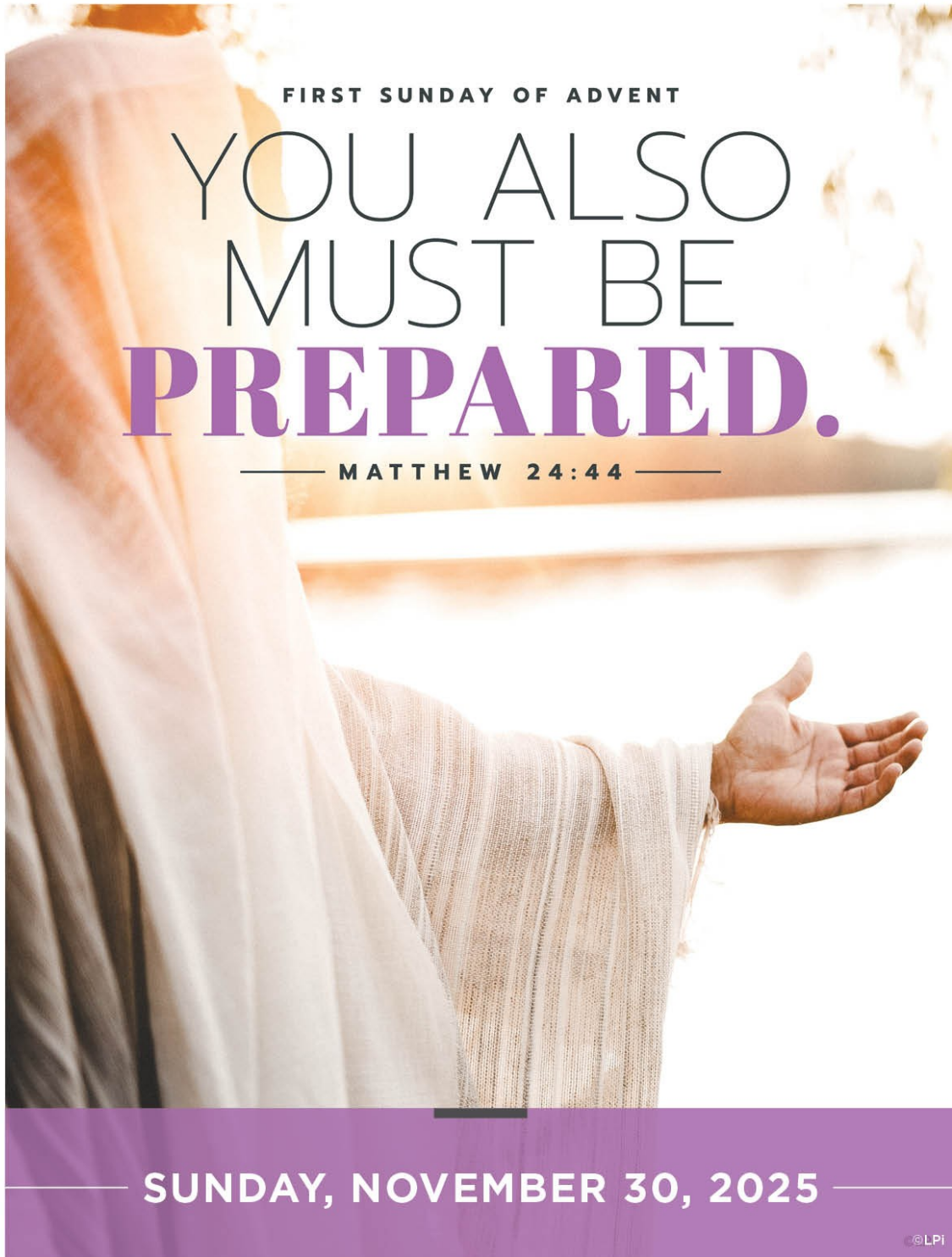


SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

"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.****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 deaondave@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

708-326-9314 tpritchard@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9313 mmurray@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9353 dkuboushek@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9355 esestak@stmarymokena.org

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708-326-9357 solsen@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9352 re@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9352 kbrez@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9312 deaconpete@aol.com, jbrett@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9312 dhungerford@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9302 jberardi@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9354 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

Marketing & 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.**ANointing of the Sick** - Please contact the parish office at 708-326-9300.

First Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 1

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

Tuesday, December 2

7:00 a.m. Confessions
8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
4:30 p.m. RE Reconciliation practice (Church)
4:30 p.m. RE Class (Gr. K-6)
6:30 p.m. RE Tuesday Class (Gr. 7-8)
6:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal (Church)
7:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Bible Study (JP II Room)

Wednesday, December 3

5:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
7:00 a.m. Confessions
7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
4:30 p.m. RE Class (Gr. 1-8)
6:00 p.m. Advent Confessions (Church)
6:30 p.m. RE Class (Gr. 7-8)

Thursday, December 4

7:00 a.m. Confessions
8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
4:30 p.m. RE Class (Gr. 1-8)
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Youth Ministry (School Cafeteria)
6:00 p.m. CCW Christmas Party (Offsite)

Friday, December 5

Christmas Gift Drive Set Up (Guadalupe and Fatima)

7:00 a.m. Confessions
8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
8:30 a.m. Adoration for Increased Vocations (Church)
8:45 a.m. First Friday Devotions (Chapel)
12:00p.m. First Friday Devotion Mass (Church)
6:00 p.m. First Reconciliation (Church)

Saturday, December 6

Christmas Gift Drive (Guadalupe and Fatima)

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)
10:00a.m. Altar Server Training (Church)
3:30 p.m. Confessions (Church)
5:00 p.m. Mass (Church)

Sunday, December 7

Christmas Gift Drive (Guadalupe and Fatima)

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



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE
NEWLY BAPTIZED

RYDER PAUL RIZZO,
LAYLA CHRISTINE O'BRIEN,
CARSON JAMES SULLENS,
CALLIE JAMES GILLENLINE

MAY GOD BLESS THE LITTLE ONES

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.



Mass Intentions

Monday, December 1

8:00am: Kelsey Mahns

Tuesday, December 2

8:00am: Helen and Len Wolniak, Henry Deval, Mary Hugelot, Theresa O'Connor

Wednesday, December 3

7:30am: April Ann Sullivan

8:30am: David Heniff

Thursday, December 4

8:00am: Frank Witowski

Friday, December 5

8:00am: Carmen Gambino, The Gorski Family

12:00pm: John Bozek

Saturday, December 6

8:00am: Mary Ann Cullen

5:00pm: Allen Budney, Mary Ann Cullen, Ruth Hopson, Grace Chesla, Peter

Pranckus, Kevin Bushnell, Frank Marciano, Susan and John Bozek, Michelle

Olson, Mary Deval, Linda Heinicke

Sunday, December 7

8:00am: Rosina Petrassi

9:30am: Stephen Unton

11:00am: Agnes Plecki

6:00pm: Jan Stephaniak

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, Barbara 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!

Please Pray for our Faithfully
Departed Brothers and Sisters

Mark Snyder



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

God Bless Our
New Parishioners

Ms. Margaret Guest,
The Malone family



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,

Happy New Year!

You might be surprised to hear that greeting now. While the secular new year begins on January 1st, the Church's liturgical new year begins today, on the first Sunday of Advent. So, for us, this marks a fresh beginning, a spiritual reset and a new journey with the Lord.

As we start this new liturgical year, we enter the beautiful and meaningful season of Advent. Many people think Advent is just the countdown to Christmas, but it's really much more. It's a time when the Church invites us to slow down a bit, to reflect, and to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means *arrival* or *coming*, and it reminds us not only of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, but also of His promise to come again. So, Advent reminds us to look back with gratitude, and to also look forward with hope.

