

Church of Saint Mary

December 21st
2025

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.

Parish Office

P.O. Box 159

303 South Division Street

Utica, IL 61373

Phone & Fax 815-667-4677

office@stmarysutica.org

www.stmarysutica.org

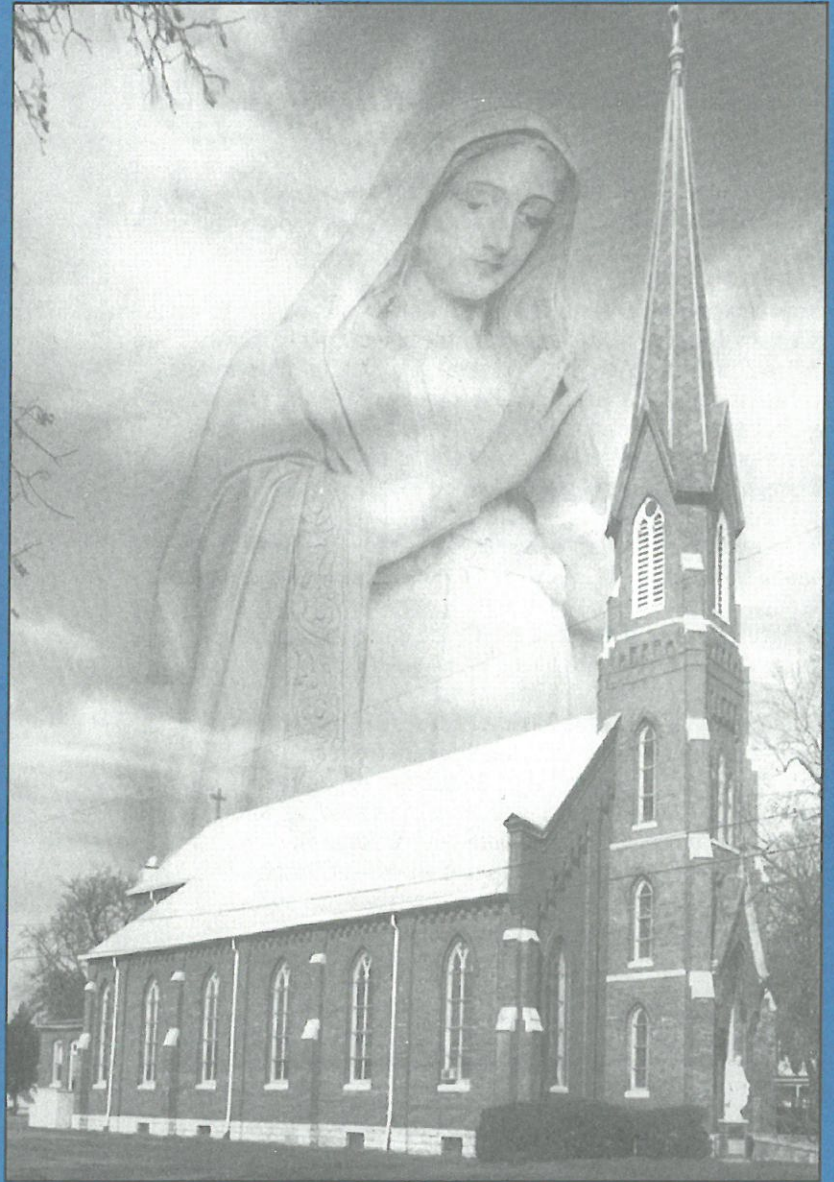
Hours: Tuesdays & Fridays

8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Fr. Paul Carlson, Pastor
Fr. Jeff Windy, Parochial Vicar

Jennifer Newman, Secretary
parishoffice@stmarysutica.org

Heather Leffers, CCD Coordinator
Bill Brown, Cemetery Sexton



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.

NEWS & EVENTS

Church Decorating: Please help us by lending a hand this weekend. We will be decorating for Christmas following the 10:00 a.m. in Utica.

Giving Tree: Please return all presents this weekend. They need to be wrapped and have their tag attached.

Offices Closed: In observance of Christmas, the Holy Family and St. Mary Parish offices will be closed on December 25th and 26th.

