


**The Ascension of the Lord
May 17, 2026**

"I am praying for them..." JOHN 17:9

Offering 	St. Mary	St. Mark
Sunday Contributions	2541.00	784.00
Online Giving	0.00	0.00
Rectory Roof (weekly)	N/A	291.00
Parish Hall Renovation	270.00	N/A

Please Note: Two ongoing 2nd collections:
St. Mark - Rectory Roof
St. Mary - Parish Hall Renovation
Thanks to all for your continued support!

**ST. MARK'S PARISHIONERS
TRAVELING CRUCIFIX**



**Please take the opportunity
to sign up in
the back of Church
for our traveling Crucifix.**

**Help us to Pray for an
increase in Vocations
in our Diocese!**

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation – not just our last resort. Pray for friends and family, and especially for those that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank, and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you. Teach others how to pray. It has been said that teaching someone how to pray is the best gift you can give someone.

Taken from Parish Link

Pray to End Abortion

Mass Intentions 
FOR THE WEEK

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, MAY 18 **St. John 1**
8:00 AM (W) + Kathy Moore

TUESDAY, MAY 19
8:00 AM (P) + Tom Ray

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 **St. Bernadine of Siena**
8:00 AM (P) Jeremy & Colleen Wishall Family

THURSDAY, MAY 21 **St. Christopher Magallanes**
8:00 AM (W) All Parishioners

FRIDAY, MAY 22 **St. Rita of Cascia**
8:00 AM (P) Gloria Heinen

SATURDAY, MAY 23
8:00 AM (P) Barbara Brown
6:00 PM (P) + Heidi Coe

PENTECOST SUNDAY
SUNDAY, MAY 24
8:30 AM (P) Father Mark Schulte (29th anniv.)
10:30 AM (W) + Poor Souls in Purgatory

LITURGY SERVER SCHEDULE

No longer published in bulletin.

Refer to monthly schedule as provided.

Father Mark Schulte May 24, 1997

Just a little heads up:
For those of you who would like to wish Father a **Happy 29th anniversary to the Priesthood.** We just want to give you the opportunity to drop him a card, if you like.
We are all *very thankful* that he is feeling better after his recent illness.
Mass will be offered for Father on Sunday, May 24

**Father Mark's
Homilies Online:**

www.stmaryspittsfield.org



THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR OUR SICK



Pat Dailey — Sandy Davies — Joann Delacruz — Khoy DeWitt
Joan Dieker — Bill Hannant — Jace Michael Kunkle
Kris Lundberg — Becky Mann — Aaron McCarter — Aniyah McCarter
Kingston McCarter — Gary McCartney — Dawn Partain
Mary Pranger — Kay Rowley — Teresa Shank — Lindell Shireman — Jim Stark
Mary Fran Smith — Donna Smith — Raylan Turnbull — Joshua Turpin
Kent & Connie Wasson — Colleen Wishall

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Feast of the Ascension of Jesus

The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus, celebrated forty days after Easter, commemorates the moment when the risen Christ, in the sight of his apostles, ascended bodily into heaven (Acts 1:9-11). It marks the completion of his earthly mission and the beginning of his exaltation at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for us as our eternal High Priest. The Ascension is a reminder that heaven is our true home and that Jesus, fully God and fully man, has gone before us to prepare a place for us in the Father's house.



When Is the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord?

In 2026, the Catholic Church will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of Jesus on Thursday, May 14, 2026. The Church celebrated the Feast of the Ascension 2025 on Thursday, May 29. This solemnity occurs just forty days after Easter Sunday, and thus is the culmination of Jesus' time on earth with his disciples (Acts 1:1-10-11). In some dioceses, especially in the United States, the solemnity may be transferred to the following Sunday (May 17) to allow for broader participation among the faithful. This feast is a holy day of obligation, meaning that, unless legitimately excused or otherwise dispensed (CCC 2181), Catholics need to participate in Mass to commemorate how Jesus ascended into heaven, completing his earthly mission.

The Biblical Foundation: Jesus' Return to Heaven

The Feast of the Ascension, also known as Ascension Thursday, commemorates the moment when the Lord Jesus lifted up into heaven, as his disciples witnessed forty days after his Resurrection. Luke 24 and Acts 1 provide the clearest accounts of this event. Scripture tells us that, after appearing to his followers over forty days, Jesus raised his hands and blessed them. Then, "while he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (Luke 24:50-52).

The Mount of Olives, just outside Jerusalem, is traditionally believed to be the site of this event. A cloud hid Jesus from their sight, symbolizing the mystery of his divine presence (Acts 1:9-11). This moment marked Christ's return to heaven *as the Incarnate Word, the risen God-man with a glorified human body and soul where he now reigns at the right hand of God the Father (Heb. 1:3-4; 1 Pet. 3:21-22).*

Taken from Catholic Answers

Called & Sent:

A summer retreat for high schoolers – Join other high schoolers looking to learn more about God’s Highway to Heaven. Hear from priests, religious, and lay speakers diving into the heart of the Church – the Eucharist. Called & Sent will be July 18-23 at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Springfield. To learn more, go to dio.org/events or contact Fr. Zach Samples, Promoter of Vocations, at zsamples@dio.org.



