

Church of Saint Mary

March 29th, 2026

Palm Sunday



Mass and Sacraments

Holy Mass

Holy Thursday: 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service: 3:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil: 8:00pm

Easter Masses: 8:00am, 10:00am

Monday through Friday: 7:00am

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

frcarlson@stmarysutica.org

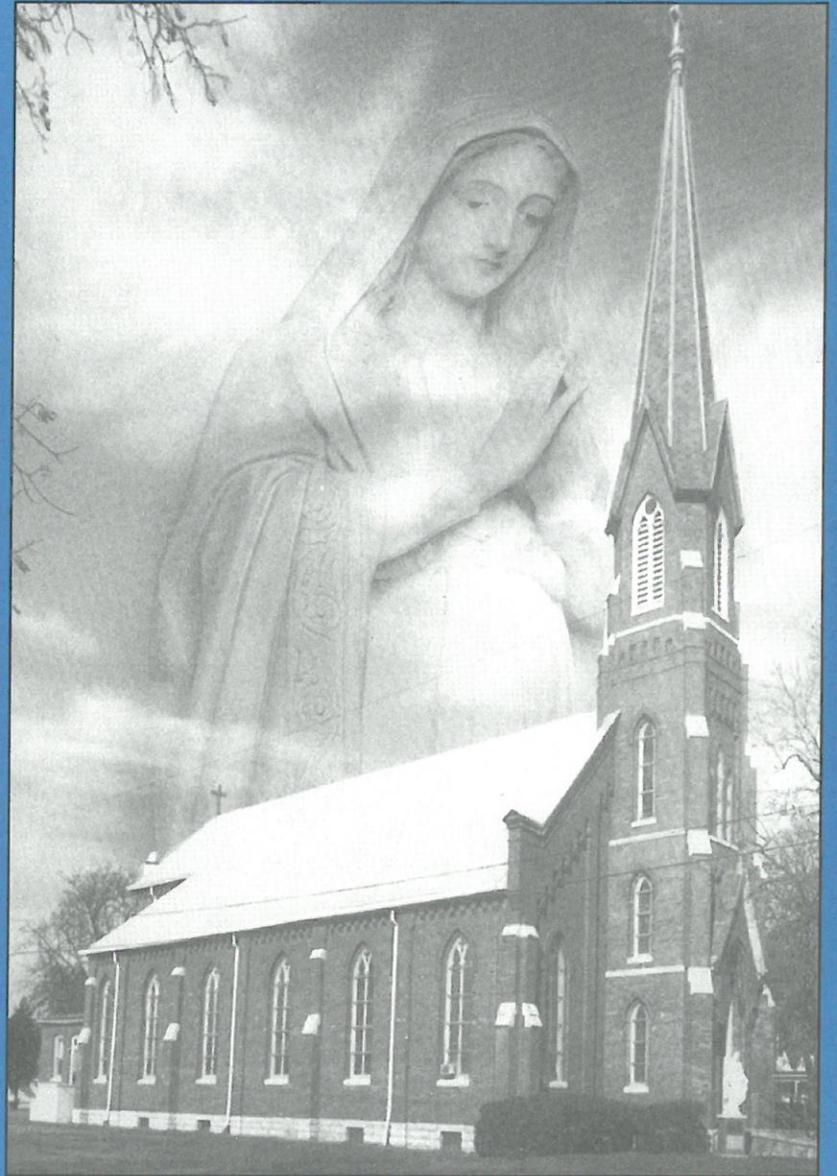
Fr. Jeff Windy, Parochial Vicar

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

Extra Confession Times: With the arrival of Holy Week, take the opportunity to receive the grace and mercy of our heavenly Father in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Extra times are available this week.

- Wednesday, April 1st from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at Holy Family
- Friday, April 3rd immediately after Good Friday Service until all are heard at both churches.

