

Church of Saint Mary

November 23rd
2025

Mass and Sacraments

Holy Mass

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm
Sunday Masses: 8:00am, 10:00am
Monday-Friday: 7:00am

Sacramental Confession

Saturdays: 5:00-5:30pm (Nov. 29)
Sundays: 7:15-7:45am

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Church anytime
day or night.

Parish Office

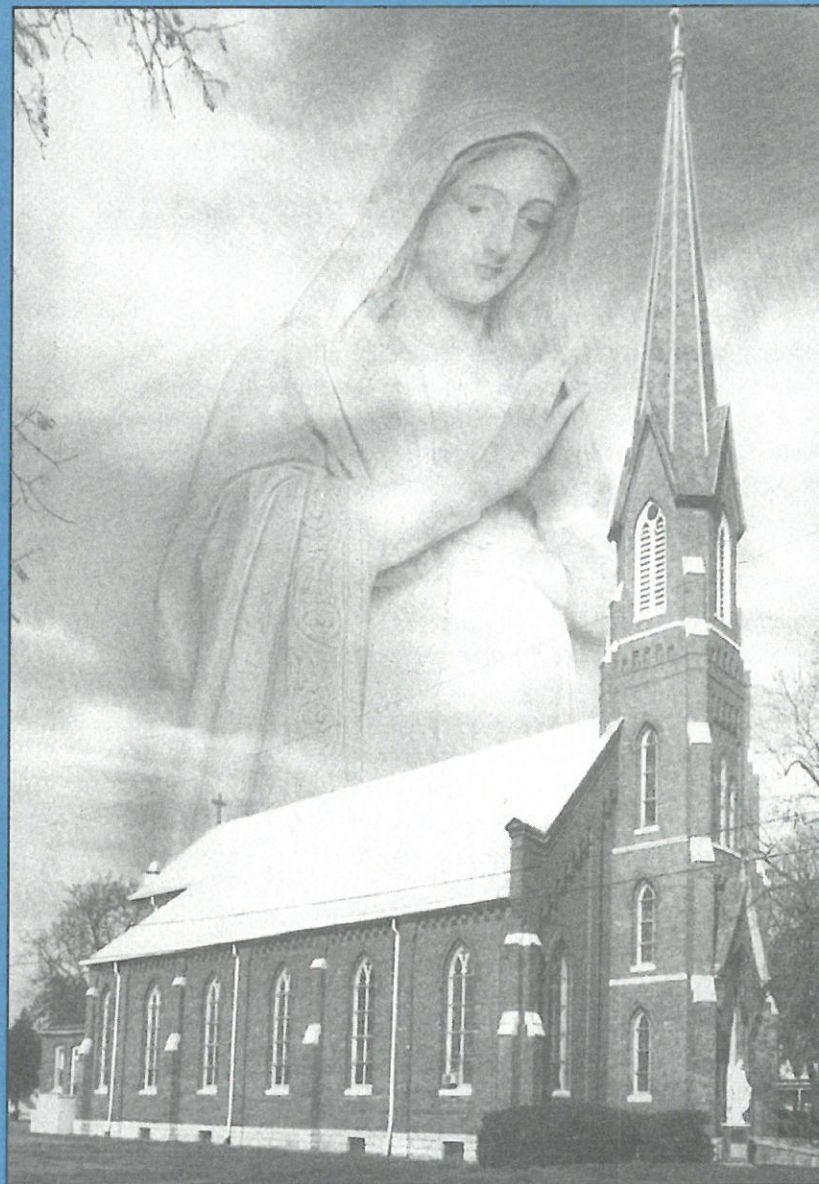
P.O. Box 159
303 South Division Street
Utica, IL 61373
Phone & Fax 815-667-4677
office@stmarysutica.org
www.stmarysutica.org

Hours: Tuesdays & 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

Eucharistic Adoration: In honor of the Solemnity of Christ the King, Holy Family will host Eucharistic Adoration this Sunday. Stop in and offer praise to the King of Kings.

Sunday, November 23rd ~ 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Mass: Before the turkey and trimmings, take time to thank the Giver of all blessings. Fr. Windy will celebrate Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:00 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, Utica.

CCD: Oglesby and Utica religious education programs will be on Thanksgiving break this week. Classes resume 12/3 and 12/7.

Altar & Rosary Christmas Dinner: 'Tis the season for faith, friendship, and festive fun! Join us for our annual Christmas dinner at Carrico's Claudettes on Thursday, December 4th at 6:00 p.m. Enjoy a buffet of chicken strips, Italian beef, cheesy brunch potatoes, green beans, dinner rolls, and a fresh salad bar. Cost is \$18, payable that evening; the organization will cover the tip. Please RSVP to Jennifer at (815) 883-8233 or (815) 510-1362 by November 27th.

Homemade Tortellini: One pound packages of our homemade meat tortellini are available from the parish office. Stop by and stock up!

Advent Retreat: Don't forget to sign up for the December 6th women's one-day Advent Retreat at the Sacré Coeur. It will be led by Sr. Maria Fatima, OP and Fr. Daniel Dionesotes. Use the QR code to register by November 24th.



Advent Scripture Study: Prepare your heart for Christ this Advent by joining our weekly Scripture study on Mondays at 2:00 p.m. in the St. Anne's Room at Holy Family. The first meeting is December 1st! We'll explore *The Little Way of Advent* by Fr. Gary Caster. Books are \$15. Call Jennifer to sign up.



