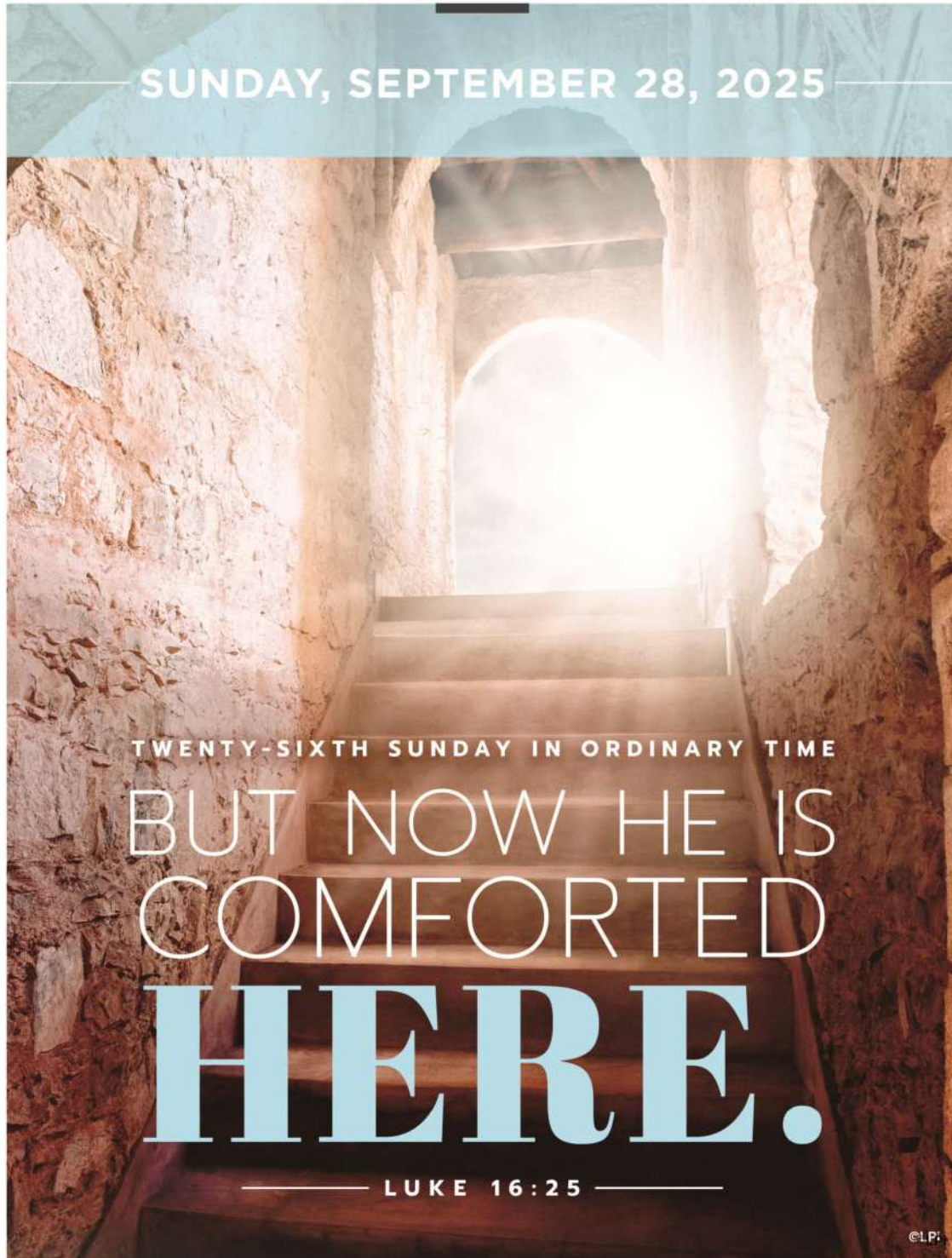


SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

"Send, O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church."



