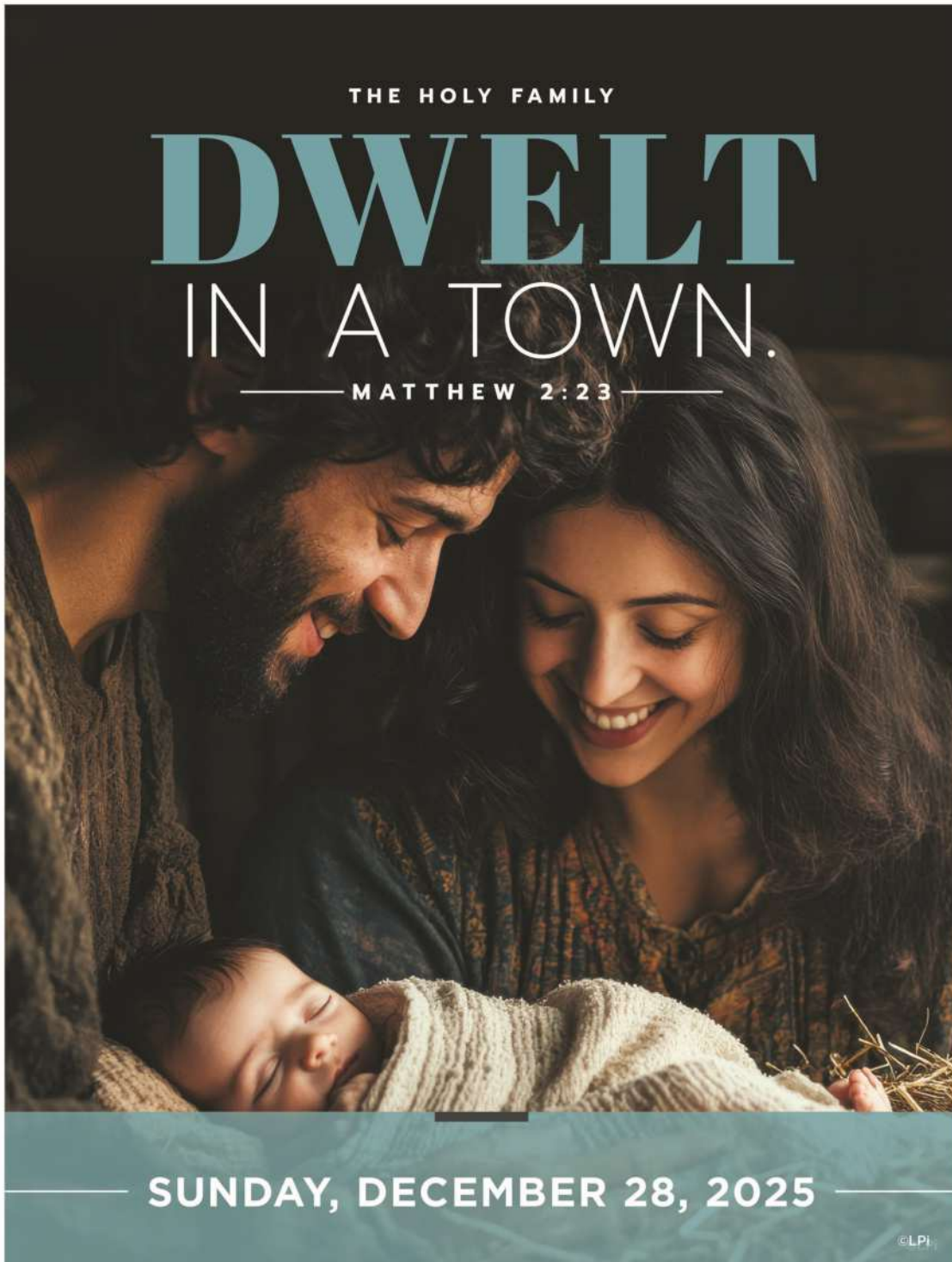


SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

"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

708-326-9356 tbrongiel@stmarymokena.org

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.

