St. Mary's Family Religious Ed Newsletter November 2026

THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

AROUND THE DINNER TABLE

Ever wonder what is the Domestic Church?
Click HERE to find out!

NOVEMBER

THE MONTH DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY.

The souls in purgatory cannot pray for themselves and need our prayers and sacrifices to enter fully into the Beatific Vision. November is a set aside for the faithful to remember and pray for these brothers and sisters of ours.

Mark your calendars!

Sun. Nov. 1 All Saints Day
Mon. Nov. 2 All Soul's Day
Mon. Nov. 9 First Communion parent meeting 6pm
Tues. Nov. 10 First Communion parent meeting 1pm
Sun. Nov. 22 Donut Sunday
Nov. 24-30 NO CLASSES
Sat. Dec. 5 St. Nicholas Family Festival 6pm

Get Fed

Why do Catholics celebrate All Souls' Day?

The Church is composed of the faithful living upon the earth and those who have gone before us. The latter includes the saints in Heaven and the faithful souls being purified in Purgatory. Just as on November 1 we honor those who are with God, on November 2 Catholics celebrate a Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. Also known as All Souls' Day, on this day we honor them for their fidelity in life, as well as pray for them since they are being purified before entering the All Holy Presence of God. As Revelation 21:27 says of the Heavenly Jerusalem, "... nothing unclean shall enter in."

LEARN MORE

The Pope's monthly prayer intention:
For the proper use of wealth. Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Around the Dinner Table: Food for Thought:

All Saints' Day (November 1) and All Souls' Day (November 2) are two connected Catholic celebrations that honor the Communion of Saints—the belief that the family of God includes the living on earth, the saints in heaven, and the souls being purified in purgatory

Who established All Saints Day?
Well, it depends...

On November 1st, the Church celebrates All Saints Day, a glorious feast and a holy day of obligation. However, the Church hasn't always celebrated this holiday in November...

The feast we now know as All Saints Day was originally celebrated on May 13th, 609 A.D., when Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome to the Blessed Virgin Mary and all martyrs, known and unknown.

So, why don't we celebrate All Saints Day on May 13th? The short answer is because of Pope Gregory III. On November 1st, 731 A.D., a century after the first celebration of All Saints Day, Pope Gregory III dedicated a chapel in the Vatican to the relics of all the holy Apostles, saints, and martyrs. Since then, the Church has celebrated All Saints Day on November 1st.

A century after that, in 853 A.D., Pope Gregory IV established All Saints Day as a holy day of obligation.

So, who established All Saints Day? Well, we have three popes to thank for that! Thank you, Pope Boniface IV, Pope Gregory III, and Pope Gregory IV for helping establish this glorious feast we celebrate today!

ST. MARY'S CHILDREN

Fueling Hearts and Souls

MEALS

4,000

Oct.



PRAYERS OF GOOD DEEDS

112

Uniting to create a positive impact in our world.

Cross Catholic Vitafood Program

Cross Catholic OUTREACH

SMP

Family Prayer Checklist

MoreWaystoPray:TakingYourFamilyPrayerLife Beyond the Basics

What is the purpose of this checklist?

Prayer is the lifeline of our faith and the heart of our relationship with God. For families, it's also a powerful way to deepen bonds, nurture love, and center your home on Christ. This Family Prayer Checklist is a resource to inspire and guide your family prayer life beyond the basics. It's not about checking every box but about finding what resonates with your family's rhythm and helps you grow together in faith. When one form of prayer doesn't fit, try another. Let this be your invitation to fall in love with family prayer and discover the joy of seeking God together.

Daily Practices

- Say the **Acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity** daily
- Pray the **Angelus** (morning, noon, and evening)
- Short family prayer before leaving the house each morning
- Pray the **Act of Contrition** at the end of each day or after family evening prayers
- Offer a "thank you" prayer for specific blessings of the day
- Enroll in the **Brown Scapular devotion** and complete daily commitments.

Weekly Practices

- Attend **weekday Mass** together when possible
- Set aside **Sunday** for special family prayer and acts of service (visiting relatives, helping the sick)
- Have a **Family Scripture Study** and discussion night
- Dedicate one evening to praying a **family Rosary**

Faith in Action:

- Try a **mediafast**: Limit technology use for a day, week, or liturgical season (Advent, Lent) and replace with prayer, Scripture reading, or family activities
- Visit a **cemetery to pray** for the souls of the faithful departed
- Give **spiritual bouquets** as gifts (offering prayers for someone's intentions)

Family Prayer Checklist

MoreWaystoPray:TakingYourFamilyPrayerLife Beyond the Basics

Seasonal & Special Occasions:

- Celebrate **liturgical feasts and seasons** as a family. Incorporate traditions such as making an Advent wreath, blessing your home with chalk on Epiphany, praying the Stations of the Cross together on Fridays during Lent, and other meaningful ways to live out the Church year in your home.
- Celebrate **patron saints' feast days** with prayer and small family traditions
- Recognize and pray on **sacramental anniversaries:** Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, etc.
- Pray **novenas** for special intentions or feast days
- Have a **Mass offered** for family members on birthdays or name days

Deepening Parish & Community Involvement:

- Join or start **prayer groups, Bible studies, or service activities** as a family
- Participate in **special parish events** like Eucharistic Adoration, retreats, or family-focused activities

Remember, family prayer doesn't have to be perfect or complicated. It’s about growing together in faith, creating habits that nurture your hearts, and keeping Christ at the center of your home. Let prayer be the thread that weaves through the ordinary and extraordinary moments of your family life.

