



SAINT MARY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

OCTOBER 25, 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 through Friday
7:30am
Monday evenings | 6:30pm

Daily Divine Mercy Chaplet

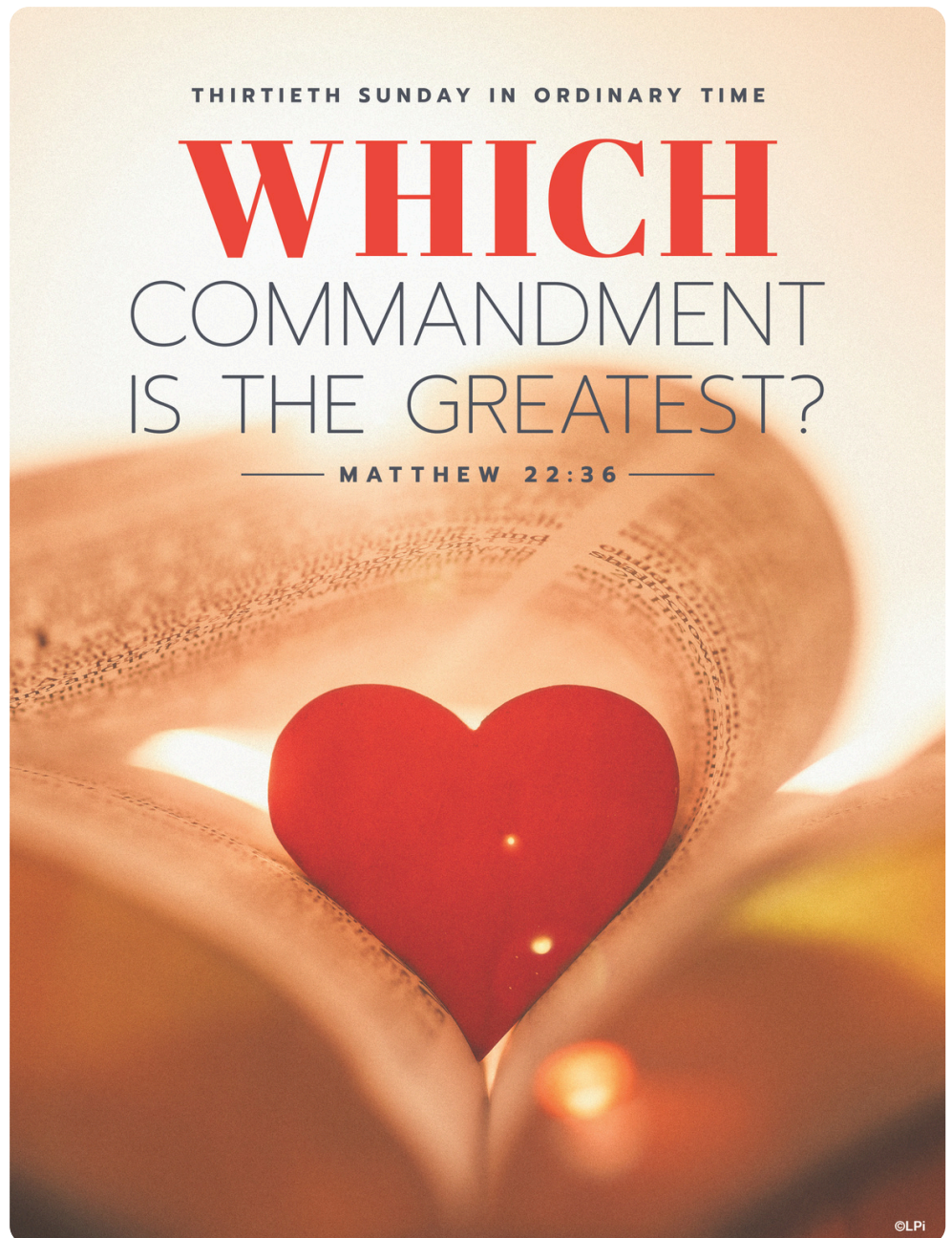
Monday through Friday
8:30am

Lauds

Sunday mornings | 7:15am

GET IN TOUCH

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



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.

