

# SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

ARE YOU  
NOT THE  
**CHRIST?**

— LUKE 23:39 —



— SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025 —

©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

**\*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.****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

**LAUDS;**

7:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings

**ADORATION**

Perpetual 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.

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

Pastor: Fr. Joe Gasta

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Welbert Suarez

708-326-9307 frjose@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9304 frwelbert@stmarymokena.org

**Deacons:**

Deacon Peter Manning

Deacon John Rex

Deacon Kevin Plankinton

Deacon Dave Stanton

**Parish Office:**

Parish Secretary, Karen Dilger

Business Manager, Stephen J. Warunek

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

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

708-326-9314 giniguez@stmarymokena.org

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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

Marketing &amp; Enrollment, Danelle Bernas

708-326-9330

708-326-9332 office@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9348 mengelman@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9347 mhuizinga@stmarymokena.org

dbernas@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](http://www.stmarymokena.org).**ANointing OF THE SICK** - Please contact the parish office at 708-326-9300.

## Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

### Monday, November 24

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

### Tuesday, November 25

7:00 a.m. Confessions Cancelled  
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)  
 7:00 p.m. K of C Officer Meeting (Lourdes)  
 7:00 p.m. Scripture Study (Guadalupe)  
 7:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Bible Study (JP II Room)

### Wednesday, November 26

5:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)  
 7:00 a.m. Confessions Cancelled  
 7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)  
 9:00 a.m. Scripture Study (Guadalupe and Lourdes)  
 2:00 p.m. Daybreak Cooking (Kitchen)

### Thursday, November 27

#### Happy Thanksgiving

7:00 a.m. Confessions Cancelled  
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)  
 8:30 a.m. Anniversary Blessing (Church)

### Friday, November 28

7:00 a.m. Confessions  
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)

### Saturday, November 29

7:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)  
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)  
 3:30 p.m. Confessions (Church)  
 5:00 p.m. Mass (Church)

### Sunday, November 30

7:15 a.m. Lauds (Church)  
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)  
 9:30 a.m. Mass (Church)  
 11:00 a.m. Mass (Church)  
 12:00 p.m. OCIA Meeting (Lourdes)  
 6:00 p.m. Mass (Church)  
 6:00 p.m. Youth Ministry (Guadalupe)

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) FATHER JOE AND FATHER WELBERT  
WILL BE ON RETREAT THIS WEEK.
- 2) MORNING CONFESSIONS WILL BE  
CANCELLED MONDAY-FRIDAY (11/24-11/28).
- 3) FRIDAY ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS WILL  
BE CANCELLED ON FRIDAY (11/28).
- 4) MASS WILL STILL BE CELEBRATED AT  
8:00 A.M. EVERY DAY THIS WEEK.
- 5) THE PARISH OFFICE WILL CLOSE AT NOON  
THIS WEDNESDAY (11/26) AND REMAIN  
CLOSED THE REST OF THE WEEK IN  
OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING. WE WILL  
REOPEN NEXT MONDAY (12/1) AT 8:30 A.M.

## ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Wednesday, December 3rd  
 6:00 - 8:00 PM | St. Mary, Mokena

Prepare your soul to welcome  
 our Lord this Christmas by receiving  
 the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Confessions will be heard by both  
 St. Mary's and visiting priests.



PRAY FOR THE  
 PROTECTION  
 OF THE UNBORN



## Mass Intentions

### **Monday, November 24**

8:00am: Bill Delladio

### **Tuesday, November 25**

8:00am: Diana Nash, Beth Ragona, Mary Ann Cullen, Remo DiVencenzo, Mary Marieta Pytlik, Bill Dorans, Michelle Gleason, Joseph H. Tantillo

