



SAINT MARY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

AUGUST 16, 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 | 8:00am
 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 through Friday
 7:30am

Monday evenings | 6:30pm

Daily Divine Mercy Chaplet

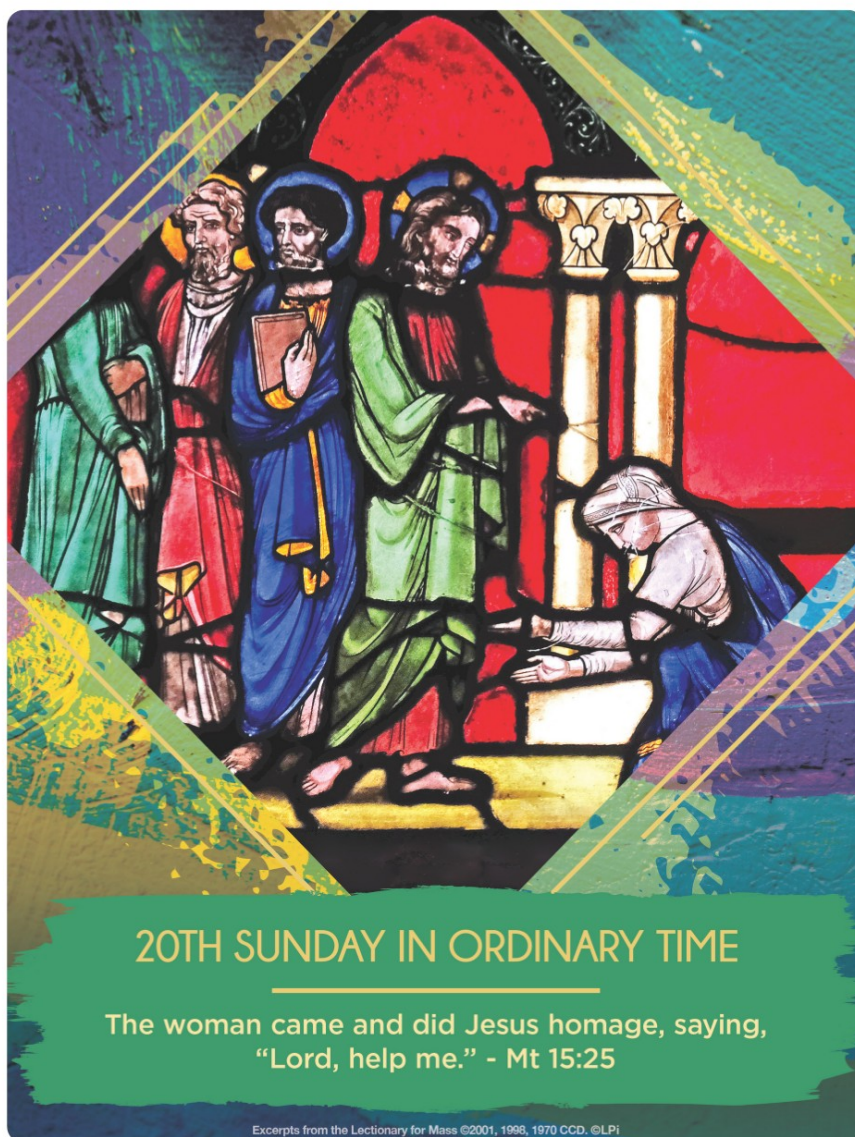
Monday through Friday
 8:30am

Lauds

Sunday mornings | 7:15am

GET IN TOUCH

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



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The woman came and did Jesus homage, saying,
 "Lord, help me." - Mt 15:25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 CCD. ©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
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Welbert Suarez

708-326-9307 pastor@stmarymokena.org
 708-326-9304 frwelbert@stmarymokena.org

Deacons:

Deacon Peter Manning
 Deacon John Rex
 Deacon Kevin Plankinton
 Deacon Dave Stanton

708-326-9300 deaconpete@aol.com
 708-326-9300 deaconjohn@stmarymokena.org
 708-326-9300 deaconkevin@stmarymokena.org
 708-326-9300 deacondave@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, Selena Roberts
 RE Office Assistant, Kathy Brzeszkiewicz

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 sroberts@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

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

708-326-9330

708-326-9332 office@stmarymokena.org
 708-326-9348 mengelman@stmarymokena.org
 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.

