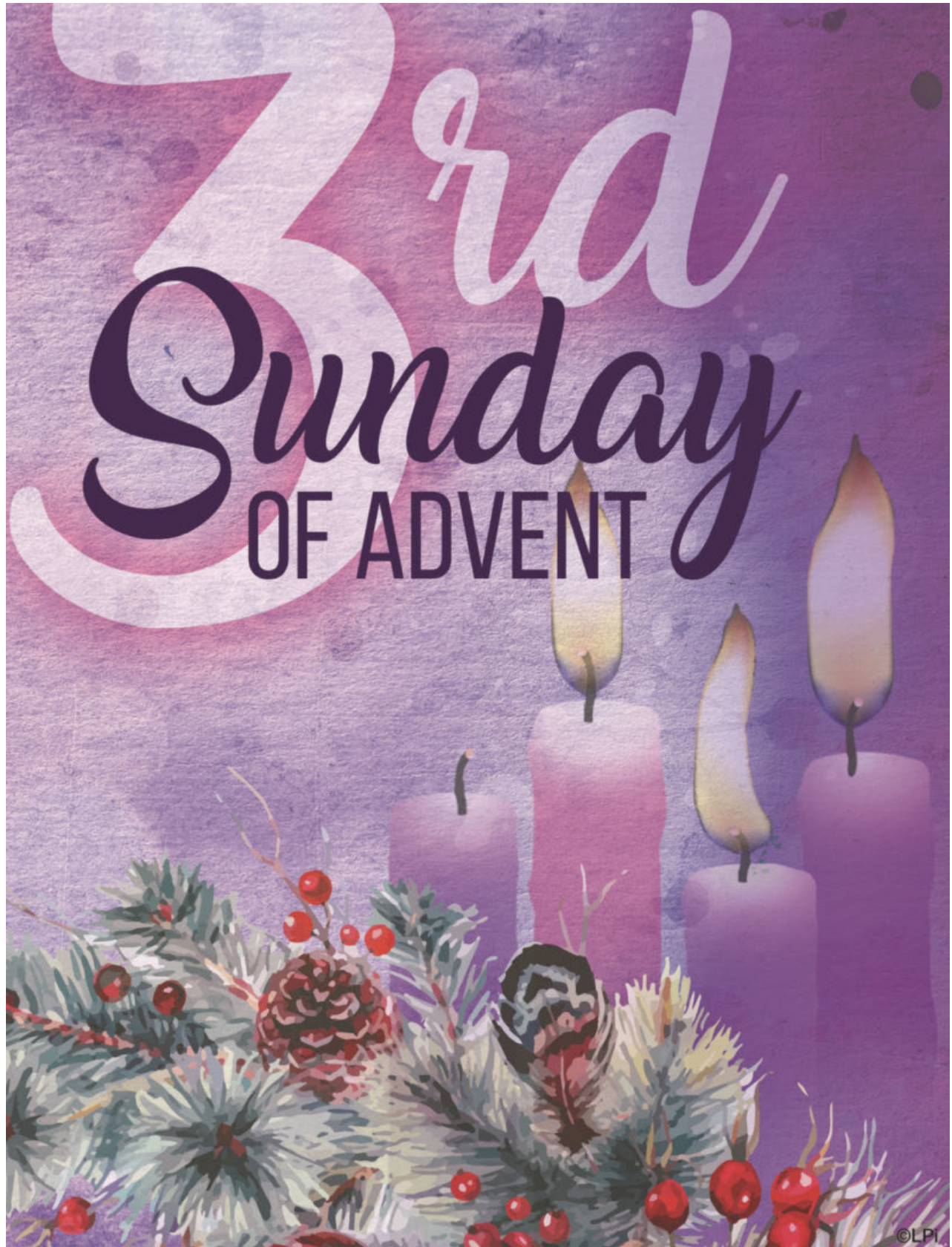


# SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH



19515 S. 115TH AVENUE, MOKENA, IL 60448 | 708-326-9300 | [STMARYMOKENA.ORG](http://STMARYMOKENA.ORG)

**THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS IS OFFERED:****DAILY MASS**

8:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, June - August  
7:30 a.m. Wednesday from start of school year until May\*

**SCHOOL MASS**

8:30 a.m. from start of school year until May\*

*\*In the event of our school closing for inclement weather, on a Wednesday, Daily Mass will remain at 7:30 a.m. and the School Mass at 8:30 a.m. will be cancelled.*

**\*SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**

5:00 p.m.

