

Church of Saint Mary

February 18th & 25th
2024

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

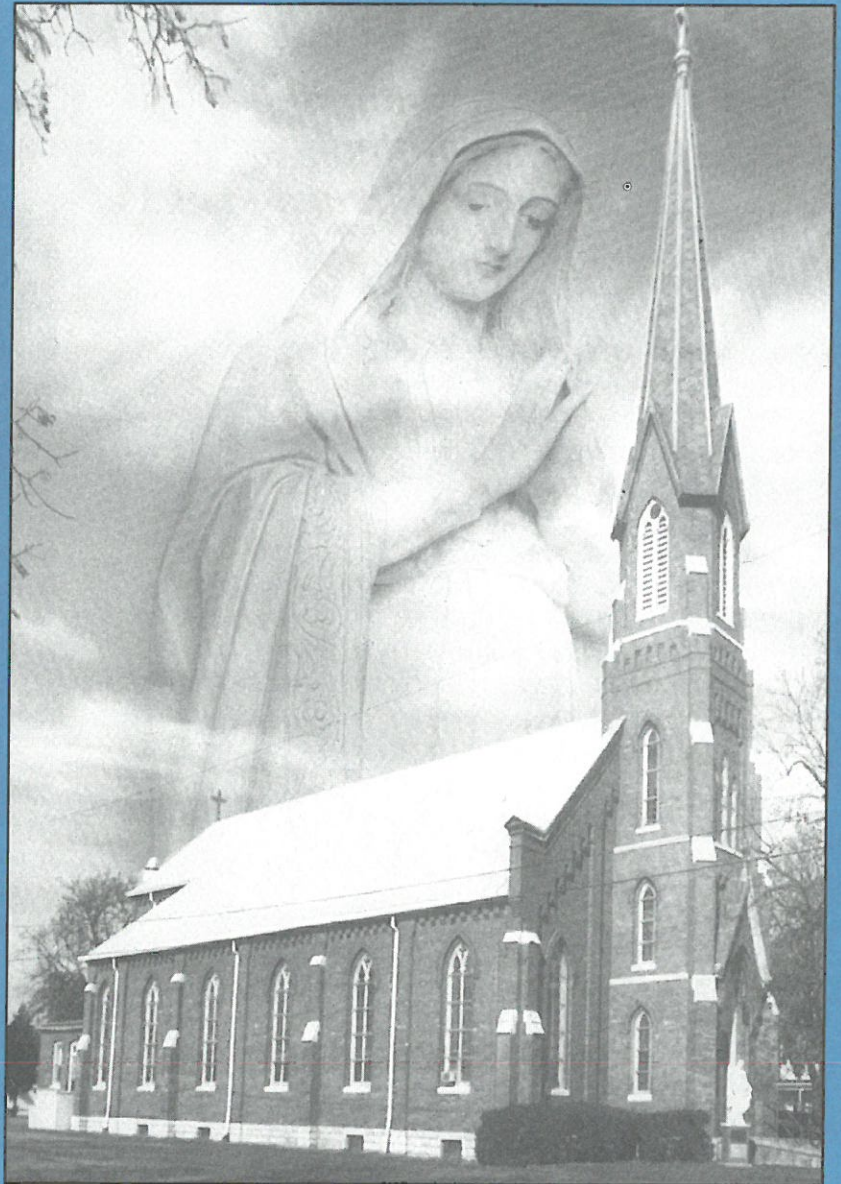
Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Fr. Michael Driscoll, Pastor
frdriscoll@stmarysutica.org

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, FEBRUARY 17TH

4:00-4:45pm CONFESSIONS
5:00pm + Jim Christmann (anniv. + 2/20)
by Jean Christmann

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH - 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00am For the People of the Parish
10:00am + Terry Fransen by Kevin and Mary Hinders

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

7:00am + Ron Lindner by Michael and Lisa Wetzel

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

7:00am + Donald and Charlotte Gahan by their estate
7:00pm BIBLE STUDY IN CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST - ST. PETER DAMIAN

7:00am Special Intention of Kevin Murry

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND - THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER

7:00am + Amy Frye

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD - ST. POLYCARP

7:00am + Fr. Lawrence Sepich
7:00pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

4:00-4:45pm CONFESSIONS
5:00pm + Julie Ball Reynolds
by Judy Volk and the Mundy Family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH - 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

7:15-7:45am CONFESSIONS
8:00am + Kurt Schultz (birthdate 2/26) by Joyce Schultz
10:00am For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

7:00am For the Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH - ST. GREGORY OF NAREK

7:00am For the Souls in Purgatory
7:00pm BIBLE STUDY IN CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

7:00am Special Intention of Stefania Skoczen

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH

7:00am Special Intention of Joan Francis

FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST

7:00am Connie Lee
7:00pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Meditation for February 18th

The Kingdom of God is at hand.

