



SAINT MARY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

APRIL 19, 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

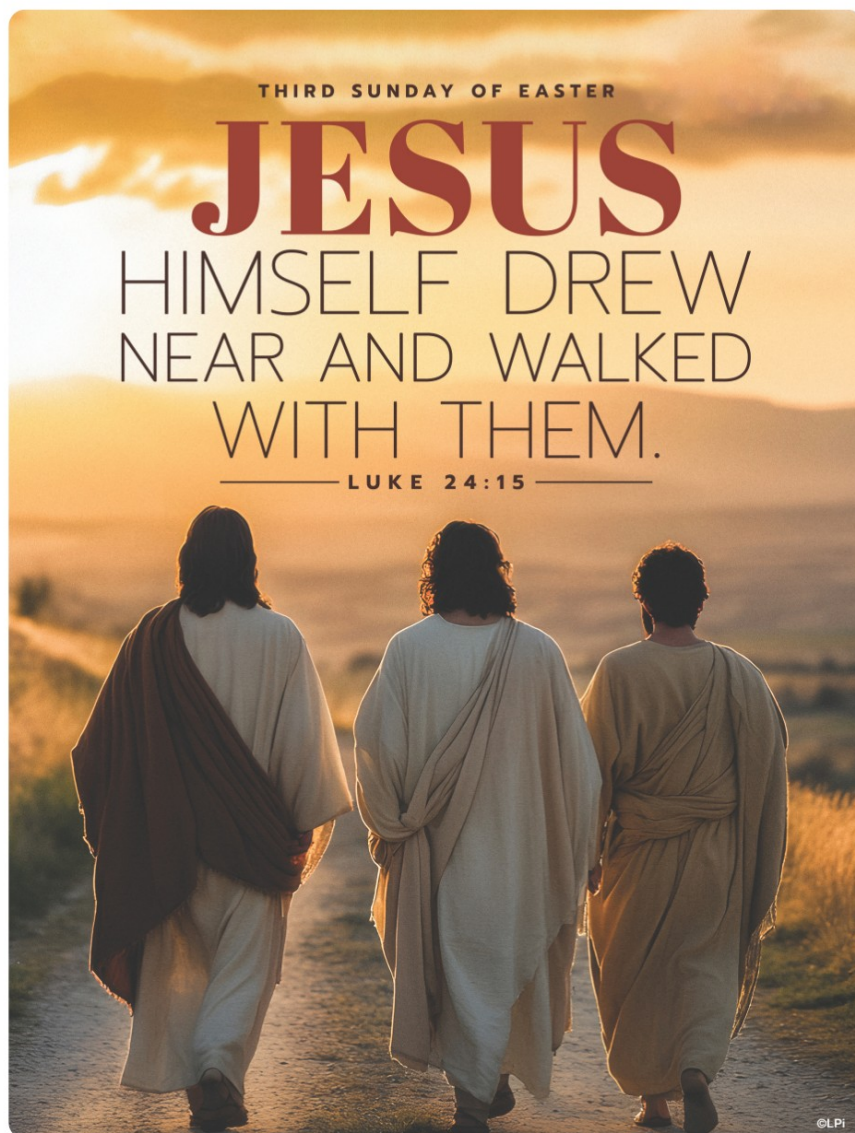
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
 8:00am
 Wednesday | 8:00am

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

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

Parish Office:

Parish Secretary, Karen Dilger

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

Business Manager, Stephen J. Warunek

708-326-9305 secretary@stmarymokena.org

Maintenance Supervisor, Gerardo "Gerry" Iniguez

708-326-9309 swarunek@stmarymokena.org

Morning Maintenance, Thomas Pritchard

708-326-9314 giniguez@stmarymokena.org

Director of Adult Faith Formation, Megan Murray

708-326-9314 tpritchard@stmarymokena.org

Asst Director of Adult Faith Formation, Danielle Kuboushek

708-326-9313 mmurray@stmarymokena.org

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

708-326-9353 dkuboushek@stmarymokena.org

Director of Religious Education, Tami Brongiel

708-326-9355 esestak@stmarymokena.org

Asst Director of Religious Education, Selena Roberts

708-326-9356 tbrongiel@stmarymokena.org

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708-326-9357 sroberts@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9352 re@stmarymokena.org