**\*SUNDAY MASSES**

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN - DOOR #3****OFFICE HOURS:**

**MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY**  
**9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.**

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

Pastor: Fr. Dindo Billote

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Sam Conforti

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Juan Jose Hernandez Salas

**Deacons:**

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

**Parish Office:**

Parish Secretary, Karen Dilger  
Business Manager, Stephen J. Warunek  
Evening Maintenance, Dave Bridges  
Maintenance Supervisor, Gerardo "Gerry" Iniguez  
Morning Maintenance, Thomas Pritchard  
Director of Faith Formation, Megan Murray  
Assistant Director of Faith Formation, Danielle Kuboushek  
Assistant Director to the Clergy/Program Coord., Erica Sestak  
Director of Religious Education, Tami Brongiel  
Assistant Director of Religious Education, Suzy Olsen  
RE Office Administrative Assistant, Therese Gembara  
Director of Christian Service, Donna Hungerford  
Director of Sacred Music, Joseph Berardi  
Director of Liturgy, Bob Cornejo  
Youth Minister, Tom Blue  
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

**DEVOTIONS:****DAILY ROSARY**

7:30 a.m.

8:00 a.m. on Wednesdays from the start of the school year until May

7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evenings

**DAILY DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET; INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE**

8:30 a.m.

8:00 a.m. on Wednesdays from the start of the school year until May

**ADORATION**

Perpetual Adoration available at Old St. Mary.  
Please contact the Parish Office for the code.

**RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS:**

Saturdays 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the chapel  
First Saturdays 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

708-326-9307 Pastor@StMaryMokena.org  
708-326-9304 FrSam@StMaryMokena.org  
815-221-6164 FrJuan@StMaryMokena.org

708-326-9300 DeaconGary@StMaryMokena.org  
708-326-9300 Deaconpete@aol.com  
708-326-9300 DeaconJohn@StMaryMokena.org  
708-326-9300 DeaconKevin@StMaryMokena.org  
708-326-9300 Deacondave@StMaryMokena.org  
708-326-9300 Parish Fax Number 708-326-9301  
708-326-9305 Secretary@StMaryMokena.org  
708-326-9309 Swarunek@StMaryMokena.org  
708-326-9314 Dbridges@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 Solsen@stmarymokena.org  
708-326-9352 RE@stmarymokena.org  
708-326-9312 Dhungerford@StMaryMokena.org  
708-326-9302 JBerardi@StMaryMokena.org  
Bcornejo@StMaryMokena.org  
708-326-9354 TBlue@StMaryMokena.org  
Bulletin@StMaryMokena.org  
815-953-7228  
708-326-9311 Lclark@StMaryMokena.org  
708-326-9310 Pperry@StMaryMokena.org  
Zhabib@StMaryMokena.org

708-326-9330  
708-326-9332 SchoolSecretary@StMaryMokena.org  
708-326-9348 Principal@StMaryMokena.org  
708-326-9347 MHuizinga@stmarymokena.org

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

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

**MARRIAGES** - Weddings need to be scheduled at least 6 months in advance upon approval of a priest. Remember to secure the church date before the reception hall. Please stop in the parish office to begin this process.

**REGISTRATION** - New to St. Mary? Please stop in the parish office to complete our registration form or visit our website at [www.stmarymokena.org](http://www.stmarymokena.org).

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK** - Please contact the parish office at 708-326-9300.



# A Note From Our Pastor



Question: The Bible says that Jesus condemned gambling, but I notice that so many parishes have them at festivals and other events. What's correct?



Answer: Although Jesus speaks of our relationship with material wealth and the very human struggle with greed, the gospels do not include any specific instructions related to gambling. At the same time, the Church is very sensitive to the needs of those who might struggle with an addiction to gambling, and pastoral care should always be offered to those who struggle with this reality in their life.

While it is true that many parish or school communities include gambling or games of chance in festivals and fundraisers (e.g. bingo, roulette, ring tossing, dunking booths, etc.), there is nothing inherently wrong these sorts of events, given they are played fairly and within the limits of reason are not morally objectionable. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us: "Games of chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others" (no. 2413).

As in all things, moderation and a sense of healthy limits should be applied to gambling and games of chance. For those who find themselves living with addiction to gambling, help is available in various 12-step and addiction recovery programs. ©LPi

Peace and all good things,

Father Dindo

## **December 23 - December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 9:30 AM	Sunday, 11:00 AM
		Fourth Sunday of Advent	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Lector	Andrea Taylor	Guy Cesario Mary Frances Consola	Bob Cornejo David LaMonte Sr.	Bob Cornejo
Eucharistic Minister	Peter Baker Mary Ann Braasch Ted Kopczynski John Mitoraj	Sandy Halper Cris Pirelli Robert Rafferty Susan Rizzo	Michael Dilger Joe Hartl Kathleen Melei Joshua Sifuentes	Michael Crowley Joanne Eckel Kathy Judge NOT FILLED
Altar Server	Charlotte Barron Lilly Butler Seamus McGarry Avery McNamara	Kaitlyn Diemer Olivia Diemer Daniela Lacny Liam Sullivan	Andrew Pilon Noah Pilon Aiden Raimondi Logan Raimondi	Stefanie Banner Max Giannakas Nicholas Perkins NOT FILLED
Usher	Mary Ann Braasch Jim Grady Mark Miron James Palermo	Chris Cichowicz Rich Gavillet Tom Magdziasz Roy Mueller	John Delladio Joanne Eaton Joanette Kulesa Jim Kulesa Diane Mucia	Linda Drak Melissa Rolinitis Mike Rolinitis NOT FILLED
Greeter	NOT FILLED	Denise Mueller	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED
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 and Greeters for their dedication and outstanding service.

