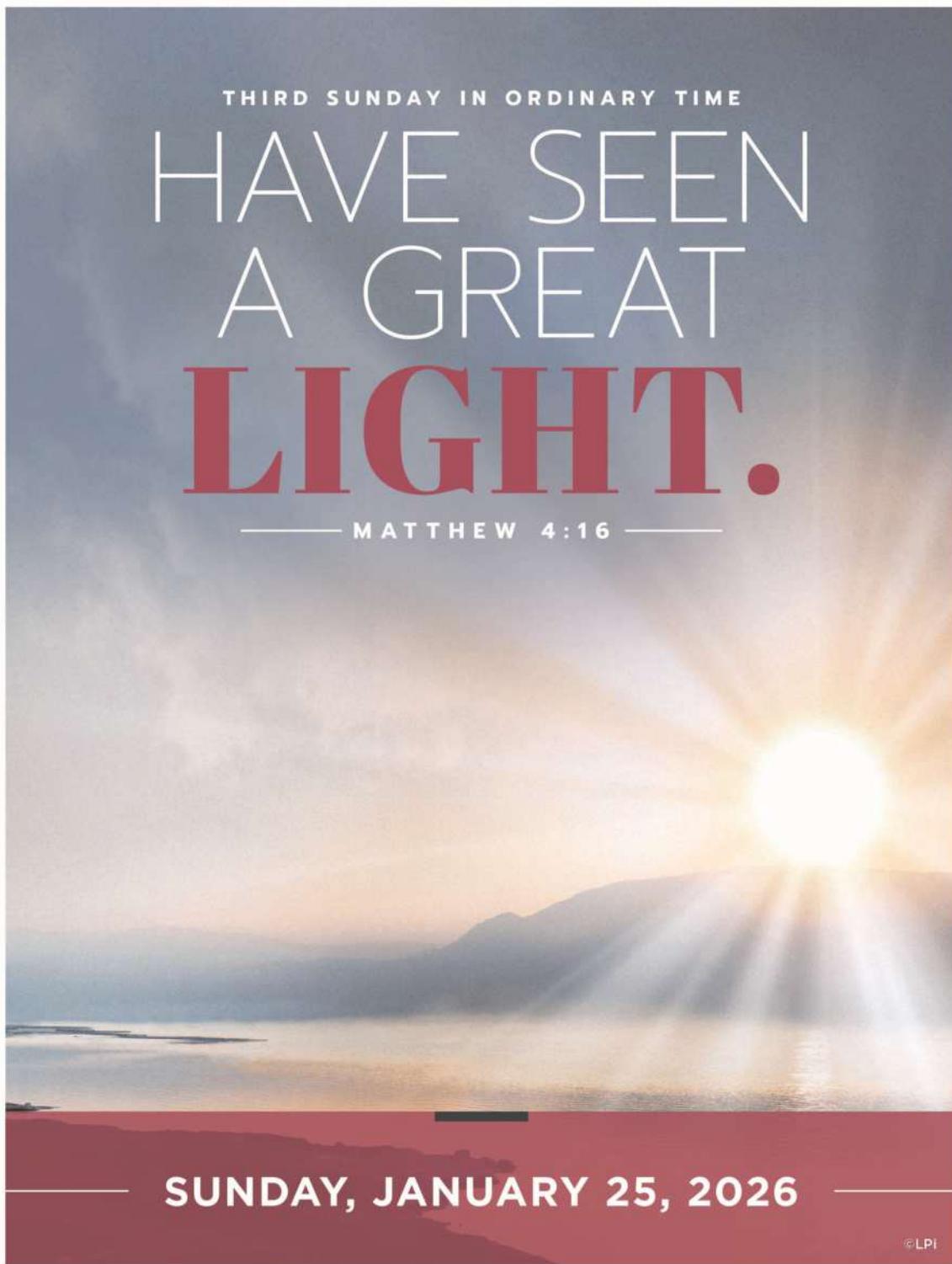


SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

"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

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

School Office:

School Secretary, Charlotte Catchings

School Principal, Michele Alday-Engelman

School Assistant Principal, Michelle Huizinga

Marketing & Enrollment, Danelle Bernas

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

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

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

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, January 26

8:00am: Jeanne Kelly, Michael Duffy Jr.