That brings us to an important question: *What makes Advent special for us?* Advent stirs up a sense of longing in us, a holy desire for God to be close in our lives. It teaches us to wait not with frustration, but with joy and trust. In a world that keeps telling us to rush, Advent gently tells us to pause. It invites us to look at our hearts, turn back to God, and make room for Christ to come in more deeply. The candles we light each week show that even a little faith can overcome darkness. It tells us that God is not far away, that He is coming, and He draws near to those who watch and wait for Him.

As we begin this new liturgical year, my prayer is that Advent awakens hope in us and renews our spirits. May this season help us open our hearts to God's grace. And as we watch and wait for the Lord, may He find us ready, strong in faith, steady in hope, and shining with His love.

Send, O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

With love in Christ,

Fr. Joe Gasta, RCJ
Pastor



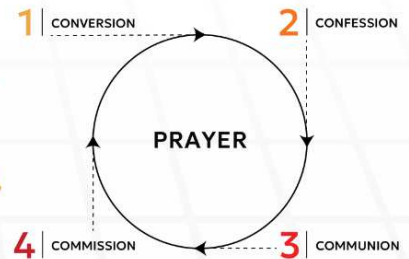
MAKE

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 meant 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.” He goes on to explain that it is possible to go through the motions of faith, but not really believe. 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. Bishop Hicks explains that all of us fall into sin, but Christ’s Death and Resurrection overpowered the effects of sin. By going to Confession, we are able to receive Christ’s grace and “live freely as beloved children of God.”
- 3) **Communion:** The Eucharist (Holy Communion) is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ. By receiving the Eucharist, we are, quite literally, able to unite ourselves with Christ Himself, and “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 wherever we are.
- 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

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.



December 6 - December 7: Second 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	Joan Aust Bob Jostes	Bob Cornejo Chris McGeever	John Brett Guy Cesario	YM Lector
Eucharistic Minister	Peter Baker Andy Lihosit Karen Sayon Andrea Taylor	Kathleen Orr Marvin Orr Stefanie Walthier Christine Weeks	Joe Austin Lin Austin Frank Dundek Frank Grobmeier	Sally Harper Remo Lucci Louise Szura NOT FILLED	Heidi Adducci Siena Adducci NOT FILLED
Altar Server	Seamus McGarry Avery McNamara NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Hannah Johnston Liam Sullivan NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Lucas Valente Henry Valente Erin Ventura Megan Wajda	Caleb Marietta Christopher Pienkos Cody Pienkos NOT FILLED	McKenna Griffin Daniela Lacny NOT FILLED
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	YM Usher 1 YM Usher 2 YM Usher 3 NOT FILLED
Greeter	Mary Ann Braasch	Joan Aust	Ed Dorey	Carolyn Farhat	Ed Dorey Linda Drake
Live Stream			Cyndi 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, 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



**Support our ministries this fall
 through faithful generosity.**

The Offertory for November 16th

Online Giving	\$12,955.65
Envelopes	\$23,888.71
	<hr/>
	\$36,844.36

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 8th 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 26th -28th
Benedictine Univserity
Lisle, IL**



Next Junior High Meetings

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

High School

**Nov. 30 Movie Night 7pm
Dec. 2 Bible Study 7:30pm
Dec. 7 Youth Ministry 7pm
Dec. 9. Bible Study 7:30pm
Dec. 14 Donut Sunday
Dec. 14 Christmas Party 7pm**

Contact Youth Minister, Matt Jung, with any questions.

mjung@stmarymokena.org



Youth Ministry

Advent Challenge 2025

**Fill Jesus' Manger With Good Works
This Christmas!**

Take a piece of paper from the basket in the narthex and read your challenge! Once you have completed your good work, place a cotton ball in the manger so Jesus has a nice warm manger to be born in!



EVANGELIZATION

1:1 Series

Session 3

"How do you hear God speak?"



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

Online Advent Resources

FORMED



daily.formed.org/advent



ASCENSION
The Faith Formation Leader



[ascensionpress.com/
frmikeadvent](https://ascensionpress.com/frmikeadvent)

Hallow



hallow.com/advent

relevant
radio

relevantradio.com/advent



MOMS Podcast Club

Join other Catholic moms of school-age children and younger for conversation on the "Abiding Together" podcast.