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

***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 THROUGH FRIDAY****8:30 A.M.- 4:00 P.M.****PARISH DIRECTORY**

Pastor: Fr. Joe Gasta

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Welbert Suarez

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

ADORATIONPerpetual Adoration available at Old St. Mary.
Please contact the Parish Office for the code.**RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS:**

Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.

Saturday 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

First Saturdays 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Deacons:

Deacon Peter Manning

Deacon John Rex

Deacon Kevin Plankinton

Deacon Dave Stanton

Parish Office:

Parish Secretary, Karen Dilger

Business Manager, Stephen J. Warunek

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 Assistant, Kathy Brzeszkiewicz

Directors of Liturgy, Deacon Pete Manning and John Brett

Director of Christian Service, Donna Hungerford

Director of Sacred Music, Joseph Berardi

Youth Minister, Matt Jung

Bulletin Editor, Cailin Valente

Funeral Coordinator, Susan Rizzo

Offertory and Database Administrator, Leticia Clark

Financial Secretary, Paula Perry

Sacristan, Zina Habib

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 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

708-326-9352 Kbrez@stmarymokena.org

deaconpete@aol.com, jbrett@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9312 Dhungerford@StMaryMokena.org

708-326-9302 JBerardi@StMaryMokena.org

Mjung@StMaryMokena.org

Bulletin@StMaryMokena.org

815-953-7228

708-326-9311 Lclark@StMaryMokena.org

708-326-9310 Pperry@StMaryMokena.org

Zhabib@StMaryMokena.org

School Office:

School Secretary, Charlotte Catchings

School Principal, Michele Alday-Engelman

School Assistant Principal, Michelle Huizinga

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.

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, September 29

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 6:00 p.m. SPRED Meeting (Fatima)
 6:30 p.m. Rosary (Church)

Tuesday, September 30

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 4:30 p.m. RE Gr. K-6 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. RE Gr. 7-8 (Classrooms)
 7:00 p.m. Scripture Study (Guadalupe)
 7:00 p.m. Roses of Mary (Fatima)

Wednesday, October 1

5:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 7:00 a.m. Confessions
 7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
 9:00 a.m. Scripture Study (Church Hall)
 11:00a.m. Young at Heart Set Up(Guadalupe)
 1:00 p.m. Young at Heart (Guadalupe)
 4:30 p.m. RE Gr. 1-8 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. RE Gr. 7-8 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. The Search Launch (Guadalupe)
 6:30 p.m. Liturgy Ambassador Meeting (Lourdes)

Thursday, October 2

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 4:30 p.m. RE Gr. 1-8 (Classrooms)
 7:00 p.m. Welcome (Fatima)

Friday, October 3

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 8:45 a.m. First Friday Devotion (Chapel)
 9:00 a.m. Homeschool Meetup (Guadalupe)

Saturday, October 4

CCW Respect Life Weekend-Lapel Roses (Narthex)
Coats for Kids Collection (Church Hall)


7:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 8:00 a.m. First Saturday Mass (Church)
 8:30 a.m. First Saturday Confessions (Church)
 9:15 a.m. Militia Immaculata (Fatima)
 11:00a.m. Baptism (Church)
 3:30 p.m. Confessions (Church)
 5:00 p.m. Mass (Church)

Sunday, October 5

CCW Respect Life Weekend-Lapel Roses (Narthex)
Coats for Kids Collection (Church Hall)

7:15 a.m. Lauds (Church)
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 9:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
 9:30 a.m. RE Classes Gr. K-6 (Classrooms)
 11:00a.m. Mass (Church)
 12:00p.m. Pet Blessing (Church Grounds)
 12:00p.m. The Search 2025 Fall Launch (Guadalupe)
 12:30p.m. Baptisms (Church)
 6:00 p.m. Mass (Church)
 6:00 p.m. Youth Ministry (Guadalupe)

IN HONOR OF THE
FEAST OF
ST. FRANCIS OF
ASSISI
(OCTOBER 4TH)




ST. MARY
ANNUAL
PET BLESSING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5
12:30 P.M. CHURCH LAWN

All Pets Welcome!









