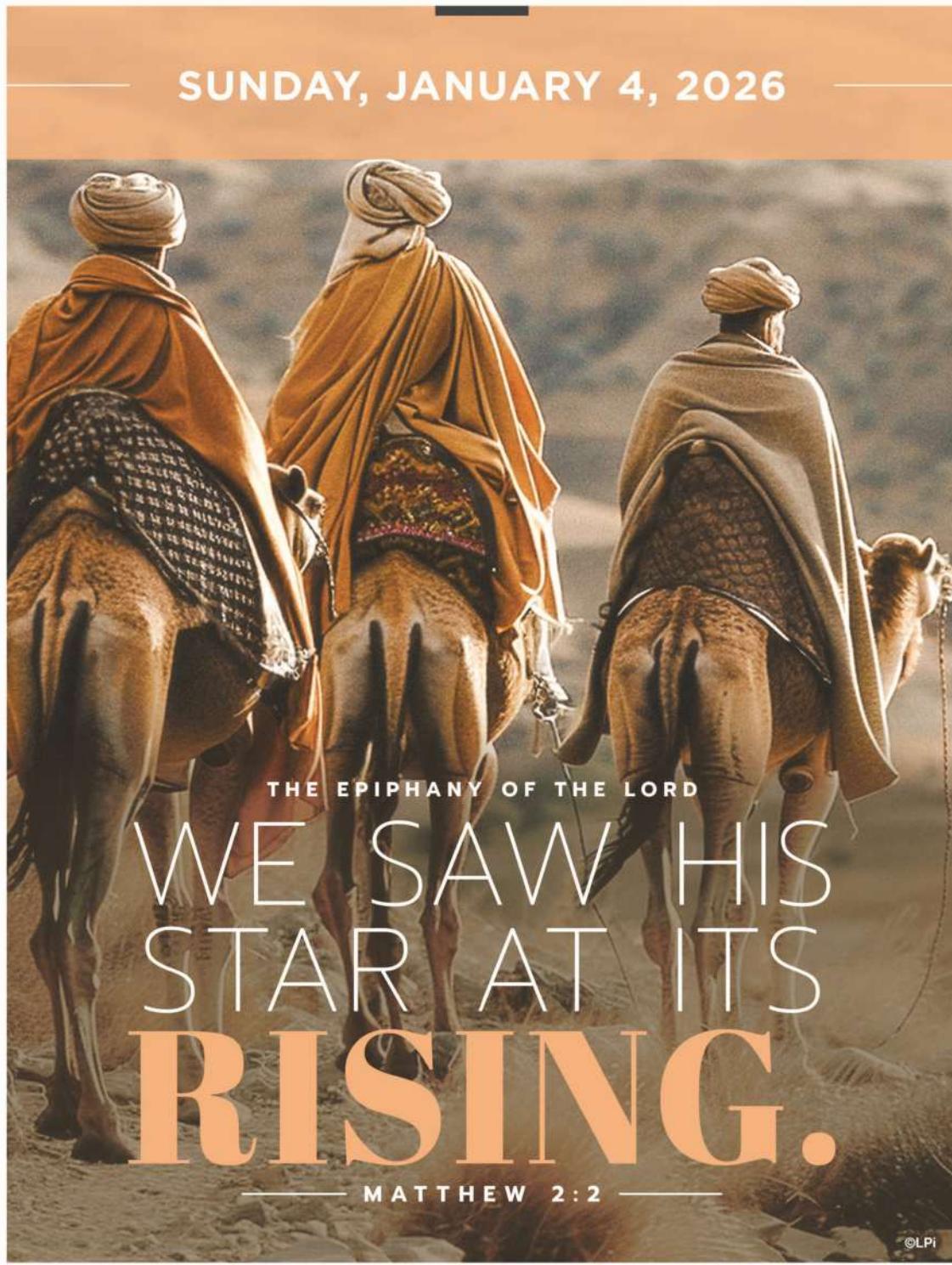


SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

"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/CONFESIONS:

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

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708-326-9311 lclark@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9310 perry@stmarymokena.org

zhabib@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9330

708-326-9332 office@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9348 mengelman@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9347 mhuizinga@stmarymokena.org

dbernas@stmarymokena.org

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

School Office:

School Secretary, Charlotte Catchings

School Principal, Michele Alday-Engelman

School Assistant Principal, Michelle Huizinga

Marketing & Enrollment, Danelle Bernas

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, January 5

8:00am: Deceased members of the Heffernan Family

Tuesday, January 6

8:00am: Adeline Sestak, Dennis Panozzo, David Heniff, Guy Cesario III, Farhat family

Wednesday, January 7

8:00am: Wayne Sobota

5:00pm: Dennis Dilger Sr.