Friday, December 19

9:30 am

in the Church Hall

**"S17 E6 - Return to the Heart
with Dr. Shane Owens"**

Listen to podcast prior to gathering (search "Abiding Together" 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

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

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.

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.

TITANS WITH INTEGRITY



DR. ENGELMAN, FR. JOE AND FR. WELBERT RECOGNIZED OUR "TITANS WITH INTEGRITY" STUDENTS FOR OCTOBER. THESE STUDENTS EXEMPLIFIED REVERENCE, CHARACTER, AND RESPECT, LIVING OUT THE VIRTUES WE VALUE AT SMS.

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.
- **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.

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.)



Sponsored by
the Religious
Education
Office



Religious Education

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

★ Thanks to everyone who took tags!!

Bring your new, wrapped gifts 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@stmarymokena.org
(708) 326-9312



Visit the St. Mary Website for student
service hours opportunities
to help sort and bag gifts!!



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
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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.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

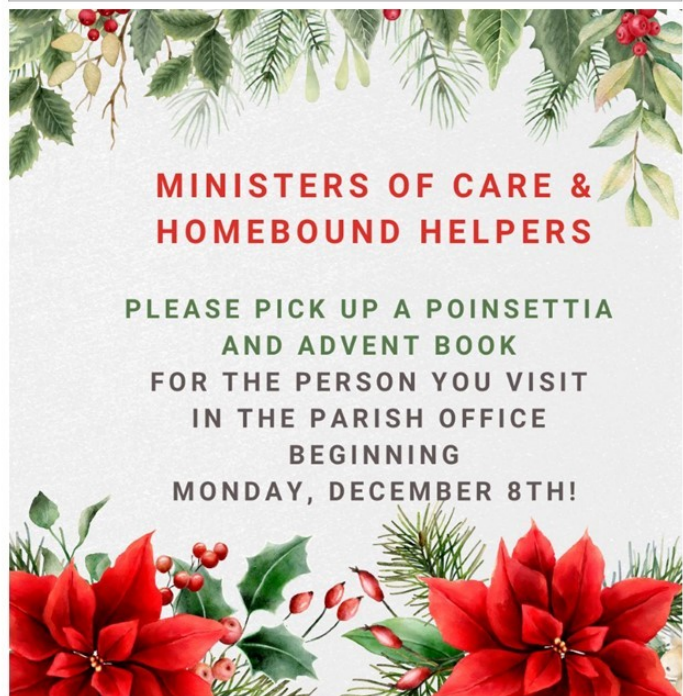
The next **Officer Meeting** will be
Tuesday, November 25 at
7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall, Lourdes Room

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 13th
in the Church Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Blood Drive, Thursday,
December 18 from
2:00 p.m.— 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall.



MINISTERS OF CARE & HOMEBOUND HELPERS

PLEASE PICK UP A POINSETTIA
AND ADVENT BOOK
FOR THE PERSON YOU VISIT
IN THE PARISH OFFICE
BEGINNING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH!

The Young at Heart Club

Wednesday, December 3

Victorian Christmas Carolers/Lunch
Jacob Henry Mansion in Joliet

Wednesday, December 17

Christmas Party at Balagio Ristorante

Contact Marla Garbarczyk for information
708-308-2505






JOIN US IN CELEBRATION

The Diocese of Joliet invites you to witness and celebrate the

Diaconate Ordination

of

Christopher Otieno Omondi Joshua Allen White Alex Markiso

December 6, 2025 10:00 AM Our Lady of Mercy
701 S Eola Rd, Aurora, IL 60504

No RSVP required

*"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!*



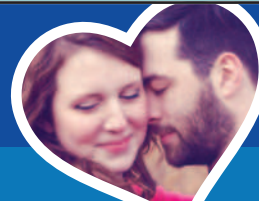
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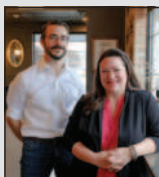
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