

# Church of Saint Mary

December 10th & 17th  
2023

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## Mass and Sacraments

### Holy Mass

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm  
Sunday Masses: 8:00am, 10:00am  
Monday-Friday: 7:00am

### Sacramental Confession

Saturdays: 4:00-4:45pm  
Sundays: 7:15-7:45am

### Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Church anytime  
day or night.

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## Parish Office

P.O. Box 159  
303 South Division Street  
Utica, IL 61373  
Phone & Fax 815-667-4677  
office@stmarysutica.org  
www.stmarysutica.org

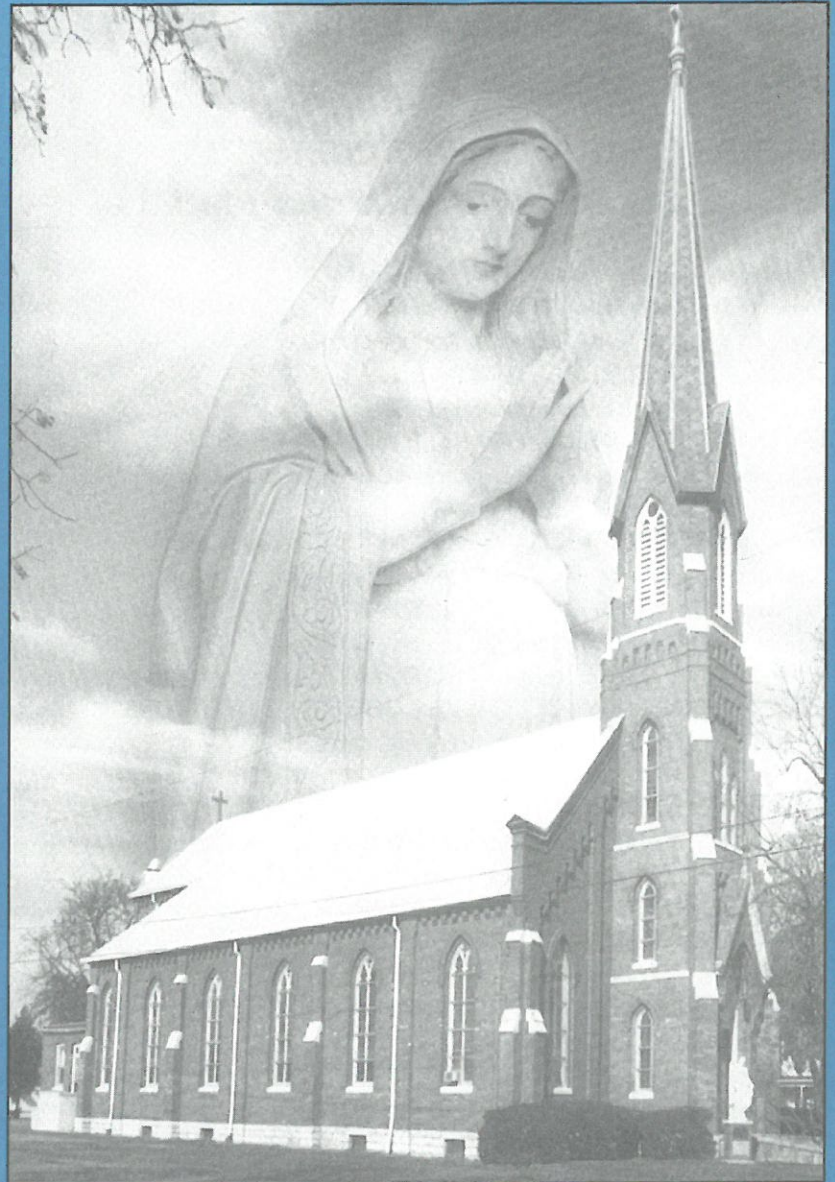
Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays  
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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Fr. Michael Driscoll, Pastor  
Msgr. Mark Merdian, Administrator

Jennifer Newman, Secretary  
parishoffice@stmarysutica.org  
Heather Leffers, CCD Coordinator  
heatherleffers@stmarysutica.org

