



SAINT MARY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

"Send, O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church."

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Welcome!

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses

Saturday | 5:00pm Vigil Mass
 Sunday | 8:00am, 9:30am,
 11:00am, 6:00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday | 8:00am
 Tuesday | 8:00am
 Wednesday | 7:30am
 Thursday | 8:00am
 Friday | 8:00am
 Saturday | 8:00am

Confession

Monday through Friday
 7:00am-7:45am
 Saturday | 3:30pm-4:30pm
 First Saturdays | 8:30am-9:30am

Devotions

Daily Rosary

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
 7:30am

Wednesday | 8:00am

Monday evenings | 6:30pm

Daily Divine Mercy Chaplet

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
 8:00am

Wednesday | 8:00am

Lauds

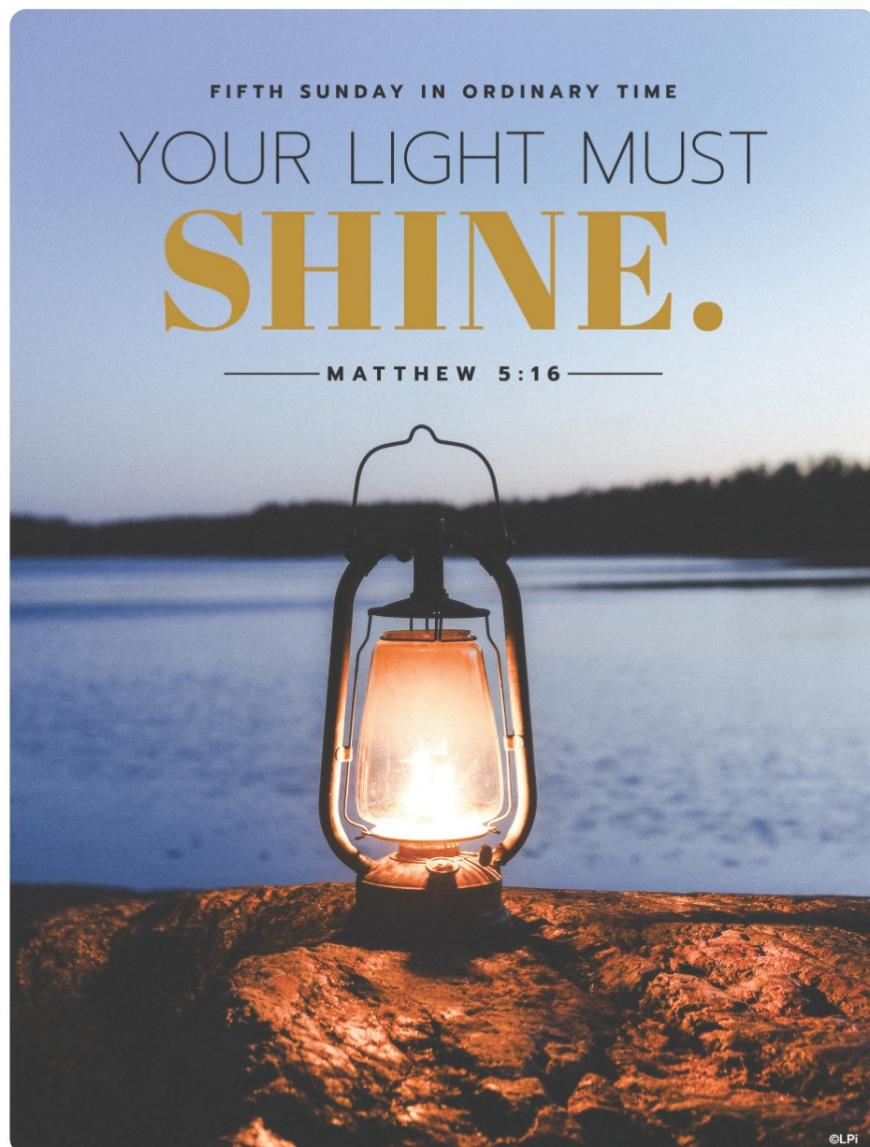
Sunday mornings | 7:15am

GET IN TOUCH

19515 S. 115th Avenue
 Mokena, IL 60448
 708-326-9300
www.stmarymokena.org

OUR VISION

The beauty and sacredness of the liturgy, sacramental life and parish experience at St. Mary Parish leads our parishioners and community to a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ.



