

Church of Saint Mary

March 15th, 2026
4th Sunday of Lent



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

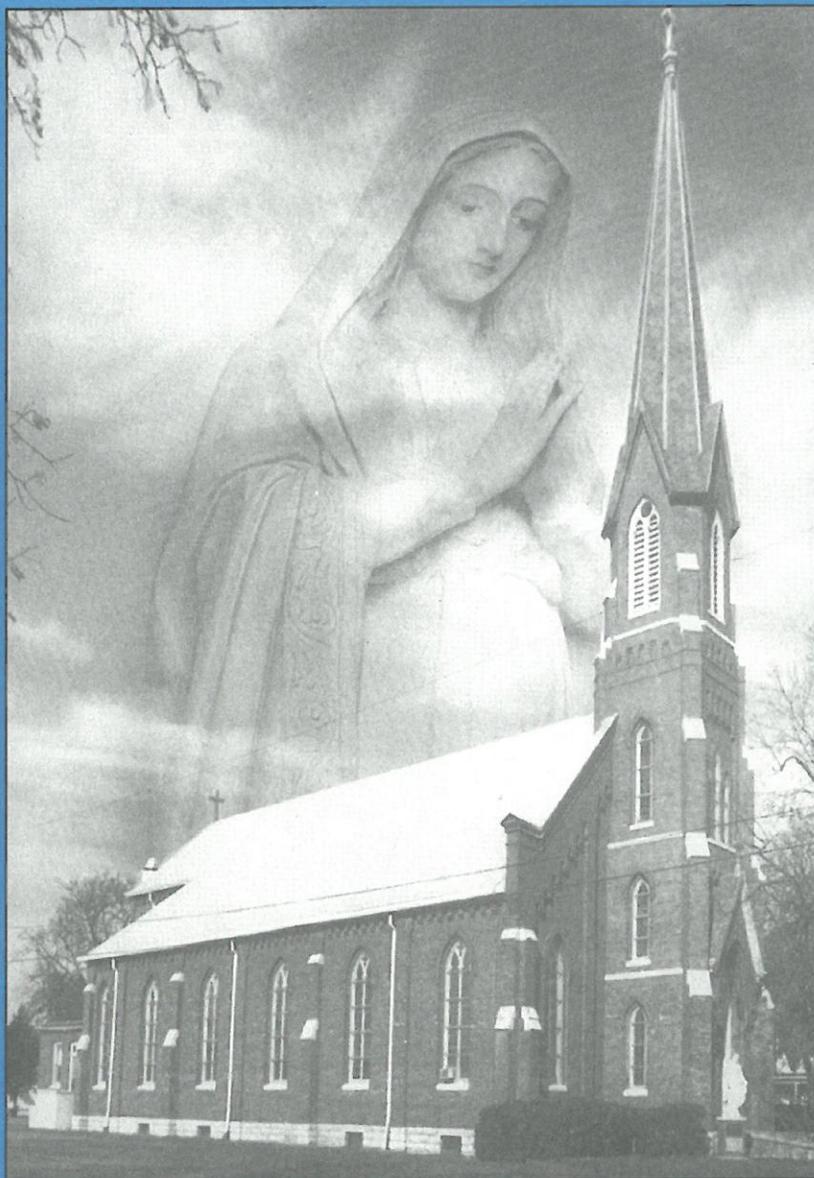
P.O. Box 159
303 South Division Street
Utica, IL 61373
Phone & Fax 815-667-4677
office@stmarysutica.org
www.stmarysutica.org

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



Fr. Paul Carlson, Pastor
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

Devotion Changes for this Week: Please note that Eucharistic Adoration will be cancelled in Utica on Tuesday, and that confession time will not be available during the Holy Hour in Oglesby on Wednesday. Additionally, morning Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at St. Mary's is cancelled for this week. Thank you for your understanding.

Easter Cleaning: We are planning a spring cleaning day for the church grounds on Saturday, March 28th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Bring your favorite yard tools for blowing, raking and bagging leaves; trimming bushes, and edging sidewalks... and of course, your helping hands! This is especially a great opportunity for students looking for service hours. Altar & Rosary has graciously offered to provide doughnuts, coffee and water for helpers to enjoy.



Congratulations to the ASCA 7th grade volleyball team on winning Regionals and Sectionals. We wish them well as they compete at State. Way to go Miracles!

Cemetery Spring Cleanup: To prepare the grounds for spring maintenance, we kindly ask families to remove all Christmas decorations and grave blankets from St. Mary's Cemetery by March 22nd.

Easter Memorials: Envelopes for Easter flower memorials are included in your new packet. To ensure all remembrance names are listed in the Easter bulletin, please return your envelope by March 23rd.