### **Wednesday, November 26**

8:00am: Giulio Filippi

### **Thursday, November 27**

8:00am: Helen Bienic,  
Bill and Sandy Laude--50 th Wedding anniversary

### **Friday, November 28**

8:00am: Vincent Sheridan

### **Saturday, November 29**

8:00am: Joe and Bernie Kelso  
5:00pm: Bob and Babe Podlasek, Carolyn Michalak, Leonard Kuboushek, Ronald Skeld, Diane Kavouriaris, The DiNaso family, Nanette Tantillo, Joseph Marconi

### **Sunday, November 30**

8:00am: Ercole and Innocenza Sturino  
9:30am: Pat Knoerzer  
11:00am: James G. Emerson  
6:00pm: Nelle Hanley

#### **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, Emma Harrison, 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, Joseph Kurczewski, 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 Milkeris, 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 Omastiak, 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 Santiago, 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 Wallis, Kathy Wereldsma Leo Wilczek, Tim Weber, Jodie Weber, Jonathan Weber, Dan Wolf, Jerry Wolff, Diana Woods, Karen Yaeger, Kathleen Yonker

**May God grant them healing!**

## **God Bless Our New Parishioners**

The Burnson family,  
The Cozzi family,  
The Kendall family



## **Please Pray for our Faithfully Departed Brothers and Sisters**

Leonard Kezis, Patricia Kozma,  
Gerald Everson, Richard Lyman



*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  
MAJ 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!

A month ago, I wrote in the bulletin about how important it is to stay for the final blessing before leaving church. I mentioned that the Mass is not truly complete without the blessing and dismissal. Those last moments are not just a formality; they remind us that we are being sent out to bring Christ's presence into the world. The final blessing seals the grace we have received and sends us forth as witnesses of God's love.

Recently, someone asked me: *Father, when is someone really considered late for Mass?* That's a wonderful question, one that helps us think more deeply about what the Holy Mass really means. While the Church doesn't give an exact rule or certain number of minutes to define being late, we have to understand that we must come to worship God with our whole heart and take part in the entire celebration from the opening sign of the cross to the final blessing.

The Mass is one sacred act of worship: *we listen to God's Word, we pray together, and we receive the precious gift of the Eucharist.* If we arrive a bit late because of something truly unavoidable, the Lord surely understands. But if coming late becomes a habit, or if we often miss important parts of the Mass, especially the liturgy of the word or the liturgy of the eucharist, it's good to take a step back and ask how we can do better. Coming a few minutes early gives us a chance to quiet our hearts, to pray, and to prepare ourselves to meet the Lord. Let us not just attend Mass but be truly present to the mystery of God's love happening before us.

Today, as we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, we are reminded that Jesus is not just a figure from the past. He is our king, our Lord, and the center of our lives. If we truly believe this, then our Sunday worship should reflect it. We give our best to our King: *our time, our reverence, our attention, and our hearts.* Think about how we attend a concert or watch a movie. We make sure to arrive early because we don't want to miss a single moment. How much more should we want to be on time for the greatest event on earth, which is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, where Jesus our King offers Himself for us?

As we honor Christ our king today, let us renew our desire to give Him our very best in prayer, in worship, and in how we live each day. May every Mass we attend be our heartfelt declaration: *Christ, you are my King, my time, and my heart. My life belongs to You.*

*Send, O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!*

With love in Christ,

Fr. Joe Gasta, RCJ  
Pastor



DIOCESE OF JOLIET

# VOCATIONS OFFICE



*This is Part 3 in a 3-part series of columns on the importance of your help in the formation of new priests*

## The impact of formation into priesthood

BY FR. STEVEN BORELLO  
DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS  
DIOCESE OF JOLIET

When someone asks me what the seminary is, I liken it to a garden bed which takes the seeds of a vocation to the priesthood, plants them in rich and nutritious soil, provides them with the necessary sun, moisture, and darkness so that the seed can grow and bear much fruit. It provides a space to remove the weeds of human weakness and protect the vocation from the buffets of the storms and winds that come with life.

