

Church of Saint Mary

February 1st, 2026
4th 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

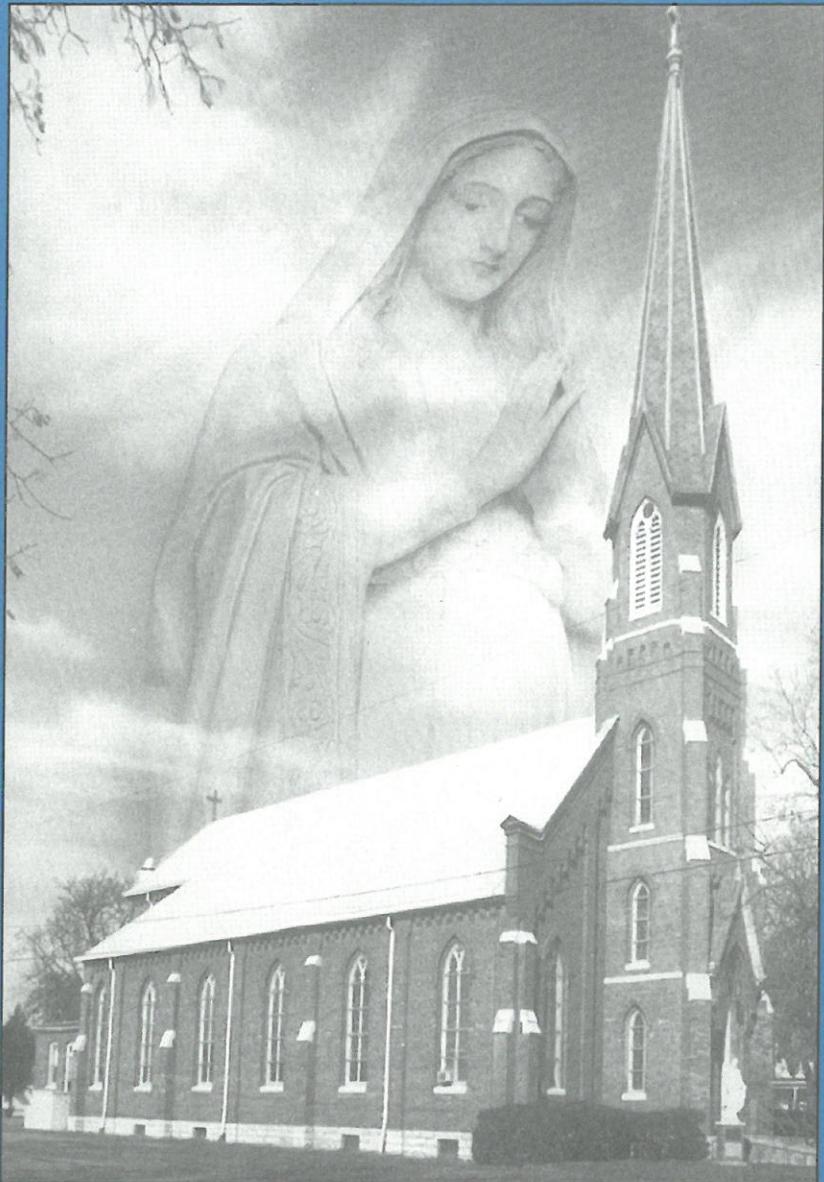
P.O. Box 159
303 South Division Street
Utica, IL 61373
Phone & Fax 815-667-4677
office@stmarysutica.org
www.stmarysutica.org

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

Popcorn Pickup: Thank you to everyone who supported Altar & Rosary's Apollo Pop popcorn fundraiser! Pickup will take place this Friday, February 6th at the location/time you selected on your order form.

- 10:00 a.m. - Noon (Rectory, Utica)
- 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. (St. Anne's Room, Oglesby)

In Appreciation: A heartfelt thank you to everyone who generously gave their time last Saturday to help take down the Christmas decorations at church. Your willingness to serve made the work go smoothly and is deeply appreciated. A special note of thanks to Greg, Tom, Matt, Joe, and Gary for their extra help with the banners and trees. We are so grateful for your time, effort, and care for our parish home!

KC Fish Fry: Enjoy a delicious seafood dinner this Friday, February 6th, from 4:00–7:00 p.m. Simply call (815) 883-3181 to place your carryout order. Choose from fried cod, fried butterfly shrimp, or the combo platter. Meals are \$17 and include french fries, coleslaw, and bread. A great meal made easy!

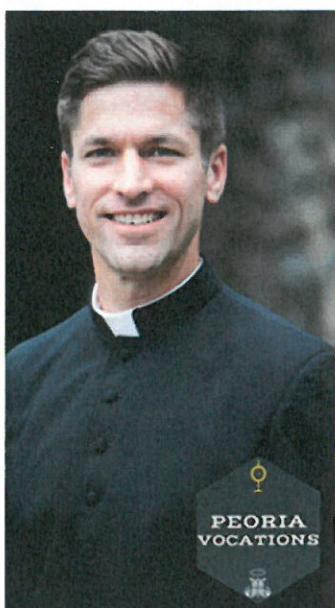
Mass Intentions: Our 2026 Mass Intention book still has several dates available. If you would like to request a Mass intention for a loved one, please complete a blue request form, located on the back table. A \$10 stipend per intention should be included with your request. Thank you for helping us prayerfully remember those special to you and our parish family.

Blood Drive: Saint Bede Academy will host a blood drive on Tuesday, February 10th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The blood drive is open to the public.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS, visit RedCrossBlood.org or scan the QR code.