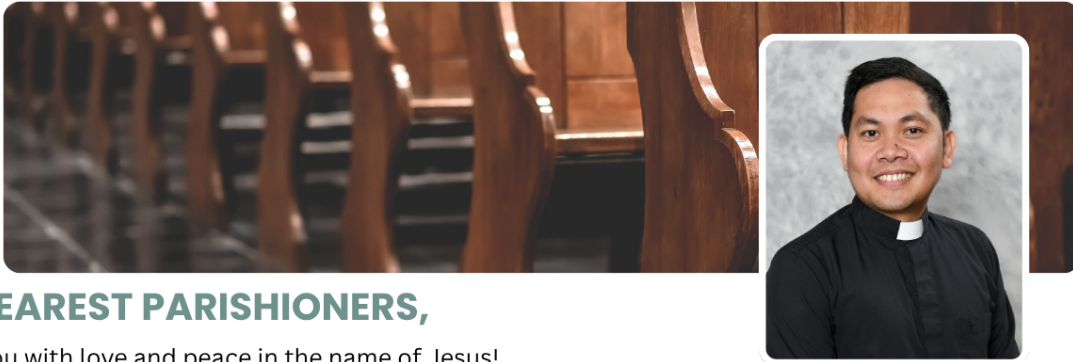
Baptisms - Baptisms are usually scheduled the first and third Sunday of the month at 12:15 p.m. following 11:00 a.m. Mass. Please contact the parish office to make arrangements for the baptismal preparation class.

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!

When I first arrived at St. Mary's two years ago, I had the opportunity to attend our Parish Pastoral Council meetings. As I listened, I noticed that much of our time together was spent giving reports. Members of the council would share updates about the different ministries, activities, and events that have already taken place. While those reports were helpful and reflected the many good things happening in our parish, I realized that majority of our time focused on the past. More importantly, I felt that we were missing the deeper purpose of the Parish Pastoral Council. This year, I am happy to share with you that we are taking a different direction.

The Parish Pastoral Council or PPC is much more than a committee that simply meets every month. It is a group of parishioners who work closely with the pastor to reflect on the life of the parish and help discern where God is calling us to grow. The council is not here to run the parish or make decisions on behalf of the pastor. Rather, it serves in an advisory role, offering prayerful advice, honest feedback, and thoughtful recommendations as we look toward the future together. One of the most important roles of the PPC is to be a bridge between the pastor and the parish community. The council helps bring the hopes, concerns, ideas, and experiences of our parishioners into our conversations. The council also helps parishioners better understand the vision and mission of our parish. In other words, the PPC helps me listen to the parish, and it helps all of us prayerfully discern where God is leading us.

I truly believe that the best decisions for a parish are not made by one person alone. They are made when we pray together, listen carefully to one another, and ask what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do. A healthy parish is one where people know that their voices matter. Because of this renewed focus, PPC meetings will focus on the bigger picture. We will ask questions such as: *How can we help people grow closer to Christ? How can we make our parish more welcoming? How can we better serve our families, our children, our young people, our seniors, and those who feel disconnected from the Church? What should our priorities be in the years ahead?*

The work of the PPC is not about planning the next event or managing the day-to-day operations of the parish. Those responsibilities belong to our parish staff, ministry leaders, and many dedicated volunteers. The council's mission is to help us see beyond today's needs and to prayerfully envision the future of St. Mary's. That is why I encourage you to get to know our council members. If you have an observation, a concern, an idea, or a suggestion that can help strengthen our parish, please do not hesitate to approach them. Share your thoughts with them. They will bring those voices into our discussions as we continue discerning the needs of our parish. Your perspective matters, and your input can help us better serve our entire parish family. I ask you to keep them in your prayers as they begin this renewed journey of service. Together, let us continue to pray for our parish, to listen to one another, and to seek God's will in everything we do.

Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

With love in Christ,

Fr. Joe Gasta, RCJ
Pastor

PARISH VISION AND VALUES



Collaborative Parish Culture where teamwork drives our effort to support one another in fulfilling our mission.

Reverent in our approach to the Eucharist, the liturgy, holy sacraments and prayer.

Generous Sacrifice of time, talent and treasure for the good of Our Lord's mission.

Our Vision

Encourage Fellowship, welcome newcomers and support one another on our faith journeys.

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

Embrace the Beauty of our Catholic faith in our worship and church setting.

& Values

Passionately catechize and evangelize people, bringing them into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Love of Neighbor drives our spirit to serve others in need and protect life from conception to natural death.

Dynamic and Innovative in how we connect, teach, pray and worship.

St. Mary Parish Pastoral Council

Our St. Mary Vision and Core Values serve as the guiding light for our Parish Pastoral Council. The Pastoral Council meets monthly with our pastor to help identify areas of need, establish pastoral goals, and articulate a vision for future growth in faith and discipleship.

Pastoral Council FAQs

Q1: What is the St. Mary's Pastoral Council (PPC)?

Answer: The PPC is made up of parishioners who collaborate with the pastor to support the spiritual and pastoral life of the parish. The PPC is supported by Church Law (Canon 536 §2). The pastor, as the proper shepherd of the parish under the authority of the local bishop, retains responsibility for governing the parish and making final decisions regarding parish life.

Q2: What are the core responsibilities of the PPC?

Answer: The core purpose and function of the PPC is to represent the community to the pastor and the pastor to the community.

- **Advisory Role:** Serves as the consultative body to the pastor without governing authority
- **Mission Focus:** Promote unity, foster faith formation and assist in the church's evangelical mission
- **Prioritizes long-term pastoral planning and visioning** rather than day-to-day administration

Q3: How do I communicate my questions about the parish to the PPC?

Answer: In the spirit of shared responsibility, a parishioner can speak to one of the PPC members pictured on the next page or send an email to: ppc@stmarymokena.org. Include a brief summary your question, concern or suggestion.

Introducing the members of the Parish Pastoral Council!



Bob Cornejo
Chairman



Tom Blue
Vice Chairman



Ted Kopczynski
Secretary



Peter Baker



Anthony Bara



Mary Frances Consola



Kyle Dodge



Annmarie Mastro



Adam Miklaszewski



Marcy Pluchar



Bob Prskalo



Mary Beth Reiter



All men are invited to join us for our next meeting
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

(soon to be)

BLESSED FULTON SHEEN



As we look towards his beatification in September, come learn about this modern day saint's life, impact, quotes, and legacy.

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



GENEROSITY
 Love, serve and give generously.

Support our ministries through faithful generosity.

The Offertory for August 9th

Online Giving	\$13,631.75
Envelopes	\$19,390.29
	\$33,022.04

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

Online Giving
 Give your gift today.
 Scan the QR Code



Rooted in
Gratitude
 Giving with
Grace.

Online Giving

Visit our church website and click on **GIVING** to sign up and get started.

Support our ministries this Summer through faithful generosity.

Online Giving offers convenience and a simple, secure way to contribute from your phone, tablet, or computer on a recurring basis. Your generosity plays a meaningful role in sustaining the daily operations and ministries of our community. Any gift, offered freely and from the heart, helps us to continue the good work we share here at St. Mary Parish.

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!

	Sat., 5:00 PM	Sun., 8:00 AM	Sun., 9:30 AM	Sun., 11:00 AM	Sun., 6:00 PM
Lector					
Eucharistic Minister					
Altar Server					
Usher					
Greeter					
Live Stream					

NOTICE SOMETHING MISSING? THE ANSWER IS YOU!

Imagine walking into a church early on a Sunday morning. The pews are still empty, the candles are unlit, and the altar is bare. Slowly, familiar faces begin to arrive — and nothing is prepared.

Are you being called to proclaim the Word, distribute the Eucharist, guide the faithful to their seats?