Thursday, January 8

8:00am: Diana Nash

Friday, January 9

8:00am: Barbra Noone

Saturday, January 10

8:00am: Kenneth Schissler

5:00pm: Kenneth Schissler, Linda Ernat, Marietta and Carmine Cesario, Ma Guadalupe Iniquez, Butkus, Sinal and Ksiazek families

Sunday, January 11

8:00am: Jack Payton, Al Meyers

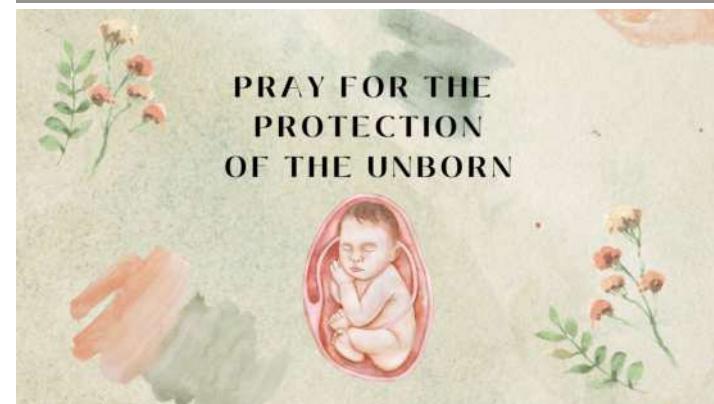
9:30am: Patricia Keene

11:00am: Kathy Brown

6:00pm: Della Miernicki

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 Castle, 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, Joelle 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 Walles, Kathy Wereldsma Leo Wilczek, Tim Weber, Jodie Weber, Jonathan Weber, Dan Wolf, Jerry Wolff, Diana Woods, Karen Yaeger, Kathleen Yonker



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 Quattrochi, 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 Epiphany of the Lord

Monday, January 5

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 10:00a.m. Marriage & Family Ministry (Fatima)
 4:45 p.m. 1st Reconciliation Practice (Church)
 6:00 p.m. SPRED Meeting (Fatima)
 6:30 p.m. Rosary (Church)

Tuesday, January 6

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 4:30 p.m. RE Gr. K-6 (Classrooms)
 6:00 p.m. School Board Meeting (Lourdes)
 6:30 p.m. RE Gr. 7-8 (Classrooms)

Wednesday, January 7

5:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 7:00 a.m. Confessions
 7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
 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)
 6:00 p.m. Rosary Men Set Up (Guadalupe & Fatima)
 6:00 p.m. Finance Council Meeting (Fatima)
 6:30 p.m. RE Gr. 7-8 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. Rosary Men (Guadalupe and Fatima)

Thursday, January 8

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 9:00 a.m. Pro Life Committee Meeting (Lourdes)
 10:00a.m. Set Up Epiphany Party (Fatima)
 1:00 p.m. Clergy/Deanery Epiphany Party (Fatima)
 4:30 p.m. RE Gr. 1-8 (Classrooms)
 6:00 p.m. Monica's Mission (Guadalupe)
 7:00 p.m. Women's Welcome (Fatima)

Friday, January 9

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 8:30 a.m. Adoration for Increased Vocations (Church)
 4:30 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal (Church)
 6:00 p.m. First Reconciliation RE & Noonan (Church)
 7:00 p.m. First Reconciliation Reception (Church Hall)

Saturday, January 10

7:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 10:30a.m. K of C Pancake Breakfast Set Up (Guadalupe And Lourdes)
 11:30a.m. Wedding Mass (Church)
 3:30 p.m. Confessions (Church)
 5:00 p.m. Mass (Church)

Sunday, January 11

7:15 a.m. Lauds (Church)
 7:30 a.m. K of C Pancake Breakfast (Church Hall)
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 9:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
 9:30 a.m. RE Gr. K-6 (Classrooms)
 11:00a.m. Mass (Church)
 12:00p.m. OCIA Meeting (Lourdes)
 6:00 p.m. Mass (Church)
 6:00 p.m. Youth Ministry (Guadalupe)

EVANGELIZATION

1:1 Series

Learn how to share your faith with confidence!