CCD Reminder: Our students are on Christmas break this week. Classes will resume in Utica on January 4th and in Oglesby on January 7th.

In Appreciation: The Academy of St. Carlo Actis wishes to thank the Oglesby Knights of Columbus for the recent fish fry they hosted to benefit the Academy. We are also grateful to everyone that ordered a meal. Your continual support of Catholic Education is appreciated. A check for \$1,500 was presented to principals Nathan Boudreau and Deb Myers by Grand Knight Tom Daley and Dan Gregorich representing KC Council #7801.

Scripture Study: The last Advent study will be in the St. Anne's Room on Monday at 2:00 p.m. Thank you to all who participated.

Congratulations to the ASCA 8th Grade Girls on capturing a Regional title. Great job! Deus Non Ego!

Popcorn Fundraiser: The Altar & Rosary Society is offering a new fundraiser featuring popcorn from Apollo Pop in Princeton. We're selling 2-gallon tins of flavored popcorn, with 11 flavors to choose from. Each tin has three sections that you can customize with your favorite flavors. Orders will arrive in time for the Super Bowl—or for any family movie or game night. Please return the order form below with payment in the church collection basket.

Please note that when customizing your tin's flavors, you are only allowed one premium flavor.

Order deadline: January 7th

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Oglesby

CHRISTMAS EVE - DECEMBER 24TH
4:00 PM & 10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY - DECEMBER 25TH
8:00 AM

Utica

CHRISTMAS EVE - DECEMBER 24TH
4:00 PM & 10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY - DECEMBER 25TH
9:00 AM



Name: _____

Phone : _____

Select Pickup Location Preference

☐ Friday, February 6th
10:00 a.m. - Noon at Utica Rectory
~ OR ~

☐ Friday, February 6th
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in Mother's Chapel,
Oglesby

										Premium Flavors		
	Caramel	Birthday Cake	Kettle Corn	Blueberry	Cheddar	Caramel & Cheddar Mix	Everything Bagel	Hot Cheddar		Some like it Crunchy Cheetos	Chocolate Peppermint w/ Marshmallows	Oreo Ultimatum Cookies & Cream
Tin #1												
Tin #2												
Tin #3												

Tins Ordered _____ X \$35 = _____ Total
Make checks payable to Altar & Rosary

GOSPEL REFLECTION

~ Fr. John Muir

A priest friend recently told me a remarkable story. One of his cousins reported having a vivid dream in which an angel told him the family needed to exhume their grandmother's body from a cemetery in New York and return it to her birthplace in Romania. She had been dead nearly 10 years. As you might expect, the family thought it was, well, crazy. But astonishingly they exhumed her body. It was incorrupt, showing no signs of decomposition. That experience sparked healing, faith, and reconciliation throughout the family.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Joseph also receives a dream. He's confused, afraid. But in the quiet of sleep, God speaks: "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home" (Matthew 1:20). When he wakes, Joseph acts. He doesn't overanalyze or dismiss the message. He trusts, and acts.

God still speaks — not necessarily through literal dreams but through those deeper intuitions of the heart. St. Ignatius of Loyola taught that God's voice draws us into peace, courage, and love. But we have to listen to it. Advent is a time for stillness. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we're invited to enter that quiet space where God's voice can be heard.

When and how do you become most receptive to God? Is it in silence? In prayer? In nature? At Mass? This week, go there. Be still. Listen. And like Joseph, have the courage to act on what God shows you.