FOR SUNDAY MARCH 15TH:
 "At the beginning of Mass, we prayed for conversion, our own conversion. I would like to add that we should pray for the conversion of the many people, inside and outside the Church, who do not yet recognize the urgent need to care for our common home... We need to ask whether we ourselves are undergoing ecological conversion. How much we need it"

Pope Leo XIV (Address Oct 1, 2025)



Many thanks to Joe Plankenhorn for sharing his craft as part of the Day of Recollection on March 7th!

Ravs: We have both meat and vegetarian (spinach & cheese) pasta available for purchase (1lb. bags for \$8). Call Jennifer at the parish office to arrange a pickup in Utica!

IV Youth Group: We are excited to share information and registration for two planned summer trips that are open to all high schoolers and freshmen in college.

- June 29th-July 4th: Camp Cana in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri
- July 17th-19th: Steubenville "Worthy" Conference in Springfield, Missouri

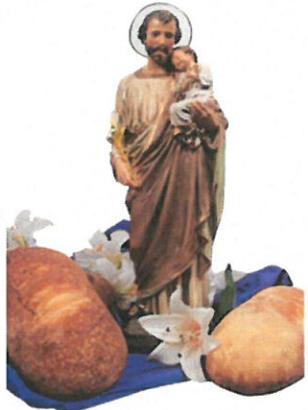
There will be a parent information meeting for the trips on Sunday, March 29th at 6:30 p.m. at Queen of the Holy Rosary Shrine in LaSalle.

Annual Diocesan Appeal: Please prayerfully consider making a pledge to this year's appeal! Donations may be sent back in the blue envelopes that were mailed to parish families. Gifts to the campaign help support the central ministries of our diocese including religious education of our young people, faith formation of adults, training of our future priests, Newman Centers on our college campuses and much more. And since EVERY dollar over our goal comes back to the parish 100% (and isn't used for calculating future goals), contributing to the ADA truly is the best way to support St. Mary!

St. Joseph Day Table

The St. Joseph Day Mass and Dinner will be held this Thursday. Mass begins at 6:00 p.m.

The meal will take place at the Oglesby KC Hall (307 E. Florence Street). Those attending are asked to bring a dish to share. The Hall will be open at 4:00 p.m. if you would like to drop off your dish early.



~ Please sign-up in the back of church if you plan to attend. ~

GOSPEL MEDITATION

If you are like me, it's easy to fixate on our shadows: failures, guilt, shame. Especially when we suffer, it is easy to want to blame ourselves or others. In this week's Gospel, Jesus' disciples ask about the blind man, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents?" (John 9:2) They, like us, focus on blame. But Jesus sees the entire situation differently: "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him." He does not deny sin, but he sees deeper — through the light of mercy, not the lens of judgment. The scene hinges on Jesus' strange claim: "I am the light of the world" (John 9:5). He sees things differently than everyone. They see shadows and light. He is the light.

Thought experiment: imagine you are the sun looking at everything on the earth. What do you see? Everything. What do you not see? Shadows. Everything is illuminated. If you see it, it is illuminated. For the light, nothing is dark.

Because he is the light, Jesus sees us in the glow of his redemptive love. Even our sin becomes a place where his glory can shine. The man's healing is not just about sight — it is about seeing as Christ sees. Lent is not a season of staring into darkness. It is a time to step into the light — to let Christ's gaze reframe how we see ourselves and one another.

Lenten challenge: Spend 10 quiet minutes this week asking Jesus to show you how he sees you. Not through shame or fear, but through the light of his mercy.

~ by Fr. John Muir



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

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH

5:00pm + Dick Johnson (anniv. + 3/28)
by Judie Jeppson and Mary Marsh

SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH - 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00am + Raymond Klimek (birthdate 3/14, anniv. + 3/15)
by Stanley Mirtich
10:00am + Merlene McConville
by Paul and Amy McLachlan

MONDAY, MARCH 16TH

7:00am + Patricia Byczynski (birthdate 3/17)
by Megan Byczynski

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH

4:30-6:30 EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN OGLESBY

FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH

7:00am + James L. Plankenhorn by Linda Anderson
5:30pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN UTICA
7:00pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN OGLESBY

SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST

5:00pm + Mary Kalisiak (anniv. + 3/19)
by Joe and Darlene Woodshank

SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND - 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00am For the People of the Parish
10:00am + James Lorimer

Ministry Schedule

Sunday, March 15th, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Dave Ludford

Sunday, March 15th, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Pat Devane

Altar Servers: Jake and Joey Patyk

Sunday, March 22nd, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Kathleen DiLuciano

Altar Server: CJ DiLuciano

Sunday, March 22nd, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Mary Ann Voreis

Altar Servers: Abby Brown, Bobby and Olivia Villareal

Weekly Contributions March 7th—13th

Adult Envelopes: \$1,235.00
Loose Collection: \$683.00
Catholic Charities: \$10.00
Building Fund: \$691.00
Cemetery Upkeep: \$20.00
Catholic Relief Services: \$30.00
Easter Memorials: \$230.00

2026 LENT RETREAT THE PRESENCE OF

God

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ST VALENTINE CHURCH
1109 PULASKI ST., PERU, IL 61354



16, 17, & 18
MARCH
MON-WED
6:00 PM
HOLY MASS
6:45 PM
RETREAT TALK

Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P., the Dominican Orders Promoter of the rosary returns to our area for a three-day retreat. Discover the closeness of God in our daily lives, and how to come closer to Him.

