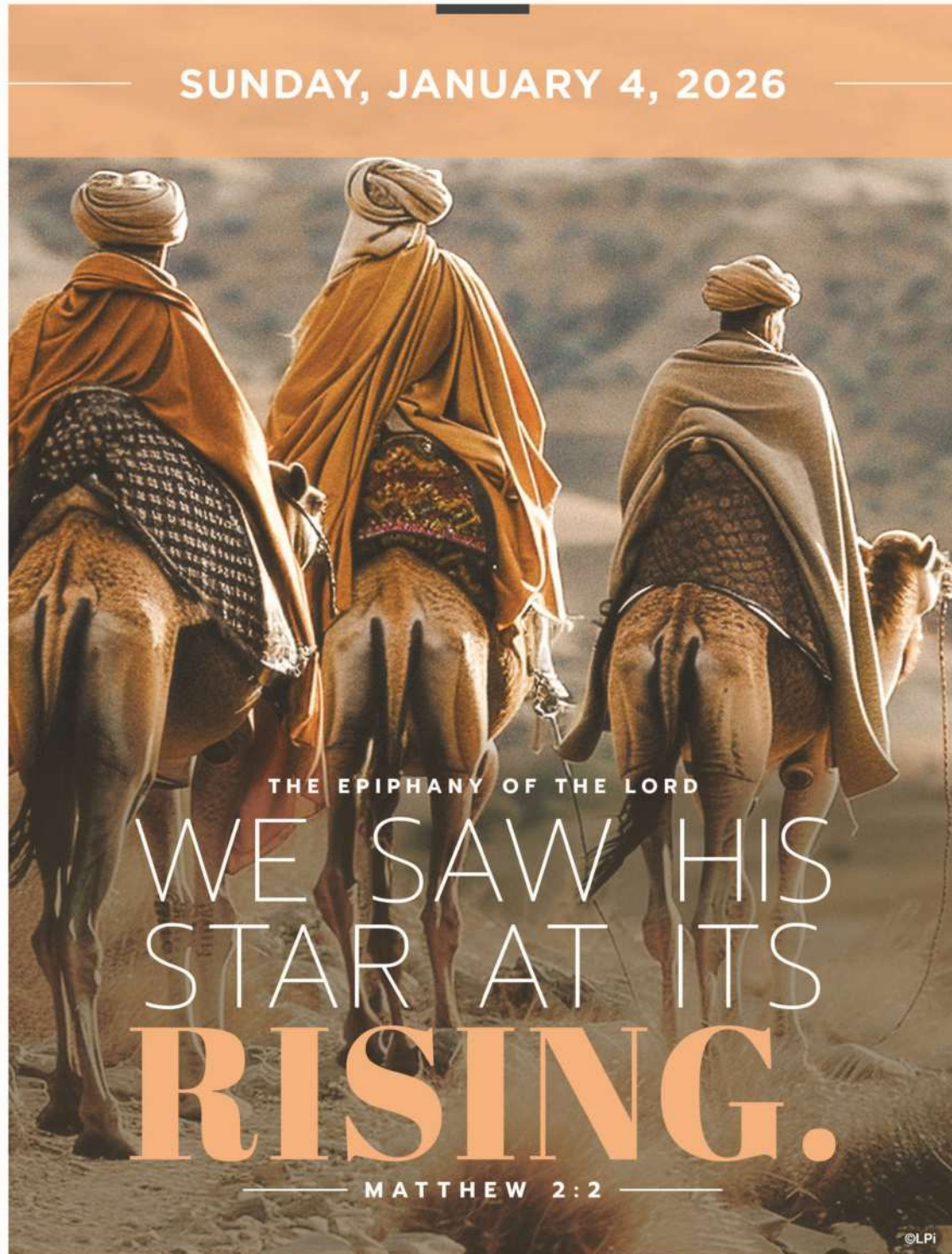


# SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

***"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

Maintenance Supervisor, Gerardo "Gerry" Iniguez

Morning Maintenance, Thomas Pritchard

Director of Faith Formation, Megan Murray

Assistant Director of Faith Formation, Danielle Kuboushek

Assistant Director to the Clergy/Program Coord., Erica Sestak

Director of Religious Education, Tami Brongiel

Assistant Director of Religious Education, Suzy Olsen

RE Office Assistant, Kathy Brzeszkiewicz

Directors of Liturgy, Deacon Pete Manning and John Brett

Director of Christian Service, Donna Hungerford

Director of Sacred Music, Joseph Berardi

Youth Minister, Matt Jung

Bulletin Editor, Cailin Valente

Funeral Coordinator, Susan Rizzo

Offertory and Database Administrator, Leticia Clark

Financial Secretary, Paula Perry

Sacristan, Zina Habib

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708-326-9300 deaconkevin@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9300 deacondave@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9300 Parish Fax Number 708-326-9301

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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 &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.



## 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 Castile, Dolores Castro, Bonnie Caper, James Caper, Michael Carey, Monica DiGiovanni, Janet Drobnick, 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



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](mailto: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

Register Here



Questions? Contact Alex Buldak  
[abuldak@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:abuldak@dioceseofjoliet.org) / 815-221-6256  
 Begins October 7, 2025



Soul to Soul Coaching Presents

## Catholic Speed Dating

Ages 21ish - 39 ish

St. Priscilla's Church

Chicago, IL

January 24th

5:00pm

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



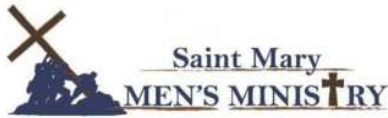
***Real Men Pray  
the Rosary***

**Answer Her Call!**

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

**Mark Your Calendars!**





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 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**

**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







# 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 6<sup>th</sup> through May  
19<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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](http://beformed.net).

**REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 5, 2026**



[beformed.net](http://beformed.net)



[beformed2020@gmail.com](mailto:beformed2020@gmail.com)

## SCRIPTURE STUDY



**Janaury 20<sup>th</sup>– March 24<sup>th</sup>**

**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 11<sup>th</sup>**

Parish rate: \$27

Registrations after this date, books will be purchased individually.

Individual rate: \$30

Link to register: [www.stmarymokena.org/scripture](http://www.stmarymokena.org/scripture)  
or sign up after Mass January 11<sup>th</sup> in the Narthex



**MONICA'S MISSION**

**ST. MARY PARISH MOKENA**

BRINGING LOVED ONES BACK TO THE CHURCH

*Monica's Mission*

### 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](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup> - May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30pm**

**Church Hall**

For questions or registration, contact Megan Murray :  
[mmurray@stmarymokena.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:dbernas@stmarymokena.org).





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

QUESTIONS?:

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!**





## 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.

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## 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



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**Coldest Night of the Year**  
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**in support of**  
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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](http://cnoy.com/location/joliet)**

**Questions? Contact Derek Schultz at [dschultz@cc-doj.org](mailto: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.







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# **BOWLING NIGHT**

*Get ready for a night of strikes and spares  
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**WED. JANUARY 21ST**

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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



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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



**Save the Date!**

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### Prayer Shawl Ministry

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



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, January 11  
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in the Church Hall.

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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!**



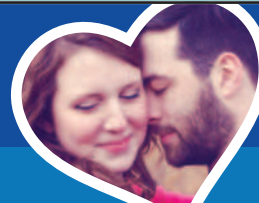
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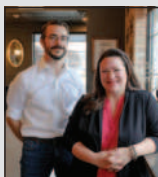
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