

Church of Saint Mary

January 11th, 2026
Baptism of the Lord

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

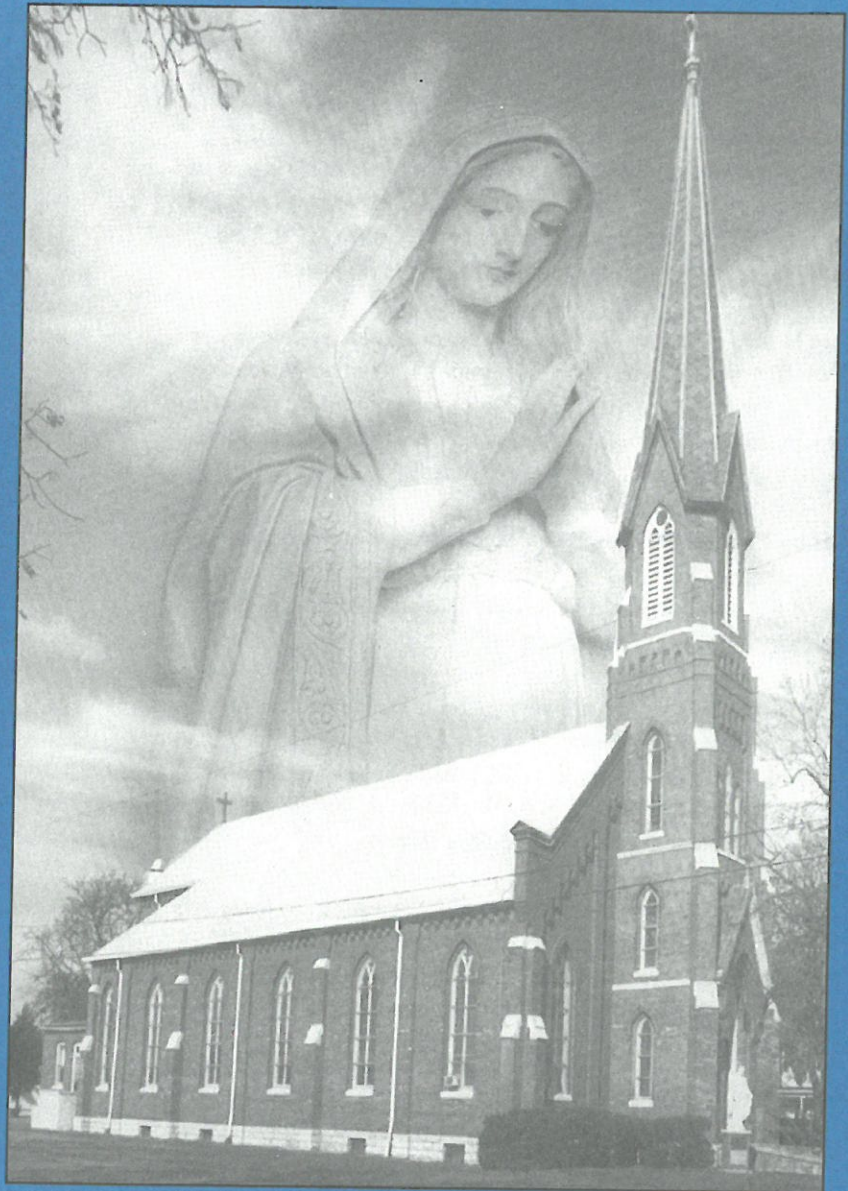
www.stmarysutica.org

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

Contribution Statements: Check your mail! Contribution statements for Holy Family and St. Mary Parishes have been mailed to all registered parishioners. We sincerely thank you for your generous and faithful support throughout the year. Your stewardship allows our parishes to continue serving, growing, and carrying out our shared mission.

In Remembrance: The St. Mary's parish family mourns the passing of Elizabeth "Betty" Dudek on January 21st. She was laid to rest in St. Hyacinth's Cemetery this weekend. Please keep Betty and her family in prayer. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Office Hours Change: We'd like to share a quick update to our parish office schedule in Utica. Beginning immediately, Jennifer will be in the St. Mary's office on **Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** We appreciate your flexibility and look forward to assisting you during these times!

Building Fund Collection: This weekend, a second collection will be taken up in support of our Building Fund. We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity and care for the ongoing maintenance needs of our church.

