

Church of Saint Mary

December 24th & 31st
2023

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

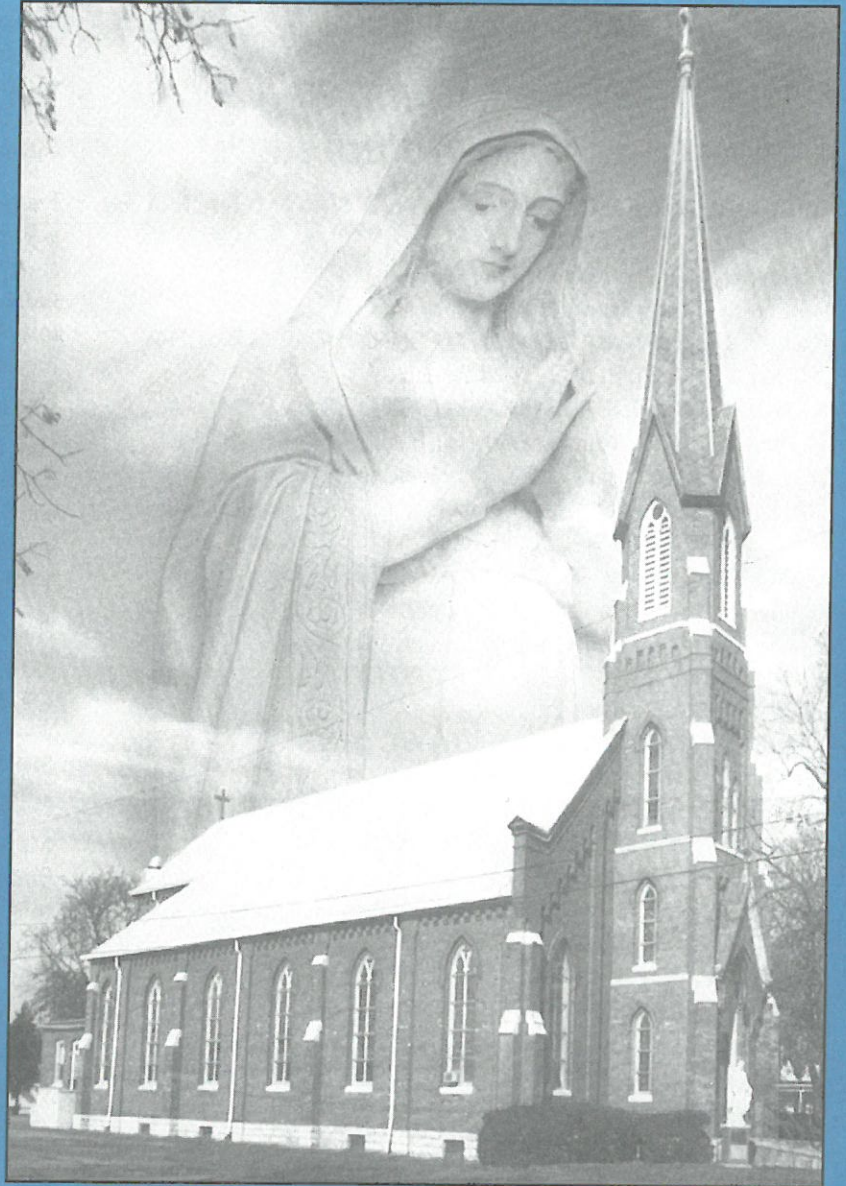
P.O. Box 159
303 South Division Street
Utica, IL 61373
Phone & Fax 815-667-4677
office@stmarysutica.org
www.stmarysutica.org

Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Fr. Michael Driscoll, Pastor
Msgr. Mark Merdian, Administrator

Jennifer Newman, Secretary
parishoffice@stmarysutica.org
Heather Leffers, CCD Coordinator
heatherleffers@stmarysutica.org

Bill Brown, Cemetery Sexton
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.