Directors of Liturgy, Deacon Pete Manning and John Brett

708-326-9352 kbrez@stmarymokena.org

Director of Christian Service, Donna Hungerford

708-326-9312 deaconpete@aol.com, jbrett@stmarymokena.org

Director of Sacred Music, Joseph Berardi

708-326-9302 dhungerford@stmarymokena.org

Youth Minister, Matt Jung

708-326-9302 jberardi@stmarymokena.org

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708-326-9354 mjung@stmarymokena.org

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bulletin@stmarymokena.org

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815-953-7228

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708-326-9311 lclark@stmarymokena.org

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708-326-9310 pperry@stmarymokena.org

zhabib@stmarymokena.org

School Office:

School Secretary, Charlotte Catchings

708-326-9330

School Principal, Michele Alday-Engelman

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 nothing more wonderful than walking into our church and seeing so many people gathered to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. Seeing familiar faces and even some new ones remind us of the beauty of coming together as a parish family. Easter is a time of joy, hope, and new life, and experiencing it with our church community makes it even more special. The flowers, music, and decorations are beautiful, but the greatest beauty comes from all of us, worshipping God together.

Easter Sunday and Christmas day are special holy days that naturally bring us to church. But God calls us to be with Him not only on these special days, but every Sunday. Sunday Mass is very important because it keeps our faith alive. It is a time to step away from our busy lives, hear God's word, receive the Eucharist, and to remember that we are part of a larger family which is the Church. When we attend Mass every week, we grow stronger in faith, closer to God, and more connected to one another. But we also have a duty to share this joy with others. For this reason, please reach out and invite your family members, neighbors, and friends to come to church with you. No one's faith should be lived alone. Every invitation is an act of love. By bringing others to church, we help them find the same hope and peace that we celebrate every Sunday, and together, we can make our parish a warm and welcoming place where everyone can grow in faith.

Remember, HOPE is the message of Easter, and our hope is that our church will continue to grow not just in numbers, but in faith, love, and service. Every time we gather on Sunday is a chance to show that HOPE and to help our parish grow stronger. Let us therefore continue to show up, invite others, and help our parish become a place full of love and life. In this way, we live the message of Easter all year long: *not losing hope but celebrating life and trusting in God's promise of growth and renewal.*

Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

With love in Christ,

Fr. Joe Gasta, RCJ
Pastor



Logo By Mahartaka - Own work. CC0.
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=164063564>



JULY 30 - AUGUST 9, 2027

WORLD YOUTH DAY

WITH OPTIONAL SOUTH KOREA PRE-TOUR
AND VIETNAM POST-TOUR



AGE REQUIREMENTS: 18 - 39 (must be 18 by July 1, 2027)

For more information or to be added to the list of future participants, contact:

Penny Borello - Inteletravel • 630-309-1851 • pborello@gmail.com

The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

are celebrating 150 years in the United States!



Sisters of this Religious Order were influential in supporting St. Mary School since the time of its foundation.

Many of the Sisters taught or served at the School in some capacity since the School was founded in 1949.

Join us for the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, April 26th, where we will recognize the order and the Franciscan Sisters themselves on this momentous occasion!

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

IS OBSERVED ON APRIL 26TH THIS YEAR.

The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is a day set aside for prayer specifically for increased vocations to the priesthood, religious life, consecrated life, and the like. While recognizing other vocations (such as married life) as good, this day is meant to pray for those who might have a calling from God to dedicate their lives to Him directly.

This is actually what we pray for at the end of every Mass, when we say:

“SEND, O LORD, HOLY APOSTLES INTO YOUR CHURCH.”

We are asking God to bring forth more vocations!

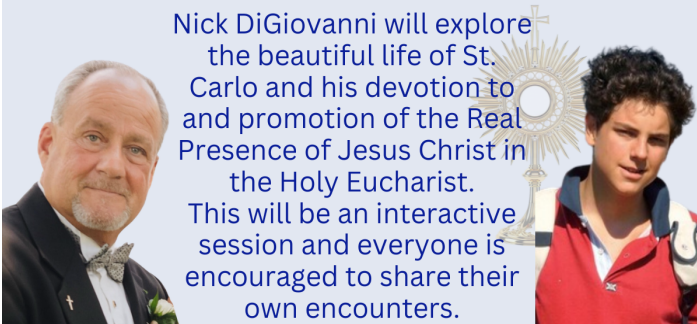
This Day of Prayer coincides with Good Shepherd Sunday, to show that those called to the priesthood and religious life, are shepherds of God's flock: the faithful. (In fact, the word “Pastor” is Latin for “shepherd”!)