JULY 18-23, 2026  go.dio.org/dx8

VILLA MARIA RETREAT CENTER - SPRINGFIELD

2026 Summer Immersion Experience

Single Catholic women ages 20-45 who are curious about religious life are invited to a national service immersion experience hosted by four Dominican Sisters' congregations in Springfield June 16-20. The group will live at Sacred Heart Convent and experience the rhythms of apostolic religious life, which includes community life, prayer, active service, and theological reflection. There is a \$50 participation fee, but no woman will be turned away for lack of funds. Apply soon at springfieldop.org/events or call Sister Denise Glazik, OP, 217-787-0481 for questions.

San Damiano College for the Trades

in Springfield, is happy to announce that we will have \$5,000 scholarships available for five incoming freshmen in the fall of 2026. These scholarships are only available for students who reside in a Tracy Family Foundation County. Please contact Joanne Gaston at jgaston@sandamianoctrades.org for further information and to schedule a campus visit. Eligible counties: Adams, Brown, Cass, Greene, Hancock, McDonough, Morgan, Pike, Schuyler, and Scott

ST. MARK'S CHURCH
"Into the Breach"

Men's Group — Thursday mornings
6:45 AM — Church Basement
May 21, May 28 and
June 4, June 11
Contact Andy Moss with questions

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

will meet **Monday, May 18th at**
6:30 PM in ST. MARK'S
Church Basement.



ST. MARY High School Seniors
Breakfast

This Sunday, May 17
after Mass
in the Parish Hall



We will be honoring:
Bodie Marable and Kamryn Riley

ALL parishioners are invited to the breakfast to congratulate our seniors on their accomplishments and graduation from high school.

Annual Diocesan Collection
for Retired Priests

Each year on the feast of Pentecost we rejoice that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to the Church in every age. As we celebrate this feast, I ask you to consider a generous response in the **Retired Diocesan Priests Collection** to meet the immediate retirement and health care needs of our priests.

Excerpts of letter from Bishop Paprocki

Collection will be taken next week - **May 23/24. You will find envelopes in your packet of envelopes. Thanks for your continued generosity.**

May 17, 2026 . The Ascension of the Lord

ST. MARY

High School Seniors Breakfast — THIS SUNDAY, after Mass, Parish Hall.
Knights of Columbus Meeting — Monday, May 18, 6:30 PM at ST. MARK'S.
Men's Group — Wednesday mornings, 6:30 AM, Parish Hall.
Bible Study — Introduction to Theology of Body, Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:30 PM, Parish Hall.
Legion of Mary — Friday morning, after Mass in Gathering Space meeting room.
Men's Group — Saturday morning, 6:30 AM, Parish Hall.
Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle — Saturday morning after 8:00 AM Mass.
Rosary Before Mass — Sunday mornings (to be offered for Father and his healing).
Food Pantry Collection — First weekend each month at Masses (June 6 & 7).
24-Eucharistic Adoration — First Friday/Saturday (June 5 & 6).

ST. MARK

Knights of Columbus Meeting — Monday, May 18, 6:30 PM, Church Basement.
Men's Group (Into the Breach) — May 21 & 28, June 4 & 11, 6:45 AM, Church Basement.
Rosary — Tuesday mornings at 8:00 AM.
Bread of Love — Week of: May 26.



ST. MARY'S CLASS OF 2026
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE HALL
FOLLOWING SUNDAY MASS
TO CELEBRATE OUR SENIORS

ST. MARY

226 E. Adams
Pittsfield, IL 62363
Office: (217) 285-4321 / Fax: (217) 285-9400 / secretary@stmaryspittsfield.org
Website: www.stmaryspittsfield.org
Online Giving: <https://www.pushpay.com/g/stmaryspittsfield>
Weekend Mass: Saturday 6:00 PM / Sunday 8:30 AM
Daily Mass: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 8:00 AM
Confession: after 6:00 PM Saturday evening Mass



ST. MARK

108 Pearl Street
Winchester, IL 62694
Office: (217) 285-4321 / secretary@stmaryspittsfield.org
Online Giving: <https://www.pushpay.com/g/stmarkwinchester>
Weekend Mass: Sunday 10:30 AM
Daily Mass: Monday & Thursday 8:00 AM
Confession: after 10:30 AM Sunday morning Mass



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
217-285-4321
Interim DRE/PSR Program: Mickey Elliott
217-285-6702
Parish Office Hours: Monday—Friday
8:30 AM -- 11:30 AM
12:30 PM -- 4:30 PM