

# Church of Saint Mary

February 2nd & 9th  
2025

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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](mailto:office@stmarysutica.org)

[www.stmarysutica.org](http://www.stmarysutica.org)

Hours: Tuesdays & Fridays

8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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Fr. Michael Driscoll, Pastor

[frdriscoll@stmarysutica.org](mailto:frdriscoll@stmarysutica.org)

Jennifer Newman, Secretary

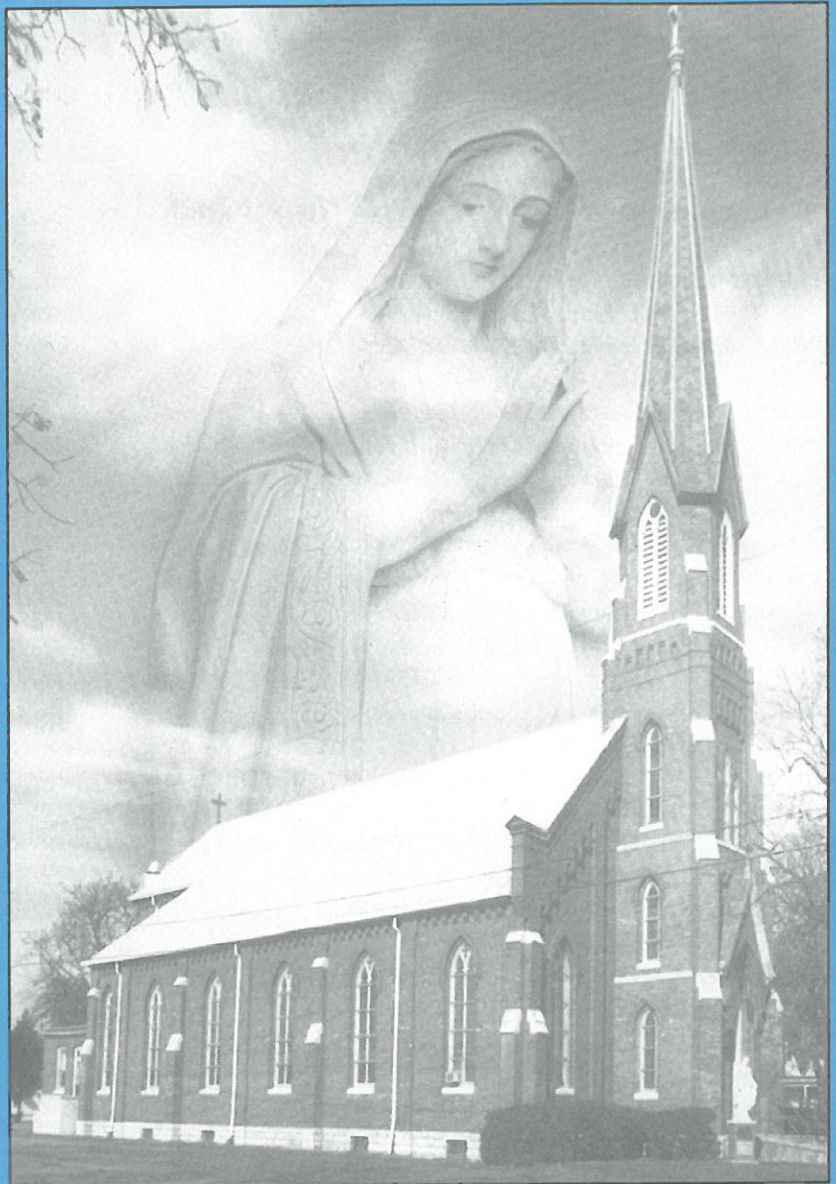
[parishoffice@stmarysutica.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmarysutica.org)

Heather Leffers, CCD Coordinator

[heatherleffers@stmarysutica.org](mailto:heatherleffers@stmarysutica.org)

Bill Brown, Cemetery Sexton

[bbrown@stmarysutica.org](mailto: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.

**Readings for Week of February 2nd**

**Sunday:** Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 24; Luke 2:22-40  
**Monday:** Hebrews 11:32-40; Psalm 31; Mark 5:1-20  
**Tuesday:** Hebrews 12:1-4; Psalm 22; Mark 5:21-43  
**Wednesday:** Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Psalm 103; Mark 6:1-6  
**Thursday:** Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24; Psalm 48; Mark 6:7-13  
**Friday:** Hebrews 13:1-8; Psalm 27; Mark 6:14-29  
**Saturday:** Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Psalm 23; Mark 6:30-34

**Readings for Week of February 9th**

**Sunday:** Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11  
**Monday:** Genesis 1:1-19; Psalm 104; Mark 6:53-56  
**Tuesday:** Genesis 1:20-2:4a; Psalm 8; Mark 7:1-13  
**Wednesday:** Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17; Psalm 104; Mark 7:14-23  
**Thursday:** Genesis 2:18-25; Psalm 128; Mark 7:24-30  
**Friday:** Genesis 3:1-8; Psalm 32; Mark 7:31-37  
**Saturday:** Genesis 3:9-24; Psalm 90; Mark 8:1-10

**Announcements**

**A Note from Father - Re: Parish Hall Update**

Within the last couple weeks, our parish received an updated architectural proposal. Based on the estimated costs, it doesn't seem prudent to continue with the planned parish hall construction at this time. Upon review of the cost estimate, it would be reasonable to assume that the parish would completely exhaust all funds, while still incurring continual added expenses for maintaining a new building. Moreover, the current setup at the 308 Center for our CCD program seems to be functioning nicely so additional space is not required.