Come join us in honoring the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – women who followed their vocation to religious life – by attending the 11:00 a.m. Mass on April 26th!



All men are invited to join us for our next meeting
SATURDAY, MAY 23
ST. CARLO ACUTIS
& THE EUCHARIST



Nick DiGiovanni will explore the beautiful life of St. Carlo and his devotion to and promotion of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. This will be an interactive session and everyone is encouraged to share their own encounters.

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



The Offertory for April 5th

Online Giving	\$23,039.50
Envelopes	\$16,658.50
<hr/>	
	\$39,698.00

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

Online Giving

Give your gift today.

Scan the QR Code



The Offertory for April 12th

Online Giving	\$13,107.50
Envelopes	\$21,932.71
<hr/>	
	\$35,040.21

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

The Offertory for Easter

Online Giving	\$9,651.25
Envelopes	\$51,629.52
<hr/>	
	\$61,280.77

Online Giving

Give your gift today.

Scan the QR Code



Mass Intentions

Sunday April, 19

8:00am: Bill Delladio
9:30am: Fred O'Reilly
11:00am: Larry Bahnaman Jr.
6:00pm: Paul Wolf

Monday, April 20

8:00am: Larry Bahnaman Jr.

Tuesday, April 21

8:00am: Tina Bria, Guy Cesario III, Poor Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, April 22

7:30am: April Sojka
8:30am: Esperanza Rojas

Thursday, April 23

8:00am: Dennis Panozzo

Friday, April 24

8:00am: Robert Leonhardt, Brian Filippi

Saturday, April 25

8:00am: Diana Nash
5:00pm: Nancy and Curt Hennecke, The Facko family, Matthew Hair, Francis Hazelman, Flora Bondi

Sunday, April 26

8:00 am: Ercole and Innocenza Sturino
9:30:am: Gus Lattyak
11:00 am: James Barr
6:00 pm: James Barr

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, Sandy Halper, Kelly Hampton, Catherine Hansen, 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 Krzewicz, John Kurator, Joseph Kurczewski, Fr. Roger Kutzner, Jennifer Naril, Dan Lahy, 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, 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 Pasquaroni, Dorothy Peterson, Ed Polzin, Janelle Portman, Rosemary Purcell, Dave Racine, Eileen Redican, Eduardo Reyes, Richard Reyling, 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, Yvonne White, Dan Wolf,

God Bless Our New Parishioners

The Landowski family,
Ms. Carrie Engelmann



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

MYLA LU MANIERI

MAY GOD BLESS THE LITTLE ONES



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	2LT Brooke Scanlon, USA
TSgt Loretta Caplinger, USAF	MA3 Greg Siegmund, USN
SSgt Colton DeLanoit, USAF	CPT David Skrzypiec, USAR
SrA Joshua Fishel, USAF	LT Kevin Skrzypiec, USN
E3 Colette Gagen, USN	ME2 Gage Stearns, USCG
ET2 Nicholas Gambino, USCG	Sgt Luke Swiatek, USMC
PFC Noah Genz, USA	LCDR Nicholas Swiatkowski, USNR
CPT Andrew Jacobs, USA	Maj Jennifer Tenumah, USAF
MIDN Isabella Judeh, USMMA	CPT Vincent R. Teodoro, USA
CPT Kevin Kelly, USA	A1C Benjamin Underwood, USAF
PFC Tyler Kilmartin-Radtke, USA	PE2 Joshua James Underwood, USA
PV3 Devin Klinger, USA	Cpl Blanton Vego, USMC
PV2 Mary Rose Krzewicz, ARNG	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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Monday, April 20

- 7:00 a.m. Confessions
- 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
- 6:00 p.m. SPRED Meeting (Fatima)
- 6:30 p.m. Rosary (Church)
- 6:30 p.m. Wild Goose (Lourdes)

