

SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



“Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” - Mt 25:34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS IS OFFERED:**DAILY MASS**

8:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, June - August
 7:30 a.m. Wednesday from start of school year until May*

SCHOOL MASS

8:30 a.m. from start of school year until May*

**In the event of our school closing for inclement weather, on a Wednesday, Daily Mass will remain at 7:30 a.m. and the School Mass at 8:30 a.m. will be cancelled.*

***SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**

5:00 p.m.

***SUNDAY MASSES**

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN - DOOR #3**OFFICE HOURS:**

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Pastor: Fr. Dindo Billote

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Sam Conforti

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Juan Jose Hernandez Salas

Deacons:

Deacon Gary Bednar
 Deacon Peter Manning
 Deacon John Rex
 Deacon Kevin Plankinton
 Deacon Dave Stanton

Parish Office:

Parish Secretary, Karen Dilger
 Business Manager, Stephen J. Warunek
 Evening Maintenance, Dave Bridges
 Maintenance Supervisor, Gerardo "Gerry" Iniguez
 Morning Maintenance, Thomas Pritchard
 Director of Faith Formation, Megan Murray
 Assistant Director of Faith Formation, Danielle Kuboushek
 Assistant Director to the Clergy/Program Coord., Erica Sestak
 Director of Religious Education, Tami Brongiel
 Assistant Director of Religious Education, Suzy Olsen
 RE Office Administrative Assistant, Therese Gembara
 Director of Christian Service, Donna Hungerford
 Director of Sacred Music, Joseph Berardi
 Assistant Director of Sacred Music, Abby Gonyaw
 Director of Liturgy, Bob Cornejo
 Youth Minister, Tom Blue
 Bulletin Editor, Cailin Valente
 Funeral Coordinator, Susan Rizzo
 Offertory and Database Administrator, Leticia Clark
 Financial Secretary, Paula Perry
 Sacristan, Zina Habib

School Office:

School Secretary, Charlotte Catchings
 School Principal, Michele Alday-Engelman
 School Assistant Principal, Michelle Huizinga

DEVOTIONS:**DAILY ROSARY**

7:30 a.m.

8:00 a.m. on Wednesdays from the start of the school year until May

7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evenings

DAILY DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET; INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

8:30 a.m.

8:00 a.m. on Wednesdays from the start of the school year until May

ADORATION

Perpetual Adoration available at Old St. Mary.
 Please contact the Parish Office for the code.

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the chapel
 First Saturdays 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

708-326-9307 Pastor@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9304 FrSam@StMaryMokena.org
 815-221-6164 FrJuan@StMaryMokena.org

708-326-9300 DeaconGary@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9300 Deaconpete@aol.com
 708-326-9300 DeaconJohn@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9300 DeaconKevin@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9300 Deacondave@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9300 Parish Fax Number 708-326-9301
 708-326-9305 Secretary@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9309 Swarunek@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9314 Dbridges@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9314 giniguez@stmarymokena.org
 708-326-9314 tpritchard@stmarymokena.org
 708-326-9313 Mmurray@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9353 Dkuboushek@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9355 Esestak@stmarymokena.org
 708-326-9356 Tbrongiel@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9357 Solsen@stmarymokena.org
 708-326-9352 RE@stmarymokena.org
 708-326-9312 Dhungerford@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9302 JBerardi@StMaryMokena.org
 Agonyaw@StMaryMokena.org
 Bcornejo@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9354 TBlue@StMaryMokena.org
 Bulletin@StMaryMokena.org
 815-953-7228
 708-326-9311 Lclark@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9310 Pperry@StMaryMokena.org
 Zhabib@StMaryMokena.org

708-326-9330
 708-326-9332 SchoolSecretary@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9348 Principal@StMaryMokena.org
 708-326-9347 MHuizinga@stmarymokena.org

RCIA - Interested in becoming Catholic? Please contact the Director of Faith Formation at 708-326-9313.

BAPTISMS - Baptisms are usually scheduled the first and third Sunday of the month at 12:15 p.m. following 11:00 a.m. Mass. Please contact the parish office to make arrangements for the baptismal preparation class.