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 29

8:00am: Kevin Mitros

Tuesday, December 30

8:00am: Ercole and Innocenza Sturino, Davod Heniff, Harriet Whitely, Chris Sabatino, Mary and Kyle Griffin, The Farhat family

Wednesday, December 31

8:00am: Bernice and Frank Gorz

5:00pm: Peter Prancus, George Rohrer

Thursday, January 1

8:00am: Ercole and Innocenza Sturino

12:00pm: Therese Hanley

7:00pm: Dennis Dilger Sr.

Friday, January 2

8:00am: Margaret Witowski

Saturday, January 3

8:00am: Jack Payton

5:00pm: Linda Ernat, John and Ida Marchiando

Sunday, January 4

8:00am: Terry McGuinness

9:30am: Dale Yukich

11:00am: Carolyn Reils, Mary Pipala

6:00pm: Rick Powers

Please Pray for our Faithfully
Departed Brothers and Sisters

Nicholas Pagoria

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

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

God Bless Our New Parishioners

The Ortiz family,
The Stephen Gorski family



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE NEWLY BAPTIZED
SAMI MICHAEL MOURCHID,
MAISIE LYNN GEIGER,
THEODORE PAUL GEIGER,
CONNOR THOMAS OMAHEN,
VITO ANDOLINI CAVELLE
MAY GOD BLESS THE LITTLE ONES



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.

The Holy Family

Monday, December 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, December 30

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 6:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal (Church)

Wednesday, December 31

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

Thursday, January 1

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 12:00p.m. Mass (Church)
 7:00 p.m. Mass (Church)

Friday, January 2

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 Devotion (Chapel)
 9:00 a.m. Homeschool Meetup (Guadalupe)
 12:00p.m. Mass First Friday Devotion(Church)

Saturday, January 3

7:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 8:30 a.m. First Saturday Confessions(Church)
 9:15 a.m. Militia Immaculata (Fatima)
 3:30 p.m. Confessions (Church)
 5:00 p.m. Mass (Church)
 6:00 p.m. Catechist Epiphany Party (Guadalupe)

Sunday, January 4

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

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD



A Holy Day of Obligation
 January 1, 2026

December 31st	January 1st Masses
Vigil Mass	8:00am
5:00pm	12:00pm
	7:00pm

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
 FROM MONDAY, DECEMBER 29TH
 THROUGH FRIDAY, JANUARY 2ND IN
 OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW
 YEAR'S. WE WILL REOPEN THE MORNING
 OF MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH AT 8:30 A.M.

2) MORNING CONFESSIONS WILL BE
 CANCELLED ON
 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1ST.

3) MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED
 AT 8:00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY,
 DECEMBER 31ST.

THERE IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS WEEK!

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: January 1st

This Solemnity falls on the last day of the Octave of Christmas. The date was decided as a way to **honor the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, without whom Christ's birth would not have been possible.

AN OCTAVE IS A PERIOD OF EIGHT DAYS WITHIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S CALENDAR. THIS 8-DAY PERIOD IS A WAY TO EXTEND THE CELEBRATION OF A PARTICULAR SOLEMNITY OR FEAST.

It is through the Blessed Mother that Christ was brought into this world. For this reason, **we turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary in prayer to ask for her intercession.** Just as Christ's life was made possible through His Blessed Mother, so our prayers might be brought to Christ through her, as well.



This Solemnity is a Holy Day of Obligation!
Make sure to attend Mass for this Solemnity to honor our Blessed Mother.

