


Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023

*For ever I will sing the
goodness of the Lord !*

	St. Mary	St. Mark
Sunday Contributions	5,118.50	1,092.70
Online Giving	5.00	230.00

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

ST. MARK
Christmas Eve — 5:00 PM
Christmas Day — 10:30 AM


ST. MARY
Christmas Eve — 8:00 PM
Christmas Day — 8:30 AM



Solemnity of Mary
Mother of God
January 1, 2024


While it is not obligatory to attend this year, masses will be offered as follows:

ST. MARK, Monday at 8:00AM
ST. MARY, Monday at 10:00AM



I wish to **THANK** everyone for the many cards, gifts, goodies and prayers during this Holy Season of Christmas. The kindness shown by all of you is so appreciated. Please be assured of my prayers for all of you throughout the coming year.

~ Father Mark



MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 — **Christmas Eve**
5:00 PM **(W) + Hunter Sauer**
8:00 PM **(P) + Randall Hester**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 — **Christmas Day**
8:30 AM **(P) + Greg Quinn**
10:30 AM **(W) + Deacon Kim Scott**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26
8:00 AM **(P) All Parishioners**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27
8:00 AM **(P) + Bob Dempsey**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28
8:00 AM **(W) Pat Dailey**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29
8:00 AM **(P) Tom and Teresa Frieze**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30
8:00 AM **(P) Mike Irving**
6:00 PM **(P) + Dolores Dempsey**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31
8:30 AM **(P) Petty Family**
10:30 AM **(W) + Frank G. Bik Jr.**

ST. MARY SERVER SCHEDULE

December 24 - 8:00 PM - CHRISTMAS EVE
Lector - Mark Welch
Usher - Volunteers
Servers - Eli Musgrave; Sam Musgrave

December 25 - 8:30 AM - CHRISTMAS DAY
Lector - Jim Lagemann
Usher - Volunteers
Servers - Volunteers

December 30 - 6:00 PM - SATURDAY
Lector - Ralph Benz
Ushers - Volunteers
Server - Chase Henderson

December 31 - 8:30 AM - SUNDAY
Lector - Craig Welch
Ushers - Volunteers
Servers - Bodie Marable

ST. MARK SERVER SCHEDULE

December 24 - 5:00 PM - CHRISTMAS EVE
Lector - Jenny Schmidgall

December 25 - 10:30 AM - CHRISTMAS DAY
Lector - Volunteer

December 31 - 10:30 AM - SUNDAY
Lector - Janet Paslay

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Pat Dailey — Bill Hannant John Hayden — Angela Hargrave
Mike Irving — Anna Marie Kansteiner — Tom McCarter
Dave Pfeiffer — Scott Sanderson — Jason Shireman
Lyndell Shireman — Mary Fran Smith



Catechetical Corner

By Dominique Welch: Director of Parish School of Religion

St. Francis of Assisi and the Christmas Creche

The live nativity of Jesus Christ’s birth is an important aspect to Christianity. The Christmas Creche was started by Saint Francis of Assisi in 1223.

The tradition originates back to a cave in Greccio, Italy, where St. Francis had visited to celebrate Christmas. According to the Catholic Education Resource Center, St. Francis had planned to celebrate Midnight Mass in the chapel of the Franciscan hermitage but realized it would be too small for the congregation for mass, thus prompting him to set up the altar in a nearby cave.

St. Francis had wanted to create a scene that would be symbolic of Christ’s birth and that would leave an everlasting impact on those in attendance.

He therefore prepared a manger, which was a feeding trough for farm animals, hay, and brought an ox and donkey to where he prepared the altar. In the altar lay a statue of Christ.

The scenery had symbolized the poverty and plainness that was associated with Christ’s birth into the world.

The Catholic Company writes that it is believed St. Francis had been frustrated with the greed and materialism that had consumed Italy at the time and wanted to combat this by recreating the nativity scene.

Large groups of people gathered that night to hear St. Francis preaching. He was so passionate with his words that many believed the statue of Christ came alive as he was cradling it, according to the Catholic Stand.

The live nativity scene is now recreated throughout the world. Many artworks have been inspired by the Christmas Creche as well.

St. Francis had shown the humanity of Christ, and there is often a statue of the nativity in many homes celebrating Christ’s birth on Christmas.

(<https://learn.neumann.edu/neupress/St.-Francis-created-the-Christmas-creche-tradition>)

Christmas Flowers

ST MARK:

James L. Moore; Stephen B. Schnake; Bob & Ruth Cunningham; Laura Paslay; Frank & Alice Bik; Watts Family; Pratt Family; Wright Family; Pete & Joyce Atnip; Jerry & Joyce Moore; Bob Sanders; Welsh Family; Pranger Family.