Practice in a community of disciples committed to living on mission!



1st Tuesday of every month

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Blanchette Catholic Center



Questions? Contact Alex Buldak
abuldak@dioceseofjoliet.org / 815-221-6256
 Begins October 7, 2025



Soul to Soul Coaching Presents

Catholic Speed Dating

Ages 21ish-39ish

St. Priscilla's Church

Chicago, IL

January 24th

5:00pm



REGISTER HERE



Register here

Blessings on the Feast of the Epiphany



January 10 - January 11: The Baptism of the Lord

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 9:30 AM	Sunday, 11:00 AM	Sunday, 6:00 PM
Lector	Pamela DeGregorio Sue Mahns	Joan Aust Bob Jostes	Denise L Bartolotta Karen Dilger	Sean Gleason Art Wilson	Youth Ministry Lector
Eucharistic Minister	Peter Baker Mary Ann Braasch Ted Kopczynski Andy Lihosit	Joan Aust Joseph Budzyn Kathleen Orr Marvin Orr	Roger Brown Michael Dilger Kathy Judge Joanette Kulesa	Joanne Eckel Sally Harper Patti Pertchi NOT FILLED	Heidi Adducci Siena Adducci NOT FILLED
Altar Server	Avery McNamara Charleigh Widelski Scarlett Widelski NOT FILLED	Hannah Johnston Liam Sullivan NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Annie Kibbon CJ Strzelczyk Emma Strzelczyk Megan Wajda	Natalie Galka Ryan Gross Caleb Marietta NOT FILLED	Allison Eiden Caitlin Eiden Gretchen Eiden McKenna Griffin
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	Youth Ministry Usher 1 Youth Ministry Usher 2 Youth Ministry Usher 3 NOT FILLED
Greeter	Mary Ann Braasch	Ed Dorey	Ed Dorey	Ed Dorey	Ed Dorey
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.



From Your Pastor

My dearest parishioners,

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

As we begin another year of grace, many of us, if not all, are thinking about our New Year's resolutions. Every January, we make personal lists with the best intentions: *to pray more, live healthier lives, be more patient, or spend more time with our families*. But if we are honest, we often look back and see that we did not fully keep the resolutions we made last year. This can be discouraging, but it also teaches us something important. It reminds us that while we desire goodness, growth, and change, we often rely only on our own strength. It shows us our human tendency to promise much but follow through too little. However, God does not point this out to make us feel guilty. Instead, He invites us to begin again and to depend more on His grace than on our own strength.

As we make our resolutions again this new year, let us take them seriously. We may not live them out perfectly, but we can try to be faithful. When we often fail to meet our goals, it may be because we have not given them enough attention or commitment. We also may need to give it to prayer. This year, let us ask God to help us live what we promise.

This message fits well with today's Feast of the Epiphany. The word *Epiphany* comes from the Greek word *Epiphaneia*, which means manifestation or revelation. Just as Jesus was revealed to the Magi as the light of the world, this new year invites us to look honestly at our own lives. Our choices, habits, and resolutions reveal who we are becoming and who we desire to be before God. May this feast inspire us to let Christ be revealed in our lives more clearly: *in the way we speak, the kindness we show, our faithfulness to prayer, and our commitment to growth*.

As the Magi followed the star with faith and trust, may we follow Christ with renewed commitment this year. May our resolutions be more than words on paper, but signs of hearts that truly want to grow closer to Him. Wishing you a grace-filled New Year and a blessed Epiphany!

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!

 **Saint Mary**
MEN'S MINISTRY

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

 **FIT SHEPHERDS**

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





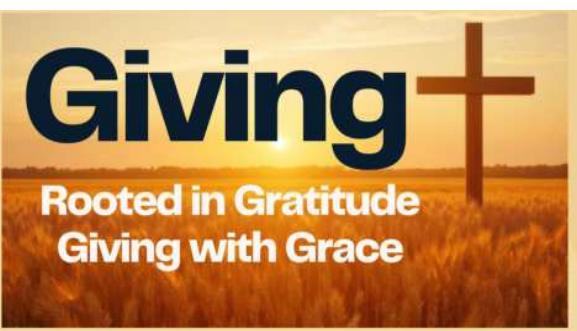
Exodus 90 is a ninety-day program for men.