THE PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
–Door # 3–

Pastor: Fr. Joe Gasta

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Welbert Suarez

Deacons:

Deacon Peter Manning

Deacon John Rex

Deacon Kevin Plankinton

Deacon Dave Stanton

708-326-9307 pastor@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9304 frwelbert@stmarymokena.org

Parish Office:

Parish Secretary, Karen Dilger

Business Manager, Stephen J. Warunek

Maintenance Supervisor, Gerardo "Gerry" Iniguez

Morning Maintenance, Thomas Pritchard

Director of Adult Faith Formation, Megan Murray

Asst Director of Adult Faith Formation, Danielle Kuboushek

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

Director of Religious Education, Tami Brongiel

Asst 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 giniiguez@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

708-326-9302 dhungerford@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9354 jberardi@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9354 mjung@stmarymokena.org

815-953-7228 bulletin@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9311 lclark@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9310 pperry@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9310 zhabib@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9330

708-326-9332 office@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9348 mengelman@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9347 mhuizinga@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9347 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 contact 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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



MY DEAREST PARISHIONERS,

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

As we all know, our parish offers daily opportunities for the sacrament of confession. I am truly happy and grateful to see many parishioners faithfully approaching this beautiful sacrament of God's mercy. At the same time, some have shared that they feel afraid or hesitant to come to confession, especially because they have been away for many years and are unsure how to do it. If this is how you feel, please know this: *you are not alone, and you should not be afraid.*

The sacrament of confession is not a place of judgment, *but a place of mercy, healing, and new beginnings.* God is not waiting to punish you. He is waiting to welcome you back. Like the loving Father in the parable of the prodigal son, He runs out to meet those who return to Him with humble hearts. All that is required is a sincere desire to come back to God: *humble yourself before Him, examine your conscience honestly, acknowledge your sins with sorrow, and trust in God's infinite mercy.*

You do not need perfect words or a perfect memory to make a good confession. Simply begin to tell what is on your mind and heart, and the Lord will do the rest. *Again, do not be afraid.* Fr. Welbert and I are here to help you and gently guide you through the sacrament. We are happy to walk with you, no matter how long it has been. May this holy sacrament be for all of us a true encounter with Christ's love, forgiveness, and peace. *Hope to see you!*

Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

With love in Christ,

Fr. Joe Gasta, RCJ
Pastor

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 9

8:00am: Larry Hackett

Tuesday, February 10

8:00am: Dennis Panozzo, David Heniff, Salvatore and Rosaria Sturino, Ercole and Innocenza Sturino, Terry Hyland, Skip Daniel

Wednesday, February 11

7:30am: Ercole and Innocenza Sturino

8:30am: Ann Jones

Thursday, February 12

8:00am: Patrick and Patricia McAndrew

Friday, February 13

8:00am: Ann Jones

Saturday, February 14

8:00am: Jane Narcissi

5:00pm: The O'Neill family, Bryce Sadelski, Dave Gasik, Edward Bean, Stefania Barlog, Elizabeth Plaza

Sunday, February 15

8:00am: Barbara Sansone

9:30am: Danilo and Antonio Amigleo

11:00am: Linda Heinicke

6:00pm: Dwight Snow



PRAY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE UNBORN

Please Pray for our Faithfully Departed Brothers and Sisters

Robert Gianone



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



LET US PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

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

AET2 Lauren Bulow, USCG

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

PFC Matthew Pakosz, USMC

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

ME2 Gage Stearns, USCG

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.

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 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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, February 9

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 6:00 p.m. SPRED Meeting (Fatima)
 6:30 p.m. Pastoral Council Meeting (Lourdes)
 6:30 p.m. Rosary (Church)
 6:30 p.m. Adult Confirmation Class (Lourdes)

Tuesday, February 10

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 9:00 a.m. Pro Life Meeting (Fatima)
 6:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal (Church)
 7:00 p.m. Scripture Study (Lourdes & Fatima)
 7:00 p.m. K of C Council Meeting (Guadalupe)
 7:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Bible Study (JPII Room)

Wednesday, February 11

5:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 7:00 a.m. Confessions
 7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
 9:00 a.m. CCW Board Meeting (Fatima)
 9:00 a.m. Scripture Study (Church Hall)
 4:00 p.m. Triduum Readthrough (Fatima)

Thursday, February 12

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 6:00 p.m. Adoration Monica's Mission (Church)
 6:00 p.m. Monica's Mission (Guadalupe)

Friday, February 13

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 8:30 a.m. Adoration (Church)