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



Mass Intentions and Schedule

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

4:00-4:45pm CONFESSIONS
5:00pm + Joseph M. Carey (anniv. + 12/21)
by Teresa Carey

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH - 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00am For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm + Msgr. James J. Swaner
by Mark and Kathy Hocking
10:00pm + Deceased Members and Family of KC Council
#1775

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00am + Patrick Scullans (anniv. + 12/26)
by Chuck and Mary Ann Voreis

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH - ST. STEPHEN

7:00am Souls of Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH - ST. JOHN

7:00am + Frances Marini

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28TH - HOLY INNOCENTS

7:00am For the People of the Parish

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

7:00am + Raymond and Dolly Sugess
by the Brian Gross Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

4:00-4:45pm CONFESSIONS
5:00pm + Blanche and Ambrose Harmon by Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

7:15-7:45am CONFESSIONS
8:00am For the People of the Parish
10:00am + Jerry Lorenzi by Mary Lou Lorenzi

MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST - SOLEMNITY OF MARY

9:00am Kathryn "Kate" Bennett by her Family

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2ND

7:00am Rena Daly
7:00pm EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3RD - MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

7:00am + Braxton Carr

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4TH - ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

7:00am + Robert and Doris Grusk
by Joe and Dee Harmon

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5TH - ST. JOHN NEUMANN

7:00am + Ray Klimek by Ellen Knaff

Meditation for December 24th

May it be done to me according to your word.

Mary's words to the angel can seem easy and somewhat romantic to us. But to her they were anything but. They represented a seismic shift in her life. When she spoke these words, she was agreeing to take up a mysterious new life filled with a host of unknowns. No longer would she be a humble housewife and mother in the model of so many of the women she had known.

Instead, she would become the Mother of God, and nothing would ever be the same. She would have only one child whom she would prepare to become Israel's Messiah and the Savior of the world. What's more, she would go through life bearing the misunderstanding and judgments of friends and family members.

Imagine how frightening this could have been for Mary. She had no example to follow because nothing like this had ever happened before! She couldn't ask her mother or an aunt to show her how to walk this path. Her rabbi might offer some guidance, but the idea that God even had a Son would have been foreign to him.

But as unique as Mary's situation was, it is also very familiar. Who among us hasn't felt at times as if we were walking a path that no one else has walked? Who hasn't felt at times as if we were all alone, with no one to guide us? We may not have responded as sinlessly as Mary did, but just the fact that she has gone before us can bring us great comfort.

Mary knows what it's like to have her life turned upside down. She knows what it's like to walk a lonely road and to be misunderstood. But even on Christmas Eve, as she faced the prospect of giving birth in a stable, she continued to trust in God's care. Now assumed into heaven, she offers us her compassion, support, and intercession, especially when we feel lost and alone. She never tires of teaching us and caring for us.

"Holy Mary, Mother of God, help me to walk the path of trust as I await the coming of your son."

Weekly Offering

Donations received December 6th-19th

Adult Envelopes	\$3,500.00
Loose Collection	\$1,209.85
Building Fund	\$890.00
Food Pantry	\$10.00
Holy Days	\$329.00
Diocesan Collections	\$442.00
Online Giving	\$70.00
Cemetery Upkeep	\$45.00

Altar Servers

December 24th @ 10:00 a.m.	Nina and Nathan Leffers
December 24th @ 4:00 p.m.	Joey and Jake Patyk, Grant and Logan Kummerow
December 31st @ 10:00 a.m.	Finn Carter

Bulletins are printed every two weeks. Please keep this in mind when submitting information for publication.

Weekends of December 24th & 31st

Readings Week of December 24th

Sunday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Monday: *Vigil*—Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 *Night*—Isaiah 9:1-6; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 *Dawn*—Isaiah 62:11-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20 *Day*—Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalm 31; Matthew 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97; John 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124; Matthew 2:13-18

Friday: 1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96; Luke 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 John 2:12-17; Psalm 96; Luke 2:36-40

Readings Week of December 31st

Sunday: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40

Monday: Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 John 2:22-28; Psalm 98; John 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1 John 2:29-3:6; Psalm 98; John 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 John 3:7-10; Psalm 98; John 1:35-42

Friday: 1 John 3:11-21; Psalm 100; John 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 John 5:5-13; Psalm 147; Mark 1:7-11

Announcements

Reminder— There will not be a holy hour offered on Tuesday, December 26th. Thank you for understanding.

PADS signup: The January dinner at the homeless shelter is scheduled for Wednesday the 3rd. If you can help us out by preparing a dish for the meal, please volunteer on our sign-up sheet on the back table.

Attention 10:00 a.m. Servers: A new server schedule will be put out for January and February very quickly. Please call or e-mail the parish office if you have conflicts. Thank you!