Tuesday, April 21

- 7:00 a.m. Confessions
- 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
- 7:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Bible Study (JP II Room)

Wednesday, April 22

- 5:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
- 7:00 a.m. Confessions
- 7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
- 2:00 p.m. Daybreak Cooking
- 6:00 p.m. Usher Meeting (Church)
- 7:00 p.m. Marriage Ministry (Fatima)

Thursday, April 23

- 7:00 a.m. Confessions
- 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
- 9:30 a.m. Mom's Podcast Club
(Guadalupe and Lourdes)
- 7:00 p.m. School Confirmation Mass (Church)

Friday, April 24

- 7:00 a.m. Confessions
- 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
- 8:30 a.m. Adoration (Church)
- 12:00p.m. Set up Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast (Church Hall)

Saturday, April 25

- 7:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
- 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
- 9:00 a.m. Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
(Church Hall All)
- 3:00 p.m. Mom's Night Out PTC Event (Church Hall All)
- 3:30 p.m. Confessions (Church)
- 5:00 p.m. Mass (Church)

Sunday, April 26

Donut Sunday

- 7:15 a.m. Lauds (Church)
- 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
- 9:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
- 11:00a.m. Mass (Church)
- 12:00p.m. OCIA Meeting (Lourdes)
- 1:00 p.m. Baptism Prep (Fatima)
- 6:00 p.m. Mass (Church)
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry (Guadalupe)

Please Pray for our Faithfully
Departed Brothers and Sisters

Martin Fox

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



*Congratulations to the
Nebel family
on the baptism of
their daughter
River Ann*



THANK YOU FROM SMS STUDENT COUNCIL

During Holy Week, the SMS Student Council sponsored a clothing drive to support All God's People. All God's People serves individuals and families in need throughout the Chicago area by providing clothing and essential items with dignity and care. Their mission reflects what we are called to do as Christians, to love and serve others.

During Holy Week, we were reminded that faith is lived out through our actions. The generosity of our entire St. Mary community is an example of putting our faith into action and caring for those in need. Thank you to our staff, parents, and parishioners for your generous donations of clothing and shoes. Because of your incredible support, we were able to fill their truck once again this year!

Additional questions, contact Danelle Bernas
(dbernas@stmarymokena.org) or Pamela Bozzi
(pbozzi@stmarymokena.org)



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:

[CLICK HERE!](#)

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

April 25 - April 26: Fourth Sunday of Easter

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 9:30 AM	Sunday, 11:00 AM	Sunday, 6:00 PM
Lector	Ted Kopczynski Anne Trovato	Joan Aust Bob Jostes	Guy Cesario Richard Hamilton	John Brett Roberta Dreifke	James Nowak
Eucharistic Minister	Peter Baker Bob Gombas Andy Lihosit Lora Oldham	Bob Cornejo Kathleen Orr Marvin Orr Christine Weeks	Roger Brown Michael Dilger Joanette Kulesa Pam Sanders	Joanne Eckel Bob Meyers Louise Szura NOT FILLED	Heidi Adducci Siena Adducci James Nowak NOT FILLED
Altar Server	Seamus McGarry Charleigh Widelski Scarlett Widelski NOT FILLED	Jillian Ferin David Heitman Liam Sullivan NOT FILLED	Elin Rose Coyle Kate Coyle Leah Miklaszewski Erin Ventura	Natalie Galka Christian Taylor NOT FILLED 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			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.

Youth Ministry Upcoming Events

HS MEETINGS

April 19
May 3



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.

Joliet Steubenville Youth Conference

Friday June 26- Sunday June 28

Incoming Freshman through graduating Seniors welcome for a weekend of faith, friendship, and an encounter with Christ like never before.

Speakers include: Chris Stefanick and Fr. Leo Patalinghug



SIGN UP DEADLINE APRIL 30th

Contact Youth Minister, Matt Jung, with any questions.

mjung@stmarymokena.org



Youth Ministry

FORMED *Easter*



A Discussion on Easter in Art
Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp
consider depictions of the Resurrection
in Sacred Art in this 3-part series.

The SHOCKING News of Easter Sunday, The Chris Stefanick Show
Let's talk about the Resurrection with fresh eyes, so you can see what it means for you right now. Because if you want to live an authentic, joyful Catholic life, you gotta start right here at the core.



