

Church of Saint Mary

February 22nd, 2026
1st Sunday of Lent

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

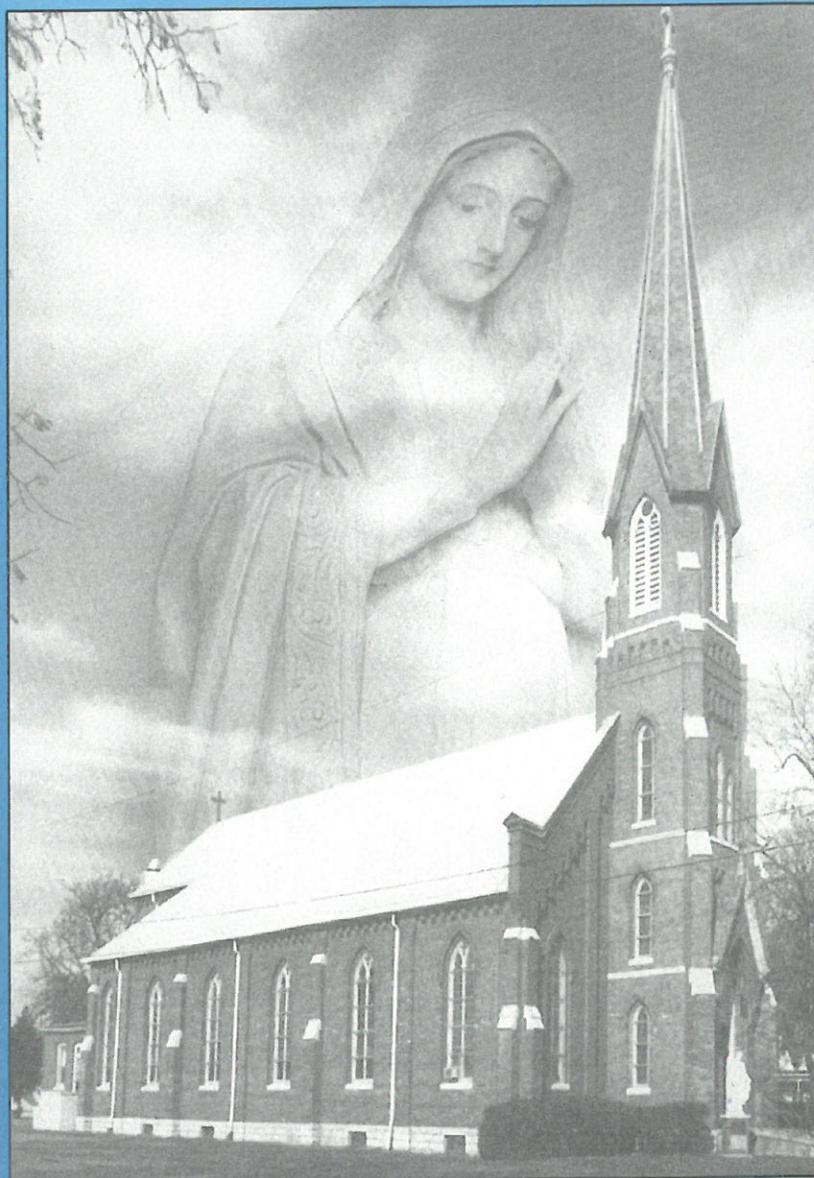
P.O. Box 159
303 South Division Street
Utica, IL 61373
Phone & Fax 815-667-4677
office@stmarysutica.org
www.stmarysutica.org

Hours: Wednesdays & 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

Basket for Palms: Baskets are available in the entry of each church for parishioners to return blessed palms. These will be burned in the Easter fires on Holy Saturday.

You Are the Potter — Day of Recollection: Join Fr. Windy for a Day of Recollection in Utica on Saturday, March 7th. Mass begins at 9:00 a.m., followed by a pottery wheel demonstration by Joe Plankenhorn. While all are welcome to attend Mass, space for the demonstration is limited. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table.

St. Joseph Day Table: In honor of the Feast of St. Joseph, an evening Mass will be celebrated at Holy Family on Thursday, March 19th, at 6:00 p.m., followed by a traditional St. Joseph Table dinner. Call Jennifer at the parish office if interested in attending.