Tuesday, January 27

8:00am: Leona Bruozas, Carol Bogdonowicz

Wednesday, January 28

7:30am: Bob and Josephine Joyce

8:30am: Edmund Sajewski

Thursday, January 29

8:00am: Esther McGraw

Friday, January 30

8:00am: Marge Migler

Saturday, January 31

8:00am: William Sheridan

5:00pm: The Marciano family, Vincenzo and Maria Fuscadlo

Sunday, February 1

8:00am: James Barr

9:30am: Larry Bahnaman

11:00am: Rose Marie Nisivaso

6:00pm: Ronald Lynn

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, Shirley 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, Patty Melei, 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 Omastriak, 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 Tamossaitis, 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

God Bless Our New Parishioners

The Navarro family,
The Kovach family



Please Pray for our Faithfully
Departed Brothers and Sisters

Nicholas Pagoria,
Della Miernicki

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



Almighty God, watch over and protect our
nation's military members and
their families. Take them into your most gracious
protection. Amen.

SSG Jarred Andras, ARNG

PFC Jenson Andras, USMC

SP4 Arhan Atreya, USA

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.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, January 26

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 6:00 p.m. SPRED Meeting (Fatima)
 6:30 p.m. Rosary-Holy Hour for Life (Church)
 6:30 p.m. Adult Confirmation Class (Lourdes)

Tuesday, January 27

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 4:30 p.m. RE Gr. K-6 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. RE Gr. 7-8 (Classrooms)
 7:00 p.m. Scripture Study (Guadalupe)
 7:00 p.m. K of C Officer Meeting (Lourdes)
 7:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Bible Study (JPII Room)

Wednesday, January 28

5:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 7:00 a.m. Confessions
 7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
 9:00 a.m. Scripture Study (Church Hall)
 2:00 p.m. Daybreak Cooking (Kitchen)
 4:30 p.m. RE Gr. 1-8 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. RE Gr. 7-8 (Classrooms)

Thursday, January 29

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 4:30 p.m. RE Gr. 1-8 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. St. Peregrine Devotion (St. Mary Chapel)
 7:00 p.m. Behold

Friday, January 30

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 8:30 a.m. Adoration for Increased Vocations (Church)
 9:30 p.m. Mom's Podcast Club

Saturday, January 31

7:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 9:00 a.m. Women's Welcome Reunion Retreat (Guadalupe)
 12:00p.m. Altar Server Training (Church)
 3:30 p.m. Confessions (Church)
 5:00 p.m. Mass (Church)

Sunday, February 1

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

Spend time in Jesus' presence at

Behold

Thursday, January 29th

7:00 pm in the Church

A Night of Prayer, Music,
 Confession and Adoration



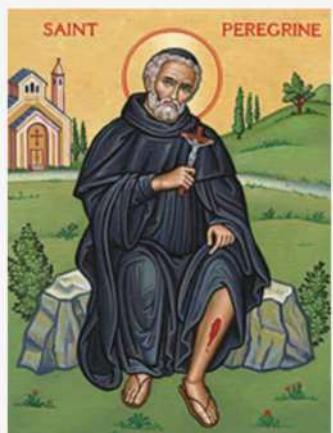
"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."



29
 JANUARY
 6:30PM
 ST. MARY'S CHURCH
 SIDE CHAPEL

EVERY LAST THURSDAY OF THE
 MONTH!

- ST. PEREGRINE DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS
 - RECONCILIATION
 - ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT





Saint Mary
MEN'S MINISTRY

All men are invited to join us for our next meeting

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 21**



The Shroud of Turin

*The Facts
and
Mystery*

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

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

*Congratulations to
Henry and Hannah
Horak!*



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

Giving+

**Rooted in Gratitude
Giving with Grace**

Support our ministries this fall through faithful generosity.