MARRIAGES - Weddings need to be scheduled at least 6 months in advance upon approval of a priest. Remember to secure the church date before the reception hall. Please stop in the parish office to begin this process.

REGISTRATION - New to St. Mary? Please stop in the parish office to complete our registration form or visit our website at www.stmarymokena.org.

ANointing OF THE SICK - Please contact the parish office at 708-326-9300.

A Note From Our Pastor



Why are some saints honored as “patron saints”?



Answer: Each person is unique and each of us has different gifts, interests, talents, and, yes, even struggles and areas where we need to grow. This is no less true of those holy women, men, and children who have been canonized or beatified.

Because we believe that the saints and blessed are both models of faith and intercessors, Christians have looked to certain holy people as role models and heavenly protectors for occupations, spiritual charisms, and even places. Although the Church sometimes names a person as a patron saint (e.g. Saint Philip Neri as the patron of Rome, Saint Clare of Assisi as the patroness of television, or Saint Aloysius Gonzaga as the patron of youth and young adults), more often it is popular devotion that inspires lay Christians to turn to a particular saint or blessed for heavenly help and support. This is how, for example, Saint Cecilia came to be honored as the patroness of musicians, Saint Toribio Romo as patron of migrants coming into the United States, and Saint Gertrude of Nivelles as patroness of cat lovers. Although there are official and unofficial lists of patron saints, we should always feel free to ask any and all the saints to give us their patronage and protection in whatever it is that we need. ©LPi

Peace and all good things,

Father Dindo

December 2 - December 3: First Sunday of Advent

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 9:30 AM	Sunday, 11:00 AM	Sunday, 6:00 PM
Lector	SMS Student1 SMS Student2	Susan Rizzo Alice Wierzbinski	David LaMonte Sr. Chris McGeever	Jim Contorno	Barb Cianchetti
Eucharistic Minister	Karen Gordon John Mitoraj Sue Murphy Karen Sayon	Joan Aust Cris Pirelli Robert Rafferty Susan Rizzo	Roger Brown Michael Dilger Kathleen Melei Joshua Sifuentes	Joanne Eckel Remo Lucci Patti Pertchi Louise Szura	Karen Haugh Robert Koch Judy Siegmund
Altar Server	Seamus McGarry Avery McNamara Charleigh Widelski Scarlett Widelski	Alexis Ferin Jillian Ferin David Heitman NOT FILLED	Kate Coyle CJ Strzelczyk Emma Strzelczyk Penelope Witkowski	Max Giannakas Ryan Gross Nicholas Perkins NOT FILLED	Graeme Lopez NOT FILLED NOT FILLED
Usher	Mary Ann Braasch Jim Grady Mark Miron James Palermo	Chris Cichowicz Rich Gavillet Tom Magdziasz Roy Mueller	John Delladio Joanne Eaton Joanette Kulesa Jim Kulesa Diane Mucia	William Farhat David Larson Sandra Tome Gladys Weber	Linda Drake Melissa Rolinitis Mike Rolinitis NOT FILLED
Greeter	NOT FILLED	Roy Mueller	NOT FILLED	Carolyn Farhat	NOT FILLED
Live Stream			Frank Grobmeier		

Serving God as an Altar Server is a wonderful way for a child to grow in faith as well as in responsibility, friendship, and other virtues. At St. Mary, we are blessed with an amazing team of Altar Servers. We thank you for giving up your time to serve the Lord and St. Mary. We also thank our wonderful team of Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers and Greeters for their dedication and outstanding service.

Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Monday, November 27

7:30 a.m. Rosary (Church)
 8:00 a.m. School Secret Santa (Lourdes and Fatima)
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 8:30 a.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)
 1:00 p.m. School Wreath Pick Up (Guadalupe)
 6:30 p.m. Rosary (Church)
 7:00 p.m. Advent Series (Guadalupe)
 7:00 p.m. Formed (Fatima)

Tuesday, November 28

7:30 a.m. Rosary (Church)
 8:00 a.m. School Secret Santa (Lourdes and Fatima)
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 8:30 a.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)
 1:00 p.m. School Wreath Pick Up (Guadalupe)
 3:30 p.m. Children's Choir (Church)
 4:30 p.m. RE Classes Gr. K-6 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. RE Classes Gr. 7-8 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. Bereavement Support (Bishop Room)
 7:00 p.m. K of C Officer Meeting (Fatima)
 7:00 p.m. Scripture Study (Guadalupe)