- **You can be hands of welcome** for the weary soul who steps into church seeking peace.
- **You can be the voice of Scripture** that may speak directly to someone's heart.
- **You can be the reverent presence** that helps others see the holiness of the Mass.

Every gesture, every smile, every moment of preparation is a quiet act of evangelization.

The Eternal Impact of Your Service: You may never know the full impact of your ministry. The person you greet may be returning to church after years away. The reading you proclaim may be the exact word someone needed to hear. The Eucharist you offer may be the strength that carries someone through a difficult week.

Call to Continue with Joy: We encourage you to Step up and join one of more of these ministries. Please pray about it — you will be fully trained for the ministries you choose. If you feel unsure of your worthiness, remember that Christ Himself is your strength.

If interested in any of these ministries, please email Deacon Pete Manning at deaconpete@aol.com & John Brett at jbrett@stmarymokena.org, our Directors of Liturgy. Call us, because God is calling you. Will you answer His call?

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 17

8:00am: Juan Garcia

Tuesday, August 18

8:00am: Chris Rohan, David Satrun, Charles Cox, Henry Partyka, Dolores Schury

Wednesday, August 19

8:00am: William Briscoe, Eddie Pasztelan

Thursday, August 20

8:00am: Diana Nash, Mary Jane McGinnis

Friday, August 21

8:00am: Jill Augustine, Bill Dorans

Saturday, August 22

8:00am: Bill Delladio

5:00pm: Ed Pasztelan, Fiore Maria Petrassi, Leon Witkowski, Edward Miernicki, Arnulfo Capistrano, John Bozek, Susan Bozek, Barbara, Michelle and Rocky Bonetti

Sunday, August 23

8:00 am: Ercole and Innocenza Sturino

9:30 am: Carol Ann Borowczyk, Lauren Ledvina, Mary Kay Walsh

11:00 am: Nancy Leonhardt, Michael Gleason

6:00 p.m. Lucy Garcia

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Dan Albrecht, Brett Anderson, Joe, Austin, Tammy Balamut, Lisa Barber, Lisa Bernhard, Florence and Gino Bondi, Greg Brazinsky, 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, Jerry Grabowski, Sandy Halper, Kelly Hampton, Catherine Hansen, Natalie Haran, Jeremiah Hartmann, 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, 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, Catherine O'Donnell, Kenneth O'Gradney, Irene Okoniewski, Callie Olson, Bruce Omastak, Matthew Orr, James Palermo, Bob and Jackie Pasqualoni, 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, Marion Walles, Kathy Wereldsma, Leo Wilczek, Gladys Weber Tim Weber, Jodie Weber, Jonathan Weber, Yvonne White, Dan Wolf, Jerry Wolff, Diana Woods, Karen Yaeger, Daniel Zich

God Bless Our New Parishioners

The Grossi family,
The McGowan family



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

CARSON BILLINGTON

MAY GOD BLESS THE LITTLE ONES



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, ARNG
Lt Col Joseph A. Budzyn, USAF
AET2 Lauren Bulow, USCG
TSgt Loretta Caplinger, USAF
SSgt Colton DeLanoit, USAF
SrA Joshua Fishel, 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
PFC Tyler Kilmartin-Radtke, USA
SP4 Devin Klinger, USA
PFC Mary Rose Krizewicz, ARNG
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 Quatrochi, USAF
Cpl Ryan J. Schwartz, USMC
2LT Brooke Scanlon, USA
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
MAJ Vincent R. Teodoro, USA
A1C Benjamin Underwood, USAF
PE2 Joshua James Underwood, 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.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, August 17

7:00 a.m. Confessions
8:00 a.m. Mass
6:30 p.m. Rosary

Tuesday, August 18

7:00 a.m. Confessions
8:00 a.m. Mass
6:30 p.m. Healing the Whole Person
(Church Hall)

Wednesday, August 19

5:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
7:00 a.m. Confessions
8:00 a.m. Mass
10:00 a.m. Healing the Whole Person
(Church Hall)
1:30 p.m. CCW Wine and Song Event Set Up
(Church Hall-Guadalupe)