## Third Sunday of Advent

### Monday, December 18

7:30 a.m. Rosary (Church)  
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)  
 8:30 a.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)  
 2:45 p.m. Brownie Meeting 3rd Grade (Guadalupe)  
 6:00 p.m. Rosary (Church)  
 7:00 p.m. Advent Series (Guadalupe)  
 7:00 p.m. American Heritage Girls (Fatima)

### Tuesday, December 19

7:30 a.m. Rosary (Church)  
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)  
 8:30 a.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)  
 2:45 p.m. Daisy Troop Meeting (Lourdes)  
 3:30 p.m. Children's Choir (Church)  
 4:30 p.m. RE Classes Gr. K-6 (Classrooms)  
 4:30 p.m. 4th Grade RE Christmas Party (Fatima)  
 6:00 p.m. Advent Confessions (Church)  
 6:00 p.m. Finance Council Meeting (Fatima)  
 6:30 p.m. RE Classes Gr 7-8 (Classrooms)  
 7:00 p.m. Scripture Study (Guadalupe)

### Wednesday, December 20

5:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)  
 7:00 a.m. Rosary (Church)  
 7:30 a.m. Parish Mass (Church)  
 8:30 a.m. School Mass (Church)  
 9:00 a.m. Scripture Study (Guadalupe)  
 9:00 a.m. Mom's Podcast Club (Fatima)  
 11:00a.m. Young at Heart Set Up (Guadalupe)  
 1:00 p.m. Young at Heart Meeting (Guadalupe)  
 4:30 p.m. RE Classes Gr. 1-6 (Classrooms)  
 6:30 p.m. RE Classes Gr. 7-8 (Classrooms)  
 7:30 p.m. Simbang Gabi Mass (Church)  
 8:30 p.m. Simbang Gabi Reception (Church Hall)

### Thursday, December 21

7:30 a.m. Rosary (Church)  
 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)  
 8:30 a.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)  
 3:00 p.m. K of C Blood Drive (Guadalupe)  
 4:30 p.m. RE Classes Gr. 1-8 (Classrooms)  
 5:30 p.m. Adult Choir (Church)  
 7:30 p.m. Roses of Mary Meeting (Fatima)

### Friday, December 22

7:30 a.m. Rosary (Church)  
 7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)  
 8:15 a.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)

### Saturday, December 23

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

### Sunday, December 24

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)  
 9:30 a.m. Mass (Church)  
 11:00a.m. Mass (Church)  
 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass (Church)  
 4:15 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass (Church Hall)  
 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass (Church)

## Divine Mercy In-Home Ministry

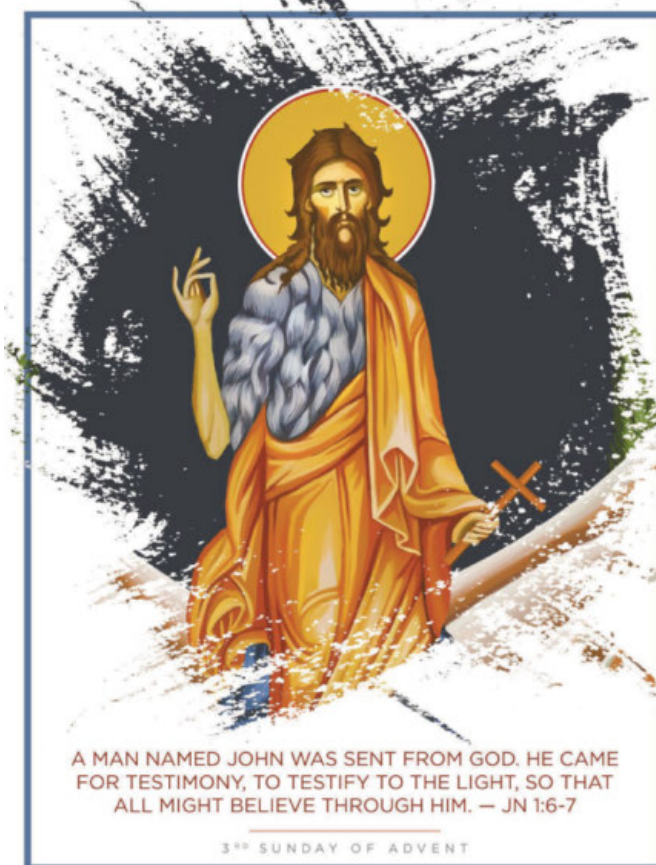
This Apostolate is one of compassion, mercy, and prayer. We are available to be with families and their loved ones, who are sick and dying, to pray the Divine Mercy chaplet with them.