January 3 - January 4: The Epiphany of the Lord

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 9:30 AM	Sunday, 11:00 AM	Sunday, 6:00 PM
Lector	Andy Lihosit Anne Trovato	Midge Saunders Alice Wierzbinski	Richard Hamilton Stan Nowak	Guy Cesario Roberta Dreifke	Ed Pluchar
Eucharistic Minister	Karen Gordon John Mitoraj Sue Murphy Karen Sayon	Bob Cornejo Robert Rafferty Susan Rizzo Nancy Santry	Sally Harper Gretchen Nenn Joshua Sifuentes Kathleen Sifuentes	Remo Lucci Bob Meyers Louise Szura NOT FILLED	Karen Haugh Robert Koch Judy Siegmund
Altar Server	Johnny Cotton Rosamund Cotton Molly Cotton Avery McNamara	Jillian Ferin David Heitman NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Silas Kuboushek Theo Kuboushek Logan Raimondi Erin Ventura	Christian Taylor Luke Tyrka Zachary Tyrka NOT FILLED	Charlie Pluchar Stella Pluchar Therese Pluchar
Usher	Mary Ann Braasch Jim Grady Maurice Helm Mark Miron James Palermo Tom Siemieniec Joe Toman	Chris Cichowicz Ed Dorey Rich Gavillet Roy Mueller Gregory Santry	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	Joan Aust	Ed Dorey	Carolyn Farhat	Ed Dorey
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.



From Your Pastor

My dearest parishioners,

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

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. But what does this feast really mean for us? It reminds us that when God became a man, He chose to be part of a real family. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lived a family life like ours. They experienced happiness and celebrations, but they also faced problems and hard times. In fact, today's Gospel shows us that the Holy Family went through struggles too.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Joseph is told in a dream to take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt. Think of their fear and worry: *leaving home at night, traveling to a foreign land, not knowing what would happen.* **Jesus began His life as a refugee.** Mary and Joseph had the big responsibility of keeping Him safe, while feeling tired and anxious themselves. Their journey was long and hard, but they trusted God and obeyed Him. When it was safe, they didn't go back to their old home but started again in Nazareth, trusting God's plan.

The Holy Family teaches us that holiness does not mean living life without problems. Rather, it means facing life's challenges with faith, courage, and love. This is a message that speaks powerfully to our own families. Many among us carry burdens: *financial strain, illness, misunderstandings, or emotional pain.* Some families may feel as though they too are on a long and challenging journey to Egypt, looking for safety, comfort, and peace.

As we honor the Holy Family, let us remember that God understands our struggles because He lived them too. May every home in our parish be full of peace, forgiveness, and prayer. And may Jesus, Mary, and Joseph pray for us, helping our families stay loving, faithful and united, especially when life is hard.

Send, O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

With love in Christ,

Fr. Joe Gasta, RCJ
Pastor

Join Us For the Kick-Off **the Rosary Men**



Wednesday, January 7, 6:30pm Church Hall

Now is the time to answer Our Lady's call to action as a man, husband, father, mentor or young man. Become the spiritual leader you are called to be at home and in the community.

Join other faith filled men for an hour of fellowship, formation, and of course, the Rosary!

- Fathers
- Husbands
- Grandfathers
- Godfathers
- Teens
- All Men
- Dads, bring your sons

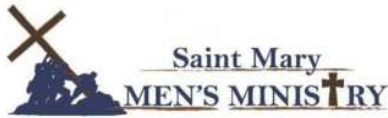


***Real Men Pray
the Rosary***

Answer Her Call!

Following our January kick-off, the Rosary Men will meet regularly on the first Wednesday of every month.

Mark Your Calendars!



All men are invited to join us for our next meeting

**SATURDAY,
JANUARY 24**

Double Header Meeting:

***A Brief History of the
Diocese of Joliet***

with Jim Lynch



***Grow in Faith and Fellowship:
The Power of Small
Group Formation***
with Bob Cornejo

**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

St. Mary Parish will start
celebrating

***First Friday
Masses***

as part of the First Friday Devotion
to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**Next Mass: Friday, January 2nd
12:00 PM**

The First Friday Devotion consists of:

- Receiving Communion on the First Friday of each month for nine Fridays in a row
- Offering Communion in honor of Christ's Sacred Heart and in reparation for the sins committed against His Sacred Heart



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

**The Offertory for
December 14th**

Online Giving	\$12,282.90
Envelopes	\$16,409.80
	<hr/>
	\$28,692.70

Budget \$34,000

**Thank you so much for your
generosity!**

Online Giving

Give your
gift today.