Wednesday, November 29

5:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 7:00 a.m. Rosary (Church)
 7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
 8:00 a.m. School Secret Santa
 8:30 a.m. School Mass (Church)
 9:00 a.m. Scripture Study (Guadalupe)
 4:30 p.m. RE Classes Gr. 1-6 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. RE Classes Gr. 7-8 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. Knights of the Altar Meeting (Fatima)
 6:30 p.m. The Search Fall Launch (Guadalupe)

Thursday, November 30

7:30 a.m. Rosary (Church)
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 8:30 a.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)
 4:30 p.m. RE Classes Gr. 1-8 (Classrooms)
 5:30 p.m. Men's Ministry Event (Guadalupe)
 5:30 p.m. Adult Choir (Church)
 6:30 p.m. Christmas Concert Rehearsal (Church)
 7:30 p.m. Roses of Mary Meeting (Fatima)

Friday, December 1

7:30 a.m. Rosary (Church)
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 8:30 a.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)
 9:00 a.m. Friday Morning Coffee Fellowship (Fatima)
 9:00 a.m. Homeschool Meetup (Guadalupe)

Saturday, December 2

Christmas Gift Drive-Church Hall

7:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 8:00 a.m. Mass First Saturday (Church)
 8:30 a.m. First Saturday Confessions (Church)
 9:15 a.m. Militia Immaculata (Lourdes)
 3:30 p.m. Confessions (Church)
 5:00 p.m. Mass (Church)
 6:00 p.m. Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sunday, December 3

Christmas Gift Drive-Church Hall

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 9:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
 9:30 a.m. RE Classes Gr. K-6 (Classrooms)
 11:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 12:00 p.m. Regina Caeli Choir Practice (Church)
 12:30 p.m. Baptisms (Church)
 3:30 p.m. Missionaries of Apostolic Grace (Church)
 6:00 p.m. Mass (Church)
 6:00 p.m. Youth Ministry (Church Hall)

*Are you interested in
 celebrating your
 wedding at
 St. Mary Parish?*

Contact Erica Sestak at
esestak@stmarymokena.org or at
 708-326-9355 to book a date and
 begin preparation for the
 Sacrament of Marriage!

ATTENTION MINISTERS OF CARE

Please pick up a
 Poinsettia, Christmas card and small gift to deliver
 to the homebound person you visit.

Please stop by the Parish Office beginning
 Monday, December 11.



If you are unable to deliver, contact
 Donna Hungerford (708) 326-9312
 and someone will take it for you.

Thanks for all you do!

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 27

8:00am: Giulio Filippi

Tuesday, November 28

8:00am: Marilyn Flavin, Vincent Sheridan, Peter Prankus, Brian Phelan, Mary Reyling, Liz Leech, Richard Berner

Wednesday, November 29

7:30am: Larry S. Bahnman

8:30am: Marko Zoretic Sr.

Thursday, November 30

8:00am: James L. Drozd

Friday, December 1

8:00am: Kelsey Mahns

Saturday, December 2

8:00am: Margaret Dekok

5:00pm: Grace Chesla, Carolyn Michalak, Gabriella Checchi, Patricia Genz, Sarah Wolf, Sandy Compisi, Ed Pasztelan, Mary Reyling

