



SAINT MARY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

MARCH 29, 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

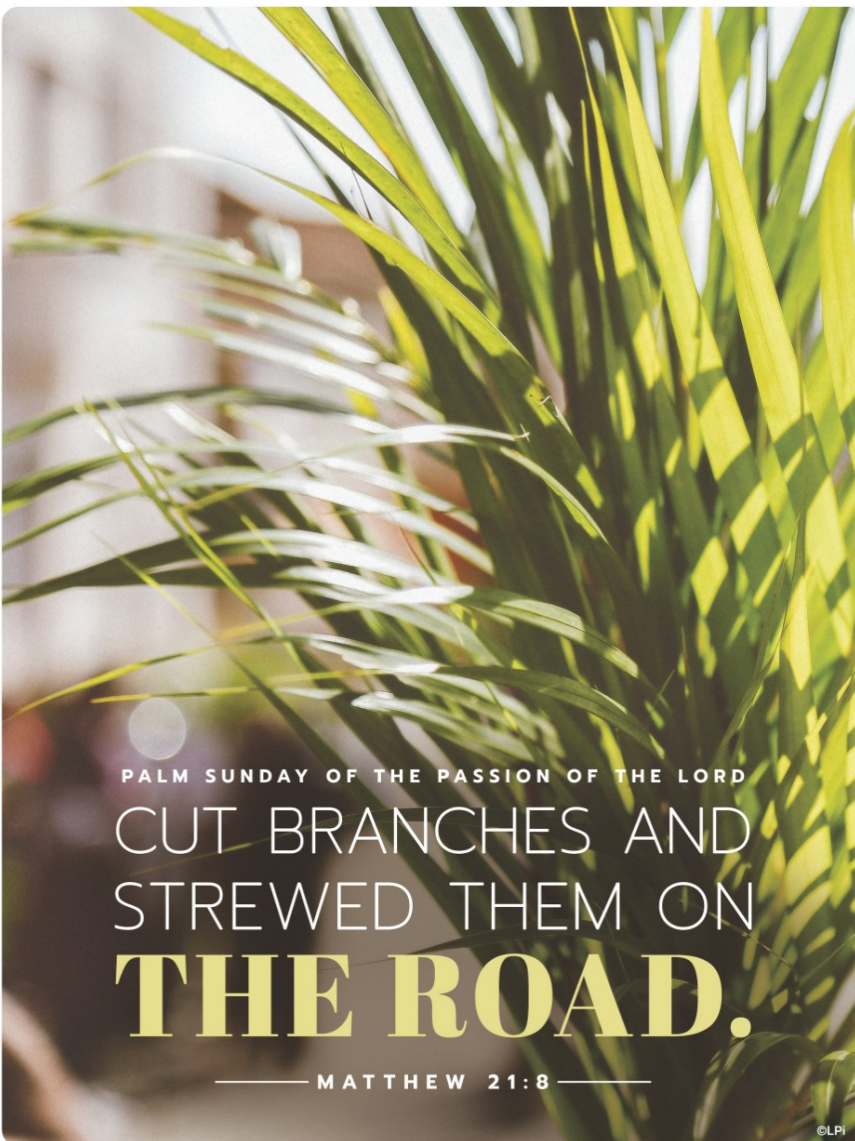
Wednesday | 8:00am

Lauds

Sunday mornings | 7:15am

GET IN TOUCH

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



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
 CUT BRANCHES AND
 STREWED THEM ON
THE ROAD.

— MATTHEW 21:8 —

©LPI

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

708-326-9307 pastor@stmarymokena.org

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Welbert Suarez

708-326-9304 frwelbert@stmarymokena.org

Deacons:

Deacon Peter Manning

708-326-9300 deaconpete@aol.com

Deacon John Rex

708-326-9300 deaconjohn@stmarymokena.org

Deacon Kevin Plankinton

708-326-9300 deaconkevin@stmarymokena.org

Deacon Dave Stanton

708-326-9300 deacondave@stmarymokena.org

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

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708-326-9305 secretary@stmarymokena.org

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708-326-9314 giniguez@stmarymokena.org

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708-326-9330

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708-326-9332 office@stmarymokena.org

School Assistant Principal, Michelle Huizinga

708-326-9348 mengelman@stmarymokena.org

Marketing & Enrollment, Danelle Bernas

708-326-9347 mhuizinga@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9349 dbernas@stmarymokena.org



OCIA - 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.