Server Availability: We are very grateful for the dedication of our altar servers and their assistance at weekend Masses. Please send any scheduling conflicts for the month of **February** to Jennifer at parishoffice@stmarysutica.org. Beginning in March, we will move to a seasonal/quarterly scheduling format.

PADs Dinner: Many thanks to the volunteers from St. Mary who have generously provided dishes for our monthly meal at the homeless shelter. We are currently looking for a few additional volunteers for the February 4th meal. If you are able to help, please sign up on the sheet located on the back table.

Exodus 90 Challenge: Calling all men to grow in personal freedom through prayer, asceticism, and fraternity. True freedom isn't doing whatever you want—it's living for worship, sacrifice, and love. Join tens of thousands of men for the Exodus 90 Challenge, which began January 5th. Discover what it means to be uncommonly free in Jesus Christ.

**For local fraternity information, contact Jason Maus at jmaus@lasallecatholic.org or (815) 252-0441.*



Scan the QR
code to get
started.

Eucharistic Adoration - A New Year Invitation: Begin the New Year by spending quiet time with our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. Step away from the busyness of life and rest in the presence of Christ.

Tuesdays: 7:00–8:00 p.m. at St. Mary, Utica

Wednesdays: 4:30–6:30 p.m. at Holy Family, Oglesby

Mass Intentions

Dates in 2026 are still available to offer a Mass for your loved ones. Contact Jennifer to schedule.



Baptism Blessings: Joy filled Holy Family on January 4th as three little ones were welcomed into the Church through Baptism. Walker Paige Dresbach and Grady Colson Dresbach are the children of Matthew and Sarah (Bogner) Dresbach, and Wesley David Dresbach is the son of Luke and Jena (Argubright) Dresbach. May the joy and blessings of this beautiful day be cherished always. Congratulations to the entire family!

Morning Mass Schedule Update: While Fr. Carlson is away over the next two weeks, morning Mass will not be offered in Utica on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Fr. Windy will be at St. Mary's on Monday and Friday morning for Mass. For your convenience, a list of nearby churches and their Mass times is included below. Thank you for your understanding.

Tuesday, January 13th

7:30 a.m.	Holy Family, Oglesby
8:00 a.m.	Holy Rosary, LaSalle
8:00 a.m.	St. Joseph, Peru
5:00 p.m.	St. Patrick, Hennepin

Wednesday, January 14th

7:30 a.m.	Holy Family, Oglesby
7:30 a.m.	Sacred Heart, Granville
8:00 a.m.	Holy Rosary, LaSalle
8:00 a.m.	St. Joseph, Peru

Thursday, January 15th

7:30 a.m.	Holy Family, Oglesby
7:30 a.m.	St. Patrick, Hennepin (Latin)
8:00 a.m.	Holy Rosary, LaSalle
12:10 p.m.	St. Valentine, Peru

Polish Dinner – Last Chance for Tickets!: St. John Baptist de La Salle's Polish Dinner is this coming Saturday, January 17th. Dinner will be served from 3:30–8:00 p.m. in the Academy of St. Carlo Acutis Gymnasium (LaSalle Campus) and includes pierogi, Polish sausage, sauerkraut, glazed carrots, a beverage, and dessert. Enjoy polka music, games, and a bake sale. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children age 10 and under. Carryouts available.