ST. MARY'S CO-DIRECTOR OF LITURGY
JOHN BRETT IS PREPARING TO BE A
PERMANENT DEACON!

JOIN US FOR THE

Rite of Lector Mass

TO HELP SUPPORT HIM
AND THE REST OF THE CLASS OF 2027!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
7:00 PM

MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED
BY BISHOP DENNIS SPIES.

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE HALL
SPONSORED BY THE
PERMANENT DIACONATE CLASS OF 2029.

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 29

8:00am: Patty Alberts

Tuesday, September 30

8:00am: Jim Barr, Carol Thompson, Joe and Pat Lynch

Wednesday, October 1

7:30am: Charlie Kirk

8:30am: Nancy Snow

Thursday, October 2

8:00am: Ruth Hopson

Friday, October 3

8:00am: Frank and Bernice Gorz

Saturday, October 4

8:00am: The Spiracino family

5:00pm: Ted Golebiowski, Grace Chesla, Peter Prankus, Linda Kurtz, Danny Gurgone, Paul Hryn, Carol Mills

Sunday, October 5

8:00am: Stephen Unton

9:30am: John Stanton

11:00am: Marcia Gillooley

6:00pm: Bill Mehler

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Dan Albrecht, Brett Anderson, Joe, Austin, Tammy Balamut, Lisa Barber, Lisa Bernhard, Florence and Gino Bondi, Agnes Breslin, Alan Brown, Darlene Broadhurst, Rachel Butler, Brian Butler, Francis Bulow, Brenda Castile, Dolores Castro, Bonnie Caper, James Caper, Michael Carey, Monica DiGiovanni, Janet Drobick, Vincent Felice, Barb Finn-Figliulo, John Finili, Bradley Frank, Marcia Frank, Mary Ann Franson, Debbie Geren, Bonnie Gondek, Richard Grabenhofer, Colleen Grabenhofer, Jerry Grabowski, Kelly Hampton, Natalie Haran, Jeremiah Hartmann, Bobbie, Howie, Mary Ingala, Daniel Izzo, Richard Junge, Les Kazmierczak, Sherley Keene, Joseph Kerke, Hattie Kerke, Diane Klootwyk, Beverly Klosowski, Richard Kolovitz, Jan Kosmatine, John Kurator, Fr. Roger Kutzner, Jennifer Naril, Dan Lahy, Andy Lihosit, Chet Lockwood, Vernadine Lumpkin, Jay Lutsky, Shirley Lyons, Terrence McKenna, Jack Manuszak, Robert Margalus, Jeanne Matug, Bill Maynard, John McGeehan, Joelee McMaster, Thomas Meehan, Heidi Meekma, Janice Melisi, Ginny Meyer, Rich Milkieris, Isabella Miller, Angel Munoz, Pat Murphy, Sue Murphy, Lisa Hunt Nichols, Jim Narel, Celine Narel, Geraldine Nykaza, Kenneth O'Gradney, Irene Okoniewski, Callie Olson, Bruce Omastak, Matthew Orr, Bob and Jackie Pasqualoni, Ed Polzin, Janelle Portman, Rosemary Purcell, Dave Racine, Eileen Redican, Eduardo Reyes, Sean Rio, George Rohrer, Judy Roque, Barbra Rusin, Joseph Santago, Midge Saunders, William Schlieman, Dan and Brenda Schmiedel, Diane Schoneich, Marie Shaw, Wendy Sifuentes, Karen Singer, Barbara Smith, Brandon Smith, Phyllis Stanton, Geoffrey Sullivan, Tom Sullivan, Joshua Swarez, Victor Tamosaitis, Terri Kelso-Tamer, Tiffany Theresa, John Turas, Judy Turas, Marion Walles, Kathy Wereldsma Leo Wilczek, Tim Weber, Jodie Weber, Jonathan Weber, Dan Wolf, Jerry Wolff, Karen Yaeger

May God grant them healing!