Christmas Flower Memorials

Connie & Fritz Harmon, Bill & Joellyn McConville, Andrew Harmon, Leanne Baker, Snell & Woodshank Families, Block & Postula Families, Ricci Family, Larson Family, Jim & Mary Lorden, Catherine "Kate" Schwarz, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lucas, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Dordan, Scullans & Fialko Families, Trump & Johnson Families, Jean Conway, Wojciechowski Family, Harold & Marge Aubry, Tim Farrell, Doug Holland, Bernie Inocencio, Candy Dubach, Mr. & Mrs. James O. Plankenhorn, James L. Plankenhorn, Jon S. Plankenhorn, Kathryn M. Casey, Joseph Carey, Joey Carey, Valentina Kubiak & John Kubiak, Tatijana Kubiak, Kasik Family, Woodshank Family, Ed & Phylis Skolek Sr., Jim & Rita Hedrick, Richard Johnson, Ed & Charlotte Panneck, Tom Ulanowski, Donna Wheatland, James & Mary Brady, Roy & Mary Wheatland, Larry Bernabei, Jerry Lorenzi, Paul & Ann Pivonski, Al & Lena Lorenzi, Duncan & Steinz Families, Pfalzgraf & Hodgson Families, Msgr. James J. Swaner, Vesel Family, Long Family, Ron Lindner, Joe & Esther Campeggio, Carolee & Gene Farris, Patricia & George Weberling, Geno Pozzi & Family, Karen Williams, Aldo Bernardoni Family, Melvin Mertel Family, Robey & Keller Families, Brown & Kain Families, Pat Wagner, Rex Wagner, Jonathon Wagner, Irene & Boon Kennel, Linda Young, Alfred Servin



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

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

5:00pm For the future spouses of our children
by the Brian Gross Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST - 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00am + James Plankenhorn by Betty Fontana
10:00am + Joseph M. Carey (anniv. +) by Teresa Carey

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

7:00am + Jodie Mosell

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD - ST. JOHN KANTY

7:00am Kevin Daly
7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH - CHRISTMAS VIGIL

4:00pm + Msgr. James J. Swaner by Jackie Galvan
10:00pm Living and Deceased of the Scullans and Fialko Families

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00am + Deceased Members of KC Council #1775 and their families

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26TH - ST. STEPHEN

PRIVATE Kevin Daly

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH - ST. JOHN

5:00pm + Jack Hennebery (birthdate 12/30)
by his family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

8:00am Fr. Michael Driscoll (birthdate)
10:00am + Ambrose and Blanche Harmon by their family

Ministry Schedule

Sunday, December 21st @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Ryan Mann

Sunday, December 21st, @ 10:00 a.m.

Altar Servers: Nina Leffers, Peter and Olivia Villareal

Wednesday, December 24th @ 4:00 p.m.

Reader: Ryan Mann

Altar Servers: Jake and Joey Patyk

Wednesday, December 24th @ 10:00 p.m.

Reader: Kathleen DiLuciano

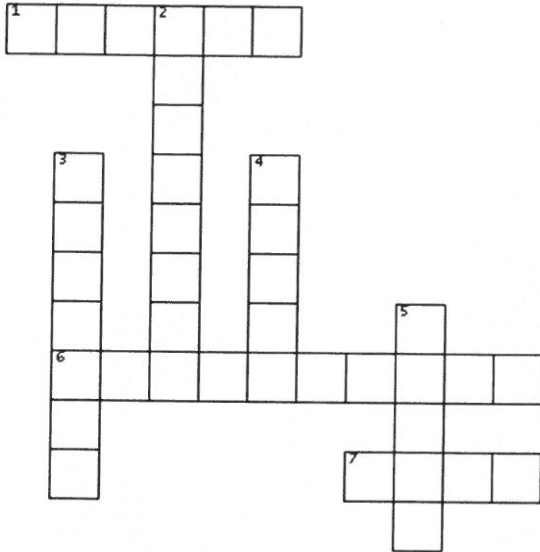
Sunday, December 28th, @ 10:00 a.m.

Altar Servers: Finn and Rory Carter, Abby Brown

Weekly Collection: December 13th-19th

Adult Envelopes	\$1,230.00
Loose Collection	\$655.00
Immaculate Conception	\$12.00
Building Fund	\$724.00
Christmas Flower Memorials	\$515.00
PADs Dinner Donation	\$60.00
Food Pantry	\$10.00
Online Giving	\$45.00

Crossword.



ACROSS

1. Mary was pledged to be married to this man.
6. Mary became pregnant by the _____.
7. Jesus' mother.

DOWN

2. Word which means "God with us".
3. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the _____.
4. "She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him _____".
5. What the angel appeared to Joseph in.

Color.



Word Search.

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

ANGEL	CHILD	CONCEIVE
DIVORCE	DREAM	EMMANUEL
EXPOSE	FULFILL	JESUS
JOSEPH	PROPHET	SAVE
SHAME	SINS	SON
SPIRIT	VIRGIN	



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