For information or if you are interested in joining our ministry, please contact  
**Michelle and Paul Sullivan**  
 at 815-995-0480.

"When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as a just Judge but as a merciful Savior."  
*(Diary of St. Faustina, 1541)*



Jesus I Trust in You



A MAN NAMED JOHN WAS SENT FROM GOD. HE CAME FOR TESTIMONY, TO TESTIFY TO THE LIGHT, SO THAT ALL MIGHT BELIEVE THROUGH HIM. — JN 1:6-7

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

EXCERPTS FROM THE LITURGICAL YEAR 2000, 1988, 1970 ECD: 11/01



## Mass Intentions

**Monday, December 18**

8:00am: Natalie Mooi

**Tuesday, December 19**

8:00am: August Shellman, Elizabeth Plaza, Luca Picciolini, John and Kathleen Heffernan, Leanne Nadrachal, James Gorecki, Brian Phelan, Peter Bulow

**Wednesday, December 20**

7:30am: Barlog Stefania

8:30: Helena Pakla

**Thursday, December 21**

8:00am: Paul Pepper

**Friday, December 22**

8:00am: Kathleen Judge

**Saturday, December 23**

8:00am: Patricia Sears

5:00pm: Harriet and John Narel, Jennifer Narel, Sarah Wolf, May Putman, Don Bernhard, Barbara Klichowski, Michael, Ernest, Rita Spindler, Barbara Morrall

**Sunday, December 24**

8:00am: Bernice Gorz

9:30am: Edward Gronowski

11:00am: Warren and Barbara Sutcliffe

### **PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Dan Albrecht, Brett Anderson, Joe, Austin, Lisa Bernhard, Florence and Gino Bondi, Agnes Breslin, Alan Brown, Darlene Broadhurst, Rachel Butler, Brian Butler, Francis Bulow, Bonnie Caper, James Caper, Michael Carey, Monica DiGiovanni, Janice Dobek, Janet Drobick, Joanne Eaton, Susan Ewert, Vincent Felice, Barb Finn-Figliulo, Bradley Frank, Marcia Frank, Mary Ann Franson, Debbie Geren, Bonnie Gondek, Richard Grabenhofer, Jerry Grabowski, Rose Grunhard, Kelly Hampton, Natalie Haran, Jeremiah Hartmann, Mary Ingala, Daniel Izzo, Richard Junge, Les Kazmierczak, Sherley Keene, Diane Klootwyk, Richard Kolovitz, Fr. Roger Kutzner, Carlotta Lawton, Jennifer Naril, Dan Lahy, Chet Lockwood, Vernadine Lumpkin, Walter Lumpkin Jr., Shirley Lyons, Robert Margalus, Donna Matteson, Jeanne Matug, Bill Maynard, John McGeehan, Heidi Meekma, Janice Melisi, Ginny Meyer, Marge Migler, Rich Milkeris, Angel Munoz, Lisa Hunt Nichols, Barb Noone, Geraldine Nykaza, Kenneth O'Gradney, Edward Olenick, Bruce Omastiak, Matthew Orr, Bob Podlasek, Ed Polzin, Janelle Portman, Norbert Przybylski, Dave Racine, Eileen Redican, Eduardo Reyes, George Rohrer, Judy Roque, Barbra Rusin, Midge Saunders, William Schlieman, Dan and Brenda Schmiedel, Diane Schoneich, Barbara Smith, Brandon Smith, Al Sparks, John Stapinski, Geoffrey Sullivan, Joshua Swarez, Victor Tamosaitis, Tiffany Theresa, John Turas, Judy Turas, Leo Wilczek, Tim Weber, Jodie Weber, Jonathan Weber, Dan Wolf, Jerry Wolff, Karen Yaeger

**May God grant them healing!**



Please Pray for our Faithfully  
Departed Brothers and  
Sisters

John J. Sabados



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

## **ADVENT CONFESSIONS**

**Tuesday, December 19th**

**6:00 - 8:00 PM | St. Mary, Mokena**

**Prepare your soul to welcome  
our Lord this Christmas by receiving  
the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

**Confessions will be heard by both  
St. Mary's and visiting priests.**



# SIMBANG GABI 2023

*at St. Mary, Makena*



St. Mary's will be hosting one of nine evening masses celebrated during the Advent season in preparation for Christmas Day,

**Wednesday, December 20th**  
**7:30pm**

All are welcome for this beautiful Philippine Catholic Mass filled with gorgeous music and Christmas rituals, followed by a reception in the Church Hall.



# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

I rejoice heartily in the LORD,  
in my God is the joy of my soul. (Is 61:10)

### Psalm:

My soul rejoices in my God. (Is 61:10b)

### Second Reading:

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy  
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,  
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord  
Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:23)

### Gospel:

"I baptize with water;  
but there is one among you whom you do not  
recognize,  
the one who is coming after me,  
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."  
(Jn 1:23)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of  
Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on  
English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's life — someone who prepares His way, who calls out His truth. Look for the John the Baptist in your life. Pray you can be this person for someone else.

## Observances for the week of December 17, 2023

**Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent

**Thursday:** St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

**Saturday:** St. John of Kanty, Priest

**Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve



## Saint of the week

Blessed Maria Franziska Schervier was a German Catholic nun who devoted her life to serving the poor and the sick. She founded the Franciscan Sisters of Aachen and began chapters in the United States where she and her sisters also founded a number of hospitals.

## Prayer

Almighty, just and merciful God, Blessed Frances Schervier spent her whole life giving back to You all the gifts that You had given her. She cared for the poor and the sick and radiated Your loving presence to all that she met. We beseech You now to glorify your servant, Frances. Give her the honor of sainthood if it is in accordance with Your will.

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

(Prayer Source: [http://franciscansisters-en.sfp-poor.org/images/stories/2016/PDF\\_2016/pr\\_canoniz\\_en.pdf](http://franciscansisters-en.sfp-poor.org/images/stories/2016/PDF_2016/pr_canoniz_en.pdf))



# Join us for CHRISTMAS MASS

at St. Mary Mokena



**SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 24**

**4:00 p.m. (Church)**

**4:15 p.m. (Hall)**

**6:00 p.m. (Church)**



**MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 25**

*(all in Church)*

**12:00 a.m. (Midnight)**

**8:00 a.m.**

**9:30 a.m.**

**11:00 a.m.**

**12:30 p.m.**

LOOKING FOR  
**FAITH  
SERVICE  
& FUN**  
FOR YOUR  
DAUGHTER?



The American Heritage Girls Program enables your daughter to grow in her FAITH, cultivate a heart for SERVICE, and have more FUN than she can imagine! AHG focuses on providing progressive level programming rich in opportunities for girls of all ages and abilities. With each AHG Level, girls are introduced to new skills, badge work, service projects, and outdoor experiences unique to a female audience.

#### AHG OATH

I promise to love **GOD**. Cherish my **FAMILY**.  
Honor my **COUNTRY**. Serve in my **COMMUNITY**.

**We want to  
start a troop!**

*We are looking for families with  
girls ages 5-12 to charter a troop  
in Spring 2024.*



For more information on starting your daughter's journey with American Heritage Girls join us on **Monday, December 18 at 7pm** in the St. Mary, Mokena Church Hall or contact [dkuboushek@stmarymokena.org](mailto:dkuboushek@stmarymokena.org).



AMERICAN  
HERITAGE GIRLS®  
FAITH | SERVICE | FUN

*Are you interested in  
celebrating your  
wedding at  
St. Mary Parish?*

Contact Erica Sestak at  
[esestak@stmarymokena.org](mailto:esestak@stmarymokena.org) or at  
708-326-9355 to book a date and  
begin preparation for the  
**Sacrament of Marriage!**





*All men are invited to join  
us for our next meeting*  
**JANUARY 27, 2023**

**THE BEAUTY &  
HISTORY OF OUR  
CATHOLIC MASS**

Discussion led by  
Bob Cornejo and Nick DiGiovanni



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

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



**FIT  
SHEPHERDS**

**CALLING ALL MEN!!!!**

Get stronger, grow in holiness, become a Fit Shepherd.

Join your fellow brothers Wednesdays at 5:00 AM and  
Saturdays at 7:00 AM in the St. Mary parking lot for an  
outdoor workout and brief reflection. All fitness levels  
are welcome; modifications are provided.

Any questions, please contact Patrick Fulton  
(pmfulton@hotmail.com)



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Please prayerfully consider financially supporting our parish.

We depend on your support to continue the operations of St. Mary as well as those of its many ministries. We ask that you consider supporting the parish through Online Giving.

For those not currently contributing online and would like to learn how to, please consider signing up at

<https://www.osvhub.com/stmarymokena/funds> .

By doing this, you are saving and supporting the great work we have done and will continue to do in our future.