I see this in my own experience of formation. When I began seminary after my four years at the University of Illinois, where I studied chemical engineering, I thought I had my life together and knew a thing or two. What I discovered living with 150 other men was that I was embarking upon a journey to grow in honesty with myself, my heart, and God. One day on retreat, I was telling God I wanted to be a great priest, and He responded, 'then you must know what people are feeling and experiencing.' I told him I did, and He gently corrected me and said, 'to do that, you must know what you are feeling and

experiencing.'

I didn't know that I had closed off my heart to love of my neighbor due to all the bullying I encountered in grade school. I was usually angry, but wouldn't let anyone see it, except when I exploded. I didn't trust people.

In seminary, a space was created to assist me in being honest with myself, my heart and God about the pain and betrayals of life. It gave me a space to avail myself to counseling, spiritual direction and good friendships which helped me grow, heal, and forgive. The beautiful fruit of this time was that I grew in a genuine love for my brother and all who I would be called to serve in the Church as a priest.

It was through the generosity of the Diocese of Joliet faithful that I was able to attend seminary. I invite you to prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit, how he might be inviting you to support our current seminarians in their formation to the priesthood.

God Bless you and be assured of my prayers for you.



### ABOUT FR. BORELLO

*Fr. Steven Borello is a priest of the Diocese of Joliet currently serving as the Director of Vocations.*

*Fr. Steven grew up in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and is the oldest of 4 children.*

*He attended the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana where he studied chemistry and chemical engineering.*

*While there, he received a call to the seminary to discern the priesthood.*

*He received his Bachelors in Theology and Masters of Divinity from Mundelein Seminary and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Joliet in 2011.*

*He first served as an associate pastor at Notre Dame Parish in Clarendon Hills and was then transferred to Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Naperville in June of 2014.*

*In August of 2015, he began serving at St. John Vianney College Seminary as a spiritual director, director of human formation, and instructor to over 120 men discerning a priestly vocation.*

*He returned to the Diocese of Joliet in August 2018 to begin as the Director of Vocations.*



Diocese of Joliet

## SEMINARIAN EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

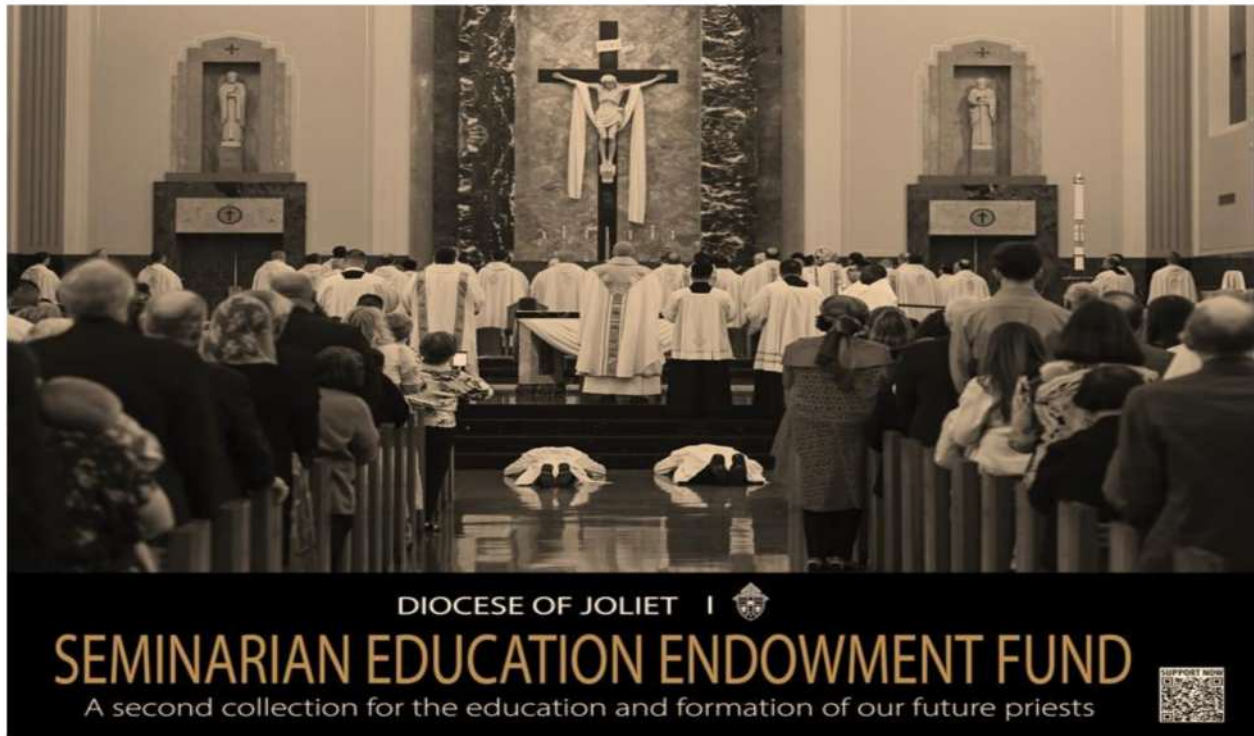
A second collection for the education and formation of our future priests