Morning Masses: This week we will offer the following daily Masses—Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at St. Mary (7:00 a.m.) and at Holy Family we will offer a communion service on Tuesday and Mass on Wednesday (7:30 a.m.).

Crux Discussion Group: We will have our last Lenten meditation group meeting this week, Monday, March 30th at 2:00 p.m. in the Mother's Chapel. Many thanks to Deena Pavinato for her time facilitating and leading the discussions.

KC Fish Fry: The Oglesby Knights will be serving fried cod and shrimp on Good Friday (April 3rd) from 4:00-7:00 p.m. The carryout meal also includes French fries, coleslaw and bread. Please call (815) 883-3181 to place your order.

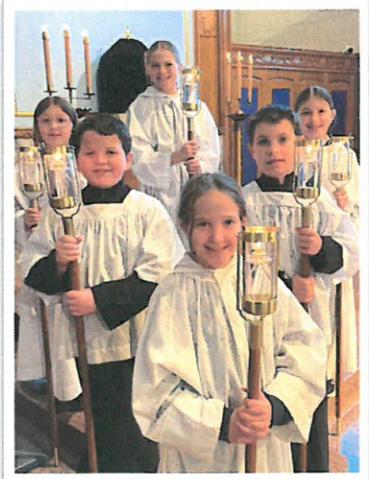
Religious Education Program: Just a reminder that ASCA-Religious Education (CCD) program is on Easter break April 1st and 8th. St. Mary's CCD is on break March 29th and April 5th.

Living Stations: The Academy of St. Carlo Acutis will present the living stations at St. Joseph Church in Peru at 12:30 p.m. this Thursday, April 2nd. All are welcome to attend this powerful and moving representation of Our Lord's journey to the cross.

Thank you to those that attended or helped with the St. Joseph's Table Mass and Dinner on March 19th. A collection taken up that evening enabled a \$100 donation to the PADs shelter.



Some of Holy Family's 4th grade servers happily modeled the new processional torches that we were able to purchase thanks to the donations received from Fr. Carlson's votive candle project. The new torches will be used for the first time during Holy Week!



Easter Triduum
Holy Family & St. Mary Churches

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - Service @ 3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) - Mass @ 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday - Masses @ 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Schedule is identical for both churches.

Minonk Candy: Holy Family Altar & Rosary would like to express our thanks to everyone that placed an order for our Easter fundraiser. Chocolate will be ready for pickup this week! April 1st from 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Utica Rectory April 1st or 2nd at Holy Family's Parish Office 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Blood Drive: Communities are coming together to help save lives. There will be a blood drive at the United Methodist Church in Tonica on Monday, March 30th from 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. For an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are accepted.

Easter Basket Blessing: As we prepare to break our Lenten feasts, come first to Church to have that great meal of Easter blessed! The blessing will take place on Saturday, April 4th at 9:00 a.m. at both churches. The typical foods in our Easter baskets are rich in symbolism and serve to do more than wet one's appetite after the long season of Lenten fasting.

Eggs: A traditional symbol of resurrection and new life, as the new life emerges from the hard tomb of the egg. In the East, eggs are not eaten during Lent, so giving eggs is a special treat.

Butter: Another luxury that was forbidden during Lent was butter. The Easter butter is often shaped like a lamb to remind us of the sacrificed Lamb of God.

Bread: Various breads are used to symbolize Christ, "the bread of life".

Meat: These include lamb and veal, with the obvious Christ connotations, symbolizing God's rich mercy. It is also noted that pork was forbidden in the Old Testament, so eating ham and bacon now symbolizes that all things are made new in Christ.

Topping off the food basket for Easter are wine (for joy), horseradish (a reminder of the bitter herbs of Passover), salt (we are "the salt of the earth"), a candle (Christ is our light) and flowers for the table (joy and new life), all covered with a cloth (a reminder of the burial clothes that wrapped Jesus' body).

