

**First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025**

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."
Matthew 24:42

Offering		St. Mary	St. Mark
Sunday Contributions	6849.00	1001.00	
Online Giving	0.00	0.00	
Rectory Roof (weekly)	--	295.00	



MONDAY, DECEMBER 8
**The Immaculate Conception
Of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Holy Day of Obligation)**

MASS SCHEDULE
8:00 AM
ST. MARK / Winchester
12:00 Noon
ST. MARY / Pittsfield

St. Mary's Altar and Rosary

will host their Annual Christmas Party
6PM on Tuesday, December 2 at the
church hall. All parishioners are
invited and may bring a guest. Meat
will be provided but all are asked to bring a dish
as always. We will have bingo following the
meal. Please bring a wrapped gift (\$10.00
limit). Hope to see you there! Sign up sheet is
in the vestibule.

Justice and Hope Collection November 29/30

In our Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, too many of our neighbors still live in poverty. On average, about 12 percent of people across our diocese live below the poverty line.¹ These families struggle daily with food, housing, and stability, reminding us of the Lord's words: "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). I now ask you again to give generously, so that together we may bring Christ's love to those in greatest need.

Excerpts taken from letter from Bishop Paprocki

**Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK**

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1
8:00 AM (W) NO MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2
8:00 AM (P) NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3 **St. Francis Xavier**
8:00 AM (P) + Edwin & Vivian Schulte

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4 **St. John Damascene**
8:00 AM (W) + Pete & Joyce Atnip

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5
8:00 AM (P) NO MASS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 **St. Nicholas**
8:00 AM (P) NO MASS
6:00 PM (P) Poor Souls in Purgatory

Second Sunday of Advent
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
8:30 AM (P) Mary Jo Ward
10:30 AM (W) Priests of Springfield Diocese

**Daily Mass (8:00 AM) will be held on
WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY only
during the month of December.**

ST. MARY

DECEMBER 6 - 6:00 PM - SATURDAY

Lector - Ralph Benz
Ushers - Volunteers
Server - Chase Henderson

DECEMBER 7 - 8:30 AM - SUNDAY

Lector - Brett Irving
Ushers - Volunteers
Server - Bodie & Asher Marable, Timothy Wessing

DECEMBER 8 - 12:00 NOON - HOLY DAY

Lector - Mark Welch
Ushers - Volunteers
Server - Jim Lagemann

ST. MARK

NOVEMBER 30 - 10:30 AM - SUNDAY

Lector - Jan Ala

DECEMBER 7 - 10:30 AM - SUNDAY

Lector - Janet Paslay

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Pat Dailey — Baby Gray and Family — Theresa Cooley
Sandy Davies — Joann Delacruz — Becky Ghrist — Bill Hannant
Jace Michael Kunkle — Kris Lundberg — Aaron McCarter — Aniyah McCarter
Kingston McCarter — Gary McCartney — Dawn Partain — John Peters
Dave Pfeiffer — Kay Rowley — Teresa Shank — Jim Stark
Mary Fran Smith — Donna Smith — Raylan Turnbull — Joshua Turpin
Carol Ward — Kent & Connie Wasson — Sharon Wiese — Colleen Wishall



Catechetical Corner

By Dominique Welch: Director of Parish School of Religion

Relics

Relics of the saints are the most precious heirlooms of the Church. They are not simply historical mementos, but a means through which God has chosen to bestow great graces to those who venerate them.

When discussing relics, we often hear the terms "first-class," "second-class," and "third-class." What do these terms mean?

These "classes" are the categories into which the Church organizes her relics, based on each relic's proximity to the saint in question.

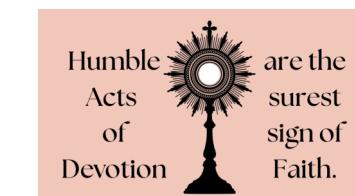
Let's investigate the three classes and what kind of items fall into each one.

First-class: This is the "highest" form of relic, and refers to a piece of the body of the saint—including bones, hair, etc. This class also includes relics of Christ's Passion, such as pieces of the True Cross.

Second-class: These relics are items that belonged to or were used by the saint, such as clothing, books, and rosaries, or an instrument used in the torture or death of a martyr.

Third-class: These are items—such as a rosary, piece of cloth, or prayer card—that have been touched to a first or second class relic.