Saturday, February 14

CMAA In Pew Weekend RE Raffle Ticket Sales

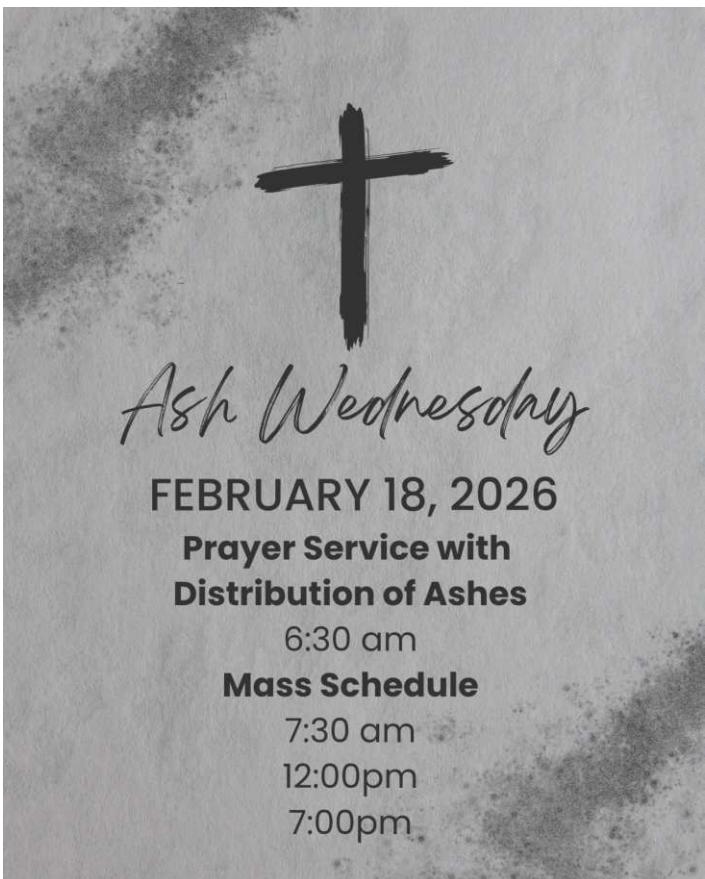
7:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 3:30 p.m. Confessions (Church)
 5:00 p.m. Mass (Church)

Sunday, February 15

CMAA In Pew Weekend

RE Raffle Ticket Sales

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



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
[CLICK HERE](#) to fill out the form
 or call the Parish Office, (708) 326-9300





Saint Mary
MEN'S MINISTRY

All men are invited to join us for our next meeting

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 21**

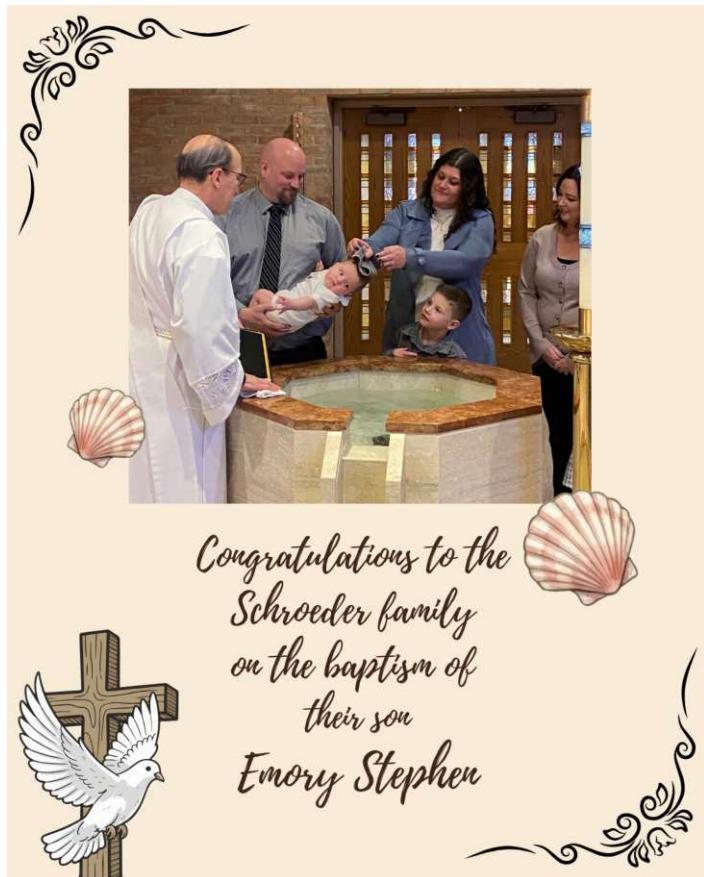


The Shroud of Turin

*The Facts
and
Mystery*

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

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





**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 through faithful generosity.

The Offertory for January 25th

Online Giving	\$12,831.90
Envelopes	\$17,806.67
	\$30,638.57

The Offertory for Sunday February 1st

Online Giving	\$19,371.90
Envelopes	\$27,859.05
	\$47,230.95

Budget \$34,000

Thank you so much for your generosity!