~ For tickets, contact the parish office at (815) 223-0641 ~

GOSPEL MEDITATION

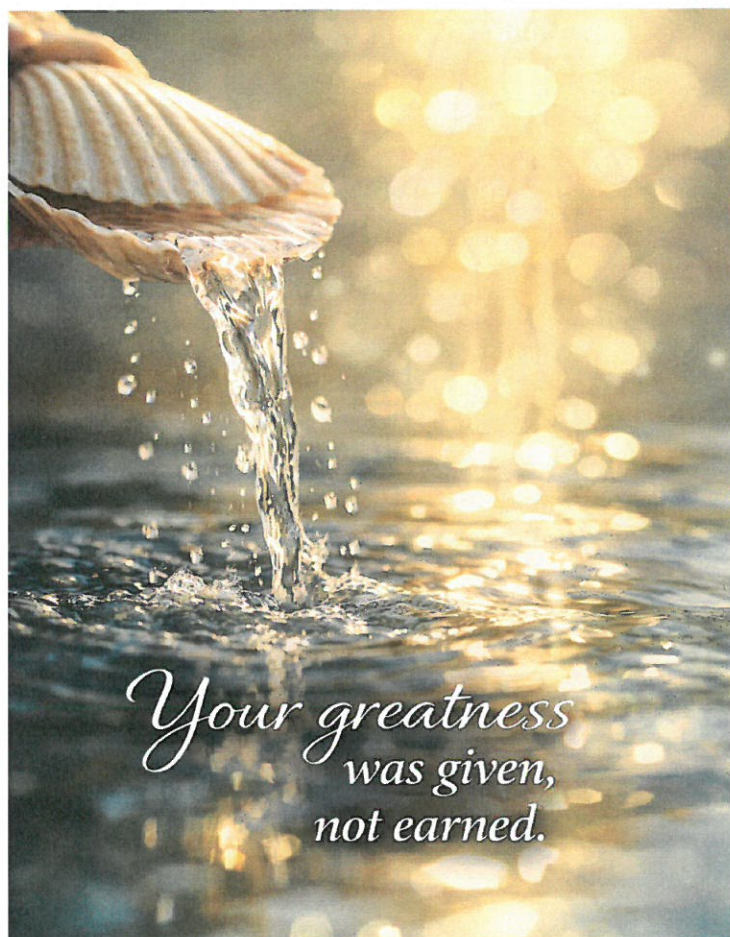
By Fr. John Muir

Apple ran a commercial not long ago called "Behind the Mac – Greatness." It shows artists and creators, such as Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, and Lady Gaga, working behind their MacBooks. The narration says, "There's a certain kind of person who doesn't wait for greatness. They make it." It's a compelling message. There's beauty in using our gifts with passion and purpose. But there lies a hidden weight in that idea: If you are what you make, what happens when you can't anymore? When the project fails, the passion fades, or the spotlight moves on, where is greatness then?

Today's Gospel offers a differing vision of greatness. Jesus steps into the Jordan River. He hasn't preached, healed, or performed a single miracle. Then the heavens open, and the Father speaks: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." It's not a reward for success. It's not earned. Before he does anything "great," Jesus receives the greatness of his identity from the Father.

And so do you. At your baptism, God said the same thing over you: "You are my beloved." That is your true identity, not constructed or earned but received. When we see ourselves and others this way, everything changes for the better. We discover a greatness that can never be taken away.

This week, reflect on your baptism: look up the date, thank God for it, pray for those baptized with you, or visit the church where it happened. Let your identity be rooted there.



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

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10TH

5:00pm + Jerry Lorenzi (anniv. +1/18)
by the Lorenzi Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH - BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8:00am + Msgr. James J. Swaner by Richard Mertel
10:00am + Sandy Brown by Ed Brown

MONDAY, JANUARY 12TH

7:00am + Irene Rohde by family and friends

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13TH

NO MORNING MASS
7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH

NO MORNING MASS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH

NO MORNING MASS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16TH

7:00am For the Holy Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH - ST. ANTHONY

5:00pm + Jean Conway by Kathy Christian

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

Ministry Schedule

Sunday, January 11th, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: David Ludford

Sunday, January 11th, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Mary Ann Voreis

Altar Servers: Jake and Joey Patyk

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

Weekly Contributions December 29th-January 9th

Adult Envelopes: \$2,506.00
Loose Collection: \$1,011.55
Christmas Collection: \$80.00
Solemnity of Mary: \$886.00
Building Fund: \$340.00
Catholic Charities: \$10.00

Finish the Phrase.

Unscramble the words and then use the words to complete the verse from today's Gospel.

1. ons _____

5. pztibea _____

2. susej _____

6. leovbde _____

3. eeaspdl _____

7. oved _____

4. iceov _____

8. anvehse _____

And a _____ came from the _____, saying, "This is my _____, with whom I am well _____." Matthew 3:17.

Word Search.

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

Color.



Baptism of the Lord

ALLOW	BAPTIZE	BEHOLD
DESCEND	DOVE	GALILEE
HEAVEN	JESUS	JOHN
JORDAN	PLEASED	RIGHTEOUSNESS
SPIRIT	VOICE	WATER



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