Sunday, November 26

8:00am: Anthony and Francis Dodaro

9:30am: Tom Genovese

11:00am: Anne Grabowski

6:00pm: Dan Redican

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Dan Albrecht, Brett Anderson, Joe, Austin, Lisa Bernhard, Florence and Gino Bondi, Agnes Breslin, Alan Brown, Darlene Broadhurst, Jerry Broadhurst, Rachel Butler, Brian Butler, Francis Bulow, Bonnie Caper, James Caper, Michael Carey, Monica DiGiovanni, Janice Dobek, Janet Drobick, Joanne Eaton, Susan Ewert, Vincent Felice, Barb Finn-Figliulo, Bradley Frank, Marcia Frank, Mary Ann Fran-son, Debbie Geren, Bonnie Gondek, Richard Grabenhofer, Jerry Grabowski, Rose Grunhard, Kelly Hampton, Natalie Haran, Jeremiah Hartmann, Mary Ingala, Daniel Izzo, Richard Junge, Les Kazmierczak, Sherley Keene, Diane Klootwyk, Richard Kolovitz, Fr. Roger Kutzner, Carlotta Lawton, Jennifer Naril, Dan Lahy, Chet Lockwood, Vernadine Lumpkin, Walter Lumpkin Jr., Shirley Lyons, Robert Margalus, Donna Matteson, Jeanne Matug, Bill Maynard, John McGeehan, Heidi Meekma, Janice Melisi, Ginny Meyer, Marge Migler, Rich Milkeris, Angel Munoz, Lisa Hunt Nichols, Barb Noone, Geraldine Nykaza, Kenneth O'Gradney, Edward Olenick, Bruce Omastiak, Matthew Orr, Bob Podlasek, Janelle Portman, Dave Racine, Eileen Redican, Eduardo Reyes, George Rohrer, Judy Roque, Barbra Rusin, Midge Saunders, William Schlieman, Dan and Brenda Schmiedel, Diane Schoneich, Barbara Smith, Brandon Smith, Al Sparks, John Stapinski, Geoffrey Sullivan, Joshua Swarez, Victor Tamosaitis, Tiffany Theresa, John Turas, Judy Turas, Leo Wilczek, Tim Weber, Jodie Weber, Jonathan Weber, Dan Wolf, Jerry Wolff, Karen Yaeger

May God grant them healing!

LOOKING FOR
**FAITH
SERVICE
& FUN**
FOR YOUR
DAUGHTER?



The American Heritage Girls Program enables your daughter to grow in her FAITH, cultivate a heart for SERVICE, and have more FUN than she can imagine! AHG focuses on providing progressive level programming rich in opportunities for girls of all ages and abilities. With each AHG Level, girls are introduced to new skills, badge work, service projects, and outdoor experiences unique to a female audience.

AHG OATH

I promise to love **GOD**. Cherish my **FAMILY**.
Honor my **COUNTRY**. Serve in my **COMMUNITY**.

**We want to
start a troop!**

We are looking for families with
girls ages 5-12 to charter a troop
in Spring 2024.



For more information on starting your
daughter's journey with American
Heritage Girls join us on

Monday, December 18 at 7pm
in the St. Mary, Mokena Church Hall
or contact
dkuboushek@stmarymokena.org.



**Please Pray for the
Newly Baptized**



Lucille Isabelle Markasovic

May God Bless the Little Ones

**God Bless Our
New Parishioners**

The Rojas Family,
The Litrenta Family



ST. MARY CEMETERY HAS INSTALLED NEW *Columbaria* FOR Cremation Burials



INDIVIDUAL AND DOUBLE SPACES ARE AVAILABLE.



EMAIL ERICA AT ESESTAK@STMARYMOKENA.ORG WITH QUESTIONS.

Rite of Welcome & Acceptance

Sunday, November 26th

This is the first step for our Catechumen and Candidates for full initiation into the Catholic Church.

They are blessed on their foreheads as well as their senses, asking Christ to be with them to help them to receive the Word of God into their whole being and guide their actions.

This Rite acknowledges the desire these Candidates have for full initiation into Christ's Church through St. Mary's Community.

Let us pray for them as they continue on their faith journey!

Welcome!

Gabriel Enright, Marie Gierutuga, John Burke,

Josephine Bernier,

Jackie Skonesey, & Debra Tracy



*All men and women
are invited to join us for
our next meeting*

DECEMBER 9, 2023

**GRATEFUL FOR
LEARNING TO
LOVE YOU MORE**

John Narcissi presents his
healing mysteries, his love story,
and his mission



**8am Mass - 10:30am
St. Mary, Mokena
Church Hall**

Breakfast served--RSVPs encouraged!
SMPmensministry@gmail.com

Growing through Grief

with

Jeff Joutras

Author of My Dad's Rose

*A heartfelt journey through lessons from loss
& hope for healing*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

5:30-6:30pm Dinner

Provided by Men's Ministry

6:45-8:00pm Talk



In 1975, Jeff Joutras was pulled out of his freshman religion class at Providence to hear the devastating news: his father had tragically died in a workplace explosion. Jeff's moving account shares the grief that followed him for decades. His story will resonate with anyone who has lost a loved one.