God Bless Our New Parishioners

The Schmidt family,
The Doogan family,
The Skole family,
The Chavez family



Please Pray for our Faithfully Departed Brothers and Sisters

**Sean Cassidy,
Nancy Hennecke**



*Eternal rest grant unto them and let
perpetual light shine upon them!*



**Almighty God, watch over and protect our
nation's military members and
their families. Take them into your most gracious
protection. Amen.**

SSG Jarred Andras, ARNG
PFC Jenson Andras, USMC
Capt Lukasz Bokun, ANG
Lt Col Joseph A. Budzyn, USAF
TSgt Loretta Caplinger, USAF
E3 Colette Gagen, USN
ET2 Nicholas Gambino, USCG
PFC Noah Genz, USA
CPT Andrew Jacobs, USA
MIDN Isabella Judeh, USMMA
CPT Kevin Kelly, USA
PV3 Devin Klinger, USA
Cpl John P. Morrison, USMC
Sgt Cody Nicks, USAF
PO3 John O'Brien Nolan, USN
Capt Steven Pieczynski, USAF

SSG August Pintarro, USA
PFC Joshua Poplin, USA
E-3 Sydney Quatrochi, USAF
Cpl Ryan J. Schwartz, USMC
MA3 Greg Siegmund, USN
CPT David Skrzypiec, USAR
LT Kevin Skrzypiec, USN
Sgt Luke Swiatek, USMC
LCDR Nicholas Swiatkowski, USNR
Maj Jennifer Tenumah, USAF
CPT Vincent R. Teodoro, USA
Cpl Blanton Vego, USMC
PO3 John David Villaseñor, USN
MAJ Bryan Welch, USA
MMN3 Peter Weygandt, USN
CPT Christopher Zolner, USA

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE NAME OF SOMEONE CURRENTLY SERVING
IN THE MILITARY PUBLISHED HERE, PLEASE EMAIL THEIR
NAME, RANK, AND BRANCH OF SERVICE TO BOB CORNEJO,
BCORNEJO@STMARYMOKENA.ORG.
THANK YOU.**



From Your Pastor

My dearest parishioners,

I greet you with love and peace in the name of Jesus!

During my homily on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, *that was two Sundays ago*, I shared about the terrible and heartbreaking news of Charlie Kirk's assassination. It has shaken all of us, not just as a community, but as individuals. Many of us admired him and were inspired by him. That is why his sudden and untimely death has hit so hard. These past few weeks have been really heavy. The grief is real. A number of you have come to me *sad, confused, and trying to make sense of it all*. And I just want to say this clearly: you are not alone in this. *We are with you. This parish is walking with you through the sorrow.*

But remember, we are not only mourning the loss of a man who stood strong for truth and inspired so many people, especially the young. We are also feeling the loss of a sense of peace and safety that now feels shaken. It's hard to take in. But still, in moments like this, I want to remind you of something I truly believe: *God is not distant in our pain. He is very close to us, walking with us through it.*

I said this in my homily, and I'll say it again: *if God could bring resurrection from the Cross, then He can bring light from this darkness. He can bring healing out of our heartbreak.* Charlie was bold. He spoke the truth and called others to stand for it, even when it cost him his life. His words moved people, and those he inspired are already continuing what he started. Charlie is no longer with us physically, but his voice has not been silenced. His mission lives on in us, in your families, and in those he touched and inspired.

So, we keep going. We keep loving. We keep speaking the truth. We carry one another through the pain and stay united. Let our questions draw us closer to God, not away from Him. And let our sorrow be touched and transformed by Jesus, who has overcome death and brings life to all of us. God bless you!

"Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church"

With love in Christ,

Fr. Joe Gasta, RCJ
Pastor

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE!