Bill Brown, Cemetery Sexton  
bbrown@stmarysutica.org



On Holy Thursday, April 11, 1675, Father Jacques Marquette offered the first parochial Mass in the Illinois Country at Utica in the presence of 5,000 Native Americans. Father Marquette and his companion, Louis Joliet, took possession of this land in the name of Jesus Christ and founded the Mission of the Immaculate Conception. A monument in his honor stands in the northeast corner of the property. That mission eventually became the Church of Saint Mary. In 1858 a small frame church was built which was destroyed by fire seventeen years later and a brick and stone church was built. The Reverend Canon Jeremiah Moynihan was appointed the first resident pastor in 1884. The Reverend Francis J. O'Reilly succeeded Canon Moynihan in 1888 and in the same year erected the present church. In September 1986, Saint Mary's Church was completely redecorated. Though damaged, it survived the Utica tornado of 2004 and was quickly restored.



Saint Mary's Church  
Diocese of Peoria  
303 S. Division Street  
North Utica, IL 61373



## Mass Intentions and Schedule

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH - ST. JUAN DIEGO

4:00-4:45pm CONFESSIONS

5:00pm + Marlene Rygh by her Family

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH - 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00am + Ron Lindner by Kathy Jo Lindner

10:00am + Louise Harmon (birthdate 12/13)  
by Maureen Harmon Cole

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 11TH - ST. DAMASUS I

7:00am + Deceased Members of the Woodshank Family  
by Joe and Darlene Woodshank

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

7:00am + Mary Ann Newell by her Family

7:00pm EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH - ST. LUCY

7:00am + Irene Rohde by Family and Friends

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH - ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

7:00am + Rita Whipple (wedding anniv. 12/7)  
by Patrick Dittmar

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

7:00am Living and Deceased Members of the Kasap and  
Dewey Families

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

4:00-4:45pm CONFESSIONS

5:00pm For the People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH - 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:15-7:45am CONFESSIONS

8:00am + Bill Mix by Chuck and Mary Ann Voreis

10:00am + Elizabeth Snell (anniv. +) by her Family

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

7:00am + Bernard "Bucky" and Dolores "Dee" Hettel  
by their Family and Friends

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

7:00am + John Patyk (1st anniv. +)  
by Ed and Nancy Stewart

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

7:00am Living and Deceased Members of the Oligier  
Family

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST - ST. PETER CANISIUS

7:00am For the People of the Parish

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

7:00am + Lois Schott

Bulletins are printed every two weeks. Please keep this in mind when submitting information for publication.

## Meditation for December 10th

*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.*

Beginnings are important, and the beginning of Mark's Gospel is no exception. His very first sentence reads like a summary of the entire book: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God". So where does Mark start the story? He takes us to the Judean desert, where John the Baptist is preparing the way for the Christ, the Messiah.

Contrary to expectations that the Messiah would bring Israel military liberation, John proclaims that Jesus will baptize his people in the Holy Spirit. He will open the way for God himself to dwell in them!

That's why John offered baptism for the forgiveness of sins. He knew that Jesus had come to do something new, something astonishing. Repentance was the key that would help the Jews—and us—to receive this surprising good news.

In order to be ready, we need to empty ourselves of our old ways of thinking. That's where repentance comes in. It clears out the sin that clouds our vision of God. It removes our shame and guilt and delivers us from whatever blocks God's life from taking root in us. It makes us ready to receive God's forgiveness and helps us to become more aware of his abiding presence within us.

Are there ways that you need a change of attitude or a new hope this Advent? As you prepare the way for Jesus during this holy season, go back to "the beginning" and listen to John the Baptist's message. Repentance is good news because it opens your heart to Jesus. So take advantage of opportunities to receive that Sacrament of Reconciliation this season. Let God expand your capacity to receive him at Christmas. As Mark shows us in his Gospel, that's where it all begins.

