a prayer for their safety as they left their home here at St. Mary’s.



I can relate our ducks to our 8th Graders who will graduate at the end of this month. We have “sat” on these students for nine years, preparing them for the day when they would leave their nest (St. Mary’s) and find water of their own, or in this case, High School! We will say prayers for their safety as they find their own path. As we have taught them, Jesus said, “Follow Me,” we can pray our 8th Graders always Follow Jesus and know they can always return to their nest here at St. Mary’s.



We also celebrated our 2nd Graders receiving their First Holy Communion earlier this month. What a wonderful day to celebrate this Sacrament with these students and their families! Just like the little ducklings crawling out of the box, we continue to pray that those youngsters can learn to trust in God and to know when God coaxes us to do something, we listen, and we follow Him.

*We are thankful to God  
for your successful  
Graduation.  
It's the result of your  
Sincerity, Hardwork,  
and Patience.  
Congratulations!*



*Congratulations to all  
2022 St. Mary's  
Graduates —  
8th Grade, High School,  
& College.  
May the Holy Spirit  
continue to guide you on  
the next part of your  
journey!*

## ST. MARY'S PARISH MARCH 2022



*"They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed; every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which he has given you."*

~ Deuteronomy 16:16-17

### WE THANK YOU

We continue to be truly humbled by the generosity of our parishioners. Thank you to those who generously responded to our recent "Making Disciples for the Mission" campaign. We are already reaping tremendous results! Every contribution is greatly appreciated. Prayerfully consider the impact you can have.

## A QUARTERLY UPDATE ON OUR FINANCIAL JOURNEY

	Previous Fiscal Year July 1 - March 31, 2021	Current Fiscal Year July 1 - March 31, 2022
REVENUES	\$1,833,686.94	\$1,208,513.75
EXPENSES	\$1,112,372.12	\$1,082,414.95
GAIN/(LOSS)	\$721,314.82	\$126,098.80

- Report covers both Parish and School Operations

Please be reminded that at this time last year we had received a very generous bequest of farm land from the Fitzgerald Family totaling \$740,731.00. This money has been set aside for future needs and was not used for ordinary expenses such as salaries and utilities. As you can see, even with increases in utility costs and other expenses, we have kept our total expenses less than last year as we do our best to be good stewards of the gifts you have given to us. We continue to encourage everyone to use your weekly envelopes or use Online Giving through our website: [www.stmaryspontiac.org](http://www.stmaryspontiac.org) See details below.

## CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION



**SUNDAY, JUNE 19  
IMMEDIATELY  
FOLLOWING  
9:30AM MASS**

**JOIN US AS  
WE BRING  
JESUS THROUGH  
OUR COMMUNITY**

ECCE



**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.



NOTE OF GRATITUDE

# Making Disciples for the Mission

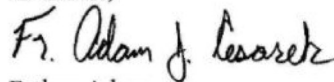
God's love certainly unites us!

This is evident in the parish response to our recent annual stewardship outreach. THANK YOU! I am humbled and grateful for your commitment to St. Mary's Catholic Church, especially during challenging times. Through your commitment, our parish remains vibrant, engaged and Christ-centered in the Eucharist and in serving one another.

God's work is never done! Your prayerful response both materially and spiritually is setting the groundwork for a path forward as we plan for the future of our parish and continuation of critical ministries and service programs. St. Mary's Catholic Church continues to grow as a strong, faith-filled stewardship community because of parishioners like you!

I am humbled to serve as your pastor as we continue to demonstrate true discipleship.

In Christ,



Father Adam



## Highlights

**\$74,128**

in additional offertory  
commitments  
(contributions not yet  
realized)

**\$28,145**

committed in  
one-time gifts

**56%**

response rate  
from those actively  
supporting the parish

**1**

new family welcomed  
into our parish  
community

**19**

additional electronic  
giving participants

*If you have not yet renewed your commitment to our parish, please return your commitment card within the next few weeks. We are looking for 100% participation from our parish families! Each response makes a huge impact!*

**We Invite You To:**

### Love Your Parish

Joyfully worship and make the Eucharist our core and Summit

- Attend Mass in-person
- Attend Adoration
- Actively participate in the Liturgy
- Pray with others

### Love Your Savior

Develop and grow a personal relationship with Christ

- Through scripture and Bible study
- Celebrate the Sacraments
- Join a book study, small group, or class
- Pray to find Christ in everything and to grow in faith

### Love Your Neighbor

God asks us to share our gifts for the good of others

- Join a parish ministry
- Volunteer to charitable causes
- Practice corporal works of mercy
- Give in faithful response as a generous steward

# Join us for

## June 13 - 17

Entering Grades 1-6

9:00am - 3:00pm

\$30/child \$65 family max

## June 12 - 16

Entering Grades 7-12

7:00pm - 9:00pm

\$15 per teen

To register, visit: [school.stmaryspontiac.org](http://school.stmaryspontiac.org)

# TOTUS TUUS



## Totus Tuus 2022

St. Mary's Parish Hall

### Mission

Totus Tuus is a Latin term meaning "totally yours" which signifies our desire to give of ourselves completely to Jesus Christ. The program is run by 4 missionaries who are college-aged and have energy, enthusiasm, and a commitment to spiritual growth. We will have lessons, games, skits, daily mass & rosary and conclude our week with a huge water balloon fight!