**Dinner provided. Please RSVP to:
SMPmensministry@gmail.com**



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Please prayerfully consider financially supporting our parish.

We depend on your support to continue the operations of St. Mary as well as those of its many ministries. We ask that you consider supporting the parish through Online Giving.

For those not currently contributing online and would like to learn how to, please consider signing up at

<https://www.osvhub.com/stmarymokena/funds> .

By doing this, you are saving and supporting the great work we have done and will continue to do in our future.

For those of us that do not want to give online, you can still contribute by mailing your donations to:

19515 S. 115th Avenue
Mokena, IL 60448

The Offertory for
Sunday, November 12th was

Online Giving	\$16,538.25
Envelopes	<u>\$17,393.62</u>
	\$33,931.87

Budget \$32,500
Thank you for your generosity.

Opening Liturgy Livestream

Watch the Opening Liturgy from the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus at 6 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2023.



YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/
DioceseofJolietIL

75th Anniversary Series

Faith into Action

Sponsored by the
Diocese of Joliet

Podcast

The 75th Anniversary podcast series launched in November; new episodes will be released the first Monday of each month. Watch on YouTube or listen on your favorite podcast platform (search "Faith Into Action"):



Faith Into
Action
YouTube
(video)



Faith Into
Action
Podcast
(audio)


COMMEMORATING 75 YEARS OF CATECHESIS,
EVANGELIZATION AND SERVICE

75th Anniversary Timeline

Visit diojoliet.org/75th
for the full list of events and activities
surrounding the 75th anniversary



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	DETAILS
November 6, 2023	Episode 1 podcast release	YouTube (Diocese of Joliet) and podcast platforms (Faith Into Action)	Guests: Bishop Hicks and Fr. Tom Paul
November 25–December 3, 2023	Novena of Grace	diojoliet.org/75th	Featuring excerpts from St. Francis Xavier letters and daily prayers/reflections
December 3, 2023 1 p.m.	Blessing and dedication of St. Francis Xavier statue	Blanchette Catholic Center, Crest Hill	The statue will serve as a constant reminder of the patron saint of our diocese, since its founding in 1948
December 4, 2023	Episode 2 podcast release	YouTube (Diocese of Joliet) and podcast platforms (Faith Into Action)	Facts about St. Francis Xavier
December 11, 2023 6 p.m.	Opening Liturgy	St. Raymond Nonnatus	Representatives from all parishes and religious institutions
January 1, 2024	Episode 3 podcast release	YouTube (Diocese of Joliet) and podcast platforms (Faith Into Action)	The St. Francis Xavier statue that will be dedicated on December 3 is modeled after the patron of the diocese in the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus 
February 5, 2024	Episode 4 podcast release	YouTube (Diocese of Joliet) and podcast platforms (Faith Into Action)	
March 4, 2024	Episode 5 podcast release	YouTube (Diocese of Joliet) and podcast platforms (Faith Into Action)	
April 1, 2024	Episode 6 podcast release	YouTube (Diocese of Joliet) and podcast platforms (Faith Into Action)	
April 18, 2024	Theology on Tap	TBD	
May 6, 2024	Episode 7 podcast release	YouTube (Diocese of Joliet) and podcast platforms (Faith Into Action)	Featuring three newly ordained priests (Fr. Alex, Fr. Jared and Fr. Jeremy)
June 1, 2024	Steubenville Youth Event	Lewis University Register: https://bit.ly/3N44QTB	
June 3, 2024	Episode 8 podcast release	YouTube (Diocese of Joliet) and podcast platforms (Faith Into Action)	For parishioners in Ford, Grundy, Iroquois and Kankakee Counties
June 13, 2024	Theology on Tap	Blanchette Catholic Center, Crest Hill	
June 22, 2024 4 p.m.	Regional liturgy	Bishop McNamara High School, Kankakee	For parishioners in DuPage County
July 1, 2024	Episode 9 podcast release	YouTube (Diocese of Joliet) and podcast platforms (Faith Into Action)	
August 5, 2024	Episode 10 podcast release	YouTube (Diocese of Joliet) and podcast platforms (Faith Into Action)	For parishioners in Will and Kendall Counties
September 2, 2024	Episode 11 podcast release	YouTube (Diocese of Joliet) and podcast platforms (Faith Into Action)	
September 14, 2024 4 p.m.	Regional liturgy	Montini Catholic High School, Lombard	For parishioners in Will and Kendall Counties
September 28, 2024 4 p.m.	Regional liturgy	Lewis University, Romeoville	
October 2024	Service Day	All parishes and various religious entities will be asked to celebrate a day of service	Featuring Bishop Hicks
October 7, 2024	Episode 12 podcast release	YouTube (Diocese of Joliet) and podcast platforms (Faith Into Action)	
October 24, 2024	Theology on Tap	TBD	Representatives from all parishes and religious institutions
November 4, 2024	Episode 13 podcast release	YouTube (Diocese of Joliet) and podcast platforms (Faith Into Action)	
December 2, 2024	Episode 14 podcast release	YouTube (Diocese of Joliet) and podcast platforms (Faith Into Action)	Representatives from all parishes and religious institutions
December 8, 2024 4 p.m.	Closing Liturgy	St. Raymond Nonnatus	