Online Giving

Give your gift today.

Scan the QR Code





Your gift to CMAA makes an impact!

The 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA) Opening Report is in today's bulletin. As Christians, we are called to elevate our faith beyond all expectations in service to our brothers and sisters in need. Through the CMAA, we serve the most vulnerable in our community, and our parish benefits from many CMAA-supported ministries including vocations, Catholic education, and faith formation.

Our parish goal is \$167,400.00. We receive 70% of any amount raised over goal to use within our parish. Please review your mailing from Diocese of Joliet and prayerfully consider your gift. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE

for our Lenten Parish Mission
**Grow in our
Desire to Be Saved:
A Reflection on the Scrutinies**
with Fr. Steven Borello,
Diocese of Joliet Vocations Director

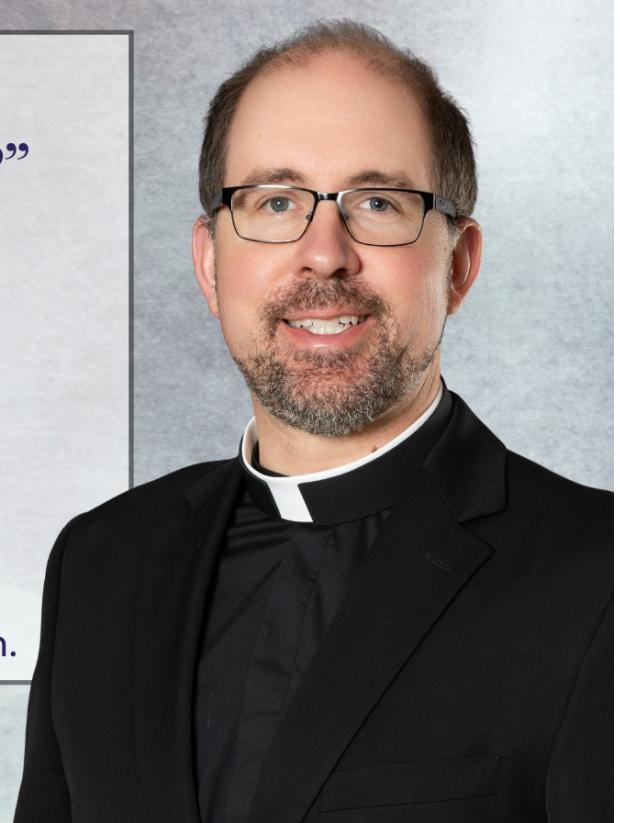
Sunday, March 22-Wednesday, March 24
7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
St. Mary, Mokena

**Sunday, March 22:
“For What Do We Thirst?”**

**Monday, March 23:
“And Now I See.”**

**Tuesday, March 24:
“Come Out.”**

Each evening will include Adoration.





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!

"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!*



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

FAYE MAREN HOEKSTRA,
EMORY STEPHEN SCHROEDER,
MARILYN ROSE BURNSON
JACK CARLIN MCCABE,
CREW JONATHAN RYCZEK,
BENJAMIN MICHAEL MILLER,
GABRIEL FRANCIS MILLER

MAY GOD BLESS THE LITTLE ONES

February 14 - February 15: Sixth 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	Andy Lihosit Anne Trovato	Joan Aust Mary Frances Consola	Richard Hamilton Stan Nowak	Sean Gleason Art Wilson	Andy Habib
Eucharistic Minister	Mary Ann Braasch Ted Kopczynski John Mitoraj Andrea Taylor	Kathleen Orr Marvin Orr Stefanie Walthier Christine Weeks	Kathy Judge Gretchen Nenn Joshua Sifuentes Kathleen Sifuentes	Remo Lucci Bob Meyers Patti Pertchi NOT FILLED	Karen Haugh Robert Koch Judy Siegmund
Altar Server	Seamus McGarry Charleigh Widelski Scarlett Widelski NOT FILLED	Hannah Johnston Liam Sullivan NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Dennis Dilger Hazel Dilger CJ Strzelczyk Emma Strzelczyk	Natalie Galka Ryan Gross Christian Taylor 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	Gabriella Carens Linda Drake Maggie Knable NOT FILLED
Greeter	Mary Ann Braasch	Joan Aust	Ed Dorey	Ed Dorey	Ed Dorey
Live Stream			Frank 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.**