SUPPORT NOW



VOCATIONS.DIOJOLIET.ORG



This weekend, St. Mary is taking up a Second Collection for Seminarian Education. Your gifts will support the formation of seminarians preparing to serve as our parish priests.

The Diocese of Joliet currently has been blessed with 27 men discerning vocations to the priesthood through seminary formation. Gifts to the Second Collection are being invested in an endowed fund to ensure the Diocese can balance the cost of seminarian education -- \$53,900 a seminarian per year -- with other ministries essential to the Church's mission.

Please show your gratitude for those who have answered the Lord's call and prayerfully reflect on how you can best help support their formation with a gift. You may place your completed Second Collection envelope in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to St. Mary Parish.

To learn more about this campaign or make a gift online, scan this QR code with your smart phone:



## *Little Blue Books are now available!*

The Little Blue Books used for short, daily Advent reflections are now available in the Narthex.

Each meditation will bring you closer to our Lord during this liturgical season.

## *Congratulations to Hank and Celeste Sikorski!*



### **November 29 - November 30: 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	Pamela DeGregorio Ted Kopczynski	Midge Saunders Alice Wierzbinski	Greg Harper Kathy Harper	Sean Gleason Art Wilson	Bob Jostes
Eucharistic Minister	Mary Ann Braasch Ted Kopczynski John Mitoraj Sue Murphy	Joan Aust Robert Rafferty Susan Rizzo Nancy Santry	Roger Brown Michael Dilger Joanette Kulesa Pam Sanders	Michael Crowley Joanne Eckel Bob Meyers NOT FILLED	Karen Haugh Robert Koch James Nowak
Altar Server	Seamus McGarry Charleigh Widelski Scarlett Widelski NOT FILLED	Jillian Ferin David Heitman NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Silas Kuboushek Theo Kuboushek Lucas Pilon Noah Pilon	Natalie Galka Ryan Gross NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Allison Eiden Caitlin Eiden Gretchen Eiden
Usher	Mary Ann Braasch Jim Grady Maurice Helm Mark Miron James Palermo Tom Siemieniec 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	Gabriella Carens Linda Drake Maggie Knable NOT FILLED
Greeter	Mary Ann Braasch	Denise Mueller	Ed Dorey	Ed Dorey	Ed Dorey Linda Drake
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, DECEMBER 6**

## A POPE & A PRESIDENT

The extraordinary story of the partnership between Pope John Paul II and President Ronald Reagan and how their bond helped confront the great evil of 20th Century Soviet Communism.



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

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



**Exodus 90 is a ninety-day program for men.**

The main reason men make an Exodus is this:  
*they want to grow.*

Closer to God, their spouse, children, and friends. Closer to that man that God has called them to be.