**The Offertory for
January 18th
will be shared
in the next bulletin.**

Online Giving
Give your gift today.
Scan the QR Code

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





From Your Pastor

My dearest parishioners,

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

Although today is the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, we also remember that today, January 25th is the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. This meaningful connection helps us beautifully conclude the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which our parish began together last week and now brings to a close today. The Church places these days side by side to remind us that unity begins with conversion. St. Paul's powerful encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus was not only a personal change. It became a turning point for the whole Church. Once divided by fear and misunderstanding, the early Christian community became stronger because Paul's heart was changed and he preached that all believers are one in Christ.

During this past week, we joined Christians around the world in praying for unity rooted in Christ. This prayer is not just global; it is very personal. Many of us live and work with Christians from different denominations. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites us to see these relationships not as problems, but as chances to show Christ through love, humility, and respect. St. Paul reminds us that unity does not happen without change. His conversion challenges us to ask ourselves: *What needs to change in my own heart? Are there judgments to let go of, walls to tear down, or fears to surrender to God?* Like St. Paul, we are called to let Christ guide us toward better understanding, deeper faith, and closer unity with one another.

As we close this universal week of prayer today, let us remember that the work of unity does not end here. It continues in what we say and do. *May our parish be a place where change leads to unity, prayer leads to compassion, and Christ is seen in how we love one another.* Inspired by the conversion of St. Paul, may we move forward renewed, united as one body in Christ, and faithful in sharing the Gospel with the world.

Send, O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

With love in Christ,

Fr. Joe Gasta, RCJ
Pastor

coldest *night OF THE YEAR



catholic
charities
Diocese of Joliet

SUPPORTING
CATHOLIC CHARITIES'
DAYBREAK CENTER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28
DOWNTOWN JOLIET

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



SCAN



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.



THE FEAST DAY OF

St. Thomas Aquinas

IS CELEBRATED ON JANUARY 28TH.

St. Thomas Aquinas was a Dominican priest, who became one of the great philosophers and theologians of the Catholic Church. He lived in the 13th Century.

He was unique in that he used the methods of the Greek philosopher Aristotle to show that **reason and faith** could be used together to understand God.

St. Thomas Aquinas is most well-known for his work **Summa Theologica**. This work explains the reasoning behind many teachings of the Catholic Church.

Because of the depth of his writings, St. Thomas Aquinas was named a **Doctor of the Church**. The Church uses the term “Doctor” to mean “teacher”. He thus was named one of the **great teachers** of the Catholic faith.

He is the **patron saint of students**, teachers, schools, and universities.



PRAYER FOR STUDENTS BY ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, DIVINE CREATOR, TRUE SOURCE OF LIGHT AND FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM! POUR FORTH YOUR BRILLIANCE UPON MY DENSE INTELLECT, DISSIPATE THE DARKNESS WHICH COVERS ME, THAT OF SIN AND OF IGNORANCE. GRANT ME A PENETRATING MIND TO UNDERSTAND, A RETENTIVE MEMORY, METHOD AND EASE IN LEARNING, THE LUCIDITY TO COMPREHEND, AND ABUNDANT GRACE IN EXPRESSING MYSELF. GUIDE THE BEGINNING OF MY WORK, DIRECT ITS PROGRESS, AND BRING IT TO SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION. THIS I ASK THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN, LIVING AND REIGNING WITH YOU AND THE FATHER, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

This week is Catholic Schools' Week! Honor St. Thomas Aquinas by praying for St. Mary School, and for all students!



Bishop Hicks' Column January 2026

One Last Column, Ever Grateful



For more than five years, I have been blessed to share my thoughts with you in this monthly column. When I first began writing, it took me a very long time to craft each reflection. I often wondered if anyone was reading them or if they would make any difference at all.

But at parish visits and events, many of you told me that you read these reflections and that they helped you understand my mind and my heart. Some of you offered positive comments and others offered constructive suggestions. All of that feedback helped me grow in gratitude. I stopped seeing these columns as a task and started seeing them as a privilege. They became one of the ways we shared our faith journey together.

Now I write my final column. It is a bittersweet moment. I am excited for my next steps to New York. At the same time, I am going to miss this ongoing exchange with you.