Scan the QR
Code





Spring 2026 Youth Ministry Schedule

High School

January 4
January 11 (Mass)
January 25
February 1 Veterans Game Day
February 22 (Mass)
March 1
March 8
March 22 (Mass)
March 29
April 12 Leadership Sunday
April 19 (Mass)
May 3
May 10
May 24 (Mass)
May 31

Donut Sunday's

January 18
February 15 (Fat Sunday)
March 15
April 26
May 17

Junior High

6:30 pm in the school hall

January 8
January 22
February 5
February 19
March 5
March 19
April 1
April 30
May 14

After School events for SMS
Students coming soon

High School Bible Study

Every Tuesday* starting
January 6th through May
19th. We will work through
the letters of James,
Romans, Jude, and
Timothy

All Dates subject to change.

More info contact Matt Jung at mjung@stmarymokena.org



BE FORMED

SEASON 12: THE CREED – JESUS CHRIST

FEBRUARY 13 – MAY 13, 2026

Learn more about the Creed and the identity of Jesus Christ through this 90-Day Discipleship Ministry!
For more information, visit our website at beformed.net.

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 5, 2026



beformed.net



beformed2020@gmail.com



MONICA'S MISSION

ST. MARY PARISH MOKENA

BRINGING LOVED ONES BACK TO THE CHURCH



ALL ARE INVITED TO:

- PRAYER FOR OUR LOVED ONES AWAY FROM THE FAITH
- COMMUNITY AND FAITH SHARING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH
6:00 p.m. in the Church Hall

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.

Would you like to help?

We are looking for reverts to the faith, willing to share their faith journey back to the Church.

Contact Deacon Pete Manning: deaconpete@aol.com SUBJECT: "Revert"

SCRIPTURE STUDY



January 20th - March 24th

TUESDAY EVENINGS

7PM

-OR-

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

9AM

Take 9 weeks to delve into the Scriptures surrounding the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Holy Spirit!

Registration due before **January 11th**

Parish rate: \$27

Registrations after this date, books will be purchased individually.

Individual rate: \$30

Link to register: www.stmarymokena.org/scripture
or sign up after Mass January 11th in the Narthex

Adult Faith Formation
Presents:

The Wild Goose Series

Adult Confirmation Preparation Classes

These faith formation classes focus on the Holy Spirit and incorporating God's love in your daily life

Join us on Monday evenings

January 26th - May 11th

6:30pm

Church Hall

For questions or registration, contact Megan Murray:
mmurray@stmarymokena.org

Register
today!

St. Mary Mokena



FAMILY Day

An Opportunity to
Grow in Faith at Every Age

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1
12-3 PM

All parishioners, regardless of age, are warmly invited to an afternoon filled with faith-based activities, a shared meal, and memories made together at St. Mary's! Here's what you can look forward to:



- ✓ Lunch all together as a Parish Family
- ✓ Split into age groups (adult, teen, grade school, and nursery) for an age-appropriate talk or activity
- ✓ End with a communal time of prayer



Register by January 25 at
www.stmarymokena.org/family



ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Open House Dates

January 15, 2026 from 5:00 - 7:30 PM
VIP Sneak Peek Night

and

January 25, 2026 from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Open House & Tours

Both events will be an outstanding opportunity for prospective families to take private tours led by SMS teachers, staff, administration, clergy, students, and alumni. These tours provide an inside look at the vibrant academic and community life at St. Mary Catholic School. RSVP is required.