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

Giving 

**Rooted in Gratitude
Giving with Grace**

Support our ministries this fall through faithful generosity.

The Offertory for December 14th	
Online Giving	\$16,129.65
Envelopes	\$24,126.22
	<hr/>
	\$40,255.87

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

Online Giving
Give your gift today.
Scan the QR Code





Youth Ministry

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

SCRIPTURE STUDY



CONFIRMATION
The Sacrament of Confirmation

Janauary 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



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 revert to the faith, willing to share their faith journey back to the Church.
 Contact Deacon Pete Manning: deaconpete@aol.com SUBJECT: "Revert"

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



SCHOOL



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

SCAN
ME



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



Religious Education

Thank You!





Pjs & A book Drive





RE families donated bins full of new PJs and books to "My Joyful Heart" in Mokena for local kids to snuggle up with a book this winter

708-326-9352

QUESTIONS?:

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!



Stewardship Reflection**January 4, 2026****The Epiphany of the Lord**

As our celebration of Christmas continues, today we observe the great feast of The Epiphany of the Lord. The word “epiphany” comes from Greek and means manifestation or appearance. The stewardship way of life is one in which we live in grateful response to God’s countless manifestations in our lives.



Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, has much to teach us about stewardship, through the actions of the magi. As good stewards, the magi were watching for manifestations of God’s presence in their lives. “We have seen the star at its rising,” they say. Good stewards are keenly aware of the “star” of God’s presence and His gifts in their lives. It is this awareness that fills them with gratitude and the desire to both worship God and share His gifts with others.

The magi, upon seeing the manifestation of God’s presence in their lives, “were overjoyed.” Good stewards, who live with the awareness of God’s presence and gifts to them, simply can’t help but be filled with joy. Not necessarily the fleeting and superficial kind of joy the world promises through wealth or power, but rather the deep, unalterable joy only God can give.

Finally, the magi were so filled with awe upon encountering the newborn Jesus, they prostrated themselves before him and “opened their treasures and offered him gifts.” This is precisely why good stewards generously share their material gifts — as a loving act of worship to an extravagantly loving God.

Let us rejoice in God’s manifestations in our lives and be watchful for the new ways He is calling us to share ourselves and our gifts in gratitude to our King in the year ahead.

©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!





coldest *night
OF THE YEAR



**catholic
charities**
Diocese of Joliet

**SUPPORTING
CATHOLIC CHARITIES'
DAYBREAK CENTER**



SCAN



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28
DOWNTOWN JOLIET**

**Coldest Night of the Year
is a winterrific
family-friendly walk
in support of
Catholic Charities'
Daybreak Center.**



**FREE to
Participate!**

Daybreak Center operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, providing emergency housing and supportive services to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. Participants stay in a safe and clean environment while receiving comprehensive case management.

Winter is an especially busy time at the shelter, which also operates as a warming center during cold weather. As such, the shelter (and the soup kitchen located within the shelter) is often operating at capacity.



Ready to get started? Visit cnoy.com/location/joliet
Questions? Contact Derek Schultz at dschultz@cc-doj.org or 815-724-1160

**TEAM UP, FUNDRAISE, WALK, AND TAKE A MOMENT TO LOOK CLOSER...
BECAUSE IT'S COLD OUT THERE**

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet is a faith-based organization providing service to people in need and calling others of good will to do the same.







**ALL MEMBERS AND
THEIR FAMILIES
ARE WELCOME**

**ST. MARY'S
COUNCIL 6993**

BOWLING NIGHT

*Get ready for a night of strikes and spares
at the Council's Family Bowling Night!*



WED. JANUARY 21ST

7PM - 9PM

THUNDER BOWL

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\$21 Per Bowler

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RSVP BY TUES. JAN. 13TH

Tom McDermott

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Please include the number of bowlers



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

Save the Date!

St. Patrick Family Celebration

Sunday, March 8 in the Church Hall at 12:00 p.m. after the 11:00 a.m. Mass

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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 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.

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.

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



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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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