For those of us that do not want to give online, you can still contribute by mailing your donations to:

19515 S. 115th Avenue  
Mokena, IL 60448

**The Offertory for  
Sunday, December 10th will be  
Shared in the next bulletin.**

**Budget \$32,500**  
**Thank you for your generosity.**



*Courage to Trust  
Strength to Love*

*JOY!*



**"BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM, 'DO NOT BE AFRAID; FOR SEE — I AM BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE: TO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR, WHO IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD. THIS WILL BE A SIGN FOR YOU: YOU WILL FIND A CHILD WRAPPED IN BANDS OF CLOTH AND LYING IN A MANGER.'" (LUKE 2:10-12)**

**TODAY IS DONUT SUNDAY!  
AFTER ALL  
MORNING MASSES**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF  
OUR VETERANS' PROJECT**



**PICTURES WITH SANTA!  
SHARE A DONUT OR  
TWO WITH HIM!**




For information contact Tom Blue [tblue@stmarymokena.org](mailto:tblue@stmarymokena.org)



**THIS ADVENT  
JOIN US FOR**

*Weekly*  
**Advent Reflections**

**MONDAY EVENINGS  
7PM  
CHURCH HALL**



**ADVENT  
VIDEO  
REFLECTION**      **ADORATION**      **SACRED  
ART  
REFLECTION**

PLEASE JOIN US THIS ADVENT FOR WEEKLY VIDEO REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL, USING SACRED ART IMAGES, FOLLOWED BY A TIME OF PRAYER AND ADORATION. COME LET US ADORE HIM!


**NOVEMBER 27TH      DECEMBER 11TH  
DECEMBER 4TH      DECEMBER 18TH**

PLEASE REGISTER AT [WWW.STMARYMOKENA.ORG/REFLECTIONS](http://WWW.STMARYMOKENA.ORG/REFLECTIONS)

**Advent  
CHALLENGE  
2023**

**FILL JESUS' MANGER  
WITH GOOD WORKS  
THIS ADVENT!**

Everyone is invited to take a piece of paper from the basket and read what your challenge is! Once the challenge is completed, put a cotton ball in the manger in the Narthex. By the end of Advent, Jesus will be born into a soft and warm manger filled with good works!



**JOIN US FOR A  
TWELFTH NIGHT  
Party**

**Friday, January 5  
7:00 PM  
ST. MARY, MOKENA**

Everyone ages 18-40 is invited to celebrate the Twelfth Day of Christmas with us!  
Pizza and drinks provided.

**WHITE ELEPHANT:** Bring any wrapped gift to play! Feel free to bring something you received you'd like to pass on.

*Hosted by L'Alto Young Adult Network*

**Roses of Mary**  
St. Mary Parish's  
Young Women's Ministry

Young women ages 18 to 39 are invited for the Advent Podcast series  
***Under Mary's Mantle***  
from "Abiding Together".

**Final Meeting: Thursday, December 21st  
7:30 PM | ST. MARY, MOKENA**

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y4cernbj> to access the podcast for free! Listen to the episode "Mary's Mantle" ahead of 12/21.

Contact Erica at [esestak@stmarymokena.org](mailto:esestak@stmarymokena.org) with questions or to register.







**January 20th, 2024 | 6:30PM**

**JAMO'S LIVE**

10160 191st St, Mokena

CRAPS ♠ BLACKJACK ♥ ROULETTE

♣ POKER TOURNAMENT ♦

**\$85/person General Admission includes:**

Hor d'oeuvres, open bar, \$200 in casino chips  
with the option to buy more throughout the evening

**\$300/person Poker Tournament includes:**

*(limited number available)*

Reserved seat, bar service at table, hor d'oeuvres,  
open bar, and buy-in to poker tournament

Winner splits the pot (only cash prize of the evening)

**Purchase tickets at [www.stmarymokena.org/casino](http://www.stmarymokena.org/casino)**

Game play is for 3 hours, 7:30-10:30pm.

When games have ended all casino chips will cash out for raffle tickets which will then be used to enter for prize of your choice. The Poker Tournament is a cash prize and the winner will split the pot with St. Mary School.

*General Admission tickets purchased prior to December 23rd  
will receive an extra \$50 in casino chips at the event.*





### **ALL IN (\$2,500+):**

- Promotion at event as Drinks Sponsor
- Business Logo/Family Name at Bar
- Featured in Social Media Marketing
- 6 Complimentary General Admission Tickets to Event
- Acknowledgement in Church Bulletin

### **HIGH ROLLER (\$1,000+):**

- Promotion at event
- Business Logo/Family Name at Roulette Table
- Featured in Social Media Marketing
- 4 Complimentary General Admission Tickets to Event
- Acknowledgement in Church Bulletin

### **DOUBLE DOWN (\$500+):**

- Promotion at event
- Business Logo/Family Name at Craps Table
- Featured in Social Media Marketing
- 2 Complimentary General Admission Tickets to Event
- Acknowledgement in Church Bulletin

### **ANTE UP (\$250+):**

- Featured in Social Media Marketing
- Acknowledgement in Church Bulletin

### **In-Kind Donations:**

We gratefully welcome in-kind donations which will be acknowledged at the level of sponsorship equivalent to the value of the items donated, with the exception of event tickets.