Tom and Lori Wojciechowski, pictured above with Abigail's Executive Director Shelly Bell, delivered all the wonderful donations from St. Mary's "playpen collection". Thank you!



Baptism Blessings: What a special day as Makinlee Lovella Elliott and Khloee Lynai Elliott were baptized at Holy Family on November 14th. They are the daughters of Arthur and Kasandra (Adams) Elliott. May the light of faith and the warmth of God's love fill their lives. Congratulations!

Ministry Volunteers for Utica: Are you interested in volunteering your time? St. Mary's is seeking readers for weekend Mass and extraordinary ministers of holy communion for special holy day liturgies. Please contact Jennifer in the parish office if interested. We are happy to work with your Mass preference and availability.

• RUN WILD • LIVE FREE •

• LOVE STRONG •

You & Me

Boy's TEC Weekend

December 6-8, 2025

Peterstown TEC Center

Prayer - Music - Food

BROTHERHOOD

Apply Online
www.peterstowntec.com

Gathering God's Blessings: Thank you for a wonderful kickoff to Altar & Rosary's hygiene bag project for the homeless! New tags have been added to the board—like squirrels preparing for winter, we're gathering blessings to share with those in need! To participate, simply take an acorn off the HF bulletin board, or by giving a small monetary donation and letting us shop for you.

All items and donations are due by December 7th.

Advent Decorating at St. Mary's: We need helping hands to decorate for Advent on Saturday, November 29th at 8:00 a.m. Extra help from men or older boys is especially appreciated to carry the trees up from the basement.

Holy Family Church Choir: Love to sing? Join us in the loft on the 1st Sunday of Advent (Nov. 30) at 9:15 a.m. for warm-up. We'll sing for the 10:00 a.m. Mass. No experience needed...just a joyful heart!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

~ by Fr. John Muir

Not long ago, I was called to a hospital to anoint a woman in her early 80s. She was dying, and visibly in pain. But what struck me most wasn't her suffering — it was the atmosphere in the room. She had eight children and 30 foster kids, and many of them were gathered around her. You'd expect sorrow, fear, maybe even despair. But the room was filled with something else entirely — a quiet strength, a kind of sweetness. It was as if she was suffering not just with them, but for them. And they, in love, were suffering for her. The pain was real. But so was the peace. I didn't want to run. I felt as if I was in a little paradise, beeping machines and all.

I think of that moment when I hear today's Gospel. Jesus, hanging on the cross, doesn't look like a king. But one of the crucified, dying men beside him sees through the suffering and says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). That word — remember — literally means to make someone a member again. He's asking to be joined to Christ, to become part of his Body. And Jesus says, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

He doesn't say, "I'll take your suffering away." He says, "You will be with me." That's the strange power of Christ the King. He doesn't rule by avoiding suffering. He reigns by entering into it, and transforming it with love. What are you suffering right now in your life? Likely you want it to stop. But if we are willing to suffer with him — paradise begins even today.



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

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND - ST. CECILIA

5:00pm + Donald and Charlotte (anniv. +) Gahan
by Kevin Gahan Family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD - CHRIST THE KING

8:00am + Ron Lindner by Joyce Mix
10:00am For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH - ST. ANDREW DŨNG-LAC

7:00am + Ed Lopatka (anniv. +)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH - ST. CATHERINE/ALEXANDRIA

7:30am @ HF + Greg Robinson

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH

PRIVATE Steve Rueskent by Maurice and Jane Dust

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH - THANKSGIVING DAY

9:00am Maria Rauh

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH

7:00am Kevin Daly

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH

5:00pm + Ron Carpenter (birthdate 11/28)
by Ed and Nancy Stewart

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH - 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00am + Esther Larson by Rich and Linnea Ricci
10:00am For the People of the Parish

Ministry Schedule

Sunday, November 23rd @ 10:00 a.m.

Altar Servers: Peter and Olivia Villareal, Abby Brown

Sunday, November 30th @ 10:00 a.m.

Altar Servers: Nina Leffers, Jake and Joey Patyk

Weekly Collection: November 1st - 18th

Adult Envelopes	\$5,160.00
Loose Collection	\$2,404.20
Online Giving	\$45.00
Building Fund	\$892.00
World Mission Sunday	\$192.00
Food Pantry	\$65.00
All Saints Day	\$155.00
Bishop's Seminarian Appeal	\$90.00
Campaign for Human Dev.	\$35.00
Religious Retirement	\$27.00

Pray for the Sick of our Parish

Michael Ball, Katie Becker, Tim Burgess, Don and Pam Edwards,
Jill Kain, Richard Kepper, Ed Liss, Ava Lukascy, Rosie Sander,
Drew Shinnick, Tom Varney, Dennise Watson

The Academy of St. Carlo's
Christmas Vendor Fair

Sunday, December 7th
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ASCA - Oglesby Campus
336 Alice Ave.

60+ Vendors!
Handcrafted Gifts • Direct Sales
Delicious Baked Goods

Color.



Word Search.

AMEN	CONDEMN	CRIMINAL
CROSS	FEAR	JEERED
JESUS	JEWS	KING
KINGDOM	PARADISE	REBUKE
RULERS	SAVE	SNEER
SOLDIERS		

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