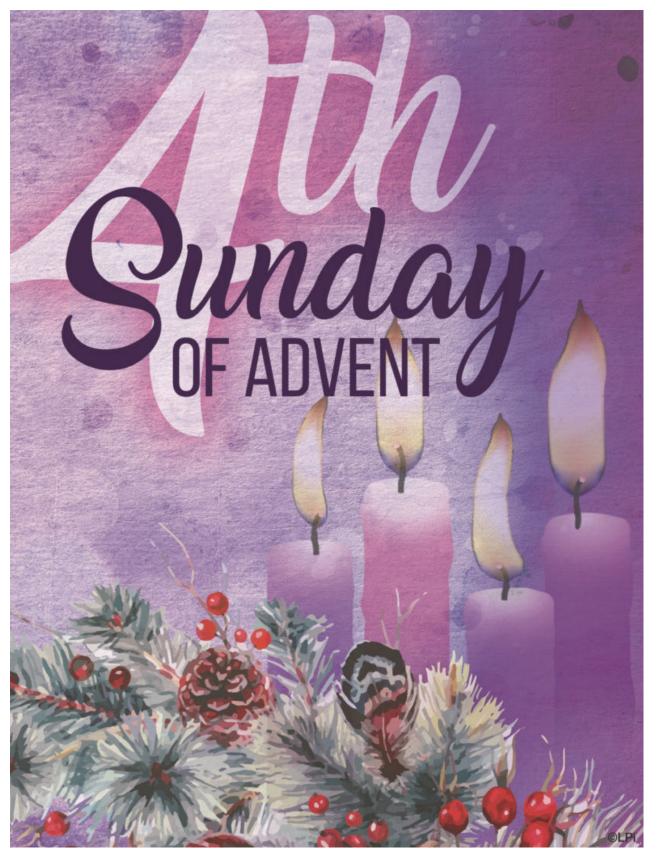
## SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH



19515 S. 115TH AVENUE, MOKENA, IL 60448 | 708-326-9300 | 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, THURSDAY, FRIDAY
9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY 9:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.

### PARISH DIRECTORY

Pastor: Fr. Dindo Billote Parochial Vicar: Fr. Sam Conforti

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Juan Jose Hernandez Salas

\_

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

#### **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

### School Office:

School Secretary, Charlotte Catchings School Principal, Michele Alday-Engelman School Assistant Principal, Michelle Huizinga 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.

<u>MARRIAGES</u> - 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.

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

## A Note From Our Pastor



Question: Why do Catholics light candles in church?



Answer: Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death. The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints. ©LPi

Peace and all good things,

Father Dindo

### December 30 - December 31: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

	Saturday, 5:00 PM)	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 9:30 AM	Sunday, 11:00 AM	Sunday, 6:00 PM
Lector	Sue Mahns	Antoinette Bria Kathy Mihalek	Karen Dilger Stan Nowak	Jim Contorno	James Nowak
Eucharistic Minister	Bob Gombas Karen Gordon Lora Oldham Andrea Taylor	Joan Aust Kathleen Orr Marvin Orr Stefanie Walthier	Joe Austin Frank Dundek Joanette Kulesa Pamela Sanders	Nancy Blake Remo Lucci Bob Meyers NOT FILLED	Robert Koch James Nowak Kathleen Rowe
Altar Server	Andrew Jansky Graeme Lopez Ava Zahara Grace Zahara	Alexis Ferin Jillian Ferin David Heitman Daniela Lacny	Henry Valente Lucas Valente Erin Ventura Katelyn Walker	Josh Barger Emmy Skotnicki Nathan Skotnicki NOT FILLED	Finn McInerney NOT FILLED 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	William Farhat David Larson Sandra Tome Gladys Weber	Linda Drake Melissa Rolinitis Mike Rolinitis NOT FILLED
Greeter	NOT FILLED	Roy Mueller	NOT FILLED	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.

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

### Monday, December 25

12:00a.m. Mass (Church)

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)

9:30 a.m. Mass (Church) 11:00a.m. Mass (Church)

12:30p.m. Mass (Church)

### Tuesday, December 26

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

8:30 a.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)

### Wednesday, December 27

5:00 a.m. Fit Shepherds (Church Grounds)

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

### Thursday, December 28

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

8:30 a.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)

### Friday, December 29

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

8:30 a.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)

### Saturday, December 30

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 31

8:00 a.m Mass (Church)

9:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

11:00a.m. Mass (Church)

12:00p.m. Regina Caeli Choir Practice

3:30p.m. Missionaries of Apostolic Grace

(Fatima)

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass (Church)

## Divine Mercy In-Home Ministry

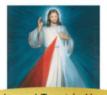
This Apostolate is one of compassion, mercy, and prayer. We are available to be with families and their loved ones, who are sick and dying, to pray the Divine Mercy chaplet with them.