***We begin on January 5, 2026!***

To learn more or join other men from  
 St. Mary Parish, email Kyle at  
 kyle.r.dodge@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**

# Giving+

**Rooted in Gratitude**  
**Giving with Grace**

Support our ministries this fall  
 through faithful generosity.

The Offertory for  
 November 16th  
 will be shared  
 in the next bulletin.

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

### Online Giving

Give your  
 gift today.  
 Scan the QR  
 Code



## Youth Ministry Upcoming Events



**For the battle  
belongs to the Lord.**

**1 SAMUEL 17:47**

### Steubenville Sign Up

**Graduating 8<sup>th</sup> Graders through  
Graduating High School Seniors are  
able to sign up and join us for an  
incredible weekend of faith,  
adoration, and community with  
thousands of teens from across the  
midwest.**



**June 26<sup>th</sup> -28th  
Benedictine University  
Lisle, IL**

### **Next Junior High Meetings**

**Dec. 4th Christmas Party  
School Cafeteria, 6:00-7:30pm**

### **High School Bible Study**

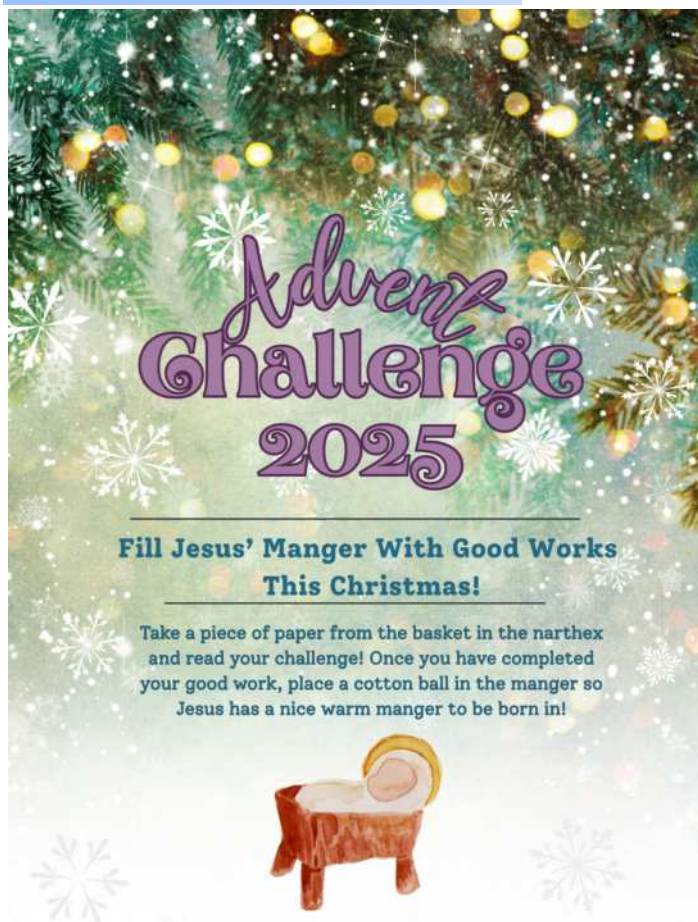
**Weekly on Tuesday Nights 7:30-  
8:30pm in the Parish office. Join  
us virtually if you can't make it in  
person.**

**Contact Youth Minister, Matt Jung, with any questions.**

**[mjung@stmarymokena.org](mailto:mjung@stmarymokena.org)**



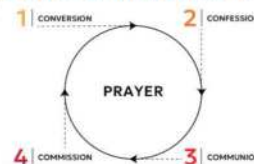
Youth Ministry



**MAKE**  
A Pastoral Letter for the People  
of the Diocese of Joliet

In his first pastoral letter "Make," Bishop Ronald Hicks encourages all of us to embrace the calling to make disciples. This means that we are meant to transform people into followers of Christ – people who know, love, and serve Him. But we must first make sure that we are followers of Christ, so that we are able to share Him with others. How are we to do this? Bishop Hicks provides us with five simple ways:

