

Church of Saint Mary

January 25th, 2026
3rd Sun. Ordinary Time

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

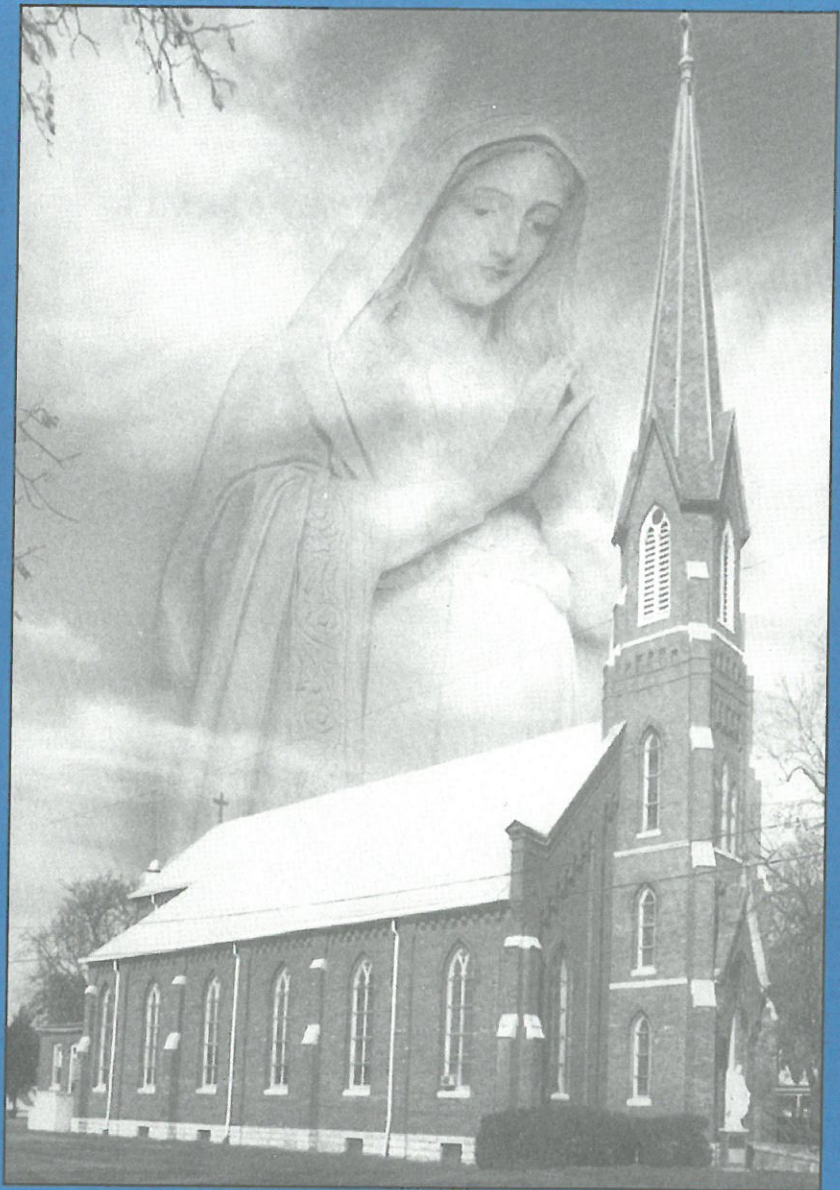
Fr. Jeff Windy, Parochial Vicar

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

In Remembrance: Our parishes mourn the passing of Edward Flynn (St. Mary), James Galvan (St. Mary) and Kate Cowell (Holy Family). Please keep their families and loved ones in your prayers during this difficult time. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

In Gratitude: We extend our heartfelt thanks to the family and friends of Marge Aubry for the memorial donations made in her name. These generous gifts, given to St. Mary's Parish and the Food for the Poor mission, are a beautiful tribute to her life and legacy.

St. Mary Altar & Rosary: Our ladies group will be meeting this coming Monday, January 26th at 6:00 p.m. *Please note that the meeting will be held in the parish rectory, not the 308 building.*

Feast of Saint Maron with Bishop Tylka

St. Sharbel Maronite Parish - 2920 W. Scenic Dr., Peoria
Sunday, February 8th

Because the unity of the Eastern and Western traditions is an important part of the life of the Church, St. Sharbel Maronite Church warmly invites you to celebrate the Feast of Saint Maron, founder of the Maronite Church.

Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m., with Bishop Lou Tylka presiding, followed by a luncheon in the parish hall.

To help us prepare, please RSVP by Sunday, February 1st online to: stsharbelchurch.org.

Word Among Us: Lent copies are on the back table as you leave Mass. We hope you enjoy the complimentary copy.

KC February Fish Frys: Miss the January fish frys? Fear not! The Oglesby Knights of Columbus will be hosting two upcoming fish frys on:

February 6th & 18th

Serving is always from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Order your carryout meal by calling (815) 883-3181.

IV Cursillo: The February Ultreya will be held on Saturday, February 7th at St. Rose of Lima Parish - St. Valentine's location (1109 Pulaski St., Peru). Mass will be celebrated at 4:00 p.m., followed by a potluck meal and program in the church annex. The evening's speaker will be Dcn. Tom Jagiella, who will present on the topic, "The Catholic Land Movement, a modern lay movement aiming to restore traditional Catholic family life."

Concert: Oglesby native and acclaimed vocalist Erin Shields returns home to present *From Broadway to Hollywood*, joined by her husband and musical collaborator, David Shenton. Enjoy an evening of beloved music from stage and screen on Monday, January 26th, at 7:00 p.m. in the IVCC Theatre. The concert is free and open to the public. Freewill donations will be accepted, with a portion benefiting the Illinois Valley Food Pantry.

New Altar Server Schedule: Please see the back of the bulletin for February's 10:00 a.m. ministry schedule.

Catholic Schools Week Academy of St. Carlo Acutis—Schedule of Events

Monday, January 26th - Celebrating Community

- 100th Day of School! Students can wear a "100 Day Shirt"
- Care packages delivered to Homebound Parishioners
- Invitation to city mayors, law enforcement, fire, and EMT's to lunch at each campus

Tuesday, January 27th - Celebrating Our Students

- Grandparents Breakfast (LaSalle & Oglesby Campuses) from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.) - Donuts & Coffee
- For lunch we will be serving St. Carlo's favorite meal!
- Sr. Claire visiting our students (Oglesby @ 12:30, LaSalle @ 1:30)
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Special Dress Day - Dress like St. Carlo Acutis

Wednesday, January 28th - Celebrating the Nation

- Students will be present Valentine's Day cards to Veterans during prayer service (Preschool—4th grade)

LaSalle @ 8:15 a.m. Oglesby @ 2:45 p.m.

- Special Dress Day - Dress in patriotic colors of red, white, and blue

Thursday, January 29th - Celebrating Vocations

- Special Dress Day - Students can show class pride by wearing their grade's color and by raising money for Catholic Charities with a \$2 donation.

Pre-K: Green

Kindergarten: Yellow

1st Grade: Red

2nd Grade: Orange

3rd Grade: Blue

4th Grade: Pink

5th Grade: Purple

6th Grade: White

7th Grade: Black

8th Grade: Neon

- We will pray together a Novena to St. Carlo Acutis, led by our priests.
 - Luminary Prayer Service, families are invited. (Oglesby 8:30 a.m., LaSalle 2:30 p.m. in gymnasiums)
- Friday, January 30th - Celebrating Faculty, Staff & Volunteers**
- Arrival: ALL K-8 students arrive at the Peru Campus (anytime between 7:30-8:15 a.m. in Halle)
 - Student Council will be giving a donut to all students
 - Prayer Partner Activities
 - Eucharistic Procession (Peru Campus to St. Joseph Church)
 - All School Mass at St. Joseph Church (Students and Faculty Only!)
 - 11:30 a.m. early dismissal (All in Peru). *Please note that preschool is not in session on this day, and that no after care will be available.*

Saturday, January 31st - Celebrating Our Families

- Ice Skating Party at the City of Peru Ice Rink from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. The Locker Room will provide skate rental for a small fee. Concessions will also be available.