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!

There is something special about coming back home. When we are away for a while, we begin to miss the people, the place, and the simple moments we share. And when we return, there is a quiet joy in our hearts. We feel at peace. We feel that we belong again. *It is good to be back.* I went home for a short family vacation, and now I am back. And truly, it is good to be back, especially during this important time as we begin Holy Week. I feel thankful to be here with you again, walking together in this sacred season of our faith.

Today is Palm Sunday. We remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem and was welcomed with joy. The people waved palms and praised Him as their King. It was a happy moment. But we also know that this same journey would lead to the Cross, where Jesus reveals the fullness of His love and saves us from sin. Palm Sunday teaches us that following Jesus is not only about joy, but also about love, sacrifice, and remaining faithful even in difficult times.

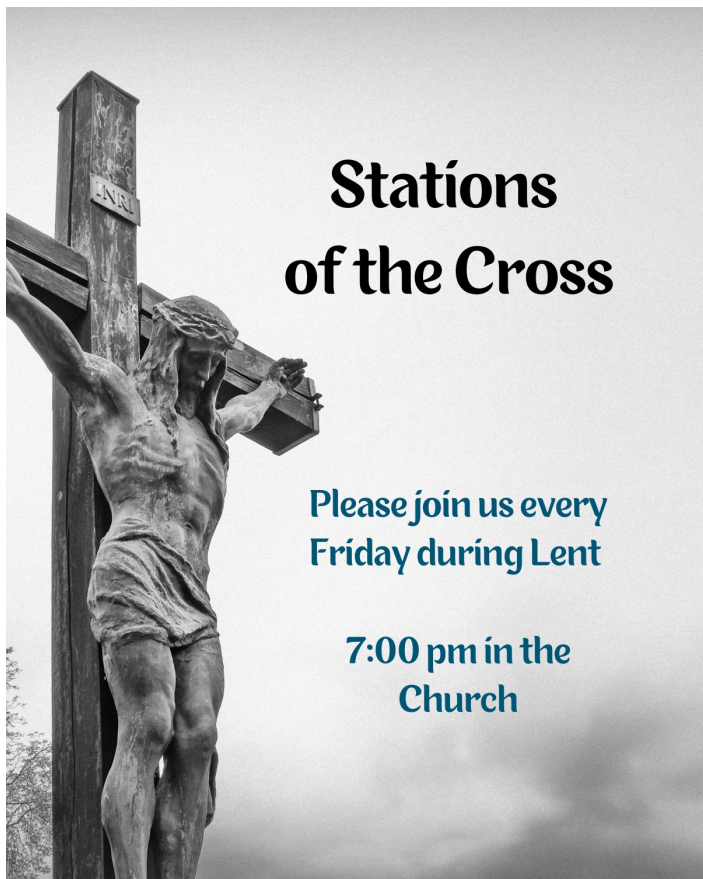
In our own lives, we are invited to welcome Jesus in a simple and sincere way. Let us open our hearts to Him. Let us allow Him to be part of our daily lives, especially in our words, our choices, and our actions. Jesus comes to us gently. He does not force Himself upon us. He waits for us to accept Him with love.

As we begin Holy Week, I invite each of you to take time to reflect and prepare. Slow down, even for just a few moments each day. Spend time in prayer. Read the Gospel. Join the church services. Sit quietly in the presence of the Lord. Above all, let us return to Him with humble hearts. Let us seek His mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and be renewed by His grace. Let us also deepen our love for the Holy Eucharist, where Christ gives Himself fully to us. May this Holy Week be a time of grace for all of us. May it deepen our faith, renew our hearts, and draw us closer to the Lord.

Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

With love in Christ,

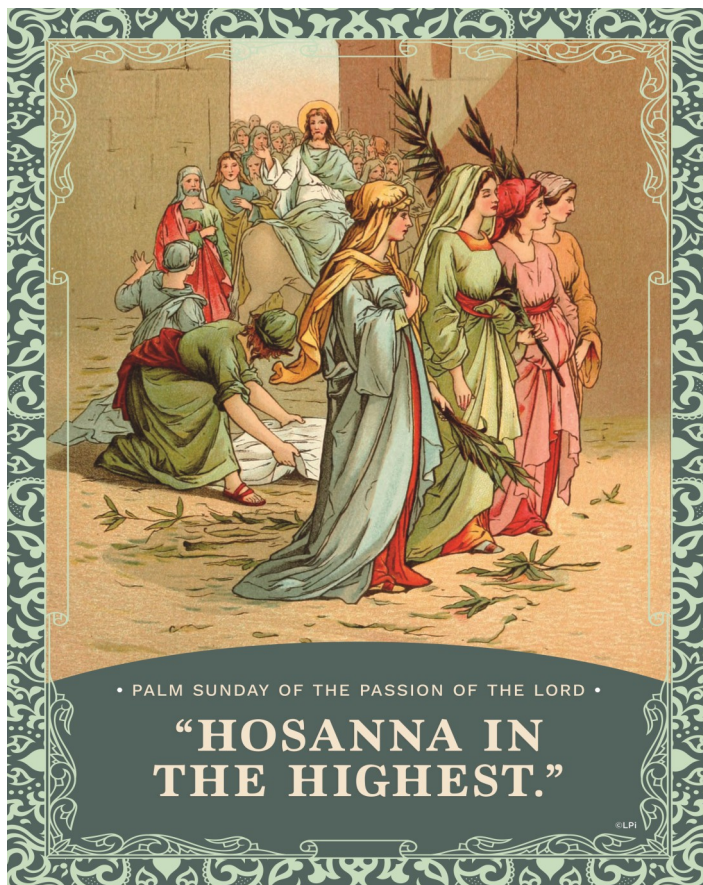
Fr. Joe Gasta, RCJ
Pastor



Stations of the Cross

Please join us every
Friday during Lent

7:00 pm in the
Church



• PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD •

“HOSANNA IN
THE HIGHEST.”



“*Blessed*
is the king who
comes in the name
of the Lord! Peace
in heaven and glory
in the highest.”

Luke 19:38

The Triduum

IS OBSERVED APRIL 2ND - 5TH THIS YEAR.

The Triduum is the most important celebration in the Catholic Church.

It begins in the evening on Holy Thursday and ends in the evening on Easter Sunday.

It is the commemoration and celebration of Christ's Suffering, Death, and Resurrection.

On Holy Thursday, we celebrate the **Mass of the Lord's Supper**. The Lord's Supper was when Christ celebrated the Passover meal with His Apostles. The Passover is a Jewish tradition and religious commemoration which remembers and makes present God's salvation of the Jewish people from slavery under the Egyptian pharaoh.

At the Lord's Supper, Christ instituted the Eucharist. This established a new tradition and religious commemoration, which remembers and makes present Christ's Suffering, Death, and Resurrection. This is our salvation from slavery under the devil. It is this tradition and religious commemoration that we celebrate at every Mass.

St. Mary Parish also includes the Washing of the Feet at the Mass of the Lord's Supper, to remember that Christ, and all who follow Him, serve one another.



On Good Friday, we celebrate the Passion of the Lord - His Suffering and Death. At the Passion Liturgy, we show and venerate the Cross, remembering that it was by this means that Christ sacrificed Himself for our sins so that He might save us.

On Holy Saturday evening, we celebrate the **Easter Vigil Mass**. This is the height of the Triduum. Here we first celebrate Easter: Christ's Resurrection. At this Mass, we recognize the fact that Christ is the light of the world. By His Resurrection, He conquered death, thereby restoring light to a world bathed in darkness.

At this Mass, we also baptize adults and older children who have been preparing to enter into the Catholic Church. The baptism of new Catholics at this time recognizes the fact that, by Baptism, we are able to inherit Christ's salvation for us - a salvation that was only made possible through His Death and Resurrection.

Mass of the Lord's Supper: Thursday, April 2nd | 7:00 p.m.

Passion of the Lord: Friday, April 3rd | 3:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil Mass: Saturday, April 4th | 8:00 p.m.

PRAY FOR THE ADULTS AND CHILDREN WHO WILL BE BAPTIZED THIS EASTER VIGIL!



All men are invited to join us for our next meeting

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

A MAN AND HIS MISSION:

Essentials for the Catholic Man

David Conover is a husband, father of eight, grandfather, and trial attorney for more than 30 years. Public speaking is part of his profession, but since his conversion to Catholicism in 2000, faith and formation are his passions to share.