<https://www.catholiccompany.com/blogs/get-fed/what-are-the-different-classes-of-relics>



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

During the month of December:

Daily Mass — 8:00 AM
Wednesday and Thursday ONLY

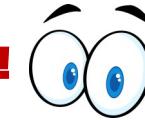
Confessions
Wednesday and Thursday ONLY
after Daily Mass or by appointment
NO Confessions at weekend Masses

ST. MARY
First Friday 24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration (December 5-6)
CANCELLED

Encourage you to come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament on First Friday during the day!

St. Mary's Church will be open 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM

PLEASE READ !!!!



Father Mark's Homilies Online:
www.stmaryspittsfield.org

What is the meaning of Advent?

Preparation for the Birth of Christ: Advent is a time to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the arrival of Jesus. We reflect on the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament, their fulfillment in Jesus our hope (1 Tim. 1:1), and thus the mission of salvation he's given to us as members of the one Church he founded.

A Call to Conversion: It's also a season of introspection and renewal. The liturgical color purple reminds us of our imperfections and the need for repentance. By acknowledging our shortcomings, we open ourselves to God's grace and prepare ourselves to receive the gift of Christ. Also, penance—such as through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—helps us quiet and discipline our hearts for the joy of Christmas (see *Catechism* 1434). In that light, without an Advent fast it's harder to prepare for a Christmas.

In essence, this season is a bridge between the past, present, and future. It allows us to look back on the hope for the Savior of the World, experience anew the joy of his arrival and also his reign in the present through his Church, and to prepare ourselves for his glorious return at his Second Coming.

Taken from Catholic Answers

ST. MARK EVENTS

Rosary to be recited, beginning at 10:15am, on all Sundays during Advent.

Rosary at 8:00am every Tuesday morning.

SPECIAL EVENT IN PREPARATION FOR ADVENT



Don't miss out on this special showing of "The Catholicism Series" on **Thursday evenings during Advent** beginning at **6:30PM**. There will be snacks. We hope you will participate with us and make this a special Advent! **All are welcome!**

ST. MARY DONUT SUNDAY
Next Week Following
8:30 AM Mass
Sunday, December 7
See you in the hall!



ST. MARY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION
Weekend Masses (December 6 & 7)



November 30, 2025 . First Sunday of Advent

ST. MARY

Altar & Rosary Society Christmas Party — Tuesday, December 2, 6:00 PM, Parish Hall.

Donut Sunday — Sunday, December 7, after 8:30 AM Mass.

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

PSR Classes — Wednesday evenings, 6:00 to 7:30 PM.

Adult Education Class — Wednesday evenings, 6:30 PM, Parish Hall.

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

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

Women's Study — Saturday morning, 10 AM, Parish Hall *next date TBA*

Legion of Mary — Friday mornings, 9:45 AM, Gathering Space.

Food Pantry Collection — First weekend each month at Masses (December 6 & 7).

24-Eucharistic Adoration — First Friday/Saturday **CANCELLED** for December 5-6 !

ST. MARK

Every Thursday during Advent — 6:30PM , Catholicism Series, Church Basement.



Rosary — All Sundays during Advent at 10:15 AM.

Rosary — Tuesday mornings at 8:00 AM.

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

Bread of Love (for the week of) — December 8.

MAKE ADVENT SPECIAL WITH YOUR FAMILY THIS YEAR

ATTEND MASS DURING THE WEEK
PARTICIPATE IN ADORATION
ROSARY/SCRIPTURAL READING DAILY
LIGHT YOUR ADVENT WREATH DURING PRAYER/MEAL-TIME



BULLETIN INSERT
WE'LL BE BACK NEXT WEEK
"TELL YOUR KIDS"
IF YOU DON'T, WHO WILL?
WATCH YOUR BULLETIN



C a l e n d a r



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

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.**

ST. MARY

Website: www.stmaryspittsfield.org

Online Giving: <https://www.pushpay.com/g/stmaryspittsfield>

Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:30 AM / NO SATURDAY EVENING MASS

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

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

ST. MARK

Online Giving: <https://www.pushpay.com/g/stmarkwinchester>

108 Pearl Street
Winchester, IL 62694

Office: (217) 285-4321 / stmarymark@gmail.com

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

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation: **after Sunday 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

Director of PSR: Dominique Welch

217-285-6702

Office Hours: Monday—Friday
8:30 AM -- 11:30 AM
12:30 PM -- 4:30 PM