As we come to the conclusion of this written dialogue, I would like to reflect with you on a few thoughts [I shared at my farewell Mass on January 11, 2026](#).

In my homily, I expressed my sincere gratitude for the faith and love you have shown me throughout my years as your bishop. Together we have shared significant moments. We have celebrated the sacraments. We have strengthened our mission to be a vibrant and evangelizing Church. Through Confirmations, ordinations, graduations, the Chrism Mass, baptisms, funerals, community service, and our care for the most vulnerable, I saw Jesus Christ revealed in you. And each time we gathered for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, you strengthened my faith and drew me closer to God. And I pray that I have done the same for you.

I am deeply grateful to our priests who faithfully serve with pastoral hearts and leadership. To our deacons, wives, and families, thank you for your steadfast ministry of charity and your service. To our religious women and men and consecrated virgins, your prayerful presence and collaborative ministry have been a constant blessing. I am grateful for every sacrifice and every quiet act of love that often goes unseen but never goes unnoticed by God.

I also want to thank our diocesan staff and all employees who work as a vocation to ensure that the Church continues its mission. Our administrators, teachers, catechists, and youth ministers form disciples in classrooms and parish halls. Our musicians, liturgical ministers, and countless volunteers give life and beauty to our worship and mission. And to every parishioner across our seven counties, please know how grateful I am for your generosity and witness to faith in your homes, parishes, and workplaces.

Through baptism, we are all called to continue living the mission of Jesus Christ. I now move forward to serve in New York, trusting that the good work we have begun together will continue to bear fruit here in the Diocese of Joliet.

Many have asked who will become the next bishop. Soon, an administrator will be appointed who will continue to guide and govern the diocese while the apostolic nuncio and the Dicastery of Bishops offer recommendations to our Holy Father, Pope Leo. In due time, he will appoint the seventh Bishop of Joliet. Please join me in prayer for that discernment process.

Even though my ministry will continue in another place, I believe that prayer keeps us close. Every time we pray for one another, we remain closely united in Christ. So let us keep lifting each other up before God. I will carry you with me in my heart and in my daily prayer, and I humbly ask you to remember me in yours.

I also encourage you to be disciples who make disciples. Please continue to embrace my pastoral letter entitled *MAKE*. Pray with it. Reflect on it. Share it. Put it into practice every day. The Church grows when every one of us answers the call to live the Gospel with conviction and joy.

You remain in my heart and in my prayers with great love and deep gratitude. May God bless you and bless us always with His Spirit of peace and all good things. *Paz y bien.*

[Scan the QR code below to listen to the bishop's homily from his January 11th Mass of Thanksgiving.]





LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS
for a St. Mary Parish **Hospitality Committee**

Do you have a gift for helping people feel welcome?
Do you get joy out of serving in practical ways?
Show God's love, make a meaningful impact at parish events, and give back to St. Mary's in a tangible way by joining the Hospitality Committee!

To learn more, please fill out the form at www.stmarymokena.org/volunteer or call the Parish Office, (708) 326-9300



January 31 - February 1: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 9:30 AM	Sunday, 11:00 AM	Sunday, 6:00 PM
Lector	Sue Mahns Andrea Taylor	Antoinette Bria Alice Wierbinski	Denise L Bartolotta Karen Dilger	John Brett Art Wilson	Ed Pluchar
Eucharistic Minister	Peter Baker Andy Lihosit Lora Oldham Andrea Taylor	Bob Cornejo Kathleen Orr Marvin Orr Christine Weeks	Roger Brown Michael Dilger Sally Harper Joanette Kulesa	Remo Lucci Patti Pertchi Louise Szura NOT FILLED	Karen Haugh Robert Koch Judy Siegmund
Altar Server	Seamus McGarry Avery McNamara NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Hannah Johnston Gerard Sima NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	June Fulton Logan Raimondi Henry Valente Lucas Valente	Ryan Gross Christopher Pienkos Cody Pienkos 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 Phllip Sparacino	Ed Dorey William Farhat David Larson Sandra Tome Gladys Weber	Gabriella Carens Linda Drake Maggie Knable NOT FILLED
Greeter	Mary Ann Braasch	Ed Dorey	Ed Dorey	Ed Dorey	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.