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 kbres@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 srizzo@stmarymokena.org
 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, Michelle Huizinga
 School Assistant to the Principal, Jamie Kucala
 Marketing & Enrollment, Danelle Bernas

708-326-9330

708-326-9332 office@stmarymokena.org
 708-326-9348 mhuizinga@stmarymokena.org
 708-326-9347 jkucala@stmarymokena.org
 708-326-9349 dbernas@stmarymokena.org



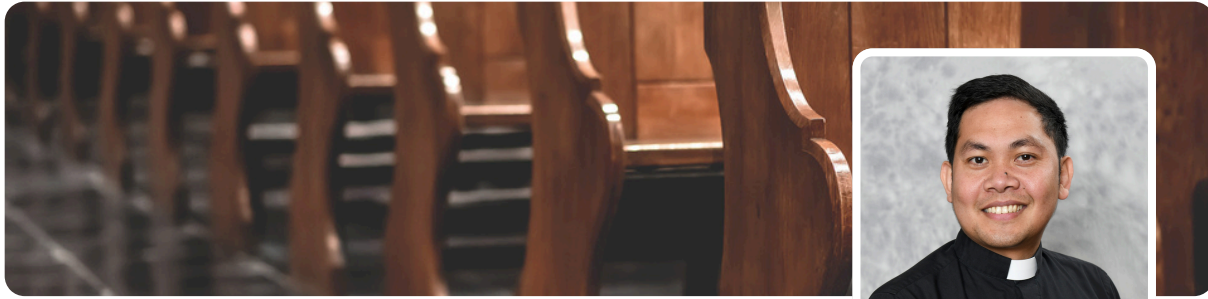
OCIA - Interested in becoming Catholic? Please contact the Director of Faith Formation at 708-326-9313.

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.



MY DEAREST PARISHIONERS,

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

Over the past few weeks, we have reflected on the Introductory Rites and the Liturgy of the Word. We have seen how we come together as one community and how God speaks to us through Sacred Scripture. Having listened to God's Word, we now move to the Liturgy of the Eucharist. What we have heard in the Liturgy of the Word now leads us to the altar, where Christ gives Himself to us and invites us to give ourselves more fully to Him. The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the preparation of the altar and the gifts. We bring forward bread and wine, which will become the Body and Blood of Christ through the Eucharistic Prayer. But as these gifts are brought to the altar, we can also become more aware that we are bringing our own lives before God. We bring our joys and struggles, our families, work, worries, hopes, and everything that we carry in our hearts.

In this way, the offertory becomes a beautiful moment of prayer. We are not offering ourselves in place of Christ's sacrifice. Rather, we are invited to unite ourselves with Christ, who offers Himself to the Father for our salvation. As the gifts are placed on the altar, we can quietly say in our hearts: *Lord, I give you everything I have. Take my life and help me to live it for you.* From this offering, the Mass leads us naturally into the Eucharistic Prayer. The priest prepares the altar and the gifts, and then he invites us: *Lift up your hearts.* This invitation is meant for all of us. We are called to lift our hearts to the Lord and to give Him thanks. We respond together because the Mass is not something the priest does alone. The whole Church, gathered as the Body of Christ, takes part in this great prayer of thanksgiving.

The Eucharistic Prayer is the heart and center of the Mass. Through the words and actions of the priest, Christ becomes truly present under the appearances of bread and wine. The bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. This is the great mystery of our faith: *Jesus gives Himself to us, and He invites us to unite our lives with His own offering to the Father.* This is why the Liturgy of the Eucharist is so closely connected to everything that came before it. We have gathered as God's people. We have listened to His Word. Now, at the altar, we are invited to respond by opening our hearts to Him and uniting ourselves with Christ's perfect offering. The Word we hear leads us to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist sends us forth to live that Word in our daily lives.