ASCA FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE PRESENTS

TRIVIA

Night

AT JA HAPP GYMNASIUM PERU CAMPUS

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM
TRIVIA STARTS AT 6:30PM

FOOD . RAFFLES . FUN

CASH PRIZES FOR TOP 3 TRIVIA TEAMS
& 3 BEST DRESSED INDIVIDUALS

DRESS AS YOUR FAN FAVORITES!

\$12 PER PERSON
TABLES OF 6-10

CONTACT MIMI BORIO @ 815-220-1991 OR MBORIO@ACADEMYOFSTCARLO.ORG
TO RESERVE A TABLE




GOSPEL MEDITATION

By Fr. John Muir

I was 22 years old, lying in bed one night while on a pilgrimage, when I suddenly sensed an idea in my mind: "Go to the seminary." There was no voice, no vision, but a gentle and unmistakable clarity. I simply prayed, "Lord, if that's from you, let me find great joy in it." Three days later, my heart was bursting with joy. I dropped everything and entered the seminary. The older I get, the stranger my rather careless and hasty departure seems to me. I followed not because it made sense, or because I was especially brave. I went because the Lord called me.

Something like this happens in today's Gospel. Jesus walks by Simon, Andrew, James, and John and says, "Come after me" (Matthew 4:19). And immediately they leave their nets and follow. There's no explanation, no hesitation ... just movement. Why? As St. John says, "In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us" (1 John 4:10). They do not leave their nets because his call made perfect, calculable sense. They left them because they were called. And Jesus' call is powerful.

Take a moment this week to remember when Christ first called you. However small or quiet it was, recall it, and give thanks. The more we marvel that Christ has called us personally, the more passionately and freely we will follow him.



Lenten Retreat Light of the World

February 27 to March 2, 2026

at

Nativity of Our Lord

Spring Valley, IL

There is no charge to attend this retreat.

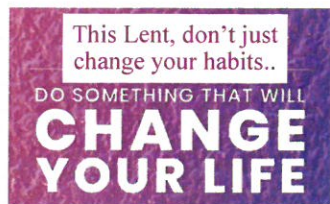
RETREAT SCHEDULE

Friday, February 27
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Saturday, February 28
7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday, March 1
7:30 am - 5:15 pm
Monday, March 2
6:30 pm - 8:45 pm

What is the Light of the World Retreat?

The Light of the World Retreat is an immersive weekend retreat experience where participants personally encounter Christ through the presentation of the kerygma - the basic gospel message.

Use your device to scan the image below or go directly to the parish LOTW webpage (NativitySV.org) where you can complete your registration online.



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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24TH

5:00pm + Jim Christmann by Jean Christmann

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH - 3RD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

8:00am For the People of Parish

10:00am + Ann Jansen (anniv. + 1/24)
by Julie Toellen

MONDAY, JANUARY 26TH

7:00am + Mary Ann Newell by her family

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27TH

7:00am Fr. William Gardner and his mother

7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28TH

7:00am In thanksgiving for Mike Herkert

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29TH

7:00am Faculty and Students of The Academy of
St. Carlo Acutis celebrating Catholic Schools
Week by Deena Pavinato

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH

7:00am + Ron Lindner

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST

5:00pm + John Picco (birthdate)
by Glenn and Dorothy Stevenson

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST - 4TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

8:00am + Ed Schmitz (anniv. + 1/31)
by Carol Henneberry

10:00am + Marge Aubry by Pat and Cindy Ries

Ministry Schedule

Sunday, January 25th, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Kathleen DiLuciano

Sunday, January 25th, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Mary Ann Voreis