"Pray without ceasing." — 1 Thessalonians 5:17



ST. MARY TOTE BAG

SUPPORT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



$10 EACH
OR
$25 FOR THREE

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

ST. MARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

COMING SOON

Fundraiser

THE ONE AND ONLY Butter Braid FROZEN PASTRY DOUGH

Look for more info in student folders

Amish Pretzel Co.

Delivery in time for Christmas!

SAINT NICHOLAS



FAMILY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY | 5 | DECEMBER

6:00pm (following 5pm Mass) - 7:30pm

St. Mary School Gym

The Legend of St. Nicholas

You'd better watch out!!

The Old English Father Christmas tells the stories of St. Nicholas, the protector of children throughout the ages. Learn about the origins of:

- St. Nicholas characters in various countries
- Popular Christmas symbols
- Worldwide Christmas traditions

popcorn/cookies/lemonade provided

Please RSVP by Dec. 1, 2026

https://forms.gle/ouHdQFqUCv9XZXX16

Nationally known actor, Terry Lynch specializes in historical portrayal and storytelling for children of all ages. His one man interactive presentations give audiences a new, first person perspective on the people and events that make up our history and culture.



https://www.hfkpresents.com/

Religious Education

Advent Service Opportunity

Looking for an opportunity to help your community? Here is a great chance to get your family involved!



BY DEC. 15

"PJ and a book" drive for kids

- Collecting NEW PJs size 6+ and a new or gently used book for kids
- Please drop off your donations at the RE office inside door 3 by Dec 15th (unwrapped)



re@stmarymokena.org

QUESTIONS?: 708-326-9352

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

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

Follow us on Instagram

SMPYMMokena

Donut Sunday

October 18th

November 22nd

All Dates subject to change.

More info contact Matt Jung at mjung@stmarymokena.org

real life CATHOLIC

REGISTER NOW!

Wednesday, November 18, 2026
7:00 - 9:30PM
St. Mary Immaculate Parish
15629 Illinois Rte 59, Plainfield, IL

REBOOT

A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT



This high-energy, 2-hour event with internationally acclaimed speaker **Chris Stefanick** will awaken your faith, reignite your joy, and equip you with tools to live the life God created you for: A life of JOY!

It will help you rediscover the JOY you were created for, and is perfect for everyone... even friends, family, and children (12+) who may not be actively practicing their faith.

SCAN QR CODE TO SECURE YOUR SPOT OR GO TO:
HTTPS://BUYTICKETS.AT/REALLIFECATHOLIC/2049095

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

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**

Dwell In The Presence of God

Sat. Nov. 14 ~ 9 am

Join St. Mary's Sisters In Christ for their Fall meeting in the Church Hall following the 8am Mass. After a hot breakfast and scripture reflection, Fr. Joe will speak about discerning God's Will. There is no cost: donations accepted to cover cost of food.











We're saving a seat for you



For more information or to RSVP:

708-326-9313

SistersInChrist@stmarymokena.org

SISTERS IN CHRIST
WOMEN'S MINISTRY
FAITH · FELLOWSHIP · FAMILY

Are you called to serve .

	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?

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.
The evening includes live instrumental music,
a special Advent reflection, and time for enjoying
the company of friends, new and old.
Included are hors d'oeuvres, wine, and a dessert buffet.

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.

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Forming Catholics for *Life.*

This Week on Formed

Week of November 01, 2026



How to Advent | Episode 1

Advent is only a few weeks away. Can you believe it? Join us over the next few weeks as we prepare for this season with "How to Advent."



The Story of Death | Eternal Rest | Episode 1

Where did death come from? What does death mean for the human person? Is it simply just part of life, or is it something else? In this first session, we discuss the story of death and God's response to it: defeating death by dying and rising from the dead.



Saint Charles Borromeo: The Good Shepherd

As the Cardinal-nephew of Pope Pius IV, Saint Charles Borromeo was one of the wealthiest and most powerful men in all of Rome. Yet he chose the extraordinary challenge of reforming the enormous Archdiocese of Milan to the pampered life of a Renaissance prince, and willingly spent himself in the service of his flock.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

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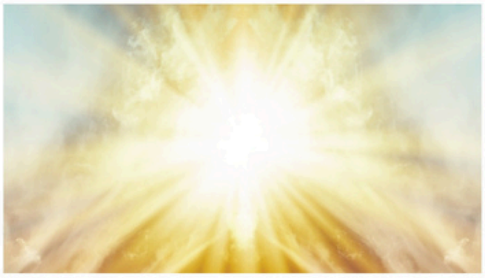
This Week on Formed

Week of November 08, 2026



Cabrini

From Alejandro Monteverde, award-winning director of Sound of Freedom, comes the powerful epic of Francesca Cabrini, an Italian immigrant who arrives in New York City in 1889 and is greeted by disease, crime, and impoverished children. With broken English and poor health, Cabrini builds an empire of hope unlike anything the world had ever seen.