*"Jesus, help me to open my heart to you as I await your coming!"*



## Weekly Offering

Donations received November 16th—December 5th

Adult Envelopes	\$4,045.00
Loose Collection	\$1,146.00
Building Fund	\$30.00
Food Pantry	\$50.00
Holy Days	\$65.00
Diocesan Collections	\$202.00
Online Giving	\$72.76
Cemetery Upkeep	\$10.00

### 10:00 a.m. Altar Servers

December 10th	Jake and Joey Patyk
December 17th	Bentley DiLuciano, Nathan and Nina Leffers

\*\*Altar Servers are asked to call or e-mail to volunteer to serve at one of the Christmas Masses. Thank you!

## Weekends of December 10th & 17th

### Readings Week of December 10th

**Sunday:** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8  
**Monday:** Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 85; Luke 5:17-26  
**Tuesday:** Zechariah 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Luke 1:26-38  
**Wednesday:** Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalm 103; Matthew 11:28-30  
**Thursday:** Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalm 145; Matthew 11:11-15  
**Friday:** Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1; Matthew 11:16-19  
**Saturday:** Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

### Readings Week of December 17th

**Sunday:** Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28  
**Monday:** Jeremiah 23-5-8; Psalm 72; Matthew 1:18-25  
**Tuesday:** Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71; Luke 1:5-25  
**Wednesday:** Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Luke 1:26-38  
**Thursday:** Song of Songs 2:8-14; Psalm 33; Luke 1:39-45  
**Friday:** 1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46-56  
**Saturday:** Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25; Luke 1:57-66

## Announcements

Dear parishioners,

Together during this Advent season, we open our hearts, and invite the Lord more deeply to enter in. In a very powerful way, we pray that the Lord Jesus will be born again into our midst. The world so desperately needs the presence of Christ's healing love, mercy, and peace. Advent is a time to renew our commitment to the Lord and grow in relationship with him.

Please utilize the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the Christmas celebration. Remember confessions are available beginning at 7:15 in the morning on Sunday until 7:45. There are also confessions on Saturday night from 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.

There will be no holy hour on December 19th as that is the evening of our Ottawa area penance service. You are welcome to join us also for the Sacrament of Reconciliation that evening. That begins at 6:30 p.m. at St. Columba (122 W. Washington St.).

Also, there will be no holy hour on Tuesday, December 26th.

I want to thank the Parish Council for all of their hard-working involvement in the life of the parish. As a way of thanking them, one of our parishioners made a donation for us to have a dinner together. Thank you Kathy Jo Lindner!

Have a blest week and contact me if you need anything.

Msgr. Merdian  
Administrator

**GoodGRADS Program:** Ottawa Goodwill GoodGRADS Program offers free education to all interested in attaining a High School Diploma/GED. Call (815) 965-3795 for more information.

**Giving Tree:** The response to our annual Giving Tree was nothing short of amazing! All the tags were taken over the weekend.

Parishioners are reminded that gifts must be returned by the end of Masses on Sunday, December 17th.

Make sure to attach the original tag.



**Christmas Decorating:** The Altar & Rosary Society needs YOUR help to prepare the church for Christmas. Please join them to decorate on Friday, December 22nd at 5:00 pm.

**Financial Support for the Pantry:** Local food pantries are struggling to feed an increasing number of families. Many causes such as inflation, immigration, reduction in free federal commodities, and a change in SNAP distribution have attributed to the increased need. Our local Knights of Columbus are raising cash to help out for several reasons. Firstly, food banks are able to purchase more than twice the amount of food than you can get in a grocery store per dollar. Secondly, the Supreme Council for the Knights of Columbus will donate an additional \$100 if the Fr. Marquette Council can collect \$500. If you would like to help out and give a charitable gift, please put cash or checks (payable to Fr. Marquette KC) in an envelope and label it "KC Food Pantry Collection". It can then be dropped in the weekly collection basket.

**Cards for Fr. Driscoll:** Our parish office has received multiple requests for Fr. Driscoll's contact information. To facilitate the requests, we have set up a basket in the entryway of church for you to drop off letters, pictures, and cards of support. We know that he will appreciate your care, concern and continued prayers.