Altars of Repose LaSalle Vicariate

Dalzell: St. Thomas More Church 7p-10p (Chapel)

Hennepin: St. Patrick Church 8p-11p (Chapel)

Henry: St. Mary Church 8:30p-12a

LaSalle: St. Hyacinth Church 8p-12a

LaSalle: St. Patrick Church 7:30p-12a (Relic Chapel)

Mendota: Holy Cross Church 7p-12a (Adoration Chapel)

Oglesby: Holy Family Church 8p-10p

Peru: St. Bede Abbey 9p-11p

Peru: St. Joseph Church 8p-12a

Princeton: St. Louis Church 8p-11p (Parish Hall)

Spring Valley: Nativity of Our Lord 8p-11p (Parish Hall)

Utica: St. Mary Church 8p-10p

Walnut: St. John the Evangelist Church 8p-11p (Parish Hall)

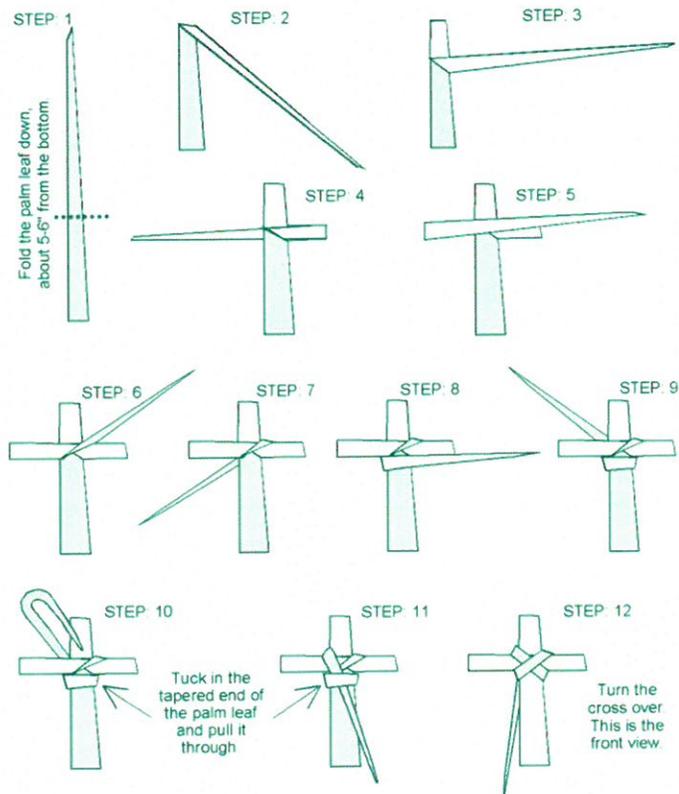
When the Holy Thursday Mass concludes, the Blessed Sacrament is placed on the Altar of Repose. At this altar, the faithful keep vigil in silent prayer and adoration, recalling our Lord's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

"You could not keep watch with me for one hour?"



Palm Leaf Cross Directions

Supplies: One palm leaf strip about 24-26" in length, 1/2" in width, tapering to the end.



FOR SUNDAY MARCH 29TH:

"We hear the cry of the earth and we hear the cry of the poor, because this plea has reached the heart of God. Our indignation is his indignation; our work is his work."

Pope Leo XIV (Address Oct 1, 2025)



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

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

5:00pm + Thomas Pfalzgraf (birthdate)
by Geo and Mary Kay Hodgson

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH - PALM SUNDAY

8:00am + Jim Galvan by Joe and Linda Plankenhorn
10:00am For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, MARCH 30TH

7:00am For the Holy Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST

7:00am + Stanley, Frances, and John Kasik
7:00-8:00pm HOLY HOUR CANCELLED

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1ST - SPY WEDNESDAY

7:00am + Louis and Frances Ahcin
4:30-6:30pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN OGLESBY

THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND - HOLY THURSDAY

7:00pm Adelyn Suarez (birthdate 3/24)
by Tim and Mary Burgess

FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD - GOOD FRIDAY

3:00pm SERVICE

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH - EASTER VIGIL

8:00pm + Jean Conway
by Tom and Lori Wojciechowski

SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH - EASTER

8:00am For the People of the Parish
10:00am + Tim Stevenson by his mother and father

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 28th, @ 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Connie Guerrero

April 3rd, @ 3:00 p.m.

