

# Church of Saint Mary

January 18th, 2026  
2nd 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

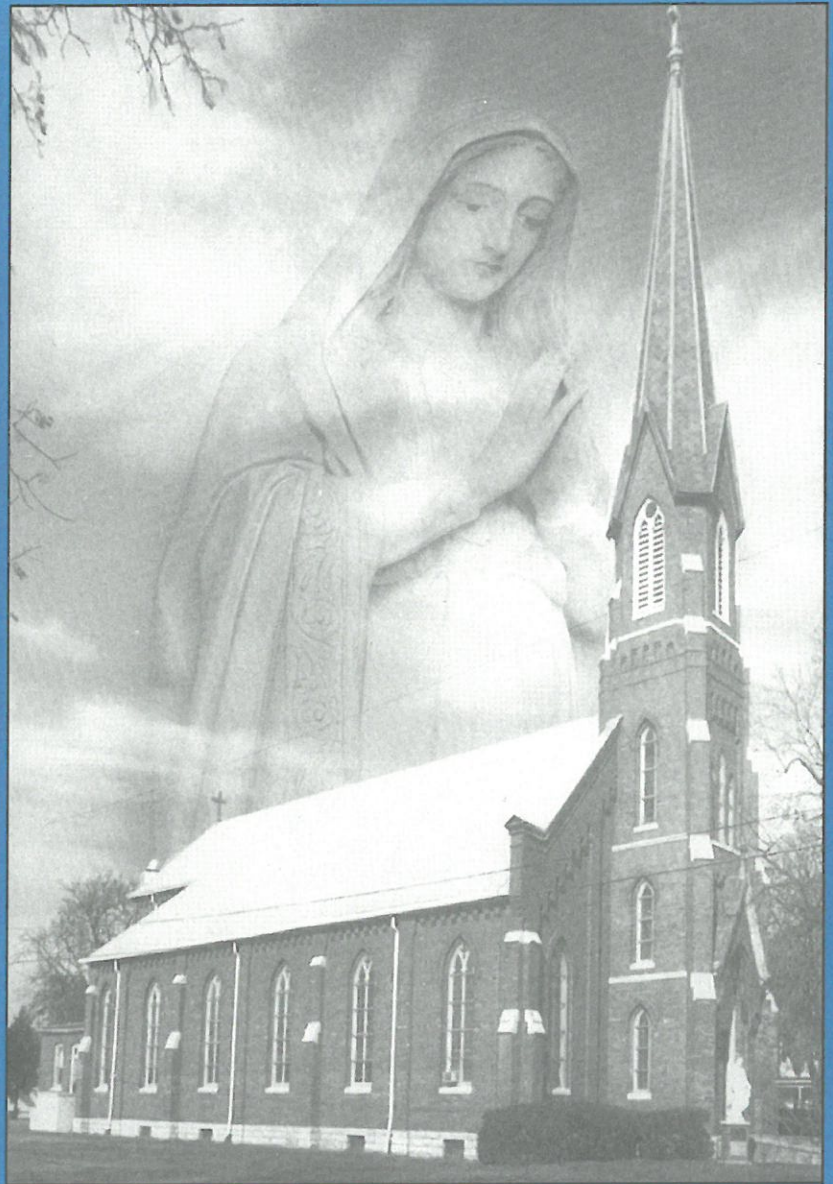
Hours: Wednesdays & Fridays  
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

---

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:** St. Mary's Parish mourns the passing of Paul Zuk on January 15th. Please keep Paul and his family close in prayer. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

**Morning Mass Reminder—Utica:** There will not be morning Mass at St. Mary's January 20th through 22nd. Our regular schedule will resume the week of the 26th.

**Ravs:** Homemade goodness is just a quick stop away. Come see Jennifer at the Oglesby office to purchase meat tortellini. We offer the pasta in one pound bags for \$8.

**Volunteers Needed:** We will take down the Christmas decorations at St. Mary's on Saturday, January 24th at 8:00 a.m. We'd love some helping hands, particularly with carrying the trees to the basement. *In case of inclement weather, we will meet on the 31st.*

**Communion Visits:** Our priests make monthly visits. If you or a loved one would like to receive Holy Communion at home or in a nursing home facility, please contact the parish office. This includes parishioners who are homebound, recovering from surgery, or experiencing a temporary illness. We are grateful for the opportunity to bring the comfort of the Eucharist to those unable to join us in person.

**Catholic Schools Week:** Catholic Schools Week is almost here! The Academy of St. Carlo Acutis will celebrate Catholic education from January 25-31. A full schedule of activities for the week will be published in next weekend's bulletin.

To kick off the celebration, school families are encouraged to attend Mass next Sunday at one of the following area churches:

**St. Joseph, Peru** - 9:00 a.m.

**Holy Family, Oglesby** - 10:00 a.m.

**St. Patrick, LaSalle** - 10:00 a.m.

Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade are asked to wear their school uniforms, and preschool students are encouraged to wear ASCA spirit wear.



ASCA FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE PRESENTS

# TRIVIA Night

AT JA HAPP GYMNASIUM PERU CAMPUS



**SATURDAY, MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>**

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



## Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion throughout the United States in its companion decisions *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. Since that time, millions of children have lost their lives, and millions of women and families have been wounded by abortion.

On June 24, 2022, the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision overturned *Roe v. Wade*, and we praise God for the great opportunity state and federal legislators now have to protect pre-born children. While God, in His mercy, ended the nearly fifty-year nationwide regime of abortion on demand, right now state and federal laws, in many instances, are still hostile to pre-born children. So, great prayer and advocacy is very needed.