ST MARY:

Heidi Coe; Harry Coe; Betty Coe; Leo O'Kraski; Hughes Family; Stiebel Family; Mackenberg Family; Helen & Ralph Blakemore; Ava & Bush Funk; Lonnie & Anita Wright; Charles Hoskins; Don & Stella Hoskins; Paul & Anna Gasko; Joe & Edith Oitker; Averie Rhoades; Kate Ingersoll; William Slayden; Dolores & Conley Henderson; Earl & Rose Goldman; Renee L. Baker; Randall Hester; Gary Rennecker; Norma Rennecker; Ron Davis; Deceased Member of Raftery Family; DeMerle & Kaye Wise; Charles "Pete" Peters; Ed & Rosemay Lagemann; McCarter Families; Test Families; Michala McCarter; Bill & Carol McCarter; Kenny & Ellen Krueger; Laddy Krueger; Ed Galle; Manuela L. Kitson; Mandy Kitson; Josefina Romero; Ernest Kitson; Leo & Blanche Feller; Ronald Feller; Rita Nutt; Fr. Paul Jasinski; Raymond Lazarich; Charles Durall; Clara Durall; Gwen Stilwell; Johnson Stilwell & Margaret Durall.

St. Mary/Mark, call now to get scheduled for pictorial directory! We want you!

ST. MARY'S Altar Society will have their January meeting on **Tuesday, January 2**. Rosary will be at 6 PM, meeting will follow at 6:30. All ladies are invited to join us!

ST. MARY'S K of C and Altar Society will sponsor a **country breakfast** on **Sunday, January 21, 2024 from 7 AM to 1 PM**. Menu includes pancakes, sausage links, biscuits and gravy, coffee cakes, scrambled eggs and fruit. Please join us to support this event!



ST. MARK

Campfire Wiener Roast
Thursday, December 28
4:00 PM

(held on St. Mark's parish grounds)

Sponsored By:

Knights of Columbus

ALL parishioners are invited!

Food will be provided.

Please bring a lawn chair.

Annual Subscription to Our Catholic Times

The Diocese has designated the month of January as an opportunity to contribute toward our subscription to the Catholic Times. You may give either by using your envelope or by going online at www.dio.org/give throughout the month of January. The Catholic Times remains an inexpensive source of Catholic information, education, and inspiration.



Save the date for Quincy Catholic Charities Fundraiser, APRIL 6th. Additional details coming soon!

December 24, 2023 . Fourth Sunday of Advent

ST. MARY

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED — Monday, December 25 & Tuesday, December 26th!
RCIA Class — Monday evenings, 6:30 PM, Parish Hall (NO CLASS DECEMBER 25th).

Altar & Rosary Society Meeting — Tuesday, January 2, Rosary at 6 PM, Meeting at 6:30 PM.

Donut Sunday — Sunday, January 7, after 8:30 AM Mass, Parish Hall.

Country Breakfast (K of C & Altar Society) — Sunday, January 21, 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

That Man Is You — Wednesday mornings, 6:30 AM, Parish Hall.

PSR Classes — Wednesday evenings, 6:00 to 7:30 PM (NO CLASS DECEMBER 27th).

Men's Group — Saturday mornings, 6:45 AM, Parish Hall.

Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle — Saturday after 8:00 AM Mass, Gathering Space.

Food Pantry Collection — first weekend each month at Masses (January 6 & 7)

24-Eucharistic Adoration — (January 5 & 6).

ST. MARK

Campfire Wiener Roast — Thursday, December 28, 4:00 PM, Parish Grounds.

RCIA Classes — Monday evenings, 6:30 PM. (NO CLASS DECEMBER 25th).

Pray the Rosary — Tuesday mornings, 8:00 AM, Church.

Men's Group — Thursday mornings, 6:45 AM, Church Basement.

Bread of Love — Weeks of: December 26. **2024: February 5, March 18, April 29, June 10**



ST. MARY

226 E. Adams
Pittsfield, IL 62363
Office: (217) 285-4321 / Fax: (217) 285-9400 / stmarymark@gmail.com

Website: www.stmaryspittsfield.org

Online Giving: www.givecentral.org

Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:30 AM / Saturday 6:00 PM

Daily Mass: Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 8:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation: **after Saturday evening Mass or by appointment.**

Eucharistic Adoration: **Friday after 8 AM mass 1 hour: First Friday 24-Hours**



ST. MARK

108 Pearl Street
Winchester, IL 62694
Office: (217) 285-4321 / stmarymark@gmail.com

Online Giving: www.givecentral.org

Weekend Mass: / Sunday 10:30 AM / NO SATURDAY EVENING MASS

Daily Mass: Mon., Thurs. 8:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation: **after Sunday morning Mass or by appointment.**

Sacrament of Reconciliation: **after Sunday morning Mass or by appointment.**



Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

(217) 698-8500

www.dio.org

Bishop Thomas John Paprocki

Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting & Investigation Number
217-321-1155

Rev. Mark A. Schulte, Pastor

Parish Secretaries: Pat Galle & Jo Whewell

Director of PSR: Dominique Welch

Office Hours: Monday—Friday

8:30 AM -- 11:30 AM

12:30 PM -- 4:30 PM