Mass Intentions: Another year is upon us. Have you scheduled a Mass for your deceased loved ones? Please use the blue intention forms from the back table and return them in the collection basket or directly to the parish office. The \$10 stipend fee should be included.

CCD Class: We hope that all our students and teachers enjoy a relaxing and joy-filled Christmas break. Religious education classes will resume on January 7th.

In Appreciation: Sometimes we don't say "thank you" often enough. We would like to recognize LKCS for the service they provide in printing our parish bulletin. Their professionalism, timeliness, and flexibility with schedules is greatly appreciated. We are blessed to have their business in the Illinois Valley and their family as longtime parishioners. God Bless!

Christmas Flowers/Decorating: Our memorial listing is on the back page of the bulletin. Thank you to all that contributed to the beauty of the decorations in church by honoring a loved one. Additionally, we offer our thanks to all those that gave of their time to decorate the church.

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, celebrates Mary's faith and trust in God alone. The Church wants us to imitate her faith.

Mass for the Solemnity will be offered at St. Mary's on:

Monday, January 1st @ 9:00 a.m.



Altar & Rosary Butterbraid Fundraiser: Whether by purchasing a pastry or simply making a monetary donation, the butterbraid fundraiser was a success....THANK YOU! Proceeds will be used to purchase altar linens.

Word Among Us: The new editions for January/February are available on the back table. Please take a complimentary copy!

MAHS Freshman Open House - Wednesday, January 10, 2024

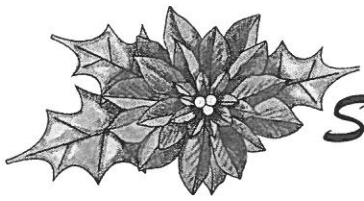
Want a high school experience where you'll get a great education, spiritual guidance, be involved in sports and clubs, all in a family-like environment? Join us for our freshman Open House at Marquette Academy High School! The activity fair begins at 6:00 p.m., with guided tours starting at 6:30 p.m. Get all the information about financial aid and scholarships, athletics, clubs and organizations that Marquette has to offer. You can meet our coaches, staff and other Marquette Academy students. The school is also giving away lots of prizes, including a FULL and a HALF year tuition to 2 lucky students! Come see why we're more than a school, We Are Marquette! Visit www.marquetteacademy.net to RSVP online and be entered to win a \$100 voucher towards tuition or the MA spirit shop.

ADA Purpose: The Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA) is the major source of revenue for the ministries and agencies of the Diocese of Peoria. It is these ministries that enable the Church of Peoria, under the direction of the Bishop, to reach across parish boundaries in the areas of Worship/Prayer, Christian Education, Christian Service, and Church Administration, among others. By donating, you help evangelize and support these efforts. A Diocese is, after all, a union of parishes, presided over by a Bishop and organized to fulfill Christ's mission in a given geographical area. While the work of Christ is done chiefly in the parishes, there are many tasks which require the administration and efforts of the larger Church, the Diocese. Please help St. Mary's reach our goal of \$28,904.

Donation Statements: With the end of the year approaching, parishioners are reminded that if they would like to receive a copy of their contribution statements, to call or e-mail the parish office.

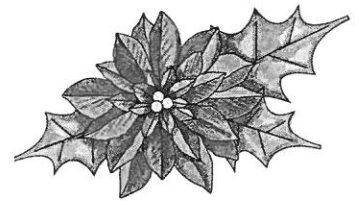
Pray for the Sick of our Parish

Michael Ball, Katie Becker, Tim Burgess, Don and Pam Edwards, Darlene Jenkins, Jill Kain, Mary (Snell) Kalisiak, Richard Kepper, Ed Liss, Ava Lukacsy, Rosie Sander, Drew Shinnick, Dennise Watson, Karen Williams