In Christ,  
 Fr. Michael Driscoll

**Blessing of Throats:** Fr. Driscoll will offer the traditional blessing of throats on the feast day of St. Blaise, Monday, February 3rd at our 7:00 a.m. morning Mass. We hope you can join us.

**Blood Drive:** Saint Bede Academy will host a blood drive on Tuesday, February 11th, from 1:00-6:00 p.m. The blood drive is open to the public. For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS, visit RedCrossBlood.org, or scan the QR code. Appointments preferred. By donating at this blood drive, you are also helping one or more graduating seniors earn a scholarship for higher education.



**Attention 10 o'clock Servers:** It is time to start working on the new schedule for our 10:00 a.m. altar servers. If you have any conflicts for March and April, please contact Jennifer via phone or e-mail. Thank you.

**TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST**

**Why attend TEC?**



**Boys TEC - March 1-3**  
**Girls TEC - April 5-7**

*"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." John 12:24*

**REGISTER NOW!**



**PADs Meal:** The volunteer sheet for our March 5th dinner at the homeless shelter is available on the back table. If you can help prepare a dish, we'd love for you to sign-up! But, for those that would like to help but don't cook much or are busy with other commitments, you can still play an important role in the outreach ministry by simply making a monetary donation. Envelopes are on the back table and can be placed in the collection basket.

**Upcoming Activities for the IV Youth Group**

- Sunday, February 9th @ 1:45 p.m.—Service Project at Manor Court. We will assist with an ice cream social and Super Bowl pre-game activities with the residents.
- Sunday, February 16th @ 5:00 p.m.—It is a social night. We will be ice skating at Echo Bluff Park until 8:00 p.m. Only cost is if you would like to bring money for concessions.

**Event Reminders**

- \* The area Ultreya for Cursillo will be held on February 8th at St. Valentine's Church, Peru. Mass begins at 4:00 p.m., with a potluck and program to follow. All are welcome!
- \* Take your sweetheart out on Saturday, February 15th. Enjoy an evening of dinner and dancing at Hornbaker Gardens. Tickets are \$75 each and can be purchased at St. Louis Church's parish office or by scanning the QR code. The event is formal attire. Proceeds from the evening will benefit the Magi Baby Chest in Princeton.



**Pilgrimage to SICILY & MALTA**  
 October 01 - 10, 2025  
 \$5,864 per person from Chicago (ORD)  
 All prices based on double occupancy.  
 Pricing available from any airport: [www.206tours.com/airports](http://www.206tours.com/airports)

**Spiritual Director: Fr. Paul Carlson**

**Spiritual Director: Fr. Thomas Otto**

**Group Leader: Deb Myers**

Book Now: [www.206tours.com/frpaulcarlson](http://www.206tours.com/frpaulcarlson)  
 Booking Code: PC100125

Follow Us @206tours!

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

**Gospel Meditation for February 2nd**

*They returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.*

Mary and Joseph must have replayed this scene in their minds many times. When they presented their newborn son to the Lord in the Temple, they hadn't expected a man named Simeon to prophesy that Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and "a sign that will be contradicted". But how and when would these things happen? And how would a sword pierce Mary's heart?

The couple left the Temple "amazed," but then returned to Nazareth and resumed their ordinary day-to-day lives. Just like their neighbors, they worked, enjoyed Shabbat dinners, and attended synagogue each week. And while the question of what would ultimately happen to Jesus must have hung over them, they knew that God had given them a mission: to raise his Son. They couldn't let their concerns about his future deter them from doing what was required in the present, even when it involved the most mundane chores and duties.

Do you often wonder—and even worry—about the future? You might ask yourself, "How will my life and those of my loved ones unfold over time? Will I be able to accomplish what I think God is calling me to do? Will my loved ones be safe and happy? Will I live a long and healthy life?"

Whatever your concerns, however, like Mary and Joseph, don't let them prevent you from doing what God is calling you to do right now—today. That work might look pretty routine from your point of view, but it's nevertheless important in God's eyes.

Today, on this feast of the Presentation, take some time to surrender any worries you might have about the future to the Lord. Ask for the grace to focus on the responsibilities right in front of you, and trust that God will be with you, no matter what the future holds.