ALL WOMEN 18 & OLDER
ARE INVITED TO

Advent

BY CANDLELIGHT

Join us for an elegant evening filled with
fellowship, reflection, and food
as we prepare our hearts
to embrace the season of Advent
and greet Christmas with true readiness.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

St. Mary's Church Hall

Doors open at 6pm. The evening includes live instrumental
music, a special Advent reflection, and time for
enjoying the company of friends, new and old.

Included are hors d'oeuvres, wine, and a dessert buffet.

Tickets are \$25, available at www.stmarymokena.org/advent
and in the parish office. Space is limited and no tickets will be
sold at the door. General questions may be directed to Danielle,
dkuboushek@stmarymokena.org.

Hostesses and bakers will be needed to make this evening a success!
Please contact Michelle Sullivan (815) 995-0480 to decorate a table
or Maria Kavanaugh (815) 280-3909 to bring dessert.



*Courage to Trust
Strength to Love*

ADVENT KICK-OFF SUNDAY, DEC 3

7:00PM - CHURCH HALL

PIZZA NIGHT



**ISAIAH 40:3 "IN THE WILDERNESS PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD! MAKE
STRAIGHT IN THE WASTELAND A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD!"**

COMING EVENTS

**SUNDAY, 12/10
MASS &
FELLOWSHIP**

6PM MASS

7PM MEETING

TACO NIGHT



**VETERANS CHRISTMAS
CARD SIGNING**

**SUNDAY, 12/17
DONUT SUNDAY!**

AFTER ALL MORNING MASSES



For information contact Tom Blue tblue@stmarymokena.org



**Advent
CHALLENGE**
2023

**FILL JESUS' MANGER WITH
GOOD WORKS THIS ADVENT!**

Everyone is invited to take a piece of paper from the basket and read what your challenge is! Once the challenge is completed, put a cotton ball in the manger in the Narthex. By the end of Advent, Jesus will be born into a soft and warm manger filled with good works!



Young women ages 18 to 39 are invited for the Advent Podcast series

Under Mary's Mantle

from "Abiding Together".

Thursdays starting Nov. 30th at 7:30PM
ST. MARY, MOKENA

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y4cernbj> to access the podcast for free! Listen to the episode "Fiat" ahead of 11/30.

Contact Erica at esestak@stmarymokena.org with questions or to register.



This Advent, join other Catholic moms of school-age children and younger to chat about the "Abiding Together" podcast series.

Wednesday, December 6:

9:00am in the Church Hall

S10 E12: Advent Part 1: Hope in His Love -
St. Catherine of Siena
and

S10 E13: Advent Part 2: Faith in our Praise -
St. Hildegard of Bingen

Wednesday, December 20:

9:00am in the Church Hall

S10 E14: Advent Part 3: Miraculous Joy -
St. Therese of Lisieux
and

S10 E15: Advent Part 4: The Prince of Peace Reigns
St. Teresa of Avila

Listen to each podcast prior to gathering
(search "Abiding Together" wherever you listen to podcasts)
or just come for the enjoyable conversation!
Email DKuboushek@StMaryMokena.org to get the virtual link or with any questions.