GRAB A FRIEND AND COME SEE OUR
MINISTRY CENTER



My Joyful Heart

Sharing the love of Christ with
Chicagoland's children in need



FOR MORE INFORMATION WWW.MYJOYFULHEART.ORG

9981 W. 190TH STREET, SUITE 1
MOKENA, IL 60448

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025
9AM-12PM

TAKE A TOUR, HELP US PACK GIFT BAGS, CHECK
OUT OUR BOUTIQUE AND SEE HOW WE MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF LOCAL CHILDREN.

Students, faculty, and staff held a special dress down day, sponsored by the St. Mary Student Council, in support of Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis. The fundraiser was organized in response to the recent tragedy affecting Annunciation's School community. The dress down day raised \$1,400, which will be donated directly to provide support and encouragement during this difficult time.

October 4 - October 5: Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 9:30 AM	Sunday, 11:00 AM	Sunday, 6:00 PM
Lector	Sue Mahns Andrea Taylor	Guy Cesario Mary Frances Consola	SMS Student1 SMS Student2	Roberta Dreifke Art Wilson	YM Lector
Eucharistic Minister	John Mitoraj Sue Murphy Lora Oldham Karen Sayon	Kathleen Orr Marvin Orr Nancy Santry Christine Weeks	Joe Austin Lin Austin Frank Dundek Pam Sanders	Sally Harper Remo Lucci Patti Pertchi NOT FILLED	Karen Haugh Robert Koch NOT FILLED
Altar Server	Seamus McGarry Avery McNamara NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	David Heitman Gerard Sima NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Lucas Pilon Noah Pilon Henry Valente Lucas Valente	Caleb Marietta Christopher Pienkos Cody Pienkos NOT FILLED	Allison Eiden Caitlin Eiden Gretchen Eiden
Usher	Mary Ann Braasch Jim Grady Maurice Helm Mark Miron James Palermo Joe Toman	Chris Cichowicz Ed Dorey Rich Gavillet Roy Mueller	John Delladio Ed Dorey Joanette Kulesa Jim Kulesa Diane Mucia Phillip Sparacino	Ed Dorey William Farhat David Larson Sandra Tome Gladys Weber	YM Usher 1 YM Usher 2 YM Usher 3 NOT FILLED
Greeter	Mary Ann Braasch	Denise Mueller	Ed Dorey	Carolyn Farhat	NOT FILLED
Live Stream			Eugene Satrun		

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, Greeters, and Live Streamers for their dedication and outstanding service."

If you are assigned and are unable to serve, please request a substitute via the Scheduler.



All men are invited to join us for our next meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18 **CALLED TO MORE:** **THE ADVENTURE OF** **DISCIPLESHIP**



Join us for our 8th Anniversary!

Fr. Joe Gasta will lead a discussion on what it means to be a disciple, the virtues needed for this journey, and how to live our lives for Christ.

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

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



FIT SHEPHERDS AIMS TO HAVE EVERY MAN IN OUR COMMUNITY BE IN THE BEST PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL SHAPE OF THEIR LIVES.

BE BETTER

Better son...Better husband
Better brother...Better father



Fit Shepherds are formed through
Demanding workouts
Fraternity
Discipleship

A Fit Shepherd wants to model his life after the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

Please join us every Saturday morning in any kind of weather at 7:00 am (also Wednesdays at 5:00 am) in the St. Mary parking lot

PRAY FOR THE
PROTECTION
OF THE UNBORN



Giving+

Rooted in Gratitude
Giving with Grace

Support our ministries this fall through faithful generosity.

The Offertory for
September 14th

Online Giving	\$11,523.40
Envelopes	\$18,138.05
	<hr/>
	\$29,661.45

Budget \$34,000
Thank you so much for your generosity!

Online Giving

Give your gift today.
Scan the QR Code



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

HENRY MATTHEW KAY,
CIARA BRIDGET FOX,
MICHAEL KACE JUDD

MAY GOD BLESS THE LITTLE ONES



**The Gentle Hands of Hope, Showing
the Light for the World to See**

High School Ministry

**Next Meeting:
Oct 5th 7-9pm in
the Church Hall.**



All High Schoolers welcome!