Youth Ministry Upcoming Events

HS MEETINGS

February 22
March 1
March 8



**Blessed Sandra
Sabattini
Pray for us!**

High School Bible Study

**Join us as we journey through
the New Testament Letters**

**Tuesday Nights at 7:30 in the
parish office.
Contact Matt for details.**

Service Opportunity

The St Mary Youth Ministry program is taking a trip to the Manteno Veterans Home for a day of service and fellowship with our veterans.

February 1st, open to students 8th grade and up.

Contact Matt for more details and to register.



Donut Sunday February 15

**Join us in the church hall after all morning masses
while supplies last. All proceeds go to support our
Youth Ministry Program!**

**Need High School service hours? Reach out for our
sign-up form**

Junior High

**Next Meeting Feb. 5 in
the school cafeteria.**

**6:00-7:30pm
(Enter door 4)**

Contact Youth Minister, Matt Jung, with any questions.

mjung@stmarymokena.org



Youth Ministry

**MOMS
Podcast Club**

Join other Catholic moms of school-age children and younger for conversation on "The Road to Emmaus with Scott Hahn."

Friday, January 30
9:30 am
in the Church Hall
"Offer it Up vs. Suck it Up with Megan Hjelmstad"

Listen to podcast prior to gathering (search "The Road to Emmaus with Scott Hahn" 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

EVANGELIZATION
1:1 Series

Session 4
Evangelization: For Love of Christ & His Church

DIOCESE OF JOLIET
Office of Mission

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

Presenter
Nick LaBanca
Joliet Chapter Team Captain
St. Paul Street Evangelization

3 February 2026
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Blanchette Catholic Center

Register Using the QR Code

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



save the date

**LENTEN
SILENT
RETREAT**

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 28**
SHRINE OF ST. THERESE
DARIEN, IL

More info and registration coming soon!

**An Evening for
Married Couples with
Dr. Edward & Beth Sri**

Nationally Renowned Catholic Speakers
Authors of *The Good, the Messy, and the Beautiful*

Save Date **WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2026 @7:00PM**



**The Realities of Marriage:
The Good, the Messy, and the Beautiful**
with Dr. Edward & Beth Sri

Whether you've been married one year or forty, don't miss this powerful and inspiring evening! With humor, honesty, and deep faith, the Sris will share real-life insights into Catholic marriage—the joys and the struggles—and how God uses it all to draw spouses closer to Him and to each other.

\$50 PER COUPLE (MARRIED, ENGAGED, OR DATING)

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



Come be renewed in your vocation...
and invite another couple to join you!

REGISTER NOW TO SECURE YOUR SEATS ➤ ➤ ➤ bit.ly/srisatolm



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
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SECOND PRIZE - \$500
THIRD PRIZE - \$250

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• For questions call 708-326-9352

• re@stmarymokena.org

Stewardship Reflection**January 25, 2026 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today's readings remind us that stewardship is not just a thing we do — rather, stewardship is at the core of who we are as disciples of Christ.

Our first reading, from Isaiah, contains this prophecy of Christ and what His saving message would mean to all who embrace it. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." We are among those blessed people on whom the light of Christ has shone. By virtue of our Baptism, we, who were once in the darkness of original sin, have been reborn into the great light that is God's grace in us. We are cherished members of God's family.



What a privilege! Yet, with this privilege comes the responsibility to actually live for God and to bring His Good News to all those we meet — at work, at school, in our community and right in our own home — in other words, to live as His good stewards.

And there is a certain urgency that comes with the call to a stewardship way of life as we see in our Gospel passage from Matthew. Jesus says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." In other words, turn away from selfishness, turn towards God and live as His disciple now — don't wait!

In this same passage, the very first disciples give us examples of a good steward's prompt "yes" when the Lord called to them. Our Lord invites them to "Come after me and I will make you fishers of men." They did not hesitate but "at once they left their nets and followed him." They put our Lord and His will first. This is the essence of a stewardship way of life — to be always ready for the ways that our Lord is calling us to bring His light to others. It's more than something we do — it's who we are.