The next time you are at Mass, when the gifts are brought to the altar, take a moment to think about what you want to place in God's hands. *Maybe it is a concern about your family, a difficult situation, a person you are praying for, or simply yourself.* Bring it to the Lord. Place it in His hands and trust Him. The Mass reminds us that we do not have to keep our lives separate from our faith. We can bring everything to the Lord. And when we unite our joys, struggles, and daily lives with Christ, He gives us the grace to carry them with greater faith and trust. *Let us ask the Lord for the grace to give ourselves to Him more completely, to trust Him with all that we are, and to allow the Eucharist to transform the way we live each day.*

Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

With love in Christ,

Fr. Joe Gasta, RCJ
Pastor

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, October 26

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass
 9:00 a.m. Senior Shepherds (Guadalupe)
 11:00 a.m. Young at Heart Set Up (Guadalupe)
 1:00 p.m. Young at Heart Meeting (Guadalupe)
 4:15 p.m. Little Flowers (Guadalupe & Lourdes)
 6:00 p.m. SPRED (Fatima)
 6:00 p.m. Pro Life Speaker Event (Guadalupe)
 6:30 p.m. Rosary (Church)
 7:00 p.m. Women's Welcome (JP II Room)

Tuesday, October 27

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass
 4:30 p.m. RE Gr. K-6 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. RE Gr. 7-8 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. Bereavement Support (Chapel)
 7:00 p.m. Scripture Study (Guadalupe)
 7:00 p.m. K of C Officer Meeting (Lourdes)
 7:30 p.m. High School Bible Study (Classroom B-205)

Wednesday, October 28

5:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 7:00 a.m. Confessions
 7:30 a.m. Mass
 9:00 a.m. Scripture Study (Church Hall All)
 9:30 a.m. Church Reserved
 2:00 p.m. Daybreak Cooking (Kitchen)
 4:30 p.m. RE Gr. 1-7 (Classrooms)
 6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting (Fatima)
 6:30 p.m. RE Gr. 7-8 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. Healing of the Whole Person (Guadalupe)
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Side Chapel)

Thursday, October 29

7:00 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Mass
 3:00 p.m. Bunco for Breast Cancer (Church Hall All)
 4:15 p.m. ISP RE Class (JP II Room)
 4:30 p.m. RE Gr. 1-8 (Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. St. Peregrine Devotion (Church)
 7:00 p.m. Monthly Holy Hour & Confessions (Church)

Friday, October 30

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

Saturday, October 31

7:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
 8:30 a.m. Missionaries of Apostolic Grace (Fatima)
 3:30 p.m. Confessions
 5:00 p.m. Mass (Church)

Sunday, November 1

K of C Membership Drive (Narthex)

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

AN EVENING OF PRAYER: OCTOBER 29TH

**6:30PM | ST. PEREGRINE
DEVOTION & HEALING
SERVICE**

**7:00PM
HOLY HOUR**

**JOIN US FOR:
ADORATION
CONFESSION
SACRED MUSIC
SILENCE**

**COME AND LEAVE WHEN YOU CAN!
THIS EVENT HAS REPLACED BEHOLD.**



ON THE FRONT LINES



On The Front Lines is a **Retreat for Men** on the day-to-day battles men of all ages face in life and faith. Enjoy fast-paced, hard-hitting, practical conferences, talks and meditations, Rosary, Mass, with opportunities for Confession & Spiritual direction. Breakfast, lunch and reception included.

Saturday, November 21, 2026

St. Mary Mokena,

8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.



Special Guest Presenter
Fr. Tom McCarthy, OSA

Fee: **Free**

Register today:

www.stmarymokena.org/mens-retreat

Questions: deaconpete@aol.com



Real men belong **On The Front Lines**

05 • MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 26

8:00am: Carlos Salgado, Concetta Martinkonis

Tuesday, October 27

8:00am: Lorraine Oswald, John Cirillo, Matthew Skalnik, Patti Fagan

Wednesday, October 28

7:30am: Thomas Rojas Sr.