Thursday, August 20

7:00 a.m. Confessions
8:00 a.m. Mass
6:00 p.m. CCW Wine and Song Event
(Church Hall-Guadalupe)

Friday, August 21

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

Saturday, August 22

7:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
8:00 a.m. Men's Ministry (Guadalupe)
8:30 a.m. Missionaries of Apostolic Grace
(Fatima)
12:00 p.m. Catechist Orientation Workshop
(Church Hall)
3:30 p.m. Confessions
5:00 p.m. Mass (Church)

Sunday, August 23

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

Birthday blessings

Please join us at Mass on the first Saturday/Sunday of each month in praying for those celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries.

All those celebrating will receive a special blessing after Mass!



PRAY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE UNBORN



High School Ministry Semester Kick-Off

**Sunday, August 23rd
7pm Church Hall**

Join us as we start off the new school year.

**SMP Youth Ministry is focused around
community and presence. Join us and see
why 200+ teens are involved with our
program.**



**Join our Flocknote Messaging
Here:**



**Contact Matt Jung for more information.
mjung@stmarymokena.org**

Catholic = Universal

Be part of something great

Are you interested in becoming Catholic?
OCIA CLASSES are starting soon!

**Sundays,
September-May
9:00am-10:45am**

Weekly sessions start
**Sunday,
September 13th**

A faith
journey that
will equip you
and prepare
you to have a
full life with
God in the
Catholic
Church

Come as you are!

Contact Megan Murray,
Director of
Adult Faith Formation
mmurray@stmarymokena.org
708-326-9313



A Space for Spiritual Growth

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE, CONSULTATION, AND SUPPORT
FOR ALL YOUNG ADULT & ADULT WOMEN



Megan Murray is St. Mary's Director of Adult Faith Formation and walks with young women as a spiritual director and mentor with a background in Carmelite Spirituality and Ignatian Prayer & Discernment.

If you are desiring and searching for ways to deepen your relationship with God, reach out to Megan and find a space for spiritual growth.

- Spiritual guidance
- Tools to help you grow in your faith
- Deepen your prayer life/ teach you ways to pray

FIND A SPACE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH



mmurray@stmarymokena.org



BEATIFICATION OF
ARCHBISHOP

**FULTON J.
SHEEN**

SEPTEMBER 24, 2026
ST. LOUIS, MO

WHO IS FULTON SHEEN?

Fulton J. Sheen (1895–1979) was a Catholic priest originally from El Paso, Illinois and a media personality known for his preaching on television and radio. He is recognized for his influential books and broadcasts, including "Life Is Worth Living."

HOW CAN I EXPERIENCE THIS SPECIAL EVENT?

There are many opportunities to participate in this historic event right in our own backyard! Beginning September 19, there are pilgrimage opportunities in Peoria, IL leading up to the Beatification Mass on September 24 in St. Louis, MO. Visit the link below to find out more, including how to livestream the Mass..

FIND OUT MORE INFO,
INCLUDING PURCHASING TICKETS AND THE LIVESTREAM LINK AT
celebratesheen.com

WOMEN'S *Welcome* WEEKEND



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

PAUSE *take time for yourself*

CONNECT *with other women*

REFRESH *your soul*

REFLECT *on God's deep love for you*

REDISCOVER *joy, peace, and Jesus!*

This weekend is for women of all ages!

No cost to participate.

Get ready for a weekend of good food: we provide Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner
and Sunday breakfast and lunch.

Sleep at your own house!

Free registration at www.stmarymokena.org/welcome

36 spots available, early registration recommended.



Join us!
Saturday and Sunday,
November 7-8
at St. Mary, Mokena

Email Danielle with any questions, dkuboushek@stmarymokena.org,
or call the parish office, (708) 326-9300.



RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION

SEEKING CATECHISTS:
TUESDAYS 5TH GRADE
WEDNESDAYS 1ST GRADE
ASSISTANT CATECHISTS:
WEDNESDAYS GRADES 1, 4 & 6



CALLING FORTH

All Families and
Volunteers

2026-2027
**ONLINE REGISTRATION IS
OPEN ON THE SMP WEBSITE**

Tier 2 pricing ends August 30th

CLASSES BEGIN:
September 15th

JOIN US

CALLED TO SERVE?

FAITH-FILLED CATECHIST



CATECHIST ASSISTANT



SUBSTITUTE CATECHIST



OFFICE ASSISTANT/ HALL
MONITOR/TRAFFIC HELPER



708-326-9352

RE@STMARYMOKENA.ORG

WWW.STMARYMOKENA.ORG

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

AUGUST 16, 2026

TODAY'S GOSPEL FROM MATTHEW REMINDS US TO TRUST THE LORD EVEN WHEN IT SEEMS HE IS NOT ANSWERING OUR PRAYERS.

GOD DESIRES TO LEAD US TO THE JOY OF HEAVEN AND ETERNAL LIFE WITH HIM. TO PREPARE US FOR THAT DAY, HE CALLS US TO GROW IN FAITH AND TO LIVE EACH DAY AS A GRATEFUL RESPONSE TO HIS GOODNESS. IN OTHER WORDS, HE IS FORMING US INTO SAINTS. THIS IS WHAT THE STEWARDSHIP WAY OF LIFE IS MEANT TO ACCOMPLISH. AT TIMES THAT PROCESS IS DIFFICULT. OFTEN, IT STRETCHES US BEYOND OUR COMFORT.



JESUS CERTAINLY CHALLENGED THE CANAANITE WOMAN IN TODAY'S GOSPEL. SHE CRIED OUT TO HIM ON BEHALF OF HER DAUGHTER, WHO WAS TORMENTED BY A DEMON. HOW DID JESUS RESPOND TO THIS DESPERATE MOTHER'S PLEA? AT FIRST, HE "DID NOT SAY A WORD IN ANSWER TO HER." UNDETERRED, SHE CONTINUED TO SEEK HIM, AND HE CONTINUED TO TEST HER FAITH.

SHE RESPONDED WITH SUCH REMARKABLE TRUST THAT JESUS PROCLAIMED, "O WOMAN, GREAT IS YOUR FAITH! LET IT BE DONE FOR YOU AS YOU WISH." IMAGINE HEARING THOSE WORDS SPOKEN TO US BY OUR LORD. THERE COULD BE NO GREATER AFFIRMATION OF A LIFE LIVED IN FAITHFUL DISCIPLESHIP.

THE STEWARDSHIP WAY OF LIFE WILL TEST OUR TRUST IN GOD AT TIMES. BUT THOSE ARE OFTEN THE MOMENTS WHEN HE IS DOING HIS GREATEST WORK WITHIN US. LET US PERSEVERE IN FAITH, TRUSTING THAT HIS PLAN IS ALWAYS LEADING US TOWARD THE JOY HE HAS PREPARED FOR US.

©CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP CONSULTANTS



BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

My Joyful Heart, a local children's charity, is in need of school supplies!

CAN YOU HELP?	
2-pocket Folders	Manuscript Pads (Gr K-2)
Crayons	Pencil Boxes
Colored Pencils	Backpacks (for grades 6+)
Washable Markers	Pens, Pencils and Erasers
Highlighters	Index Cards, Scissors, Rulers
Spiral Notebooks Wide or College ruled	Over the ear headphones
	Lunchboxes



SHOP OUR
AMAZON WISH LIST →



SCAN THE QR CODE
to view our Amazon
Wish List and ship
supplies directly to us!

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MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet Mobile Food Pantry delivers healthy food to people in need. All Mobile Food Pantries distribute food through a drive-thru. Please clear space in your trunk or backseat so volunteers can load boxes of food directly into your vehicle—rain, snow, or shine!

August 7: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 205 E. Jackson St, Joliet,
10:00am – 11:30am

August 21: St. Joseph, 211 N. Center Ave, Bradley,
10:00am – 11:30am

August 24: St. Lawrence, 165 Rice Rd, South Wilmington,
4:00pm – 5:30pm

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DEREK SCHULTZ AT 815-724-1160 OR DSCHULTZ@CC-DOJ.ORG
DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
THE LATEST INFORMATION AND SCHEDULES.