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



Congratulations to the Holewinski family on the baptism of their son Sonny James!

Giving

GENEROSITY
Love, serve and give generously.

Online Giving
Give your gift today. Scan the QR Code

The Offertory for March 22nd will be shared in the next bulletin.

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

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 30

8:00am: Clare Dilger, Rita Rowe

Tuesday, March 31

8:00am: Nancy Hennecke, Joan Duffy, Nellie Duffy, Guy Cesario III

Wednesday, April 1

7:30am: Larry Hackett

8:30am: David Heniff



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE
NEWLY BAPTIZED

RIVER ANN NEBEL,
HAROLD THOMAS HACKER,
KENNEDY HAUSSER

MAY GOD BLESS THE LITTLE ONES

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Dan Albrecht, Brett Anderson, Joe, Austin, Tammy Balamut, Lisa Barber, Lisa Bernhard, Florence and Gino Bondi, Agnes Breslin, Alan Brown, Darlene Broadhurst, Rachel Butler, Brian Butler, Francis Bulow, Brenda Castile, Dolores Castro, Bonnie Caper, James Caper, Michael Carey, Monica DiGiovanni, Janet Drobick, Vincent Felice, Barb Finn-Figliulo, John Finili, Bradley Frank, Marcia Frank, Mary Ann Franson, Debbie Geren, Bonnie Gondek, Richard Grabenhofer, Colleen Grabenhofer, Jerry Grabowski, Kelly Hampton, Natalie Haran, Emma Harrison, Jeremiah Hartmann, Bobbie, Howie, Mary Ingala, Daniel Izzo, Richard Junge, Les Kazmierczak, Sherley Keene, Joseph Kerke, Hattie Kerke, Claude Klimas, Diane Klootwyk, Beverly Klosowski, Richard Kolovitz, Jan Kosmatine, Betty Krizewicz, 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 Meehma, 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 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, Yvonee White, Dan Wolf,

Please Pray for our Faithfully
Departed Brothers and Sisters



Jill McEldowney,
Raymond Morrisroe



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

God Bless Our
New Parishioners

The Vargas family,
The Ryan Griffin family,
The Dever family,
The Giragosian family



**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 | MAJ Steven Pieczynski, USAF |
| PFC Jenson Andras, USMC | SSG August Pintarro, USA |
| SP4 Arhan Atreya, USA | PFC Joshua Poplin, USA |
| Capt Lukasz Bokun, ANG | E-3 Sydney Quatrochi, USAF |
| Lt Col Joseph A. Budzyn, USAF | Cpl Ryan J. Schwartz, USMC |
| AET2 Lauren Bulow, USCG | MA3 Greg Siegmund, USN |
| TSgt Loretta Caplinger, USAF | CPT David Skrzypiec, USAR |
| E3 Colette Gagen, USN | LT Kevin Skrzypiec, USN |
| ET2 Nicholas Gambino, USCG | ME2 Gage Stearns, USCG |
| PFC Noah Genz, USA | Sgt Luke Swiatek, USMC |
| CPT Andrew Jacobs, USA | LCDR Nicholas Swiatkowski, USNR |
| MIDN Isabella Judeh, USMMA | Maj Jennifer Tenumah, USAF |
| CPT Kevin Kelly, USA | CPT Vincent R. Teodoro, USA |
| PV3 Devin Klinger, USA | Cpl Blanton Vego, USMC |
| Cpl John P. Morrison, USMC | PO3 John David Villaseñor, USN |
| Sgt Cody Nicks, USAF | MAJ Bryan Welch, USA |
| PO3 John O'Brien Nolan, USN | MMN3 Peter Weygandt, USN |
| PFC Matthew Pakosz, USMC | 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.

Palm Sunday

Monday, March 30

7:00 a.m. Confessions Cancelled
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 6:00 p.m. SPRED Meeting (Fatima)
 6:30 p.m. Rosary (Church)
 7:00 p.m. Women's Welcome (JP II Room)

Tuesday, March 31

7:00 a.m. Confessions Cancelled
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 6:00 p.m. Triduum Rehearsal (Church)
 6:30 p.m. Bereavement Support (Chapel)
 7:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Bible Study (JP II Room)

Wednesday, April 1

5:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 7:00 a.m. Confessions Cancelled
 7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
 11:00a.m. Young at Heart Set Up (Guadalupe)
 1:00 p.m. Young at Heart (Guadalupe)
 6:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal (Church)