8:30am: Scott M. Furlane

Thursday, October 29

8:00am: Sandy Halper

Friday, October 30

8:00am: Paul and Sarah Wolf, deceased members of the St. Mary Knights of Columbus

Saturday, October 31

8:00am: Sandy Halper

5:00pm: Barb and Babe Podlasek, Gino Bondi, Sandy Halper

Sunday, November 1

8:00 am: Natividad Rojas

9:30 am: Frank Edgeworth, Karl McCardle

11:00 am: The Stepien family

6:00 p.m: The Shellman family, John Possedi

Pray for the Sick

Dan Albrecht, Brett Anderson, Joe, Austin, Tammy Balamut, Lisa Barber, Bonny Bond, 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, 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, Ellie Mae Mueller, Angel Munoz, Pat Murphy, Sue Murphy, Lisa Hunt Nichols, Jim Narel, Celine Narel, Geraldine Nykaza, Catherine O'Donnell, Kenneth O'Gradney, Callie Olson, Bruce Omastiak, Matthew Orr, James Palermo, Bob and Jackie Pasqualoni, Dorothy Peterson, Ed Polzin, Janelle Portman, Rosemary Purcell, Thomas 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, Karen Yaeger, Donald Zich

God Bless Our New Parishioners

The Pearson family,
The Luzzi family,
The McCormick family



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

JORDAN JACOB BUSCH
ELEANOR KAY BERECH

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
PV2 Logan Grant, 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
E2 William Mrozowski, USN
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
PV2 Joshua James Underwood, USA
2ndLt 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.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

THE VILLAGE OF MOKENA WILL BE CLOSING ST. MARYS ROAD (*the one-way road next to the Adoration Chapel and Cemetery*) FOR CONSTRUCTION STARTING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST. THEIR TENTATIVE END DATE IS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH.

THE ADORATION CHAPEL WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DURING THIS TIME FOR SAFETY PURPOSES.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CEMETERY AT THE INTERSECTION OF 195TH STREET AND WOLF ROAD WILL ALSO BE CLOSED INTERMITTENTLY DURING THIS TIME.

IF PLANNING ON VISITING THE CEMETERY DURING CONSTRUCTION, PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE ENTRANCE MAY BE CLOSED OFF. PLEASE ALSO EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION, AND PLAN ON ENTERING AND EXITING AT THE INTERSECTION OF 195TH STREET AND WOLF ROAD.

Join us for an

ANNULMENT TALK

COME LEARN ABOUT ANNULMENTS:

The process. Common myths debunked. Receiving the Sacrament of Marriage after an Annulment.

Thursday, November 5, 2026

7:00 PM



Deacon Douglas McIlvaine

Deacon Douglas McIlvaine serves as the Marriage and Family Specialist for the Diocese of Joliet Roman Catholic Church, dedicating his ministry to faith formation, discipleship, and the spiritual development of lay leaders. Based in the Crest Hill, Illinois, he works to support individuals and parish communities in deepening their understanding of the Catholic faith and living it more fully in daily life. He is the Regional Representative for the Catholic Family Life Association.

Deacon McIlvaine has been married to his wife Amy for 32 years and together they have 4 adult children.

Deacon McIlvaine holds two advanced degrees: a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies and a Master of Business Administration.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Questions? Contact Erica at esestak@stmarymokena.org.

Giving

**Rooted in Gratitude
Giving with Grace**

The Offertory for October 11th

Online Giving	\$23,119.00
Envelopes	\$22,915.10
	\$46,034.10

The Offertory for October 18th

Online Giving	\$13,212.00
Envelopes	\$14,956.02
	\$28,168.02

Budget \$34,000

**Thank you so much for your
generosity!**

Online Giving

Give your
gift today.

Scan the QR
Code



All Souls Day

(Monday, November 2nd)

is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation.

We will be offering additional Masses on
November 2nd to pray for those who have
passed away.

Mass schedule	8:00 a.m.
on Nov. 2nd:	12:00 p.m.
	7:00 p.m.

**ALL MASSES WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN
THE MAIN CHURCH.**

Nothing will be taking place in the
Adoration Chapel on November 2 due to the
construction on St. Marys Road.



All Soul's Day

Monday, November 2nd

If you would like your loved one's picture to be displayed, please arrive
10-15 min before Mass with your photo.

You may take your photo home after the Mass.

(Please be sure your name and phone number are on the back just in case.)