O Lamb of God, I Love You,
Easter Special Feature
On this special feature-length episode, Benjamin Cello, Lolly Popular, and the Cheerful Chums join with traveling troubadour, Brother Joseph, to tell the story of the Passion of the Lord Jesus to little children. Using immersive and artful shadow puppetry and a soaring full orchestral score, Brother Joseph and Benjamin Cello bring the Greatest Love Story Ever Told to life!



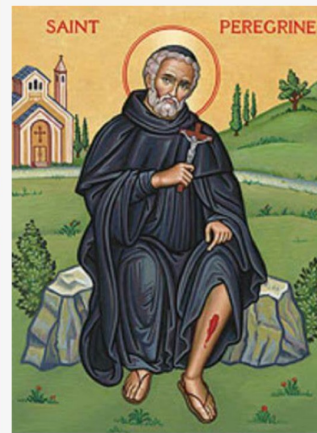
St. Peregrine DEVOTION AND HEALING SERVICE

PATRON OF THOSE WHO SUFFER WITH CANCER
OR ANY INCURABLE DISEASE OR CONDITION

APRIL
30

6:30PM

ST. MARY'S MAIN CHURCH



LAST THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH!

- ST. PEREGRINE DEVOTIONAL & HEALING PRAYERS
- BLESSING WITH ST. PEREGRINE RELIC
- STAY FOR BEHOLD AT 7:00PM, HOUR OF ADORATION AND RECONCILIATION

MOMS Podcast Club

Join other Catholic moms of school-age children and younger for conversation on the "Abiding Together" podcast.

Friday, April 24

9:30 am

in the Church Hall

"S18 E12 - The Way of Trust and Love: Enduring Trials"

Listen to podcast prior to gathering (search "Abiding Together" 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

Spend time in Jesus' presence at

Behold

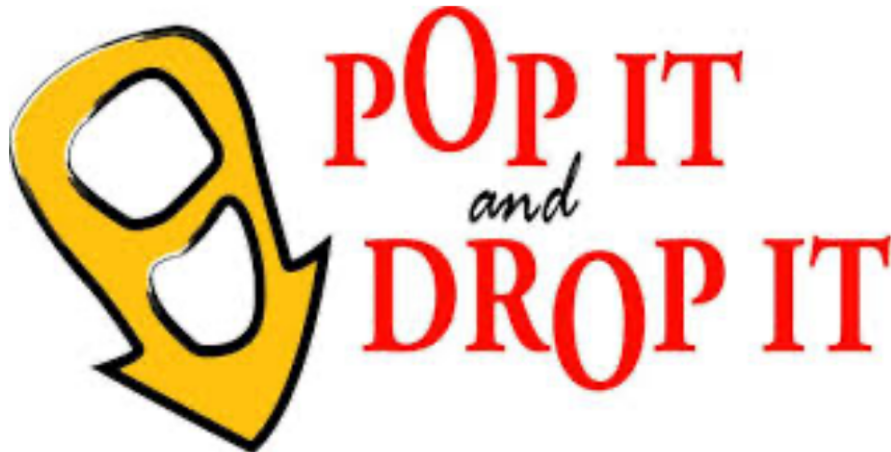
Thursday, April 30th
7:00 pm in the Church

A Night of Prayer, Music,
Confession and Adoration



USQUE AD MORTEM OBEDIENS FACTUS

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



WE WANT YOUR POP TOPS!

The St. Mary Student Council is collecting aluminum pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. RMH provides a home away from home for families with critically ill children.

Last year, in our 1st collection we turned in 121 pounds of pop tops! Drop off your pull tabs to the church office or the school office.

Questions, contact Mrs. Bozzi (pbozzi@stmarymokena) or Danelle Bernas (dbernas@stmarymokena)



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Chicago and Northwest Indiana



St. Mary Parish Easter Egg Hunt





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

April 19, 2026—Third Sunday of Easter

Today's readings focus on a theme of "sojourning." As Christian stewards, we know our lives are a sojourn toward the ultimate destination of heaven.

Our Gospel passage today describes the sojourn of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. The two are dejected and despondent after Jesus' death. They knew Jesus personally. They had heard the Gospel message directly from His lips. They heard the testimony of the women who discovered our Lord's empty tomb and saw a vision of angels announcing He was alive. They had been informed by other disciples who went to the tomb that all was exactly as the women reported. How much more obvious could the Good News be?