Catholic Stewardship Consultants

Seasons of Hope

Bereavement Support

Beginning March 10th
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Sessions are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month
for six weeks in the Church Chapel.

This Christ centered support group offers comfort, support and understanding based on scripture, prayer, reflection activities and faith sharing.

Contact Donna Hungerford (708) 326-9312 or
dhungerford@stmarymokena.org

Sign up is required and space is limited.



JOIN THE PRO LIFE COMMITTEE
HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE
 IN CHURCH ON MONDAY,
 JANUARY 26
 6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.



EXPOSITION OF THE
 BLESSED SACRAMENT

SCRIPTURE READING &
 REFLECTION by
 Deacon John Rex

PRO LIFE ROSARY

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

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 10th in the Church Hall, Fatima Room at 9:00 a.m. We will be meeting the second Tuesday of the month.

Questions? Contact Donna Hungerford 708-326-9312 or dhuneford@stmarymokena.org



Mark your Calendar!

March for Life 2026

Illinois Pro-Life March on Thursday,
 March 19 at the Lincoln Statue in front of
 the Illinois Capitol Building.

401 S 2nd St, Springfield, IL 62701

COMMUNITY LIFE

The Council of Catholic Women



The next **Board Meeting** will be **Wednesday, February 11** at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Hall, Fatima Room

The next **General Meeting** will be **Thursday, February 19** at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall, Guadalupe Room

Save the Date!
Tickets available in the Narthex!

ST. PATRICK & ST. JOSEPH DAY FAMILY CELEBRATION!

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026
FOLLOWING 11:00 A.M. MASS
12:00 NOON - 4:00 PM CHURCH HALL

\$20.00 PER PERSON
\$70.00 PER FAMILY (2 ADULTS AND CHILDREN
UNDER THE AGE OF 18)
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- FAMILY FUN
FACE PAINTING AT 12:30 P.M.
HULA HOOP CONTEST, BALLOON TWISTER 1:00 P.M.
- ENTERTAINMENT/MUSIC
IRISH DANCERS AT 2:30 P.M.

Contact Roberta Dreifke
for more information 708-334-1909

**Sponsored by the
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The Young at Heart Club

**Join us on February 4th
Superbowl Party!**
Wednesday, February 4th
1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
in the Church Hall

Contact Marla Garbarczyk
for information or if you need a ride 708-308-2505
or trampool@aol.com



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The next **Officer Meeting** will be **Tuesday, January 27** at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall, Lourdes Room

The next **Council Meeting** will be **Tuesday, February 10** at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall, Guadalupe Room



Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Championship

Saturday, February 7, 2026

St. Mary School Gym

Doors Open at 8:15 a.m.

Start 8:45 a.m.



Open to all Boys and Girls
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Students that attend St. Mary, Mokena
Intermediate, Mokena Jr. High and Noonan
Academy will have the opportunity to participate in
their school gym classes during the month of
January.

Students that do not attend these schools or miss
the opportunity in school are invited to join these
school champions to crown the local champion.

The St. Mary Widow & Widower's Club

This group meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month
at a designated restaurant or other location.

Contact Marcia Frank for details
708-227-8290.



Happy Retirement to Parishioner Kay Oehman!

Parishioner Kay Oehman who served as the Crossing Guard at Willowcrest and Wolf Rd. and 195th St. and Wolf Rd. has now retired. She was always at her corner rain or shine helping the school children cross safely.

She was recognized at the Mokena Village Christmas party for her 40 years of service.

Thank you Kay and enjoy your retirement!



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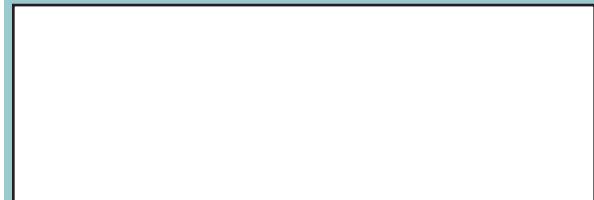
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