*St. Mary Mokena
40 Days 4Life Campaign*

Sanctity of Life Speaker Event

Monday, October 26

6:30 Doors Open & Refreshments

7:00pm Program Begins

- **Thomas More Society's role in defending religious freedom, parental rights and the sanctity of life.**
- **Update on Illinois laws impacting the sanctity of life and religious freedom in our state, including the recent legalization of assisted suicide.**
- **Identify emerging threats to life, family, and freedom in our state and nation.**
- **Success stories that inspire hope and motivate action.**
- **Learn the critical & compassionate role of pregnancy centers and how we can support their efforts.**
- **Open Q & A.**

Featuring:



**Thomas Olp
Executive VP**



**Thomas More
SOCIETY**

Thomas Olp serves as Executive Vice President at Thomas More Society. He earned his undergraduate degree magna cum laude from Georgetown University, his J.D. from the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, and an LLM from Georgetown University Law Center.

Tom practiced labor and employment law in Washington, D.C., for nearly a decade before serving as Vice President and General Counsel for Connor-Winfield Corporation in Aurora, IL. He joined Thomas More Society in 2007 as a pro bono attorney, became a board member in 2014, and has worked as a full-time attorney since 2015.

Aid for Women
PREGNANCY CARE CENTERS
AND MATERNITY HOMES

**St. Mary Mokena, Parish Hall
19515 S 115th Ave., Mokena, IL**

For more information contact Donna Hungerford at dhungerford@stmarymokena.org



St. Mary Mokena 40 Days 4Life Campaign

What does the Thomas More Society do?



Thomas More
SOCIETY

Since 1998, Thomas More Society has steadfastly preserved the rich heritage of American liberty. Their distinguished track record showcases an unwavering commitment to defending your fundamental rights to life, family, and freedom.

Driven by the Pursuit for Justice

For decades, they have passionately championed the causes of everyday individuals confronting remarkable injustices, from the sidewalks and town squares to the Supreme Court.

Providing pro-bono counsel, advocacy, and litigation in the following areas:



LIFE

Defending life from conception to natural death and protecting the First Amendment rights of sidewalk counselors, pregnancy centers, and other heroic pro-life advocates.



FAMILY

Protecting parents' rights and the innate goodness of the family against harmful policies that threaten childhood safety and undermine traditional morality.



FREEDOM

Fighting to uphold Americans' fundamental freedoms of religious liberty, speech, and conscience-in both the public square and the workplace.

Congratulations to our newly married couples!

*Abigail and
Brendan McDonnell*



*Stephanie and
John McCarthy*



*Congratulations to
Dolores and Richard Martinez
on their 50th Wedding
Anniversary!*



*Congratulations to
Blanca and Sean Kelly
on their Marriage Convalidation!*



VOCATIONS OFFICE

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Seminarian Jared Beltz

Jared Beltz is currently in his first year of seminary formation.

He was born January 13, 2001, and grew up in Aurora, Illinois.

He is the son of Joseph and Brenda Beltz and the fourth of six children.

"My family has been a wonderful part of my life and important in my growth as a person," Beltz said.

He recently graduated from Loyola University Chicago with degrees in Mathematics and Music. Growing up, he was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Aurora. Being born into a Catholic family, his family made sure they

went to Mass every Sunday and participated in religious education, etc. He also served in many ministries at Our Lady of Mercy, ranging from altar serving and singing in the choir as a kid to cantoring and serving as a Eucharistic Minister as an adult.

"Through all these things, I gained an up-close perspective of the lifestyle of a priest and formed personal relationships with my pastors," he said. "While I was at college, I began to feel more comfortable telling



others about my faith in God and spending time in prayer at church, helping at Vacation Bible Schools and going on Mission Trips. I had been trying to decide what I wanted to do after college and the thoughts of priesthood and the Church were always in my mind.

"I had been told by many people some variation of 'Have you ever considered priesthood?' or 'Have you ever thought about becoming a priest?', and these encounters, along with my persistent thoughts, made me begin to seriously discern the priesthood."

In addition, he said he felt that God was trying to speak to him as he lis-

tened to the readings on Holy Thursday when Jesus washes the feet of the disciples and makes the point of serving others before Himself.

He believes this was God working through the people in his life as well as through His word, furthering the feeling of the call to priesthood.

Since then, he has had many graces come into his life.

He is currently in Configuration 1 at Mundelein Seminary.