Fat Sunday Paczki Pre- Order



**Pre-Orders for Paczki
Sunday are now open.
Follow the QR Code to order
online or visit the parish
office for a physical copy.**

**Orders are due Tuesday, February 10
by 5pm. Pick-up February 15 after all
morning masses**

**Steubenville Sign-Up
June 26-29
Lisle, IL**



Junior High
**Next Meeting Feb. 19 in
the school cafeteria.
6:00-7:30pm
(Enter door 4)**

Contact Youth Minister, Matt Jung, with any questions.

mjung@stmarymokena.org



Youth Ministry

Help us launch a new

MARRIAGE MINISTRY

Are you passionate about the
Sacrament of Marriage?

Want to help others build stronger marriages?

We're forming a core team to help build a
ministry offering support, enrichment, and
fellowship among couples.

Join us for an informational meeting:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
7:00 PM
CHURCH HALL



Deepen your own marriage,
connect with other couples,
make a lasting impact.

If you cannot attend but are interested,
please email dkuboushek@stmarymokena.org.

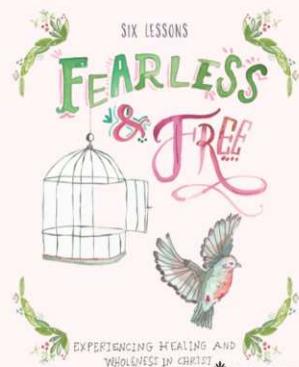
LENTEN SILENT
RETREAT

How to See
God's Goodness
in the Cross

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 28**
10AM - 3PM
**SHRINE OF ST. THERESE
DARIEN, IL**

Register today at
www.stmarymokena.org/silent

Women are invited to



a 6-week Walking with Purpose
Bible Study based on Ephesians

hosted by Mom's Podcast Club,
children are welcome to attend!

Fridays, 9:30-11:00

February 20 thru March 27

•Church Hall•

Free Registration at
www.stmarymokena.org/wwp

Questions? Contact
dkuboushek@stmarymokena.org

MONICA'S MISSION

ST. MARY PARISH MOKENA



BRINGING LOVED ONES BACK TO THE CHURCH

Monica's
Mission

ALL ARE INVITED TO:

ADORATION AND DISCUSSION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

6:00 p.m. in the side chapel

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

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"



Religious Education



R.E. RAFFLE ★★

*Support our ministry
and win cash prizes!*

**NOV - FEB
DRAWING FEB. 15, 2026
TICKET: \$5.00 EACH**

CASH PRIZES



FIRST PRIZE - \$1,000
SECOND PRIZE - \$500
THIRD PRIZE - \$250

Please support our school!



• For questions call 708-326-9352

• re@stmarymokena.org

New Year, New Resolutions for 2026

How can I grow in my faith and in my heart?

Here are a few ideas to consider.

Read the bible - Try to commit to reading 15 minutes of scripture a day. Consider signing up for Bible Study or Bible in a Year. The Lord can speak to you through scripture.

Worship –There is no substitute for receiving the Holy Eucharist. It is our spiritual food and our strength. Can you come to Mass more often? Perhaps you can attend daily Mass?

Prayer – Make time for it. A good time is first thing when you get up before the business of the day makes it difficult. How about before meals or before going to bed? This is a good time to count all your blessings and thank God. If you had a rough day, talk to Him about it.

Adoration – Spend time with our Lord in the blessed sacrament. Often times the Lord will speak to you in the silence. It is important to listen.

Journal - Think about all the blessings and struggles you have had in your life. Writing things down can reveal when God has been present when you needed him. How quickly we forget.

Share your experiences –Look for an opportunity to share what you know about Jesus. Have you witnessed something miraculous? Most of us have had an experience we can share. You can also do this by being an example. Share your joy. If someone responds to you, invite them to Mass or one of our activities. St. Mary's has so much to offer.

Service/Participate – Be a part of something that would help you grow in faith. Maybe it's time to step out of your comfort zone. There are many ministries and community organizations that need volunteers. It's a good feeling helping those in need.