Thursday, April 2

Holy Thursday

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Hours (Church)
 4:30 p.m. RE Gr. 1-8 (Classrooms)
 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper (Church)

Friday, April 3

Good Friday

7:00 a.m. Confessions Cancelled
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Hours (Church)
 8:30 a.m. Adoration Cancelled
 1:00 p.m. Homeschool Meet Up
 8:45 a.m. First Friday Devotion (Chapel)
 3:00 p.m. Veneration of the Cross (Church)
 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (Church)

Saturday, April 4

Holy Saturday

7:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the hours (Church)
 11:00a.m. Easter Egg Hunt (Willowview Park)
 12:00p.m. Basket Blessing (Church)
 3:30 p.m. Confessions Cancelled
 8:00 p.m. Vigil Mass (Church)

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday

7:15 a.m. Lauds (Church)
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 9:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
 11:00a.m. Mass (Church)
 12:30p.m. Mass (Church)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) MORNING CONFESSIONS WILL BE CANCELLED DURING HOLY WEEK (3/30 - 4/3).
- 2) THERE WILL NOT BE 8:00 A.M. MASS ON 4/2, 4/3, OR 4/4. WE WILL HAVE LITURGY OF THE HOURS ON THOSE DAYS.
- 3) WE WILL NOT HAVE ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS ON FRIDAY MORNING (4/3).
- 4) WE WILL NOT HAVE FIRST FRIDAY MASS AT NOON THIS FRIDAY (4/3).
- 5) THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THIS FRIDAY (4/3) AND NEXT MONDAY (4/6).
- 6) WE WILL NOT HAVE CONFESSIONS ON HOLY SATURDAY (4/4).

First Friday Mass will be

CANCELLED

on Friday, April 3rd, as this is
Good Friday.

If you plan to continue the devotion, Communion will be offered at the Veneration of the Cross Liturgy at 3PM on 4/3.

The First Friday Devotion consists of:

- Receiving Communion on the First Friday of each month for nine Fridays in a row (*You must be in a state of grace to receive.*)
- Offering Communion in honor of Christ's Sacred Heart and in reparation for the sins committed against His Sacred Heart

Join **the Rosary Men**



Wednesday, April 8th, 6:30pm Church Hall

No Mens' Rosary during Holy Week

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
Mentors
All Men**

**Dads, bring your
sons!
Food & Refreshments**

St. Mary Cemetery is fundraising!

What started out as a small fundraiser for a headstone for unmarked graves from 1918 has now blossomed, thanks to your support.

St. Mary Cemetery is extending the headstone fundraiser to continue this mission to mark the final resting place of those without stones, and to replace or preserve historical stones which need repair.



Help us to fulfill the corporal work of mercy of Burying the Dead by donating to this fundraiser.

Donations can be made online:

<https://osvhub.com/stmarymokena/giving/funds/headstone-fundraiser>

Thank you to everyone who has already donated to this cause. We would not be able to extend this fundraiser without you!

St Mary Youth Ministry Mother's Day

T-Shirt Fundraiser Pre-Order

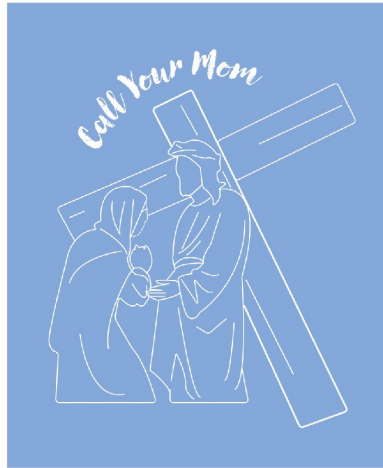
All proceeds go back to lowering the cost for the Steubenville Conference.

Front



Conference.