The St. Mary Difference

- Rooted in Catholic values, we welcome families of all faiths
- Will County's Largest Catholic Elementary School
- Rigorous Academic Curriculum
- High School Readiness with Advanced Algebra
- Multi-Student Discount
- Safe & Loving Place to Learn



For additional questions, contact Marketing & Enrollment Coordinator Danelle Bernas at dbernas@stmarymokena.org.

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: January 16, 2026 (NEW DATE)

Questions? Call or email Tracy Lendi at 630-290-7059 or at tracylendi@me.com.

Cookbooks will be available for ordering soon.

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: _____

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*



*Sponsored by
the Religious
Education
Office*

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.)

Christmas Star

RE VOLUNTEER EPIPHANY
DINNER



2026

Let's make this season bright

SAT JANUARY 3, 2026 | 6:00 P.M.

You and a guest are invited to attend

RSVP online by Dec. 19

Provide any food allergies and # attending



**\$15 grab bag gift
exchange optional**



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!**

TICKET

312268

Stewardship -December 28, 2025

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

As we continue our celebration of the Christmas season, today's feast of the Holy Family invites us to reflect on the gift and calling of family life. The Church calls the family the "domestic church," the place where our faith takes root — and where the stewardship virtue of hospitality begins.

Why is hospitality vital to family life? Because our homes should be a place of love, welcome, and restoration. We can't expect to grow in prayer, service, or faith if our home atmosphere is disconnected or tense. Though no family is perfect, we must intentionally create homes where everyone feels loved and valued.

Our readings offer practical wisdom. In the Book of Sirach, we hear about the blessings that come when children respect their parents — and when adult children lovingly care for their aging parents. Respect and tenderness build a home filled with unity and peace.

St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians offers even more insight. He reminds us that each family member is "God's chosen one," and urges us to "put on" compassion, kindness, humility, and patience — even when we may not feel like it. These small, daily acts of love foster true hospitality at home, which then extends to the wider community.

The Holy Family, too, knew hardship. As today's Gospel reminds us, they faced danger, displacement, and uncertainty. Yet Mary and Joseph remained faithful, trusting in God's plan. They are powerful intercessors for our own families today. On this feast, may we recommit to making our homes places of love and welcome. Let's honor God through the way we treat each other at home — with patience, forgiveness, and care.

Happy Feast of the Holy Family to all who live the stewardship way of life!

©Catholic Stewardship Consultants



There are now two St. Mary Blessing Pantries

Look for them 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.
Thank you for helping those in need!



THE ST. MARY
PRO LIFE COMMITTEE

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

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






**Consider joining the
St. Mary Pro-Life
Committee**

OUR NEXT MEETING IS
THURSDAY,
January 8th
We meet on the
2nd Thursday of
each month in
the Church Hall
at 9:00 a.m.
We welcome
new members
and new ideas!





The Council of Catholic Women

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



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The next **Council Meeting** will be Tuesday, January 13
7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall



Save the Date!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH AFTER
ALL MORNING MASSES IN THE
CHURCH HALL

Prayer
Shawls
Available



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

Prayer Shawl Ministry



**We do not
meet in
January
Stay warm!**



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, January 11
after all morning Masses
in the Church Hall.

COST:

Free will offering
All donations will benefit the
K of C and the charities
it supports.



Join the St. Mary Knights of
Columbus for all you can eat
pancakes, eggs, sausage and special
fruit toppings.

Start your day with a great
breakfast and the great company of
your fellow parishioners.

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*"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!*



children's Liturgy

**All children from Kindergarten
through grade 3 are invited to
attend during 9:30 am Mass**

Please note:

Preschool-aged children must be accompanied by an adult or older sibling.

**Come to hear
God's word!**



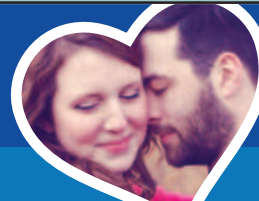
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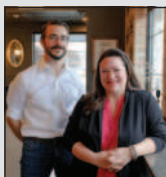


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