"I am so blessed to have begun this journey to the priesthood," he said. "Please continue to pray for me and my discernment."

How to Support Your Priests

Parishioners can encourage the priesthood by praying daily for vocations

and for priests, by encouraging men they know to consider the priesthood, and by actively supporting the church's vocation ministry. Encouraging a priestly vocation includes

recognizing spiritual commitment, such as regular participation in prayer and spiritual events, and speaking to potential candidates to offer support and invite them to explore the

possibility of a vocation. A supportive community that fosters openness to God's call is crucial for men and women to discern and respond to a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.



Diocese of Joliet

SEMINARIAN EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND



SUPPORT NOW



TITANS WITH INTEGRITY



**MRS. HUIZINGA AND MRS. KUCALA CELEBRATED OUR
TITANS WITH INTEGRITY STUDENTS FOR SEPTEMBER!
THESE STUDENTS EXEMPLIFIED HOPE, CHARACTER, AND
RESPECT, EMBODYING THE VIRTUES WE CHERISH AT SMS.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SEPTEMBER TITANS!
KEEP SHINING, TITANS, AND LIVING OUT THE VIRTUES THAT
MAKE ST. MARY SO SPECIAL!**



Youth Ministry

Fall 2026 Youth Ministry Schedule

High School

October 4th
October 11th
October 25th
November 1st
November 8th
November 15th
November 29th
December 6th
December 13th

Follow us on Instagram



SMPYMMokena

Junior High

6:00-7:30

October 8th
October 22nd
November 5th
November 19th
December 10th

High School Bible Study

Every Tuesday 7:30 -
8:30pm in Matt's
Classroom. Enter
Door 3B in Circle
Drive

Donut Sunday
October 18th
November 22nd

All Dates subject to change.

More info contact Matt Jung at mjung@stmarymokena.org

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP COOK OR ORDER FOOD FOR THE SEARCH

*The meal only needs to feed
about 20 people. One person or
family is needed per week to
contribute to this great event!*

Register by
calling the Parish
Office or using
the QR Code.



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!

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
14 more spots available, register today to join us!



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

St. Mary Sisters In Christ invite all women to join us
for bimonthly gatherings throughout the school
year. We meet in the Church Hall on Saturday
mornings after the 8am Mass for a hot breakfast
buffet, guest speaker and topical discussion.
This year's theme is Dwell In The Presence Of God:
Finding deep spiritual connection in ordinary
moments of your everyday life. There is no cost;
free will donations accepted.



SATURDAY MORNINGS

DWELL IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*Finding deep spiritual connection in ordinary
moments of your everyday life*



November 14

January 30

April 17

The mission of Sisters In Christ Women's Ministry is to nurture women
in the Catholic faith, deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, and
build lasting relationships rooted in Him.

SistersInChrist@stmarymokena.org

708-326-9313

All women ages 21 and over
are invited to



Advent BY CANDLELIGHT December 3, 2026

St. Mary Mokena, Church Hall

Join us for an elegant evening filled with
fellowship, reflection, and food as we prepare
our hearts to embrace the season of Advent
and greet Christmas with true readiness.

Doors open at 6pm.

Tickets are \$35, available at
www.stmarymokena.org/advent
or in the parish office.

Space is limited and no tickets
will be sold at the door.

Hostesses/table decorators and bakers are
needed to make this evening a success!
Sign up when you purchase your ticket.

Direct any questions to Danielle,
dkuboushek@stmarymokena.org.



Join us as we pray the Rosary this October!

We are participating in this campaign to pray one million rosaries during October, in celebration of the month of the Holy Rosary.



JOIN OUR GROUP:



St. Mary Parish

OUR GROUP NAME

1000 Rosaries

OUR GROUP GOAL

HW9WKV

GROUP CODE

HOW TO JOIN

- 1 Scan the QR code or visit onemillionrosaries.com
- 2 Enter your name & email and create a password
- 3 Choose "Yes, I am praying with a group" and enter the Group code.
- 4 Start praying and logging your rosaries on October 1st!



Scan to sign up!

Can't find the code? Choose your state and search for your group by name.
Already signed up? You can add your group code any time from your account page.