The Afterlife | Eternal Rest | Episode 2

What happens after the moment of our death? Once the soul has been separated from the body, then what? What is heaven, hell, and purgatory? This session looks at the truth about what awaits the human person on the other side of death.



How to Advent | Episode 2

The Advent wreath is an invitation to enter into the waiting and preparation for the birth of our Savior! As we explore the meaning of the Advent wreath – its light, colors, and components – we can better grasp how we should be preparing our hearts. As the light from the candles grows brighter and brighter throughout the four weeks of Advent, so too grows our longing for the coming Light of Christ.

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This Week on Formed

Week of November 15, 2026



How to Advent | Episode 3

The often-forgotten Jesse tree reminds us of God's faithful fulfillment of all his promises (of which there are so many throughout all of salvation history!). In Christ, he keeps every promise he has made, from Adam and Eve to John the Baptist. His promises of peace and salvation apply not just to ancient Israel, but to all of us today. Join us in learning about this hidden gem of an Advent tradition and how it can help you and your family walk through Advent in the light of Sacred Scripture.



The Hour of Our Death | Eternal Rest | Episode 3

The Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven sacraments of the Church. This session, we discover the role of this sacramental anointing in the spiritual struggle during serious illness, the final stages of our temporal life, and the hour of our death.



Lectio: Mary

Join Dr. Brant Pitre in this 8-part Bible Study on Mary, the Mother of God.

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This Week on Formed

Week of November 22, 2026



Sacred Art: Christ the King

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they explore Catholic theology through the lens of Sacred Art. In this episode, they discuss the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.



The Faithful Departed | Eternal Rest | Episode 4

What is left for the living to do after someone dies? In this session, we talk about the final ways in which those still living on earth care for the body and soul of the dead. We discuss the work that remains for the living to do as we grieve for the deceased and as we turn to the work of preparing for our own death, and the hope in which we live and die as Christians.



How to Advent | Episode 4

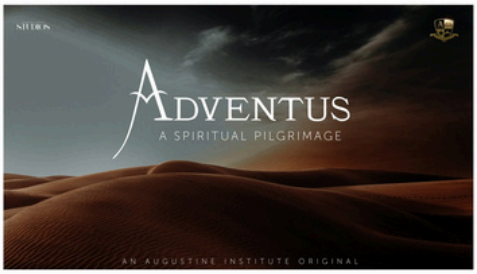
In this episode, we explore the incarnational meaning of the nativity set, traditions to follow within your own family, and how we're not only preparing for the birth of Christ that happened 2000 years ago – but the present reality that Christ will one day come again for us. Are you ready?

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This Week on Formed

Week of November 29, 2026



Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.



Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree This Advent

Hosted by Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Rooted guides Catholics through a daily Advent reflection using the Jesse Tree model traditionally practiced by families. Each seven-minute episode introduces the ancestors of Jesus Christ, shares a Scripture passage, and offers an engaging, practical reflection.



Adore: Advent with Fr. John Burns

You have a choice this Advent: Get caught up in the annual rush of shopping, decorating, and parties or slow down and take a few minutes each day to remember who this season is really about—Jesus. In Adore, Fr. John Burns will help you reclaim the sacred sense of longing and joyful hope at the heart of Advent.

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Parents are the Primary Catechist

Why?

Only you know your children like you do.

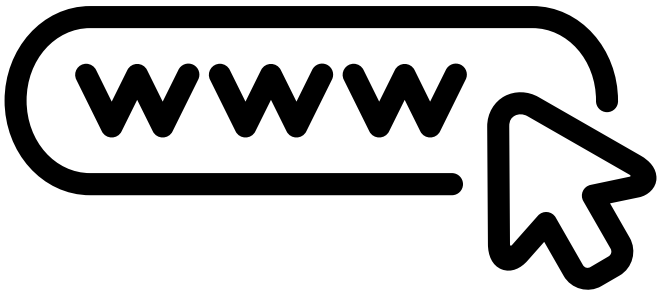
How?

Parents are their children's greatest influencers.

Have questions? We can help!

call the RE Office at 708-326-9352





R. E. OFFICE CONTACTS

IMPORTANT DATES

PRAYERS TO LEARN BY GRADE LEVEL

SMP RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FACEBOOK PAGE

CHURCH BULLETINS

RE WEBPAGE

St. Mary's Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., & 6:00 p.m.

Daily Mass:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 8:00 a.m.
Wednesday during the school year: 7:30 a.m. Mass

Confession:
Monday-Friday: 7:00-7:45 a.m.
Saturday: 3:30-4:30 p.m.
First Saturday Confessions: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration:
Perpetual Adoration at Old St. Mary Church
Last Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Church

St. Peregrine Devotion:
Last Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the side Chapel