- 1) **Conversion:** Bishop Hicks explains that Conversion is a particular moment "when you realize that God is real and not just a theory." Conversion is a change of mind and heart, where we truly believe in Christ and are intentional about following Him.
- 2) **Confession:** The Sacrament of Confession is God's way of bringing us back to Him. By going to Confession, we are able to receive Christ's grace and "live freely as beloved children of God."
- 3) **Communion:** The Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ. By receiving the Eucharist "we receive the grace and power to go on mission as [Christ's] disciple-makers."
- 4) **Commission:** At the end of Mass, we "are sent forth to bring the fruits of the Eucharist to the world." More than just saying that the Mass is over, we are called to live our lives and to do good works in Christ's name.
- 5) **Prayer:** This is our way of communicating with God. It is more than a chore to check off of a list. It is "the heartbeat of our whole journey to live in union with Jesus."



With Prayer as the unifying bond, Conversion, Confession, Communion, and Commission become a cycle to follow, which motivates us to preach the Gospel and "to shine the light of the Gospel for all to see." Bishop Hicks writes that we do not need to travel far to do this – that we can share the Gospel with people in our own families, workplaces, and local communities, and, in doing so, make disciples.

In order to do this and make others into disciples, however, we must first make ourselves into disciples. Make time for God – for prayer, for Mass, for the Eucharist. When we make our world centered on God, it becomes easier to live as examples for others to follow. We then can make disciples by "being on fire with love for Jesus," and by sharing that love with others in all that we do.

**We encourage you to download and read the entirety of Bishop Hick's new pastoral letter, MAKE, to discover how to live as a disciple and help make other disciples in your community.**



MAKE.diojoliet.org

## EVANGELIZATION

### 1:1 Series

#### Session 3

"How do you hear God speak?"



**DIOCESE OF JOLIET**  
*Office of Mission*

Do you love your Catholic faith? Let's talk about it! Join parishioners from around the Diocese of Joliet for a chance to practice sharing your faith!

#### Presenter

#### Megan Murray

Director of Adult Faith Formation  
St. Mary Mokena



**2 December 2025**

**7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Blanchette Catholic Center**



**Register Using the QR Code**



Questions? Contact Alex Buldak  
abuldak@dioceseofjoliet.org  
815-221-6256

All women ages 18 and over  
are invited to

*Advent*  
BY CANDLELIGHT

***THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11***  
***6:00 - 8:30 PM***  
**St. Mary Mokena Church Hall**

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.

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](http://www.stmarymokena.org/advent)**

and in the parish office. Space is limited and no tickets will be sold  
at the door. Questions may be directed to Danielle,  
[dkuboushek@stmarymokena.org](mailto: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.

# St. Mary Parish & School Collaborative Cookbook

**Please join us in creating the first annual Parish & School Collaborative Cookbook by sharing your favorite recipes.**

Submit your recipes through one of the following:

- **Online:** <https://forms.office.com/r/cSaX39L9Wd>
- **Email \*** : Tracy Lendi at [tracylendi@me.com](mailto:tracylendi@me.com).
- **Drop Off \*** : At the Parish or School Office to "Tracy Lendi/Parish School Collaborative Cookbook".



\*For Email & Drop Off, fill out the bottom of this form and include with your submission.

***Submissions Due by: December 12, 2025***

**Questions?** Call or email Tracy Lendi at 630-290-7059 or at [tracylendi@me.com](mailto:tracylendi@me.com).

*Cookbooks will be available for ordering in January 2026.*

## Recipe Submission Form

**First & Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please include my name with the recipe: ☐ Yes ☐ No

**What makes this recipe special to you? (ex: Does it remind you of good times? Is it your favorite?)** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the ethnicity of the recipe? (e.g., Italian, German, Irish, Mexican, etc?)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Is this recipe specific to any dietary restrictions?** ☐ Gluten-Free ☐ Peanut-free

☐ Low sugar or salt ☐ Keto ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Advent Service Opportunity

Gift your community!