**Proceeds to benefit children's playground and academic enhancements at SMS!**

**Donate at [www.stmarymokena.org/sponsor](http://www.stmarymokena.org/sponsor)**

St. Mary School is a 501C3 Organization and Donations will be Tax Deductible

***Deadline to donate is January 10, 2024***

Please contact Erica with any questions,  
[aemiklaszewski@gmail.com](mailto:aemiklaszewski@gmail.com) or (708) 491-6734.

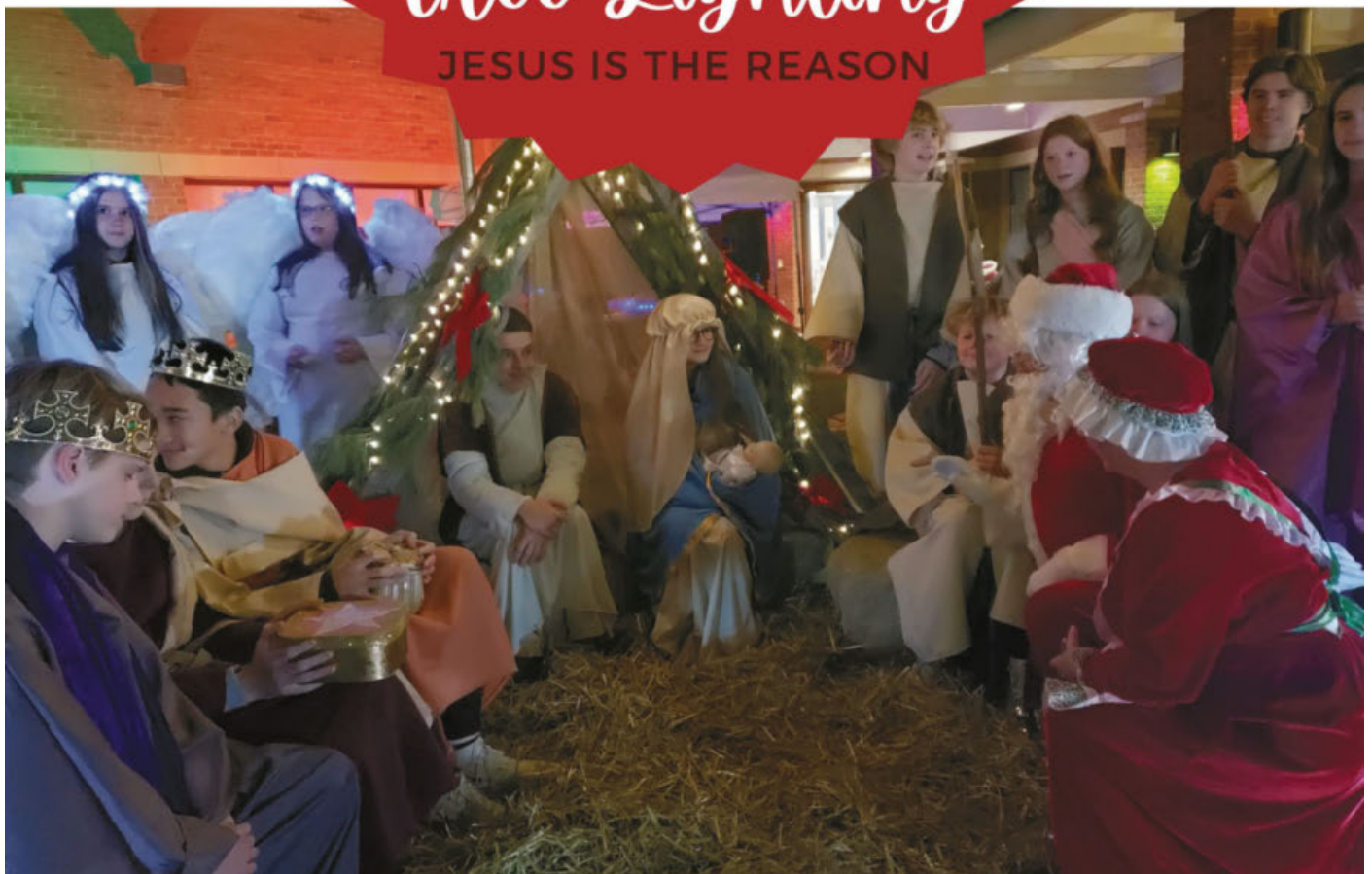




St. Mary Religious Ed  
hosted a visit from Santa and  
Mrs. Claus at St. Mary School's  
PTC sponsored

# Christmas Tree Lighting

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## STEWARDSHIP

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" is a Latin word, meaning "rejoice." The Christian steward should be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing.