THREE WAYS TO KEEP COUNT

Online

Sign in and track your rosaries on the website.

On the App

Log prayers in the free Calm Catholic Kids app.

Search Calm Catholic Kids in the App Store. Available for iPhone & Android.

On Paper

Log in to print a fridge tracker from your account page, mark it off by hand, and periodically submit your totals online.

Receive the graces of praying the Rosary with your family and help us reach our goal!

ONEMILLIONROSARIES.COM

♦ FREE TO JOIN

♦ HOSTED BY



The St. Mary Prayer Shawl Ministry



This wonderful Ministry was founded in 2016 and 1,389 shawls have been created since it began. Since 2017 approximately 160 baby blankets have been donated to Birthright.

This group is led by Parishioner Jan Holmolka and there are currently 8 ladies who knit or crochet as 1 parishioner leads the Holy Rosary. Each hand made shawl is tagged with the size and the name of the creator.

When you choose a shawl and leave the recipient's name, the group prays for them. Stop by the Parish Office if you would like to choose a shawl for someone. "Receiving a shawl is like getting a hug from God."

If you are interested in joining this group, contact Jan Holmolka@yahoo.com



Meetings are held the first Monday of every month in the Church Hall, Fatima Room at 9:00 a.m. (unless there is a holiday).



Visit our website
crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/online/
Questions?
Contact Sue Rizzo
815-953-7228

Return your Box of Joy to the Narthex or Parish Office anytime before October 31st!

Sponsored by St. Mary Counsel of Catholic Women (CCW)



**Cross Catholic
OUTREACH**

Box of Joy provides schools, parishes, organizations and families with an inspiring opportunity to send gifts to poor and underprivileged children living in the hot climate of South American countries.

How to participate:

- Fill a box for a boy or a girl and indicate age
- Bring your filled box back with shipping donation (instruction and gift ideas inside box) to the CCW General Meeting, Thursday, October 15th OR bring to Parish Office OR Church Narthex by November 1st.
- A child opens a Box of Joy and is filled with joy, love and hope!





The Council of Catholic Women

Monday, November 2
All Souls Day Mass 8:00 a.m.
Mass of Remembrance for all
Deceased members of the
CCW

Thank you to everyone who donated during
the Lapel Rose Respect Life Drive.
We collected \$2,097.86 for **The Purple Project**.
God bless you!

CCW Member Lora Oldham attended the
September 28th Mokena Village Board
meeting and received the proclamation for
life that declared the first week in October as
"Respect Life Week" in Mokena from Mayor
George Matanias.



The Knights of Columbus
Saturday, October 24
Bishop Spies Burse Dinner
Church Hall at 6:00 p.m.

There will be a Membership Drive
Tuesday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the
Church Hall, Fatima Room

Tuesday, October 27
Officer Meeting, Church Hall, Lourdes
Room 7:00 p.m.

The Young at Heart Club

Our next meeting will be

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

JOIN US FOR A
HALLOWEEN PARTY
(BINGO/POKER)

IN THE CHURCH HALL 1:00PM-3:00PM

**DON'T FORGET YOUR
COSTUME!**

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



SENIOR SHEPHERDS

Join us on Monday mornings for exercise, faith and fellowship!
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in the Church Hall

Both men and women are encouraged to attend. We especially welcome
couples getting fit and renewing their faith together. (Class limit: 25)

DAILY AGENDA:

- ✓ Opening Prayer
- ✓ Group Fitness (40 minutes)
Balance, mobility, light cardio,
basic strength, gentle stretching included.
Equipment needed: light weights,
proper shoes, towel
- ✓ Gospel Reading
Discussion, Closing Prayer

Sessions
begin
Monday
October 26th!

Cost: Free will offering to cover the cost of
refreshments: coffee, tea, water
Participants will need to sign a waiver.

Questions? Contact Bob Mallo
ACE Certified Group Fitness Instructor and
Senior Fitness Specialist, 708-606-8655



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We're here to help!

FAMILY FOOTBALL SUNDAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

 **VS** 

Everyone is invited to the Church Hall starting at noon to cheer on the Chicago Bears!

Pizza provided.

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