Altar Servers: Nina Leffers, Olivia and Peter Villareal

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

Reader: Dave Ludford

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

Reader: Colette Spears

Altar Servers: Jake and Joey Patyk, Abby Brown

Weekly Contributions January 17th-23rd

Adult Envelopes: \$1,493.00

Loose Collection: \$859.00

Building Fund: \$75.00

Catholic Charities: \$10.00

Cemetery Upkeep: \$280.00

Online Giving: \$45.00

February Schedule - 10:00 a.m. Servers

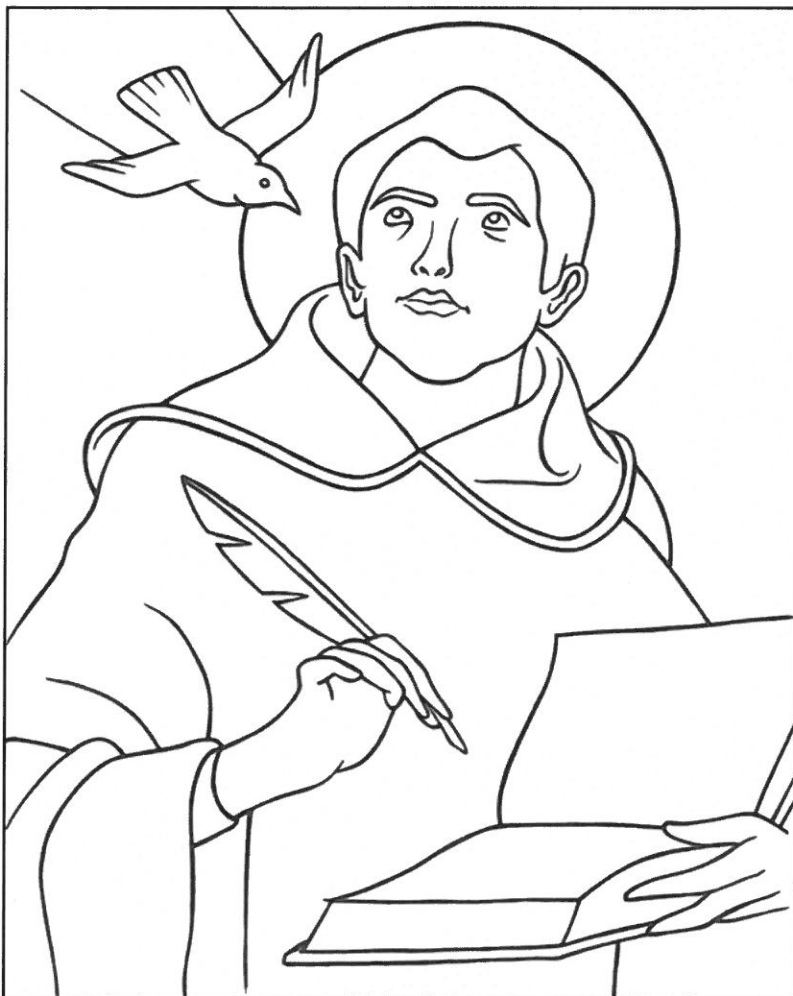
February 1st	Jake and Joey Patyk, Abby Brown
February 8th	Finn and Rory Carter, Nina Leffers
February 15th	Peter and Olivia Villareal
February 22nd	Nina Leffers, Jake and Joey Patyk

Beginning in March, we will start putting together the serving schedule seasonally (March, June, September, December). You will receive an e-mail with a link to the schedule, and you will receive convenient reminder e-mails a couple days before your scheduled service. As always, we are grateful for your help and reverence at the altar, and are happy to work around scheduling conflicts that may arise.

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

ANDREW	ARRESTED	BOAT	CAPERNAUM	COME
DARKNESS	FISHERMEN	FOLLOW	JOHN	KINGDOM
LIGHT	NETS	PETER	PREACH	PROPHET
REPENT	SEA	SIMON		

Color.



**St. Thomas Aquinas
Feast Day: January 28th**

St. Thomas Aquinas was a priest, teacher, and one of the greatest thinkers of the Church. He loved learning and believed that faith and reason work together to help us understand God and the world around us. Because he valued education so highly, St. Thomas Aquinas is the patron saint of Catholic schools and students. During Catholic Schools Week, we especially remember his example by celebrating learning, asking good questions, and using our knowledge to grow closer to God and serve others.

St. Thomas Aquinas, pray for us.

Prayer before Study

Creator of all things, true Source of light and wisdom, lofty origin of all being, graciously let a ray of Your brilliance

Penetrate into the darkness of my understanding and take from me the double darkness in which I have been born, an obscurity of both sin and ignorance.

Give me a sharp sense of understanding, a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally.

Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations, and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm.

Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and help in completion; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

~ St. Thomas Aquinas



Visit CatholicMom.com for more resources for you and your family!