Can you imagine the excitement that Jesus must have generated as he began healing people, performing works of wonder, and preaching the good news of the kingdom? Can you picture the hope and expectation evident in the faces of the people who flocked to him? Maybe the time really had been "fulfilled." Maybe the kingdom really was "at hand".

It certainly was a dramatic way for Jesus to begin his ministry. But today, on the First Sunday of Lent, the Lord reminds us that this exciting new beginning came at the end of something not quite so exciting. Just before he burst on the scene, Jesus had endured a grueling forty-day fast and a host of demonic temptations.

This sequence of events wasn't just a coincidence. It was that very fast that helped launch the new kingdom Jesus was announcing. By staying faithful to his Father throughout this ordeal, Jesus began his work of disarming the devil. As the first man who didn't bend to temptation, he reversed the sin of Adam and opened a path for us to follow. Beginning with his time in the wilderness, Jesus demonstrated that his kingdom was indeed at hand—and that the devil's reign was coming to a decisive end.

As your own Lenten journey unfolds this year, keep the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness close to your heart. Especially when life gets hard or temptations arise, remind yourself that every desert experience can result in new life as you try your best to stay faithful to the Lord. Even if you fall, remember that you can stand up again and keep moving forward because of Jesus' triumph over the devil. Sin no longer has the final word in your life; Jesus, your Redeemer, does!

"Jesus, I'm ready to enter the desert this Lent. I trust in your promise to walk with me and bring me into your kingdom!"



Weekly Offering

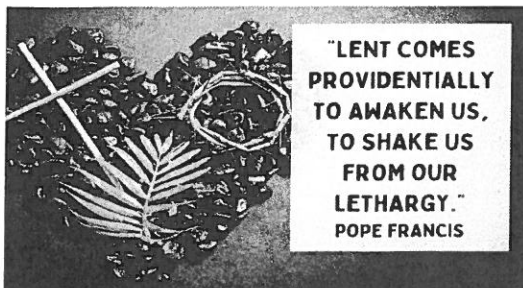
Donations received February 1st—14th

Adult Envelopes	\$6,828.00
Loose Collection	\$1,787.00
Building Fund	\$950.00
Cemetery Upkeep	\$10.00
Food Pantry	\$100.00

Thank you for financially supporting our parish!

Altar Servers - 10:00 a.m.

February 18th	Joey and Jake Patyk, Ava Myers
February 25th	Nathan and Nina Leffers, Finn Carter



Weekends of February 18th & 25th

Readings Week of February 18th

Sunday: Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm 25; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

Monday: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Psalm 19; Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday: Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 34; Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jonah 3:1-10; Psalm 51; Luke 11:29-32

Thursday: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Psalm 23; Matthew 16:13-19

Friday: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Psalm 130; Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Psalm 119; Matthew 5:43-48

Readings Week of February 25th

Sunday: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Psalm 116; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10

Monday: Daniel 9:4b-10; Psalm 79; Luke 6:36-38

Tuesday: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Psalm 50; Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Psalm 31; Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; Luke 16:19-31

Friday: Genesis 37:2-3, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Psalm 105; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Psalm 103; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Announcements

Attention Servers: It is time to put together the new altar server schedule for 10:00 a.m. Mass! Please send me any dates you are unavailable in March and April.

** Additionally, any server that is available to serve during Holy Week and Easter, please volunteer by sending a quick e-mail to the parish office (parishoffice@stmarysutica.org).

Holy Thursday, March 28th @ 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service, March 29th @ 3:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil, March 30th @ 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 31st @ 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Thank you for your service at the altar!

Boys Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) Spring Retreat

March 2nd - 4th

Visit www.peterstowntec.com for more information!