*"Jesus, as I go about my day, I will place my trust in you."*

**Weekly Offering**

Donations received January 15th-28th

Adult Envelopes	\$3,085.00
Loose Collection	\$1,968.00
Building Fund	\$75.00
Food Pantry	\$20.00
Christmas Collection	\$25.00
PADs Meal Donations	\$20.00
Cemetery Upkeep	\$100.00
Online Giving	\$471.18

**Mass Intentions and Schedule**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST**

5:00pm For the People of the Parish

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND—PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

8:00am + Susy Pennell by her family and friends

10:00am + Bessie Ryan (birthdate)  
by Ed and Nancy Stewart

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD—ST. BLAISE**

7:00am + Katy Umland

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH**

7:00am + Douglas Holland (birthdate 2/6)  
by Mary Holland

7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH—ST. AGATHA**

7:00am + Bob and Vivian Peterson  
by Maurice and Jane Dust

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH—ST. PAUL MIKI  
& COMPANIONS**

7:00am + Peter and Carol Kadelak

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH**

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

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH—ST. JEROME EMILIANI**

4:00-4:45pm CONFESSIONS

5:00pm + Trini Almeda by Starved Rock KC Council 634  
of Ottawa

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH—5TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

7:15-7:45am CONFESSIONS

8:00am + Msgr. James J. Swaner by John F. Duback

10:00am For the People of the Parish

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH—ST. SCHOLASTICA**

7:00am + Barb Hrovat

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH**

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

7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH**

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

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH**

7:00am + Scott Hancock

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH—ST. CYRIL**

7:00am + Kenny Knafelc

**Altar Servers - 10:00 a.m.**

February 2nd	Ava Myers, Abby Brown, Nina Leffers
February 9th	Finn and Rory Carter, Bentley DiLuciano
February 16th	Jake and Joey Patyk, Ava Myers

**Pray for the Sick of our Parish**

Michael Ball, Katie Becker, Tim Burgess, Rory Carter, Don and Pam Edwards, Tony Hinterlong, Jill Kain, Mary (Snell) Kalisiak, Richard Kepper, Ed Liss, Rosie Sander, Drew Shinnick, Tom Varney, Dennise Watson, Karen Williams

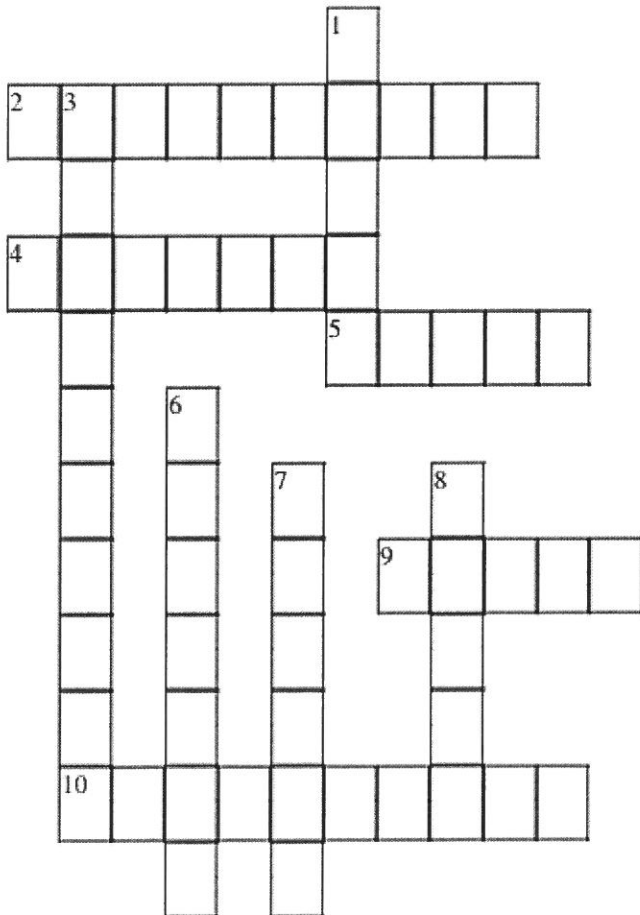
# Kids Corner

**Word Search.** Today's search was created using words from the Gospel for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Luke 2:22-40

Word Bank

DEVOUT	HEARTS	JERUSALEM
JOSEPH	LAW	MARY
MASTER	MOSES	PEACE
PIGEONS	PURIFICATION	SERVANT
SIMEON	SPIRIT	STRONG
SWORD	TEMPLE	TURTLEDOVES
WISDOM	WORSHIP	

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



**Crossword Puzzle.** Answers can be found by rereading the Gospel for February 9th. Luke 5:1-11

**Across.**

- Where they caught the fish? (two words and a space between)
- James and John were this man's sons.
- Jesus got in to the boat belonging to what fisherman?
- What Jesus did in the boat.
- What is the name of the lake they were fishing at?

**Down.**

- One of Peter's fishing partners.
- What did the disciples leave to follow Jesus.
- What had the fishermen caught the night before.
- What Peter felt after the miraculous catch of fish.
- Simon.