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

## Christmas Miracle

LEGNICA, POLAND, 2013



In St. Hyacinth's Church, during christmas Mass on December 25, 2013, a Sacred Host accidently fell on the ground during the distribution of Holy Communion. It was immediately placed in a container with water and closed in the tabernacle. A few days later, a red spot appeared on Its surface. The Bishop of Legnica decided to establish a commission for the scientific analysis. The results confirmed that it had similarities to "human heart muscle with alterations that often appear during agony."



When we receive Holy Communion, we receive the Body of Jesus Incarnate, the same Jesus Who was born as a little baby, died on the cross and rose from the dead for our sake. This Christmas, let us ask for the grace to love Him and treasure Him more in the Eucharist.

"Come, Let us Adore Him"

### **Mass Intentions**

Monday, December 25

8:00am: No Intentions

Tuesday, December 26

8:00am: Bill Delladio, Charles Keenan,

Baby Judah Winkler

Wednesday, December 27 8:00: James and Lila White

Thursday, December 28

8:00am: Scott Reiter

Friday, December 29

8:00am: Kevin Mitros

Saturday, December 30

8:00am: Anthony Bria

5:00pm: Peter Pranckus, George Rohrer, Bob and Dolores Klimkowski, Nader

Judeh

Sunday, December 31

8:00am: Bernice and Frank Gorz

9:30am: Gus Lattyak 11:00am: Jane Narcissi 6:00pm: Rita DiFiore

#### 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!







# 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.

"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." -Jesus

### **To St. Mary Parishioners:**

We are so grateful for how welcoming you are to our families with young children. Please don't underestimate the power of a simple affirmation, smile, or word of encouragement to those around you after mass.

### To the Parents of our Young Parishioners:

Thank you for bringing your growing family to celebrate with us! Know that you are welcome to sit toward the front where it's easier to see and hear and we encourage you to quietly explain the parts of the Holy Mass to your child. If you feel you must go to the narthex with your child please come back!







All men are invited to join us for our next meeting

### **JANUARY 27, 2023**

# THE BEAUTY & HISTORY OF OUR CATHOLIC MASS





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

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



### 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)



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 <a href="https://www.osvhub.com/stmarymokena/funds">https://www.osvhub.com/stmarymokena/funds</a>.

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 was

Online Giving \$23,202.75 Envelopes \$22,769.30 \$45,972.05

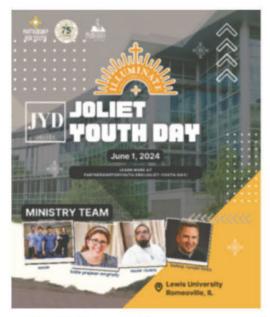
Budget \$32,500 Thank you for your generosity.



## CHRISTMAS BREAK OPEN GYM

Wednesday, 12/27 10:30am - 12:30pm Thursday, 12/28 10:30am - 12:30pm





## COMING SOON!



SEEK, AND YOU WILL FIND.

For information contact Tom Blue tblue@stmarymokena.org





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





## 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

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 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 or (708) 491-6734.





# ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL



# Open House Ontes

## January 18, 2024 from 5:30 - 8:00 Exclusive Private Evening Tours

This will be an exclusive opportunity for prospective families to go on private tours led by SMS teachers, administration, and staff, providing an inside look at the vibrant academic and community life at St. Mary.

After exploring our campus, take the opportunity to enjoy refreshments, relax, and connect with other SMS parents.

Pre-registration is required.



### January 28, 2024 from 10:30 -2:30 Open House & Tours

This will be an exceptional opportunity for prospective families to immerse themselves in our vibrant St. Mary community. You'll have the chance to meet our administration, take tours guided by SMS teachers, staff, students, and even meet some of our accomplished alumni. This is your chance to experience why SMS is the place to be for the 2024-25 school year.

Pre-registration is not required, just join us!