Oct. 12 Rosary by the Fire 7pm in the Marian Garden

Oct. 19 Donut Sunday after all Morning Masses



Junior High Ministry (6th-8th)

Next Meeting:

**Oct 9. 6:00-7:30 in the hall
Fatima Room**

**Join us as we look at modern day
Saints and their examples for our
lives.**



**Families are invited
to join us for Rosary
by the Fire on October
12th with our High
School Ministry.**

Contact Youth Minister, Matt Jung, with any questions.

mjung@stmarymokena.org



Youth Ministry



Roses of Mary

St. Mary Parish's
Young Women's Ministry

Young women ages 18 to 39 are invited to
join a six-part video and discussion series
from FORMED on

True Reformers: Saints of the Catholic Reformation

Tuesdays | 7:00PM | Church Hall

Next Session (Sept. 30th): St. Ignatius of Loyola

Join us as we learn about saints from the past to
better understand the present!

Walk-ins welcome! Contact Erica at

esestak@stmarymokena.org with questions!

MOMS Podcast Club

Join other Catholic moms of school-age
children and younger for conversation on the
"Real + True" podcast.

Thursday, October 16

9:30 am

in the Church Hall

"What the Catechism Says about
Building a Prayer Life"

Listen to podcast prior to gathering (search "Real +
True" wherever you listen to podcasts) but even if
you don't get to it, we'd love to have you join us!
Children are welcome and snacks and toys are provided.

Questions?

Email DKuboushek@StMaryMokena.org



Monica's
Mission

ST. MARY PARISH MOKENA, ST. MONICA'S MISSION

BRINGING LOVED ONES BACK TO THE CHURCH

MONICA'S MISSION IS A GROUP DEDICATED PRAYERFUL PEOPLE
WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ONES THEY LOVE ARE NO
LONGER PRACTICING THEIR FAITH OR HAVE LEFT THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH TO ATTEND ANOTHER CHURCH.

*WE GET TOGETHER ONCE A MONTH TO PRAY AND SUPPORT
ONE ANOTHER IN OUR EFFORTS TO BRING OUR LOVED ONES
BACK HOME TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.*

ALL ARE INVITED TO:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9
6:00 P.M. IN THE CHURCH

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW IN THE CHURCH HALL



Women's Welcome Weekend

formerly Christ Renews His Parish

NOVEMBER 8 & 9

everything
beautiful

This incredible one and a half day renewal weekend will help restore balance, rediscover the peace of Christ, connect you with other women, and renew your relationship with God.

This weekend is for women of all ages!

Get ready for a weekend of good food:
we provide Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner
and Sunday breakfast and lunch.

Free registration at www.stmarymokena.org/welcome
Limited space available.



Saturday night everyone heads home to sleep
and we gather again Sunday morning.

Email Danielle with any questions,
dkuboushek@stmarymokena.org
or call the parish office, (708) 326-9300.



THE FEAST DAY OF
St. Francis of Assisi
 IS CELEBRATED ON OCTOBER 4TH.

St. Francis of Assisi was born to a wealthy Italian merchant family in the late 12th century, and lived in a sinful manner in his youth. After hearing God's voice, St. Francis slowly spent more time in prayer. God then told him, "**Francis, repair my Church.**"

This led to St. Francis' decision to choose poverty and peace in his pure pursuit of God.

From then on, St. Francis encouraged people to return to God and His Church, during a period of scandal. Others who sought God followed St. Francis' way of life: brotherhood by following the Gospel. From this, the Franciscans were born.

This view of brotherhood – that **all living beings are God's creation** – is how St. Francis became the patron saint of animals.

His view of peace in God also brought us the Prayer for Peace. This prayer follows St. Francis' understanding of life and his desire to follow God as seen through the Gospel.



PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (PRAYER FOR PEACE)

LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF
 YOUR PEACE:

WHERE THERE IS HATRED,
 LET ME SOW LOVE;
 WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON;
 WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH;
 WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE;
 WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT;
 WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.