Reader: Colette Spears

Altar Servers: Finn and Rory Carter

March 29th, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Ryan Mann

March 29th, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Colette Spears

Altar Servers: Finn and Rory Carter, Nina Leffers

April 4th @ 8:00 p.m.

Reader: Pat Devane

April 5th, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: TBD

April 2nd, @ 7:00 p.m.

Reader: Mary Ann Voreis

Altar Servers: Jake and Joey Patyk

April 5th, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Mary Ann Voreis

Altar Servers: Abby Brown

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

March 21st-27th

Adult Envelopes: \$1,735.00

Loose Collection: \$417.00

Online Giving: \$130.00

Catholic Charities: \$10.00

Building Fund: \$50.00

Cemetery Upkeep: \$180.00

Easter Memorials: \$120.00

Color.

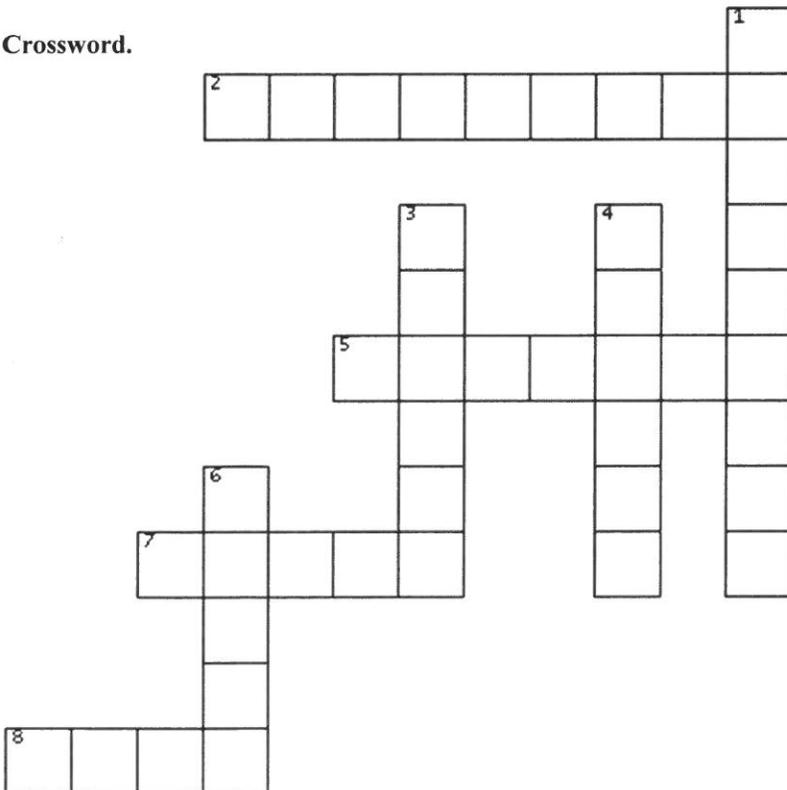


Word Search.

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

BEHOLD	BETHPHAGE	BLESSED
BRANCHES	CLOAKS	CROWD
DONKEY	HOSANNA	JERUSALEM
JESUS	KING	MASTER
MEEK	PROPHET	RIDING
ZION		

Crossword.



ACROSS

2. What is the name of the village near Jerusalem where the donkey was found?
5. Word shouted meaning "save us".
7. What kind of branches did the crowd wave as Jesus passed by?
8. The crowd said, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the ___".

DOWN

1. The city Jesus entered triumphantly.
3. People spread these on the road before Jesus.
4. What animal did Jesus ride into the city on?
6. Title given to Jesus: Son of ___