**THIS ADVENT
JOIN US FOR**

Weekly
Advent Reflections

**MONDAY EVENINGS
7PM
CHURCH HALL**

ADVENT VIDEO REFLECTION **ADORATION** **SACRED ART REFLECTION**

PLEASE JOIN US THIS ADVENT FOR WEEKLY VIDEO REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL USING SACRED ART IMAGES, FOLLOWED BY A TIME OF PRAYER AND ADORATION. COME LET US ADORE HIM!

NOVEMBER 27TH **DECEMBER 11TH**
DECEMBER 4TH **DECEMBER 18TH**

PLEASE REGISTER AT WWW.STMARYMOKENA.ORG/REFLECTIONS



St. Mary's Christmas Concert



December 10th | 3:00PM | In the Church

Please join us for a
concert to celebrate
the awaited birth of our
Lord, followed by
refreshments in the
Church Hall!





Religious Education

Advent Service Opportunity

Looking for an opportunity to help your community? Here is a great chance to get your family involved!



BY
DEC.
15

“PJ and a book” drive for kids

- Collecting NEW PJs size 6+ and a new or gently used book for kids
- Please drop off your donations at the RE office inside door 3 by Dec 15th (unwrapped)



re@stmarymokena.org

QUESTIONS?: ☎ 708-326-9352

Do you pay income taxes to the State of Illinois?

Regardless of the Illinois Legislature's decision, you still have the opportunity to change a student's future, while lowering your tax liability. Make your donation before December 31, 2023 to have it count towards your 2023 taxes.

Unfortunately, the Illinois Legislature recently failed to extend the Invest In Kids Scholarship Program and currently it expires on December 31, 2023. You can still make a difference before the end of the school year and help SMS students!

While this program expires on 12/31, the sooner you're able to donate, the more we will be able to help SMS students directly.

First of all, every dollar matters. Second, if you or your business pays income taxes to the State of Illinois, you have the ability to quadruple your gift while reducing and possibly eliminating your state income tax liability.

The Invest in Kids Act, passed in 2017, allows individuals and businesses to receive a 75% state tax credit for scholarship donations. The donations are made to a scholarship granting organization, like Empower Illinois and can be designated for middle- and low-income families who wish to attend SMS.

This program has been transformational for other schools, driving enrollment and investment.

It could do the same for SMS. Only 8 students receive scholarships through this program, but 9 are on the waitlist.

HOW DO YOU GIVE TO THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAM?

We ask that you follow the steps outlined on Empower Illinois (empowerillinois.org). They have helpful resources, including step-by-step guides and FAQs.

HOW CAN YOU QUADRUPLE YOUR GIFT?

Here's an individual example- we will call him Tom - with a \$3,000 state income tax liability. Typically, Tom makes a \$1,000 donation to SMS; but this year he decided to donate \$4,000 through Empower Illinois. By doing so, Tom gets a \$3,000 state tax credit ($\$4,000 \times 75\%$). He is still out of pocket \$1,000 but he has reduced his state income tax liability to \$0 and increased his giving to \$4,000.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM?

- Individuals and businesses earning taxable income in the State of Illinois.
- Individuals who take the standard deduction on their federal income tax.
- Individuals and businesses who would benefit more from a 75% state tax credit than an additional deduction at the federal level (consult your tax advisor).



75%

Illinois State
Income Tax Credit
Scholarship
Donations



9

Students are on
our waitlist to
attend SMS.



8

SMS Students
currently receive
scholarships
through this
program

"We believe in the power of school choice and ensuring Catholic education is an attainable option for all families. We are happy to have this last chance opportunity to invest our resources through the Invest in Kids Scholarship Program to assist St. Mary's attain these goals."
-SMS Parishioner Donor





Christmas **GIFT DRIVE**

DECEMBER 2 & 3

Please take a tag or two from our Christmas Giving Trees in the narthex. Return your wrapped gift with the tag to the church hall Christmas Drive weekend. Organizations will be here on Sunday, December 3rd to pick up the gifts and distribute them at their Christmas party.