O DIVINE MASTER, GRANT THAT
 I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK
 TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE,
 TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS TO UNDERSTAND,
 TO BE LOVED AS TO LOVE.
 FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE,
 IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE PARDONED,
 AND IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN TO
 ETERNAL LIFE.

Honor St. Francis and his love of God's creation by joining us for our annual Pet Blessing next Sunday (October 5th)!

**Dear Community Partner,**

On October 24, 2025, St. Mary Catholic School is hosting our 4th Annual Fun Run, and we wish you to become a sponsor. Your support is crucial in helping us provide an enriching, Christ-centered education for our students. This year, the funds raised will go towards continuing building enhancements.

Why Sponsor the Fun Run?

Your support benefits every student at St. Mary School in Mokena, a non-profit Catholic institution dedicated to excellence and spiritual growth. The Fun Run is a celebration of school spirit, bringing together families, faculty, and local supporters for a day of fitness, fun, and fellowship. Thanks to generous sponsors like you, last year's event raised over \$50,000 for curriculum enhancements, teacher development, and student resources.

Sponsorship Opportunities**Run! — \$1000 Donation**

- Logo on event T-shirts worn by students, staff, and volunteers
- Featured on 99pledges.com fundraising site
- Prominent placement on event welcome signage
- Advertising board placement around the track
- One-year gym banner display
- Recognition in the St. Mary Catholic Church bulletin

Jog! — \$500 Donation

- Logo on event welcome signage
- Advertising board placement around the track
- One-year gym banner display
- Featured on the 99pledges.com fundraising site
- Recognition in the St. Mary Catholic Church bulletin

Walk! — \$200 Donation

- Logo on event welcome signage
- Logo included on materials distributed to participants
- Inclusion on the Fun Run page of 99pledges.com
- Recognition in the St. Mary Catholic Church bulletin

If you have any questions or would like to confirm your sponsorship, please contact one of our Fun Run Committee members Bryan Bishop 708-299-6260, Anna Carmine 708-305-7972, Bill Johnson 708-473-5749 or via email smsfunrun@stmarymokena.org. October 3rd deadline to have company logo on fun run tee shirts.

Thank you for your support,

SMS School Board Dr. Michele Engelman - Principal Mrs. Michelle Huizinga - Assistant Principal



Religious Education

Service Opportunity

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



BY
OCT.
23RD

Hat and Glove drive for kids

- Collecting NEW Hats and Gloves for kids to keep warm this winter
- Please drop off your donations at the RE office inside door 3 by Oct. 23rd



re@stmarymokena.org

QUESTIONS?: 708-326-9352

It's almost time to start shopping for new
winter coats for the kids!

KIDS WINTER COAT DRIVE

NEW AND CLEAN GENTLY USED COATS MAY BE
DROPPED OFF IN THE CHURCH HALL AFTER
MASSES

OCTOBER 4 & 5

STARTING AT SIZE 8 - 20(XXL)

PLEASE BE SURE ALL ZIPPERS AND BUTTONS ARE IN ORDER.

COATS WILL BE DELIVERED TO
MY JOYFUL HEART AND DISTRIBUTED TO
THOSE IN NEED.

HELP BRING WARMTH TO CHILDREN
THIS YEAR!

Contact Donna Hungerford
with any questions
(708) 326-9312



SAVE
THE
DATE!

MINISTERS OF CARE & HOMEBOUND HELPERS
ARE INVITED TO A

Thank you Breakfast Meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

8:30 A.M. IN THE CHURCH HALL
FOLLOWING THE 8:00 A.M. MASS

- WE WILL REVIEW PROCEDURES & ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS
- SHARE OUR PERSONAL STORIES ABOUT THIS MINISTRY AND THE PEOPLE WE VISIT.

RSVP DONNA HUNGERFORD 708-326-9312 OR RESPOND TO MY EMAIL
DHUNGERFORD@STMARYMOKENA.ORG
BY OCTOBER 1ST



Baby Bottles for Life

The Pro-Life Committee will be collecting baby bottles with your donation in the narthex for the next few weeks.