Back



Adult and Youth Sizes
Approved SMS Spirit Wear

This is a pre-order only. Final Orders are due by April 26th. Questions? Contact mjung@stmarymokena.org

Youth		Adult	
Small		Small	
Medium		Medium	
Large		Large	
XL		XL	
		XXL	

\$18 Each

Family Pack: 4 or more \$15 Each

Name

Email

Payment Options (circle one):

Cash

Check made out to St Mary Parish, Memo Youth Ministry

Venmo: stmarymokena (mention fundraiser as label)

FORMED *Holy Week recommendations*



"Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage" is a 30-minute contemplative documentary that explores Holy Week through sacred locations in the Holy Land. It aims to deepen understanding of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Sr. Josephine Garrett, CSFN, emphasizes that Lenten practices should enhance our spiritual vision to recognize the Lord's work. She invites us to view our relationship with Christ as one of love and intimacy, urging us to engage deeply with the mystery of Christ's actions. This sacred time calls for openness to His transformative love and mercy as we walk alongside Him.



It's Holy Week. You can do this! Even if you haven't planned or started to plan yet. Let Kendra and her kids show you how! Kendra Tierney is a widowed Southern California mother of ten children with a passion for liturgical living in the home. She shows us how to celebrate and revive ancient traditions and repackages it for modern, busy Catholic families.





STUDENT COUNCIL CLOTHING DRIVE

Donate gently used clothing to help All God's People! As you're cleaning your closets this spring, donate gently used shoes and clothing to help the homeless. They need mens, women's, and children's shoes and clothing. There is also always a great need for jeans in all sizes.

All God's People is a local charity that is a beacon of hope for the Chicago community. They're dedicated to making a positive impact in the lives of the homeless. Their mission is not just to offer essentials like food, clothing, and shelter, but to also uplift spirits and inspire change.

Additional questions, contact Danelle Bernas
(dbernas@stmarymokena.org)

When: Monday, March 30– Wednesday, April 1st



**Drop off your donations at the main entrance of the school.
Let's help those in need during Holy Week!**



Religious
Education

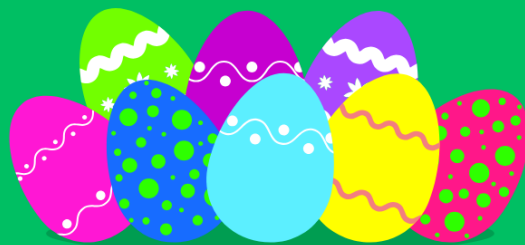
Hosted by the RE Board

St. Mary Parish Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, April 4

11:00 a.m.

Willowview Park Pavillion
(next to St. Mary, Mokena Church)



There will be three separate age groups:

1-2 y/o, 3-7 y/o, and 8+ y/o

Don't forget to bring your baskets!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, April 19
 after all morning Masses
 in the Church Hall.

COST:

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



Join the St. Mary Knights of
 Columbus for all you can eat
 pancakes, eggs, sausage and special
 fruit toppings.
 Start your day with a great
 breakfast and the great company of
 your fellow parishioners.

**SPONSORED BY THE
 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #6993**



Thank you St. Mary Parish!
 During our February Blood Drive, 41 units were
 collected helping to save 123 lives!

Hope is in Bloom

Donate Blood

**Tuesday
 April
 28**

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM



**ST. MARY MOKENA-KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
 COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE**

WE NEED '45 DONORS' TO REACH OUR GOAL!

Every donation can save up to 3 lives.

CHURCH HALL
 19515 115TH AVENUE
 MOKENA, IL 60448

GOVERNMENT PHOTO ID REQUIRED

Appointments appreciated. Walk-ins welcomed! To schedule, go to www.versiti.org/IL,
 load the Versiti Donor app, call (800) 770-GIVE,
 or scan the QR code.

EVERY 2 SECONDS
 in the U.S., someone
 needs blood.
 Your donation provides
 hope, healing, and life to
 patients in our
 community.



QDONATE AND GET A FREE HOT BREAKFAST! Q

STEWARDSHIP



March 29, 2026 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

[IS 50:4-7; PS 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; PHIL 2:6-11; MT 26:14-27:66 or MT 27:11-54](#)

We begin this Holy Week with the reading of the Lord's Passion from the Gospel of Matthew. It is fitting that during this week we intensely focus our minds and hearts on the steps of our Savior as He laid down His very life for us. But let us also examine the seemingly small acts of stewardship by some who encountered Jesus during this most eventful week.

One occurred when Jesus gave instructions about the room where He would celebrate the Passover. Jesus said, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him..." "In your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples." While we do not know this man's name, we do know he agreed to this request — he shared the material gift of his home and the gift of hospitality. Because of his good stewardship, his own home became the site of the institution of the Eucharist!