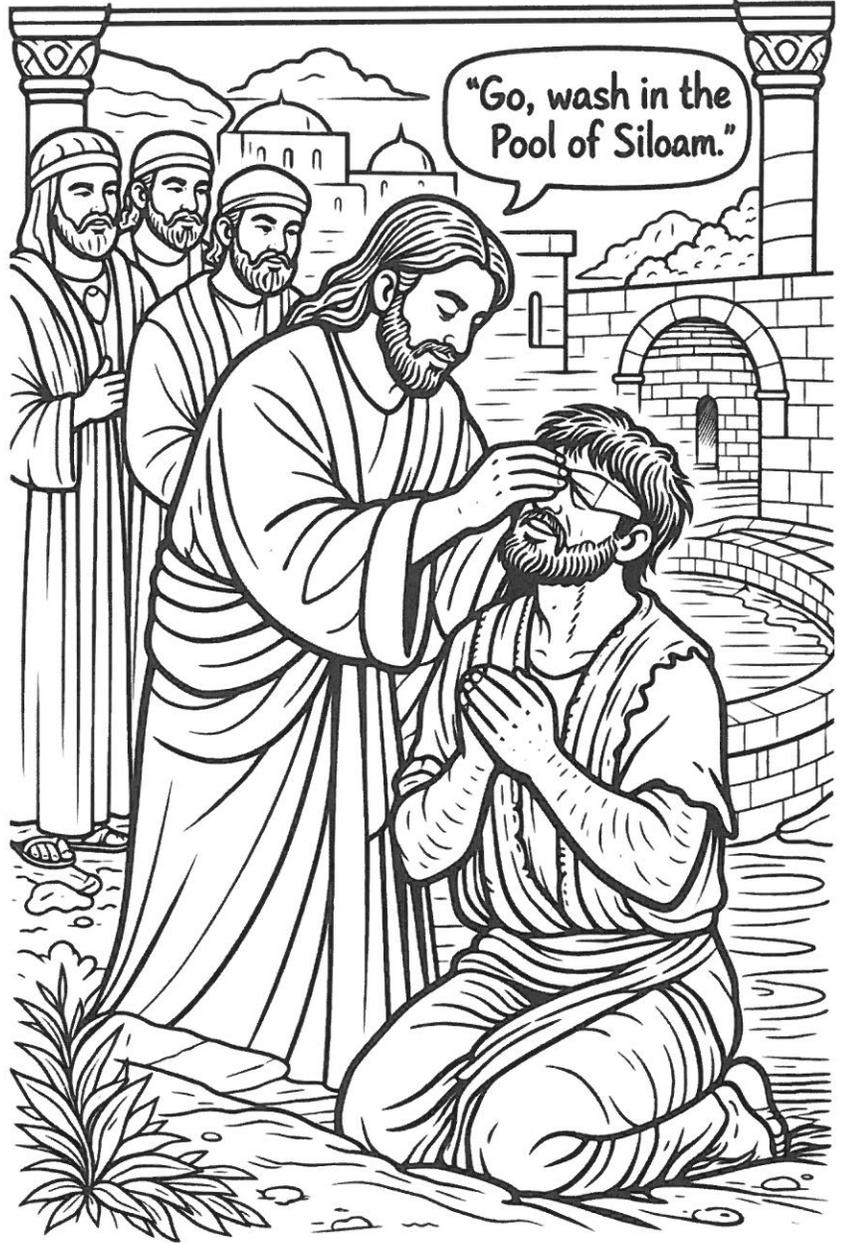


Word Search.

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ANOINTED	BEGGAR	BELIEVE
BIRTH	BLIND	CLAY
EYES	LIGHT	LISTEN
POOL	PRAISE	RABBI
SABBATH	SALIVA	SEE
SINNED	TEACH	WASH

Color.



Crossword.

ACROSS

3. What were the religious leaders who questioned the man called?
6. Jesus healed a man who was born _____.
8. Jesus put clay on the man's _____.

DOWN

1. The day Jesus healed the man was the _____.
2. Jesus told the man to wash in the Pool of _____.
3. The Pharisees asked the man's _____ to confirm he had been born blind.
4. Jesus made clay using dirt and this.
5. The man said, "If this man were not from _____, he could do nothing."
7. After washing, the man was able to _____.