Cash or checks made payable to Waterleaf are greatly appreciated.

No donation is too small!



If you would like to donate online use this link

<https://onechoiceonlife.org/waterleaf-baby-bottles-for-life-2025/>

All funds will go to Waterleaf Women's Center which supports and educates pregnant women facing crisis or unintended pregnancies.



LIFE CHAIN

EACH YEAR, LIFE CHAINS FORM IN CITIES NATIONWIDE TO MAKE A PUBLIC, PRAYERFUL, PEACEFUL STAND FOR LIFE!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL LIFE CHAIN, WHICH SUPPORTS THE SANCTITY OF ALL HUMAN LIFE, FROM NATURAL CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

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**40 DAYS
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September 24th til
November 2nd



Father Joe will join
us on
October 28th!

Sign up for a different day or
get more information by visiting
40daysforlife.com/flossmoor



Help save lives in your local community!

Join the St. Mary Pro-Life Committee
as we pray at the following locations:

Saturday, October 18 - 9:30 a.m.

Access Clinic

1700 75th St.

Downers Grove

Tuesday, October 28 - 9:30 a.m.

Flossmoor Planned Parenthood

19831 Governors Hwy

Flossmoor

CCW Welcome Back

Mass and Tea 2025





The Council of Catholic Women

October 4 & 5 is
Respect Life Weekend!



**Donations will be collected in the
narthex and given to
The Project Purple.**

This organization provides financial and emotional support to young, single Mothers in need. **Thank you for your support!**

The next **Board Meeting** will be
Wednesday, October 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the
Church Hall, Fatima Room

The next **General Meeting** will be Thursday,
October 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall,
Guadalupe Room



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The next **Officer Meeting** will be
Tuesday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m. in
the Church Hall, Lourdes Room

The next **Council Meeting** will be
Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m.
in the Church Hall, Guadalupe Room

The St. Mary Widow & Widower's Club

This group meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at a
designated restaurant or other locations.

Contact Marcia Frank for details
708-227-8290.



The St. Mary Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you like to knit,
sew or crochet?

Prayer Shawls for the ill, homebound and grieving are
like receiving a "Hug from God". If you would like one
to give to someone, you are welcome to choose from
a wide variety of colors and styles at the parish office
front desk.



Meetings are the first Monday of each month (unless
it is a holiday) in the Church Hall - Fatima Room at
9:00 a.m.

Contact Jan Homolka if you are interested in
joining this group janhomolka@yahoo.com



St. Stephen's Seniors Young at Heart Club is hosting an afternoon with the Rat Pack

Date: Sunday, October 12, 2025


Time: 3:00 PM

Where: St. Stephen Parish Life Center
17500 South 84th Ave., Tinley Park, IL 60487

Tickets: \$35.00 (wine on each table and appetizer
buffet included)

To reserve a table please contact
theresa@ststephentinley.com

PLEASE, DO ALL YOU CAN TO ENCOURAGE PRIESTLY AND RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS. YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



'God spoke to my deepest desires.'

When I was 6 years old, I told my mom I could never be a nun — I'd get too hot in a habit, I said, and faint. Thank God he never stops drawing our hearts to himself!

The Lord led me to religious life through experiences of serving the poor with my family. My dad, an optometrist, organized annual eye care missions in underserved countries; we accompanied him several times. Encountering people who struggled to meet their daily needs made me reflect on my privileged upbringing.

In middle school, I read a book about Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Her deep spirituality and witness of love and truth struck a chord in me. She became for me a model of a life wholly given to God through service to the poor.

When the Lord made my call to religious life clear to me, it was to this life of love and service. In this vocation, God spoke to my heart's deepest desires; for this, I am profoundly grateful.

Sister Lilia Rose
Missionaries of Charity
Calcutta, India

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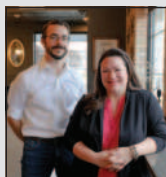


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