Lent Offerings Coming Up

Sunday, February 18th—Tuesday, February 20th: 6:30 p.m.
Talk with Fr. Lawrence Lew, author of "Mysteries Made Visible, at St. Valentine's Church in Peru

Tuesday, February 20th: 1st Night of The New and Eternal Covenant Bible Study here at St. Mary's in the church - 7:00 p.m.
(Bible, Covenant, and Sacrifice)

Friday, February 23rd: Stations of the Cross in Utica - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 27th: 2nd Night of The New and Eternal Covenant Bible Study here at St. Mary's in the church - 7:00 p.m.
(The Old Testament)

Friday, March 1st: Stations of the Cross in Utica - 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Confessions: Take the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation...that holy moment in which we place ourselves in His presence and honestly acknowledge our sins, especially mortal sins. With absolution, we are reconciled to God and the Church. The Sacrament helps us stay close to the truth that we cannot live without God.

Sat. 4:00-4:45 p.m. Sun. 7:15-7:45 a.m. Tues. 7:30-8:00 p.m.

CDA Court Santa Maria #236 Presents

BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE

Women's Retreat

Saturday, March 2nd (7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

St. Francis of Assisi Church & Hall, Ottawa

Join us for fellowship and uplifting speakers

(Msgr. Mark Merdian, Clara O'Neal and Katie Bogner)

7:30 a.m. Mass celebrated by CDA Chaplain Fr. Nic Wilson

Complimentary Breakfast

Free will donations will be accepted to defray costs—thank you!

Did you Know?

Your child can attend a Catholic School

Financial Assistance Is Available

Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2024-2025 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed.

Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria or on the Diocesan website www.cdop.org under **Catholic Education** and then under **Financial Assistance**. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award.

Parents must apply online at: online.factsmgt.com/aid. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2024-2025 school year must reapply.

Deadline date for the completed application is **April 26, 2024**.

Notification of grant awards will be made in June.

Marquette Academy Elementary Open House

March 19th, from 5:00—6:00 p.m.

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

Please call or e-mail the parish office with additions/deletions for our prayer list. Thank you!

Kids Corner

Countdown to Easter

				Ash Wednesday	Holy Saturday				
				2	Good Friday				
				3	Holy Thursday				
				4	37				
8	7	6	5	First Sunday of Lent	36	35	Palm Sunday	34	33
9	10	Second Sunday of Lent	11	12	Fifth Sunday of Lent	29	30	31	32
				15	28				
				14	27				
				15	26				
				16	25				
				Third Sunday of Lent	24				
				17	23				
				18	Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)				
				19	22				
				20	21				

Directions: Color one box on the cross every day during Lent. When the cross is filled, the next day will be Easter!

You can also use this cross as a sacrifice tracker and color one box each day you fulfill your Lenten promise.

Word Bank

ANGELS	BELIEVE	DESERT
FORTY	JESUS	REPENT
SATAN	SPIRIT	TEMPT

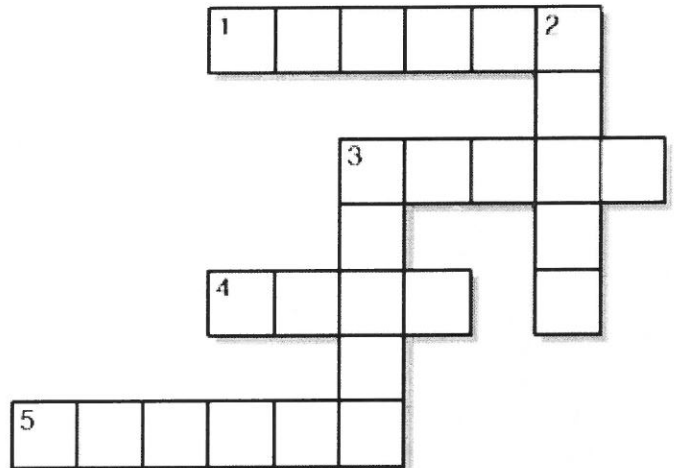
Crossword.

Across

- God sent _____ to minister to Jesus.
- Jesus was in the desert _____ days.
- Today, our Gospel is from _____.
- The place where Jesus went.

Down

- The person who tempted Jesus.
- Today is the _____ Sunday of Lent. (February 18th)



Word Search.

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



Visit Catholicmom.com for more great ways to help nurture your children's faith.