**Transitional Deacon Ordination:** On December 16th, Justin Ramza will be ordained to the transitional diaconate. Please keep him in your prayers as he makes final preparations for ordination to the priesthood. Our diocese is truly blessed!

**Schedule Note:** For the 4th Sunday of Advent, Masses will be offered at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday the 23rd, and at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday the 24th. We will not have an 8:00 a.m. Mass.

## Pray for the Sick of our Parish

Michael Ball, Katie Becker, Tim Burgess, Don and Pam Edwards, Darlene Jenkins, Jill Kain, Mary (Snell) Kalisiak, Richard Kepper, Ed Liss, Ava Lukacsy, Rosie Sander, Drew Shinnick, Dennise Watson, Karen Williams

# Kids Corner

## Word Search.

Words can go in any direction and can share letters as they cross over each other.

M E M A P X R S C R V L  
 Z R V T O A M M E V O T  
 V A B B U R T G F C F I  
 G P X Y G G N H U D V R  
 Y E N O H E E S S E A I  
 O R V T S Z T E Q S D P  
 I P F S I S R O O E Z S  
 J P E T X H X E T R P B  
 V M P R O P H E T T L P  
 Y A X Q Q P F A M A U B  
 B S A I P V N X G L W N  
 F J P S G D J Y Q L X C

### Word Bank

BAPTIZE	DESERT	HONEY
LOCUSTS	MESSENGER	PATHS
PREPARE	PROPHET	SPIRIT
WATER		

## Color.



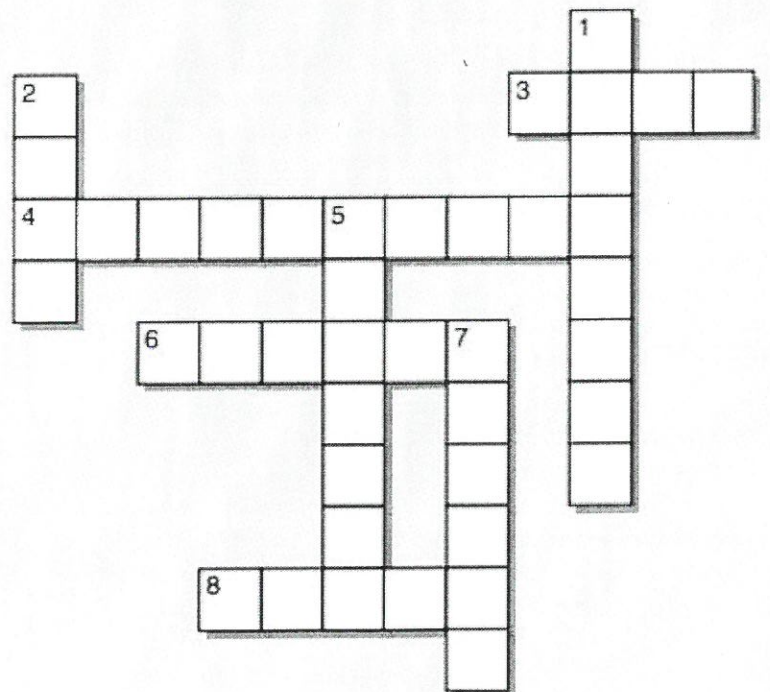
## Crossword Puzzle.

### ACROSS

- Today's Gospel is from the Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_.
- John the Baptist said, "I baptize you with water, but the one who will come after me will baptize you in the \_\_\_\_\_."
- This Sunday (December 10th) is the \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday of Advent.
- John the Baptist baptized people with \_\_\_\_\_.

### DOWN

- Another word for baptism; John the Baptist \_\_\_\_\_ people to forgive sins.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the Baptist is the person we are learning about in this Gospel.
- John the Baptist was a \_\_\_\_\_ who announced that Jesus was coming.
- John the Baptist preached in the \_\_\_\_\_.



Additional resources and kid's activity pages may be found at [Catholicmom.com](http://Catholicmom.com). Scan the QR code to the left.