Please don't be late. We want everyone to receive their gift on time.

7TH & 8TH GRADERS VISIT THE ST. MARY WEBSITE
TO SIGN UP AND VOLUNTEER!

CONTACT DONNA HUNGERFORD
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**CHRISTMAS CAROLS
&
THE HOLY ROSARY**

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ON THE FEAST OF
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
5:00 CHRISTMAS CAROLS
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6:00 P.M. ROSARY
WITH ST. MARY MEN FOR LIFE
7:00 P.M. PIZZA AND FELLOWSHIP
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BY DECEMBER 7TH.

The Pro-Life Committee

Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Church Hall at 9:00 a.m.

Visit the St. Mary website for more information.



**Pray the Holy Rosary in Church on Monday
evenings at 6:00 p.m. (Earlier time during Advent).**

The first Monday of the month our rosary is dedicated to the life of the unborn.



The Council of Catholic Women

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Christmas Party

Aurelio's Restaurant in Frankfort
December 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Cost is \$25 and advance sign up is necessary.

Please bring a wrapped \$20.00 value grab bag gift.

There will be a Board Meeting Wednesday, December 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fatima Room, Church Hall.



The Young at Heart Senior Club



ALL PARISHIONERS & Friends are to join the Young at Heart to a trip to Four Winds Casino

Wednesday, November 29

\$44.00 per person Includes bus transportation, \$15 toward slots and \$10 voucher toward lunch.

We will meet in the parking lot by 9:15 a.m. and depart by 9:30 a.m. We will return at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Questions, call Ann Norkus (708) 699-5018.

Join us for our

Christmas Party

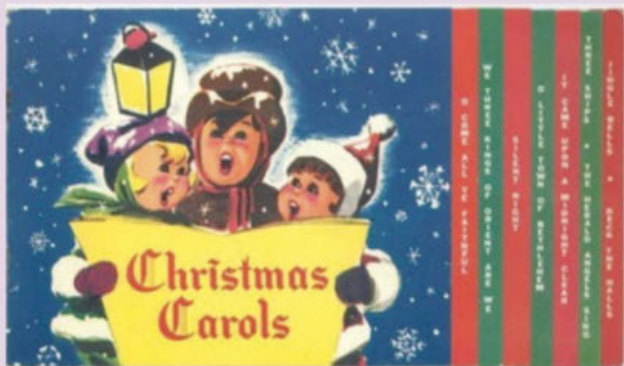
Wednesday, December 6

1:00 p.m. in the Church Hall



We will have an ugly sweater contest &

Music Director Joseph Berardi will lead us in singing Christmas Carols!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The next **Officer Meeting** will be Tuesday, November 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lourdes Room., Church Hall

The next **Council Meeting** will be Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Guadalupe Room, Church Hall.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity

St. Mary Mokena Council 6993

Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00 PM in the Church Hall

A reception with light refreshments follows.

All parishioners are invited to the Exemplification Ceremony for new members of the Knights of Columbus. This ceremony used to be restricted to only members but since being revised a few years ago, all are now invited to attend. It is a half hour long and bestows upon the candidates the first 3 degrees of the Knights: Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

All practicing Catholic gentlemen are invited to join by December 5 to be part of this ceremony. First year membership dues are free. Signup online at www.KofC.org/Join. Be sure to put **6993** in the Council # box.

Candidate's families and friends are especially encouraged to attend. Any questions please contact the Grand Knight, Eugene Satrun at **773-891-7430** or Knight@MokenaKnights.org

Knights of Columbus **Christmas Party**
Saturday, December 9 at
6:00 p.m. in the Church Hall



Pictures with Santa

Sunday, December 17
in the Church Hall
after all Masses
Bring your camera!

Blood Drive

Thursday, December 21
2:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
in the Church Hall

*Congratulations to the
Payton family
on the baptism of their daughter
Mila Lynn*



*Congratulations to the
Werhand family*

*On the baptism of their
daughter Gwen Judith*



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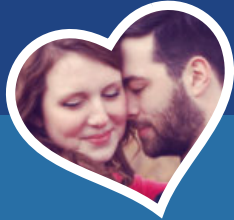
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