There was also Simon the Cyrenian, who offered the gift of his physical strength, helping the Lord to carry His Cross. Consider, too, the actions of Joseph of Arimathea — he generously shared a material gift of the tomb that was his, and he gave the gift of service to our Lord by giving Him a proper burial. Then there were the "two Marys" who gave Jesus the gift of their time. Keeping watch in tender vigil after His death, they "remained sitting there, facing the tomb."

Each of these were simple acts of good stewardship, yet God used them in mighty ways. God invites each of us, too, to cooperate with Him in small ways through the sharing of our time, talent, and material gifts. Small gifts can become mighty deeds when placed in God's service.



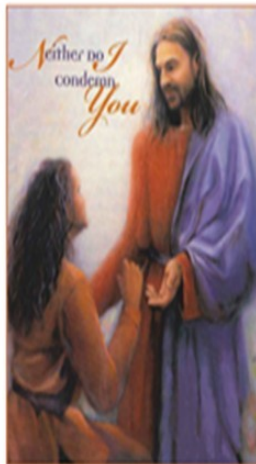
Consider joining the St. Mary Pro-Life Committee

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, April 14 in the Church Hall, Fatima Room at 9:00 a. m. We meet the second Tuesday of the month.

Questions? Contact Donna Hungerford 708-326-9312 or dungeford@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.dlojollet.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

877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)



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CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS - 9 CMEs AVAILABLE

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Contraception, Sterilization and NFP/FABM
- Complex Moral Principles: Double Effect & Cooperation
- The Gift of Children and Assisted 'Reproductive' Technologies
- Gender Ideology and Medical Interventions for "Transitioning"
- Moral Decision Making at End of Life
- Responding to Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide - Palliative Care & Hospice
- Determination of Death and Organ Donation





The Council of Catholic Women

The next **Board Meeting** will be **Wednesday, April 8** at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Hall, Fatima Room

The next **General Meeting** will be **Thursday, April 16** at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall, Guadalupe Room



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The next **Council Meeting** will be **Tuesday, April 14** at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall, Guadalupe Room

The next **Officer Meeting** will be **Tuesday, April 28** at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall, Lourdes Room

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, April 19—Pancake Breakfast
Tuesday, April 28—Blood Drive



Thank you St. Mary Parish!
During the K of C February Blood Drive,
41 units were collected helping to save
123 lives!

The St. Mary Prayer Shawl Ministry



Do you like to knit or crochet?

We meet the first Monday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Hall, Fatima Room (unless it is a holiday). Prayer Shawls for the ill, homebound and grieving are like receiving a "Hug from God". If you would like to give you are welcome to choose from a wide variety of colors and styles at the Parish Office front desk.

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 13th
Contact Jan Homolka if you are interested in joining this group janhomolka@yahoo.com

The Young at Heart Club



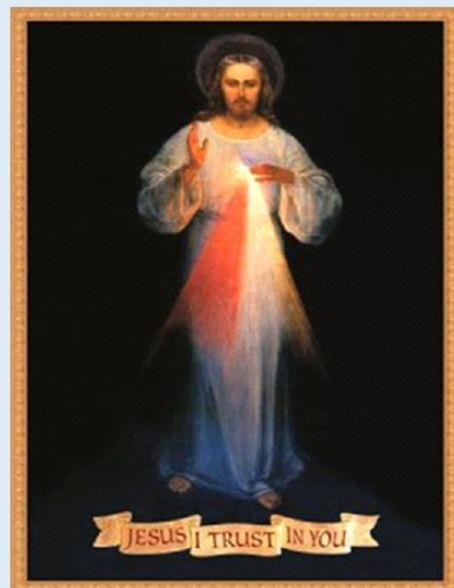
Join us on
Wednesday,
April 1st for
Easter Dinner!

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



Divine Mercy Sunday
April 12 Prayer Service
1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



ADOPT A CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE

Pray for them as they prepare to become fully initiated into the Catholic Church



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HERE'S HOW:

- Pull a name from the jar in the narthex
- 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

CARDS DUE BY APRIL 10, 2026 to the Religious Ed Office

(Note cards are available in the R.E. office if you'd prefer.)

“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!*

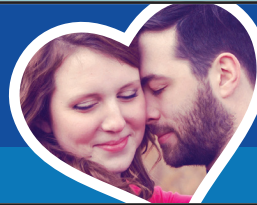


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