Stewardship – God has given us gifts. Pray that your gift is revealed if you don't know yours. What responsible way do we handle our gifts? How are we using them? Be generous with your time, talent and treasure. A smile or kind gesture goes a long way.

Charity – Are you a giver? How do you share your gifts from God with your neighbor?

Love – Do you take the time to show your appreciation? Do you forgive? Let us forgive others as God forgives you.

Make 2026 a year to grow closer to Jesus and in your faith.

If you have been away, remember it is never too late to come back. Your life will have more meaning.

Jeremiah 29:13

You shall seek me, and shall find me: when you shall seek me with all your heart.



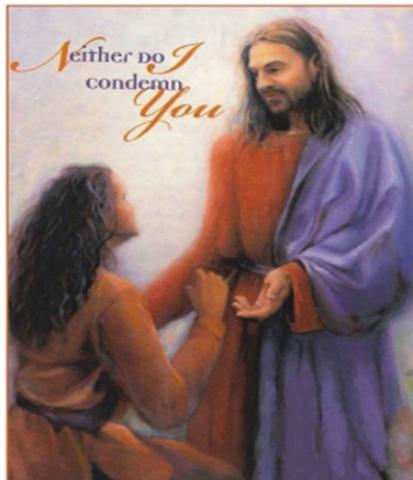


Consider joining the St. Mary Pro-Life Committee

Help us raise awareness about the sanctity of life from the moment of conception until natural death through prayer, education, fundraisers and events.

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 dhungeford@stmarymokena.org



MERCY, COMPASSION, FORGIVENESS...

If you are suffering from grief after having had an abortion, remember that God always offers forgiveness. Nothing is unforgivable and the Church is the hospital of healing. Just as the father ran to the prodigal son when he came home, so too is God waiting with open arms to receive you back home!

2026 Retreat Dates

May 1 - 3

Oct. 2 - 4

Our Lady of the Angels Retreat Center
at Sisters of Mt. Assisi - Lemont, IL

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats for Healing After Abortion

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats offer a beautiful opportunity for healing to any woman or man who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion.

The retreat is a chance to get away from the daily pressure of work and family, to focus on a painful time in life, and to begin healing through a supportive and non-judgmental process.

Many preconceived fears of condemnation are transformed into blessings; memories of abandonment, pain, and confusion are replaced by reconciliation, grace and peace.

Spiritual exercises focusing on God's forgiveness, compassion, and mercy are shared through psychological exercises that help participants work through repressed grief and anger that may exist.

The retreat concludes with a Memorial Service. The weekend will help your soul find a voice and transform the pain of the past into love and hope.

Information, prayer, registration contact:
815-370-8118 or 815-634-3796
www.diojoliet.org or
www.rachelsvineyard.org

*Do not continue to live in the shame, fear or numbness – call the Rachel's Vineyard toll-free national hotline at
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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)
CHILDREN UNDER 3 YRS OF AGE ARE FREE.

CASH BAR, RAFFLE BASKETS, 50/50 SPLIT THE POT

- BUFFET DINNER & HOMEMADE DESSERTS
- 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



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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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



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

The next **Officer Meeting** will be **Tuesday, February 24** at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall, Lourdes Room



St. Mary's Young at Heart



Trip to Four Winds Casino

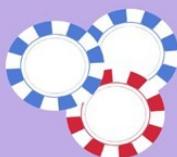
Wednesday, March 4

Meet near the Parish Office Door #3 on the circle drive by 9:15 a.m. (depart 9:30 p.m. & return approximately 4:30 p.m.)

**\$40.00 per person includes bus
\$15 toward slots and
\$10 voucher toward lunch**

Contact Marla Garbarczyk (708) 308-2505 for information.

All parishioners & friends are welcome!



St. Mary Church
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**Would you like to be
a Homebound
Helper?**

Volunteers are needed to assist our senior parishioners and those in need in the following ways:

- Visit and wellness check
- Run errands to pick up medicine or do some grocery shopping
- Rides to doctor appointments, banks, haircut appointment or other errands

Contact Donna Hungerford if you are available (708) 326-9312 or dhungeford@stmarymokena.org



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The new St. Mary Blessing Pantries are getting low on groceries!

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!



BE THE SALT OF THE WORLD

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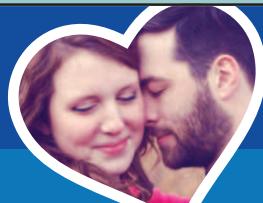
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