**BEREAVEMENT
SUPPORT
FALL SESSION**

SEASONS OF HOPE

Beginning September 8th from
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sessions are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the
month
for six weeks in the St. Mary 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 NECESSARY AND
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Charmaine Willand 708-307-3196 or
charm.willand@gmail.com

Tickets available after weekend Masses
beginning August 1st and 2nd in the
narthex and in the church office.

(This is an over 21 event.)

CCW 5th Annual Wine & Song Fundraiser Event!

All adult men & women welcome!

Thursday, August 20th 2026
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
in the Church Hall



Bring a friend or two!

**\$20 Per Person
(in advance)
\$25 Per Person
(at the door)**



Includes wine (non-alcoholic
sparkling wine available)
appetizers, raffle baskets and
door prize drawing.

Split the Pot!



Consider joining the St. Mary Pro-Life Committee

**We meet the second
Tuesday of each month.**



Our Next meeting is Tuesday, September 8th at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Hall, Fatima Room

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

Thank you to everyone who helped and contributed to the St. Mary Pro Life Diaper Bag Drive! Bags were delivered to Birthright of Joliet, Aid for Women in Flossmoor and Journey Hub in Mokena. Thanks for supporting Moms in need!





The Council of Catholic Women

The next General Meeting will be Thursday, September 17 in the Church Hall, Guadalupe Room at 6:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar for the
CCW Welcome Back Tea!
Sunday, September 13th in the Church Hall after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. All ladies of the parish are welcome!

Don't forget to wear your hat!



The Knights of Columbus
The next Officer Meeting will be Tuesday, August 25 at 7:00 pm. in the Church Hall, Lourdes Room.

The next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall, Guadalupe Room



THE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES TOOTSIE ROLL CHARITY DRIVE SEPTEMBER 12 & 13



The St. Mary Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you like to knit or crochet?
Come to one of our meetings.
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 a shawl to someone, 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, September 14



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

The WIDOW & WIDOWER'S CLUB



WE MEET THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT A DESIGNATED RESTAURANT OR OTHER LOCATION.

CONTACT MARCIA FRANK FOR INFORMATION 708-227-8290.



(Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped)

Assistant Catechist Needed

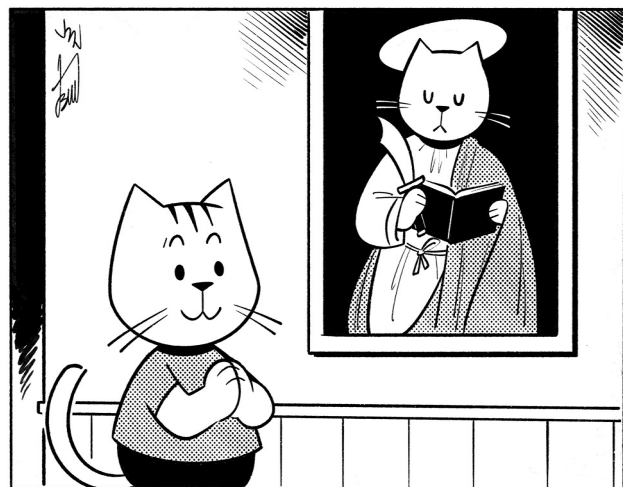
on Sunday mornings

Come be a part of this special group!

We are looking for a someone to be part of this adaptive RE program. Call the RE office for more information (708) 326-9350.



"Who is a kitten's favorite Apostle?"



"St. Bartholo**MEW**."



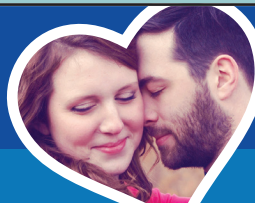
St. Bartholomew was one of Jesus' closest friends. Tradition holds that he served as a missionary after Jesus rose from the dead, traveling as far as India and Armenia to preach the Gospel!

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