### Grade School Program

Entering Grades 1-6

Monday June 13 - Friday June 17

9am - 3pm

Lunch provided each day by St Mary's Women's Guild

\$30 per person or \$65 family max (3+ kids)

Enter through the Parish Hall doors off Chicago St.

11:15am: Daily Mass

### Jr High & High School Program

Entering Grades 7-12

Sunday June 12 - Thursday June 16

7-9pm each night

\$15 per teen

Enter through the Parish Hall doors off Chicago St.

### Contact Information

For any questions, please contact Taryn Tissiere at 815-979-7663 or [tissiere.taryn@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:tissiere.taryn@stmaryspontiac.org)



## Totus Tuus 2022 Participant Registration Form

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Return Form to: **St Mary's School or Church**

Make Checks Payable to: **St Mary's**

Please mark # of children on the appropriate lines below:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 per child, Grades 1-6

\_\_\_\_\_ \$65 per family (3+ kids)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 per teen, Grades 7-12

Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Children to be enrolled in Totus Tuus and their grade levels (1-12) for the NEXT YEAR of school:

Child's Name	Date of birth	Grade in 2022	Known Allergies and Medical Info we need to be aware of
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**General Permission:** I request that my child(ren), \_\_\_\_\_, be allowed to attend Totus Tuus located at **St Mary's, Pontiac** which takes place: **June 12-17, 2022**. I hereby release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the parish, its staff and their employees and agents, volunteers, and the Catholic Diocese of Peoria from any and all liability, for injuries, damages, medical expenses or any other loss to my child or family, including attorney fees, arising from claims of any kind or nature whatsoever from my child's participation in this event.

### Medical Permission Form

I grant permission for the administration of First Aid to my child(ren), \_\_\_\_\_, by the people in charge of the Totus Tuus event, to sign the necessary releases as may be required, and to make the necessary referrals to qualified physicians for the treatment of illness or accidents of a more serious nature. I understand I will be promptly notified in the event of any serious illness or accident and prior to any major surgery, except when delay in such communication would endanger life. In the case of a medical emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact the parent/guardian of the participant. In the event that I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission to the physicians selected by the adult staff to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for, and to order injection, anesthesia, or surgery if deemed necessary for my Child.

### Insurance Information

Policy Holder (in the name of): \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Identification/Social Security

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Physician \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, when parents can't be reached, please contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #s \_\_\_\_\_

### Videotaping and Still Photographs

Video, still photographs and audio recordings may be taken during Totus Tuus. This authorization form constitutes permission for my child(ren)'s participation in videotaping, still photographs, and/or audio recordings, which may be used for future promotional efforts, including the Catholic Diocese of Peoria publications and websites.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# From The Back Page

by Mick Peterson

May is really one of the busiest months of the year. Seriously, it might be busier than even December! We have First Communion, May Procession, Mother's Day, High School and College graduations, followed by SMS graduation coming up later this month on May 25, which leads to the end of school on May 27, and then Memorial Day weekend. That's not counting those who celebrate birthdays, or bridal/baby showers, or weddings, or graduation parties. With all these happenings, it's a wonder we can keep it all straight...and it's an even greater wonder that we find time to focus on the patron of this month – Our Blessed Mother Mary.

For example, I have always felt that there is no more beautiful service we practice in our Catholic faith that can compare with a solemn May procession. Just the music alone – *On This Day, O Beautiful Mother, Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above, Sing of Mary, Regina Caeli* (one of my personal favorites from my Morris ICS days), and any one of the several renditions of *Ave Maria* – is enough to inspire a whole congregation, young and old.

The rain put a damper on part of St. Mary's plans this year, but that didn't detract from the splendor of the ceremony earlier this month. Eighth graders carried a statue of Mary on a litter, followed by a student with the crown that would adorn Our Lady of Fatima up front of the ambo. Mothers (and grandmothers) of students were invited to attend to be recognized and receive a special blessing, and a good number were able to get away from their busy schedule to attend. Both Mary and Moms had to be pleased.

And, hopefully, Mary will also be pleased with another idea that has

surfaced in the past few months. Gardening Angels are entertaining the thought of converting the west side of the church into a Marian prayer garden. Landscaping ideas are in the works to add some shrubbery and design while moving Mary's statue to a more convenient spot to allow prayer and meditation for those inclined. The site is much more visible than the prayer garden on the east side of the church, especially to out-of-towners and tourists who use the city parking lot off Main Street. Keep your eyes open for potential opportunities to volunteer on the conversion process.



Here's another little May/Mary idea you might consider. Each day for the rest of this month, I invite you to say one decade of the rosary per day. Just ten Hail Mary's. Ten. You can offer them for any special intention you desire...change it each day, too. Allow our Mother to intercede on our behalf to her Son.

Finally, you can finish the month off by attending our outdoor Mass at St. Mary's Cemetery on Memorial Day, May 30, at 10:30 AM. That will give everyone who's involved with the City ceremony at 9am at Southside Cemetery to attend. We can't think of a better way to end the month than to pray for all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country and our freedom. Our Mother will definitely be watching over us.

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