ASCA Pizza Orders: Jennifer will contact those who placed orders when the pizzas are ready for pickup. You may choose to pick up your order at either parish office.

Altar & Rosary Meetings: Our women's groups in Utica and Oglesby have upcoming meetings:
Monday, February 23rd, at 6:00 p.m. — St. Mary's Rectory, Utica
Thursday, March 5th, at 6:30 p.m. — Mother's Chapel, Oglesby

ASCA Trivia Night: It will be here before you know it! Have you reserved a table for the Academy's Trivia Night on March 7th? Space is filling quickly, so call Mimi at (815) 220-1991 to reserve your team's spot.

 **Schedule of Lenten Devotions for this Week**

Monday, February 23rd

- Morning Mass at 7:00 a.m. in Utica
- Eucharistic Adoration 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. at St. Mary
- Crux Discussion group meets in the Mother's Chapel at 2:00 p.m. at Holy Family
- Behold the Lamb bible study. Mass offered at 6:00 p.m., with Fr. Windy's talk to follow in the Mother's Chapel, Oglesby.

Tuesday, February 24th

- Morning Mass at 7:00 a.m. in Utica
- Morning Mass at 7:30 a.m. in Oglesby
- Eucharistic Adoration 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. at Holy Family
- Eucharistic Adoration 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at St. Mary, with confession time available from 7:30 - 7:50 p.m.

Wednesday, February 25th

- Morning Mass at 7:00 a.m. in Utica
- Morning Mass at 7:30 a.m. in Oglesby
- Eucharistic Adoration 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Holy Family, with confession time available 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 26th

- Morning Mass at 7:00 a.m. in Utica
- Morning Mass at 7:30 a.m. in Oglesby
- Eucharistic Adoration 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. at Holy Family

Friday, February 27th

- Morning Mass at 7:00 a.m. in Utica
- Eucharistic Adoration 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. at St. Mary
- Stations of the Cross at St. Mary in Utica 5:30 p.m.
- Stations of the Cross at Holy Family in Oglesby 7:00 p.m.

Confessions available after Stations at both churches until all are heard.

Recent & Upcoming Diocesan Collections

“Catholic” means Universal. We are not just a local or even a national organization. As members of the body of Christ, we share responsibility for the care of charities and mission work throughout the world. Especially, as those blessed to live in a prosperous country, we have an opportunity to help make a difference. Below is a brief summary of each collection to familiarize yourself with the ministry. Place donations in regular collection, as there will not be a second collection taken up.

Aid to Eastern Churches: (*Found in February envelopes*) The faith is strong in the former communist countries, but the Church in that region has few resources to rebuild. This has been exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. Our contributions to this fund will help the Church serve the Catholics in the East. Your support helps reestablish seminaries, convents, and religious education programs, trains laity to serve as leaders, and spreads the gospel to young and old.

Catholic Relief Services: (*Found in March envelopes*) Provides aid and assistance to those in need. Funds are specially used for disaster relief. This is a good way for us to offer emergency assistance in the name of Christ.

Homemade Pasta: Oglesby has a group of volunteers that meet weekly to make fresh meat tortellini and spinach/cheese tortellachi (during Lent). Full one-pound bags are just \$8. Call Jennifer at the parish office and you can arrange a pickup from Utica.

IV Cursillo Day of Renewal: The area's Cursillo group will host a Day of Renewal in Peterstown on Saturday, March 7th, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The theme is “*I Must Be About My Father's Business.*” Speakers include Fr. Michael Schaab, Greg Lechtenberg, Dan Draper, and Pam Destri, presenting reflections on Grace, Piety, Study, and Action. Music will be provided by Lloyd and Diane Chapman. Please join us for this opportunity to renew your faith.

The Presence of God — Lenten Retreat: You are invited to a Lenten retreat at St. Valentine Church in Peru, March 16th–18th, led by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P. Each evening begins with Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by a retreat talk at 6:45 p.m. Come discover the closeness of God in daily life and ways to grow closer to Him.

During Lent the Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women offers reflections of Pope Leo XIV focused on our call to care for creation. May we prayerfully contemplate his words and consider how we can respond in our own homes, parishes and communities.


Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22ND (First Sunday of Lent):
“We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures. Nor can we call ourselves disciples of Jesus Christ without participating in his outlook on creation and his care for all that is fragile and wounded.”
Pope Leo XIV (Address Oct 1, 2025)

GOSPEL MEDITATION

In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.



Today's Gospel begins: "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1). The word "led" denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers

saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

Lenten Challenge: This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one "desert" into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

Altar & Rosary Minonk Candy Sale

- Orders are due by **March 1st**.
- Make checks payable to Holy Family Altar & Rosary.
- Pickup will be April 1st from 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the rectory in Utica.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Description	Cost	Qty	Subtotal
Snappers (8oz. choc./caramel/pecans)	\$17.75		
Caramels (8oz. creamy caramel coated w/ choc.)	\$17.00		
Peanut Butter Crunch (8oz. crispy sensation w/peanut butter, coated in choc.)	\$17.00		
Mints (8oz. Cool mint flavored chocolate center, coated in milk chocolate)	\$17.00		
Toffee (8oz. buttery favorite, w/ choc. & almonds)	\$17.00		
Coconut Clusters (8oz. bag lightly toasted coconut hand-dipped in chocolate)	\$14.00		
Peanut Clusters (8oz. bag fresh, honey roasted peanuts hand-dipped chocolate)	\$14.00		
Gourmet Nuts (8oz. Salted giant cashews, pecan halves, almonds, brazils and filberts)	\$7.00		
Chocolate Rabbit (3oz. solid chocolate)	\$6.00		
Caramel Whip (creamy caramel, coated in milk chocolate on a sucker stick)	\$2.75		

Total Enclosed:

** Order form and money may be put enveloped in collection basket. **



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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

5:00pm + Patricia Byczynski (anniv. + 2/20)
by Megan Byczynski

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND - 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00am + Jack Henneberry (wed. anniv. 2/23)
by his family

10:00am + Gloria Steichen (birthdate)
by Tim Burgess Family

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

7:00am For the Holy Souls of Purgatory

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

7:00am For the Holy Souls of Purgatory
7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

7:00am + Mary Cadegiani (birthdate) by her family

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

7:00am For the Holy Souls of Purgatory

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

7:00am For the Holy Souls of Purgatory

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

5:00pm + Neal and Joyce Glynn by Pat & Anne Devane

SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST - 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00am For the People of the Parish

10:00am + Janice Washkowiak by Deena Pavinato

Ministry Schedule

Sunday, February 22nd, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Kathleen DiLuciano

Altar Server: C.J. DiLuciano

Sunday, February 22nd, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Mary Ann Voreis

Altar Servers: Nina Leffers, Jake and Joey Patyk

Saturday, February 28th @ 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Connie Guerrero

Sunday, March 1st, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Dave Ludford

Sunday, March 1st, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Colette Spears

Altar Servers: Finn and Rory Carter, Abby Brown

Weekly Contributions February 14th-20th

Adult Envelopes: \$2,338.00

Ash Wednesday: \$121.00

Loose Collection: \$874.00

Catholic Education: \$20.00

Online Giving: \$45.00

Easter Memorials: \$40.00

Catholic Charities: \$1,010.00

Aid to Easter Europe: \$185.00

Cemetery Upkeep: \$20.00

Building Fund: \$135.00

Word Search.

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

Color.



ANGELS	BREAD	DESERT
DEVIL	FORTY	HUNGRY
KINGDOMS	MOUNTAIN	PARAPET
SERVE	SPIRIT	STONES
TEMPTED	TEST	WORSHIP

Crossword.

ACROSS

2. "Man shall not live by bread _____."
4. The Spirit led Jesus into the _____.
8. The devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the _____.
9. Jesus fasted for forty days and forty _____.
10. The devil took Jesus to the holy _____.

DOWN

1. The devil took Jesus to the top of the _____.
2. When the devil departed, _____ came and ministered to Jesus.
3. The tempter told Jesus to turn stones into _____.
5. After fasting, Jesus was very _____.
6. "You shall not put the Lord your God to the _____."
7. Jesus said, "You shall worship the Lord your _____."