And yet, at times, the reaction of the two disciples describes our own stewardship journey, doesn't it? We have the fullness of the Catholic faith, the power of the sacraments, and the support of our parish family. Yet, we often lose our way. We fail to see all the gifts we have been given. We lack trust in the perfect goodness and almighty power of God.

But notice what happens to the two men when their eyes are opened once again, and they recognize Jesus in the Eucharist — the "breaking of the bread." They are transformed! Their hearts are set on fire with love for the Lord and for their faith. They recall that their hearts began "burning within" as the Lord was explaining the Scriptures to them. When we find we have lost our way, we can go to the same sources as the two disciples on the road to Emmaus — the Scriptures and the Eucharist.

In this Easter season, resolve to feast deeply on these two sources of grace. They are the fuel that will propel us on our journey toward heaven.

www.CatholicSteward.com



**Thank you to our new
St. Mary Head Cooks for
Daybreak**

Natalie and Mike Lamb!

**Thank you also to our March Cook Helpers
Janet Stevens and Maureen and Steve Fisher!**

This month meals were prepared for approximately 80 people at Daybreak Shepherd's Table in Joliet.

Contact Donna Hungerford if you are interested in volunteering for this Ministry (708) 326-9312 or dhungeford@stmarymokena.org

**Additional
Head Cooks are needed!**



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.

We meet the second Tuesday of the month in the Church Hall, Fatima Room.

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



2026 Will County/Grundy County WALK

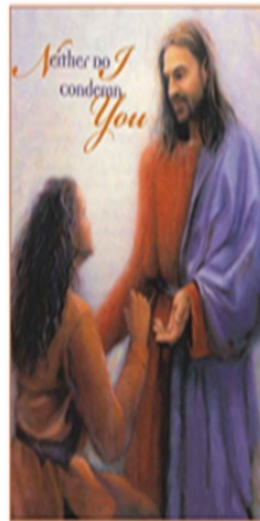
Location
Judson Church
2800 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435

Join us **Saturday, May 16th** for our annual WALK benefitting the Living Alternatives **Will County and Grundy County Pregnancy Resource Centers.**

Schedule
9am Registration
9:15am - 11am Walk Kick-Off and Celebration

Incentives
Registered Walker: 1 T-Shirt
\$250 in pledges: 1 T-Shirt + 1 Sweatshirt
\$500 in Pledges: \$250 incentives + PRC Themed Gift

For more information, to join us, or to sponsor a walker
<https://www.pregnancyresourcecenter.org/get-involved/events/>



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

877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)



The Council of Catholic Women

Joliet Diocese
CCW Woman of the Year Mass
Cathedral of St. Raymond
 Saturday, April 25 1:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass
 Sunday, April 26 at 8:00 a.m. in Church

South Will Grundy Spring Institute
 St. Mary, Minooka Thursday, April 30
 Registration and Voting 5:30 p.m. Mass 6:00 p.m.
 Dinner to follow \$15.00

Mother's Day Carnation Weekend

May 9 & 10
 Donations will benefit
 Birthright of Joliet



The Young at Heart Club

Our next meeting will be
Wednesday, May 6
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 in the Church Hall

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo
with us!

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



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, May 4th

Contact Jan Homolka if you are interested in joining this group janhomolka@yahoo.com



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

K of C Blood Drive Tuesday, April 28
8:00 a.m.—12:00 Noon
Church Hall

The next Council Meeting will be
Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the
 Church Hall, Guadalupe Room

THE ST. MARY
 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Family Prayer Night

Monday, May 4
6:30 p.m. in church
 Join us in the church hall immediately
 following for light refreshments.



THIS NIGHT WILL INCLUDE
 PRAYERS FOR PARENTS FOCUSING
 ON SUPPORTING THEIR
 CHILDREN'S
 SPIRITUAL LIVES.



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Join the Novena



“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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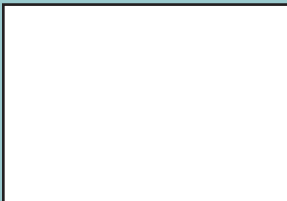
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