St. Mary's Church - Christmas Flowers

Bill Mix • Deceased Family Members and Friends of the Assalley and Newcomer Families • Deceased Members of the Holland and Aubry Families • Andrew Harmon • Leanne Baker • Connie Harmon • Fritz Harmon • Joellyn McConville • Deceased Members of the Scullans and Fialko Families • Deceased members of the Trump and Johnson Families • Wilson and Sunderbruch Families • Sandy Brown • Woodshank and Snell Families • Dorothy and Richard Lucas • Block and Postula Families • Larson Family • Ricci Family • Donna Marie Wheatland • Mary, Ray and Marty Wheatland • Mary and James Brady • Vesel and Long Families • Valerie Davis • Linda Young • Thomas Ohler • Justyna and Sam Pesz • Jerry Lorenzi • Ray Klimek • Alleman and Lorden Families • William and June Comiskey • Brian Comiskey • Melvin Mertel Family • Aldo Bernardoni Family • Harold Aubry • Doug Holland • Tim Farrell • James Doherty • Grusk and Doherty Families • Brown and Kain Families • Glenda Henneberry • Marvin and Clara Schmitz • Henneberry Family • Charlotte and Ed Panneck • Tom Ulanowski • Johnson Family • Stanley, Frances and John Kasik • Deceased Members of the Kasik Family • Ron Lindner • Carolee and Gene Farris • Patricia and George Weberling • Joe and Esther Campeggio • Pozzi Family • Msgr. James J. Swaner • In honor of Fr. Driscoll • Sharon Towne • Sheila Tomminello • Hank Lushina • Helen and Ray Swietek • Lista and James O. Plankenhorn • Jon S. Plankenhorn • Kathryn M. Casey • Judy and Joe Calderon • Polizzi Family • Moriarity Family • Karen Robey • Skolek and Hedrick Families • Siemers and Gleason Families • Mr. and Mrs. John Brown • Judy Hoffman • Gary Calkins • Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Conaty • Mary Alice Kistler Wolgast • Phil Conaty • Mr. and Mrs. Cruz Galvan



Kids Corner

Word Search.

Words can go in any direction and can share letters as they cross over each other.

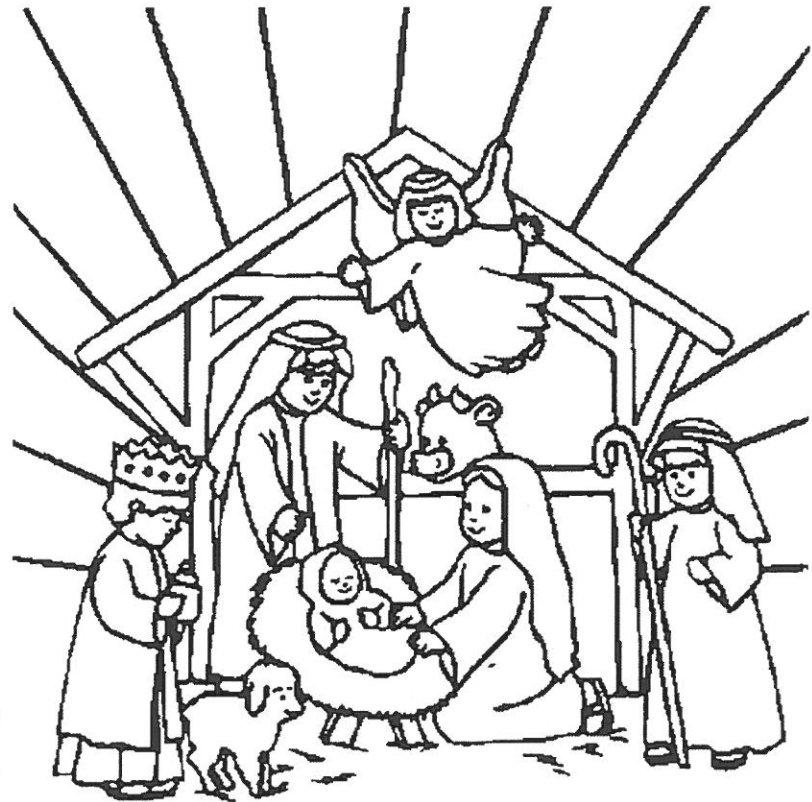
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E Q I Q W H E R R K S C V T K
N S X X P J C R K D D E D R C
A L I E B M I W R F Q T M V O
M H S A Y Y E E J E Q A N T B
M O P U R P H B G D S L S X E
J N K A Q P D Q Z Z L U C Y T
K E W V E N U Y H X F W S R H
M V O H N O Y F I R O L G A L
S A S U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

ANGELS	BETHLEHEM	FORETOLD	GLORIFY
HEART	HEAVEN	INFANT	JOSEPH
MANGER	MARY	PRAISE	REFLECT
SHEPHERDS			

Color.



They shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."