From St. Mary's Religious Ed Office to our wonderful Parish families

## JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME

We pray that God blesses
your domestic church with
a home full of love and laughter,
and hearts full of joy and peace!
Christmas Break
December 24 - Jan. 5
Classes resume Sun, Jan. 7

Dec. 24 - Jan. 2 RE Office Closed Jan. 3-5 RE Office will have limited hours



"FOR TODAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN FOR YOU WHO IS CHRIST AND LORD." — LK 2:11

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS < 2001, 1994, 1970 CCD. FLP



There is just one day left until the celebration of Christmas begins.

Let's live this last day of Advent well.

We read in today's Gospel passage from Luke the wonderful words of the Blessed Mother's "fiat," her "yes" to God's plan. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." These are among the most beloved words in the Gospel. But the next sentence is also important for the Christian steward.

After Mary's fiat, we read, "Then the angel departed from her." Our Blessed Mother was left with a lot of unexplained details about God's plan for her! Yet, she followed God's will perfectly. She gave herself and her life fully to God as a gift. She was the first disciple. We are called to follow her example today.

This Christmas let us resolve to make our whole life a gift to the One Who has given us everything.

He will give us all the help and strength we need.



©Catholic Stewardship Consultants



### Did you know?

St. Mary has a Poor Box located in the narthex on the East wall near the prayer book?

The money collected goes into a fund we use to help families in our parish who are in need.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



### 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



## Christmas Carols & The Holy Rosary

The St. Mary Pro Life Committee along with Men's Rosary Group attended this event in front of Flossmoor Planned Parenthood on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe! What a powerful evening.

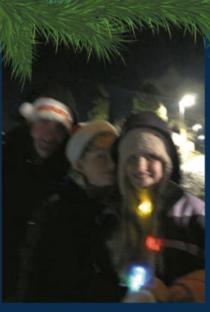




















### The Council of Catholic Women

## Merry Christmas from the ladies of the



### 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 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Guadalupe Room, Church Hall.



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

### Join us for our next Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, January 21 after all morning Masses in the Church Hall.



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

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

- Do you enjoy knitting, crocheting, or sewing?
- · Would you like to learn how?
- Would you like to be a part of a Ministry helping those stricken with cancer, chronic conditions, or other situations by providing them with a prayer shawl?

We invite you to join our group!
Our next meeting will be Monday,
February 4 in the Church Hall
Fatima Room 9:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m.
WE DO NOT MEET IN JANUARY

Our monthly meetings are a time for work and prayer. We pray the Fatima rosary while creating shawls. These shawls are a reminder of God's love and a visible sign of a "hug from God".

Visit the St. Mary website for more information or just come to one of our meetings.

Would you prefer to sew, knit or crochet from home? No problem. Let us know and we will provide you with all the details to get started.

We are especially in need of sewers!

Stay warm!

### The Young at Heart Senior Club



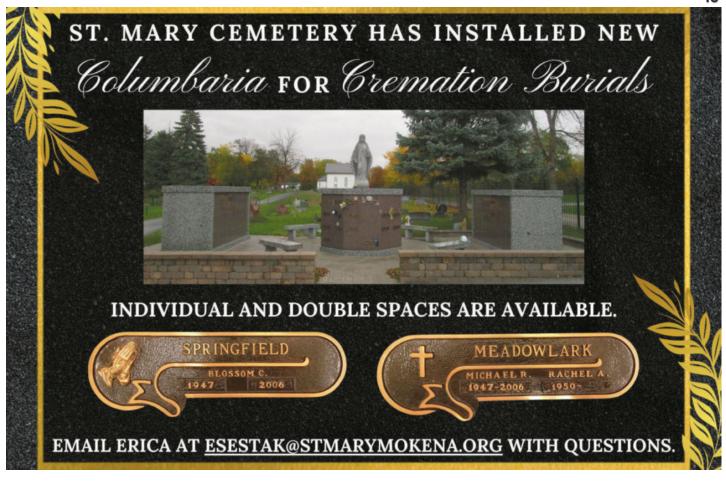
Join us for our
Next meeting
Wednesday, January 17th
1:00 p.m. in the
Church Hall (weather permitting)

### The Widow and Widowers Club

Contact Marcia Frank for information about joining this group (708) 227-8290.













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10120 191st Street, Mokena 708-478-0070

Open Daily 6AM - 3PM Carry Outs Available

Gail & Dino Bastas, Parishioners



Maertinheating.com 708-479-9350





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