Religious Ed



### "PJ and a book" drive for kids BY DEC. 15



- 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)

708-326-9352

re@stmarymokena.org

## ADOPT A CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE

NAMES AVAILABLE ON  
NOVEMBER 1ST  
ON THE KIOSK IN THE NARTHEX

*Pray for them  
as they prepare  
to become  
fully initiated  
into the  
Catholic Church*

### HERE'S HOW:

- Pull a name from the jar in the narthex; it will have the date of their Confirmation
- Pray with their name as often as possible with any prayer you prefer (rosary, novena, etc)
- Write them a personal note to be given to them on the day of their Confirmation  
(Note cards are available in the R.E. office if you'd prefer.)



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## St. Mary's R.E. Mission 2025 RAFFLE FUNDRAISER!

Raffle will run from:  
Nov 10- Feb 15, 2026

### RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDED:

- ✂ FIRST PRIZE - \$1,000
- ✂ SECOND PRIZE - \$500
- ✂ THIRD PRIZE - \$250

Tickets  
available in  
the R.E.  
Office

Help us continue  
to build our  
mission!





# Christmas Gift Drive

- ★ The Christmas Giving Trees will be in the narthex soon!
- ★ Take a tag and purchase a gift for someone in need.

Bring your new, wrapped gift back to the Church Hall during the  
**Christmas Gift Drive, December 6 & 7**

All gifts will be picked up on Sunday, December 7th at 12:00 noon!  
**Please don't be late!**

Questions? Contact Donna Hungerford  
 dhungerford@gmail.com  
 (708)-326-9312

Watch the St. Mary Website  
 for student service hours  
 opportunities!!



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

To all of our incredible volunteers who make such a difference by touching the lives of others, we are so thankful for you!

Ministers of Care, Homebound Helpers, Daybreak Cooks and Servers, Bereavement Support and all who step up to help in so many ways, a sincere THANK YOU.

May God bless you all!  
*Donna Hungerford*

## There are now two St. Mary Blessing Pantries!

They are located just South of the front door of the parish, next to the parking lot. If you would like to donate non-perishable food items, please drop them off at the Parish Office. Be sure to check that they have not expired.



## URGENT

### Contact Governor Pritzker and urge him to VETO SB 1950 – Legalizing Assisted Suicide

At 2:54 AM on October 31, the Illinois State Senate narrowly passed **SB 1950**. The Illinois State House narrowly passed the Bill in the Spring. This Bill is now on the Governor's desk. This is the last chance to stop assisted suicide from becoming law in Illinois.

In Canada, where assisted suicide has been legal since 2016, **1 in 20 deaths are now due to assisted suicide/euthanasia**. Too many are giving up on life under this law.

Please **CALL GOVERNOR PRITZKER at 312.814.2121** and inform him:

- People with disabilities, the poor and marginalized fear coercion and abuse under assisted suicide laws.
- Suicide rates increase in states where assisted suicide is legal, especially among veterans.
- There is a possible cost savings to insurance companies as they can provide cheaper lethal drugs instead of lifesaving treatments.

Go to [www.ilcatholic.org](http://www.ilcatholic.org) for e-mail links, or **call the Governor's office directly at 312.814.2121**.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Read the Catholic Conference of Illinois' statement on the Passage of Assisted Suicide legislation: <https://www.ilcatholic.org/stop-assisted-suicide/>

"First Do No Harm" Go to the USCCB's Catholic Conference of Illinois about assisted suicide, including a FAQ, prayers, a Novena and more.

## Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe for Justice



Most merciful mother, you came to tell us of your compassion through St. Juan Diego, whom you called the littlest and dearest of your sons. Give your strength and protection to all who live in poverty today, especially the young elderly and vulnerable.

Plead for them to the Father, that they might experience the

Divine Love tangibly in their daily lives, and that all who work for justice on behalf of the poor might grow in fortitude and humility.

In these ways, manifest your charity and concern in our lives, that the weeping of humanity may be heard, and all our suffering, pain, and misfortune may be filled with divine comfort and healing.

May we always know the peace of being in the cradle of your arms, and bring us safely home to your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

JOIN THE ST. MARY PRO LIFE COMMITTEE

# CHRISTMAS CAROLING

IN FRONT OF  
PLANNED PARENTHOOD IN FLOSSMOOR  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH  
BRINGING LIGHT TO A DARK PLACE!

4:30 CHRISTMAS CAROLS  
(HOT CHOCOLATE & COOKIES WILL BE AVAILABLE)

5:30 P.M. ROSARY  
WITH ST. MARY MEN FOR LIFE

6:30 P.M. FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP  
AURELIO'S IN HOMEWOOD  
TO [TBLUE@STMARYMCKENA.ORG](mailto:TBLUE@STMARYMCKENA.ORG)  
BY DECEMBER 3RD.



## The Council of Catholic Women



### CCW CHRISTMAS PARTY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

**Aurelio's in Frankfort**  
**6:00 p.m.— 8:30 p.m.**  
**Cost is \$25.00**

**Members are asked to bring a NEW Secret Santa Gift valued at \$20.00 or more.**

The next **General Meeting** will be Thursday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall, Guadalupe Room



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The next **Officer Meeting** will be Tuesday, November 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall, Lourdes Room

The next **Council Meeting** will be Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall, Guadalupe Room

**K of C Christmas Party**  
Saturday, December 14th in the Church Hall



**Pictures with Santa**  
after Masses December 14 & 15  
in the Church Hall

Blood Drive, Thursday, December 18 from 1:00 p.m.— 7:00 pm in the Church Hall.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

- Do you enjoy knitting, crocheting, or sewing?
- Would you like to be a part of a Ministry helping those stricken with cancer, chronic conditions, or other situations by providing them with a prayer shawl?

**We invite you to join our group!**

**Our next meeting will be Monday,  
December 8th in the Church Hall**

**Fatima Room 9:00 a.m. –10:00 a.m.**

Prayer shawls for the ill, homebound and grieving are like receiving a "hug" from God. If you would like to give one to someone special you are welcome to choose from a wide variety of colors and sizes at the Parish office front desk.



Visit the St. Mary website for more information or just come to one of our meetings. We are especially in need of sewers!



## The Young at Heart Club

**Wednesday, December 3**

**Victorian Christmas Carolers/Lunch**  
**Jacob Henry Mansion in Joliet**

**Wednesday, December 17**

**Christmas Party at Ballagio Ristorante**

**Contact Marla Garbarczyk for information**





*"Let the children come to me,  
and do not prevent them;  
for the kingdom of heaven  
belongs to such as these." -Jesus*

#### To St. Mary Parishioners:

We are so grateful for how welcoming you are to our families with young children.

Please don't underestimate the power of a simple affirmation, smile, or word of encouragement to those around you after mass.

#### To the Parents of our Young Parishioners:

Thank you for bringing your growing family to celebrate with us! Know that you are welcome to sit toward the front where it's easier to see and hear and we encourage you to quietly explain the parts of the Holy Mass to your child. If you feel you must go to the narthex with your child, *please come back!*



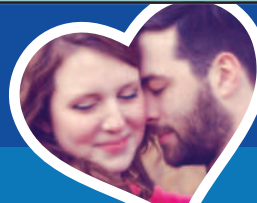
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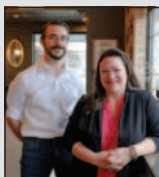
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