The "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children" is an annual observance in the United States, designated by the Catholic Church for January 22 as a day of prayer, penance, and reflection for the right to life, especially after the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. It's a call to pray for the unborn, for the restoration of legal protections, and to do penance for abortion, often observed with special Masses, Rosaries, and prayer services.

### How to Participate

*Not sure how to observe this day of prayer and penance? Pick from the ideas below or offer some other prayer or sacrifice that you feel called to do.*

- Go to Mass
- Abstain from meat
- Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Fast
- Pray a decade of the Rosary
- Give up TV and movies for the day
- Offer "A Prayer for Life to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament"
- Sacrifice your free time to do a small act of service for others

## A Prayer for Life to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament



O Jesus, you came that we might have *life*—and have it in abundance. Together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you form us in our mothers' wombs and call us to love you for all eternity.

As your most precious gift of human life is attacked, draw us ever closer to your Real Presence in the Eucharist. Dispel the darkness of the culture of death, for you are the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

By the power of your Eucharistic Presence, help us to defend the life of every human person at every stage. Transform our hearts to protect and cherish all whose lives are most vulnerable.

For you are God, forever and ever. Amen.

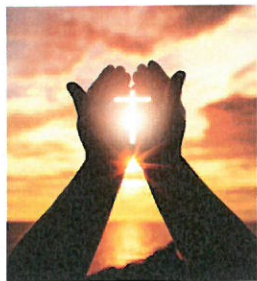


# GOSPEL MEDITATION

By Fr. John Muir

It's common to hear belief in Jesus and the Church mocked as blind faith and credulity. But in reality, it is deeply human and rational. Think about it: we rely on the testimony of others constantly. I trust chemists who certify the safety of toothpaste and cleaning products. I trust engineers when I use a microwave or drive over a bridge. Why? Because they have studied and seen what I have not, and their testimony proves itself in daily life. That kind of trust is not irrational; it is how human knowledge works.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist declares: "Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:34). That is the language of an eyewitness. It invites us into a very human act: trusting someone who has directly encountered something — or Someone — we have not yet fully seen ourselves.



The Church's faith is built on this kind of reliable sight-based testimony. The Apostles did not make abstract claims. They saw, followed, suffered for, and proclaimed Jesus Christ. Over centuries, their witness — carried in Scripture, in the lives of the saints, and in the sacramental life of the Church — has proven dependable. We come to know its truth by assenting to it, by living and studying it, praying with it, trusting it.

Faith in Christ is not a childish leap into the dark. It is a step into the light of testimony that proves itself over time.



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

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH

5:00pm + Jean Conway

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH - 2ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

8:00am For the People of the Parish

10:00am + Ken and Loretta Harmon (wed. anniv. 1/17)  
by Joe and Cindy Thumm

## MONDAY, JANUARY 19TH

7:00am + Daniel H. Snell (anniv. 1/20)  
by Joe and Darlene Woodshank

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH

**NO MORNING MASS**

7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21ST

**NO MORNING MASS**

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 22ND

**NO MORNING MASS**

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 23RD

7:00am Luca Stevanovic (birthdate 1/21)

## 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

## Ministry Schedule

**Sunday, January 18th, @ 8:00 a.m.**

Reader: Ryan Mann

**Sunday, January 18th, @ 10:00 a.m.**

Reader: Colette Spears

Altar Servers: Finn and Rory Carter, Abby Brown

**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

## Weekly Contributions January 10th - 16th

Adult Envelopes: \$1,420.00

Loose Collection: \$792.90

Building Fund: \$864.00

Catholic Charities: \$10.00

## John Lancaster Spalding SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

\$700,000 in scholarship funds  
were allocated to students  
across the Diocese of Peoria for  
the 2025-2026 school year!

### PROTOCOLS

- ✓ K-12 student enrolled in a school within  
Diocese of Peoria
- ✓ Awards are for one school year only
- ✓ Need-Based Scholarship
- ✓ Active member of the parish, in good  
standing

**APRIL 24, 2026**



Contact your school for  
more information!

<https://www.cdop.org/john-lancaster-spalding-scholarship>



## Kids Corner

**Finish the Phrase.** Unscramble the words found in today's readings, and then use some of them to complete the bible verse.

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. rnvaste _____ | 7. orygl _____      |
| 2. relais _____  | 8. etngshrt _____   |
| 3. ghtil _____   | 9. tnionsa _____    |
| 4. srtoree _____ | 10. heergdta _____  |
| 5. redmfo _____  | 11. votisanal _____ |
| 6. rthae _____   | 12. acher _____     |

I will make you a \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, that  
my \_\_\_\_\_ may \_\_\_\_\_ to the ends  
of the \_\_\_\_\_. ~ Isaiah 49:6

**Word Search.**

```

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

BAPTIZE	DOVE	HEAVEN
ISRAEL	JESUS	JOHN
LAMB	RANKS	SON
SPIRIT	TESTIFIED	WATER

**Color.**



Saint Agnes was a young girl who lived in Rome many years ago. From the time she was little, she loved God and wanted to follow Jesus. Even though she was only about twelve years old, Saint Agnes was very brave. When others tried to make her choose something she knew was wrong, she stayed true to her faith and trusted God to care for her.

Saint Agnes showed great courage and love, even when she was afraid. Because of her strong faith, she is honored as a saint and a martyr. Her feast day is celebrated on January 21st.

Saint Agnes reminds us that God loves children, too, and that even young people can be strong, kind, and faithful to God.

**St. Agnes, pray for us.**



Visit [CatholicMom.com](http://CatholicMom.com) for more resources for you and your family!