Our First Reading, from Isaiah, expresses a fitting motto for us. "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul." It is God Who is the source of our joy and contentment — not things or achievements or comfort, but our relationship with God. This is why stewards can share so freely of their time, talents and material possessions — because ultimately, we are not attached to these things. We recognize them as good gifts from our loving Father, but we are attached to the Giver of the gifts, not the gifts themselves. This allows for great freedom in life and the capacity for great joy in the Lord.

In fact, we can become like John the Baptist, in today's Gospel passage from the Book of John. We read this description of the prophet: "He came for testimony, to testify to the light... He was not the light but came to testify to the light." This is our calling too — to testify to the Light, our wonderful Savior — by the way we make use of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to our care.

When God Himself is the source of our joy, it cannot be taken away from us. There is still time, this Advent season, to clear away any "clutter" in our lives that may take our focus away from Him. Let us strive to detach from any of these things so that we can be free to truly rejoice in God on Christmas Day.

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**December 2023**

- **12-5: ST MARY IMMACULATE**  
◦ 15629 RT. 59, PLAINFIELD, 4:30-6:00PM
- **12-6: BISHOP McNAMARA**  
◦ 550 W BROOKMONT BLVD, KANKAKEE, 9:00-10:30AM
- **12-8: OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL**  
◦ 205 E. JACKSON ST., JOLIET, 10:00-11:30AM
- **12-11: ST. LAWRENCE**  
◦ 165 RICE RD, SOUTH WILMINGTON, 4:00-5:30PM
- **12-15: ST. JOSEPH**  
◦ 211 N. CENTER AVE., BRADLEY, 10:00-11:30AM
- **12-18: ST. JOAN OF ARC**  
◦ 820 DIVISION ST., LISLE, 5:00-6:30PM
- **12-19: JOLIET JEWISH CONGREGATION**  
◦ 250 N. MIDLAND AVE., JOLIET, 4:00 - 5:30PM
- **12-20: OUR LADY OF MERCY**  
◦ 701 S EOLA RD, AURORA, 4:30-6:00PM
- **12-28: KUZMA CARE COTTAGE**  
◦ 635 S. MAIN ST., WILMINGTON, 10:00 - 11:30AM

Are you interested in cooking for Daybreak? St. Mary's is looking for an additional Head Cook. We gather in the Church Hall Kitchen the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month (except December) at 2:00 p.m. and prepare a meal for the homeless. The Head Cook does the shopping in advance. Food is stored in our kitchen and prepared with the help of a few other volunteers. The meal is delivered to Daybreak by 6:00 p.m. and set up by the Head Cook. Additional St. Mary volunteers will be on site to handle the serving.

Daybreak is located at 611 E. Cass St., Joliet. If you are interested in this role, contact Donna Hungerford for information, (708) 326-9312 or [dhungerford@stmarymokena.org](mailto:dhungerford@stmarymokena.org)





## The Pro-Life Committee

Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Church Hall at 9:00 a.m.

*Visit the St. Mary website for more information.*

**Pray the Holy Rosary in Church on Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m.  
(Note the earlier time during Advent)**

The first Monday of the month our rosary is dedicated to the life of the unborn.



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**The Council of Catholic Women**  
**Merry Christmas from the**  
**ladies of the**  
**St. Mary CCW!**



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

There will be a Board Meeting Wednesday, January 10  
 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fatima Room, Church Hall.

There will be a General Meeting Thursday, January 18th  
 at 6:30 p.m. in the Guadalupe Room, Church Hall

**The Young at Heart**  
**Senior Club**



Join us for our  
 Next meeting  
**Wednesday, December 20**  
**1:00 p.m. in the**  
**Church Hall**

**HELPING HANDS**



The Knights of Columbus have formed a sub-committee called Helping Hands which is offering our services to any parishioner who is in need of minor repairs around their home and is unable to perform these tasks due to financial hardships or not having able bodied family members available. The resident may be responsible for any material costs, but the Knights would provide the labor.

There is a screening process to make sure it is something our members can handle and the work qualifies. Anyone wishing to apply should contact Donna Hungerford, Christian Service Director (708) 326-9312 to schedule a visit from one of our members. If you are interested in joining this committee, email Rich Neubauer [neuric01@hotmail.com](mailto:neuric01@hotmail.com)



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The next **Council Meeting** will be  
 Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the  
 Guadalupe Room, Church Hall.

The next Officer Meeting will be Tuesday,  
 January 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the  
 Lourdes Room, Church Hall



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Sunday, December 17  
 in the Church Hall  
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**Blood Drive**

Thursday, December 21  
 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.  
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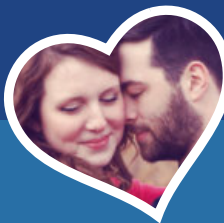


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