Appointments are preferred. Saint Bede is located at 24 W U.S. Hwy 6 in Peru.



EMMAUS KNIGHTS FOR YOUNG MEN GRADES 7-12

FEB 1 / MAR 8 / APRIL 19
FROM 4:30PM - 6:30PM

Join Fr. Chase for a Sunday night of faith, fraternity, and formation at the Emmaus House
2327 W. Heading Ave., West Peoria

EMMAUS KNIGHTS IS AN EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG MEN WHO DESIRE TO GROW IN FRIENDSHIP AND FAITH WITH SOME FOOD AND SOME FUN. IF YOU LOVED EMMAUS DAYS, COME AND CHECK OUT EMMAUS KNIGHTS.

FATHERS, DROP YOUR SONS OFF AND STAY FOR A TIME OF FRATERNITY

Scan the code to let us know you are coming and to have your parent fill out a digital permission form!



CANDLEMAS 2026

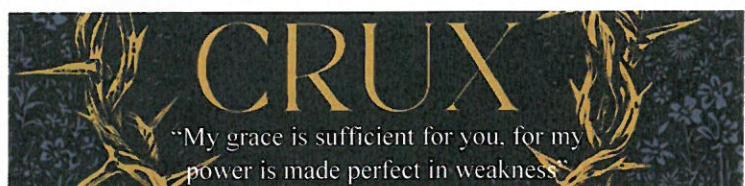
Sung High Mass to celebrate the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 2nd



Candles will be blessed in honor of the Infant Christ Child for use by the faithful

HOLY ROSARY SHRINE
529 4th St., LaSalle, IL ~ ivlatinmass.org

Trivia Night: Join us for a fun-filled evening supporting the Academy of St. Carlo Acutis! Trivia Night takes place on Saturday, March 7th, in the JA Happ Gymnasium at the Peru Campus. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with trivia beginning at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy great questions, raffle baskets, food, and drinks. Gather a team of 6–10 players and reserve your table by calling Mimi Borio at (815) 200-1991.



This Lent, our parishes invite you to grow in faith by learning to surrender more fully to Christ. Self-reliance can quietly hold us back—but surrender opens the door for God to meet us right where we are.

Together this season, we'll embrace challenges that stretch us and help us recognize our need for God. One way we'll do this is by participating in *Crux: Daily Lenten Meditations* by Fr. Columba Jordan, CFR. This daily devotional encourages prayer, scripture, and simple spiritual and physical disciplines that keep our hearts focused on our true identity in Christ.

Devotionals are available for \$10 from Jennifer at either parish office. Individuals and families are welcome to participate at home, with a special weekly family section included. Weekly small-group gatherings will also be offered on Mondays at 2:00 p.m. in the St. Anne's Room in Oglesby, beginning February 23rd, featuring prayer, discussion, and a video reflection with Fr. Columba, facilitated by Deena Pavinato. All are welcome!

GOSPEL MEDITATION

By Fr. John Muir

A priest I know was once falsely accused of a terrible crime. The claim was wild and easily disproved, but for a while, it didn't matter. In the atmosphere shaped by the abuse crisis of the early 2000s, the public assumption was guilty until proven innocent. His name was dragged through the mud, and his ministry placed on hold. I had the privilege — and the burden — of walking closely with him during that time.

He was angry. He was confused. He felt abandoned and deeply disoriented. The last thing on his mind was the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: "Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me ... Rejoice and be glad" (Matthew 5:11-12). Rejoice? He felt anything but.

And yet... something holy slowly grew in him. Not overnight, and not without pain. But as the truth came to light and his name was cleared, I watched him become more Christlike — more patient, more compassionate, more detached from human approval.

Maybe you haven't faced something so dramatic. But where do you feel judged? Misrepresented? Overlooked? Maybe someone else got the credit or the promotion. Maybe someone you love isn't getting their due. In those moments, the Cross of Jesus is near. When we feel accused, that's when we ask him for the grace not just to endure, but somehow, mysteriously, to rejoice and be glad.

Blessing of Throats: We will offer the traditional blessing of throats at the end of morning Mass on February 3rd (the feast of St. Blaise). For those unable to attend, we will also be at the entrance of the church following all Masses next weekend to offer the blessing.

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>



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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST

5:00pm + John Picco (birthdate)
by Glenn and Dorothy Stevenson

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST - 4TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

8:00am + Ed Schmitz (anniv. + 1/31)
by Carol Henneberry
10:00am + Marge Aubry by Pat and Cindy Ries

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND - PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

7:00am For the People of the Parish

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD - ST. BLAISE

7:00am + Merlene McConnville
by Paul and Amy McLachlan
7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

7:00am For the People of the Parish

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH - ST. AGATHA

7:00am + Annarita Bennett (birthdate) by her family

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH - ST. PAUL MIKI/COMPANIONS

7:00am + Douglas Holland (birthdate) by Mary Holland

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

5:00pm KC Council #1775 Deceased Members and their families

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH - 5TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

8:00am + Roger Coleman
by Glenn and Dorothy Stevenson
10:00am For the People of the Parish

Ministry Schedule

Sunday, February 1st, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Dave Ludford

Sunday, February 1st, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Colette Spears

Altar Servers: Jake and Joey Patyk, Abby Brown

Sunday, February 7th, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Ryan Mann

Sunday, February 8th, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Mary Ann Voreis

Altar Servers: Finn and Rory Carter, Nina Leffers

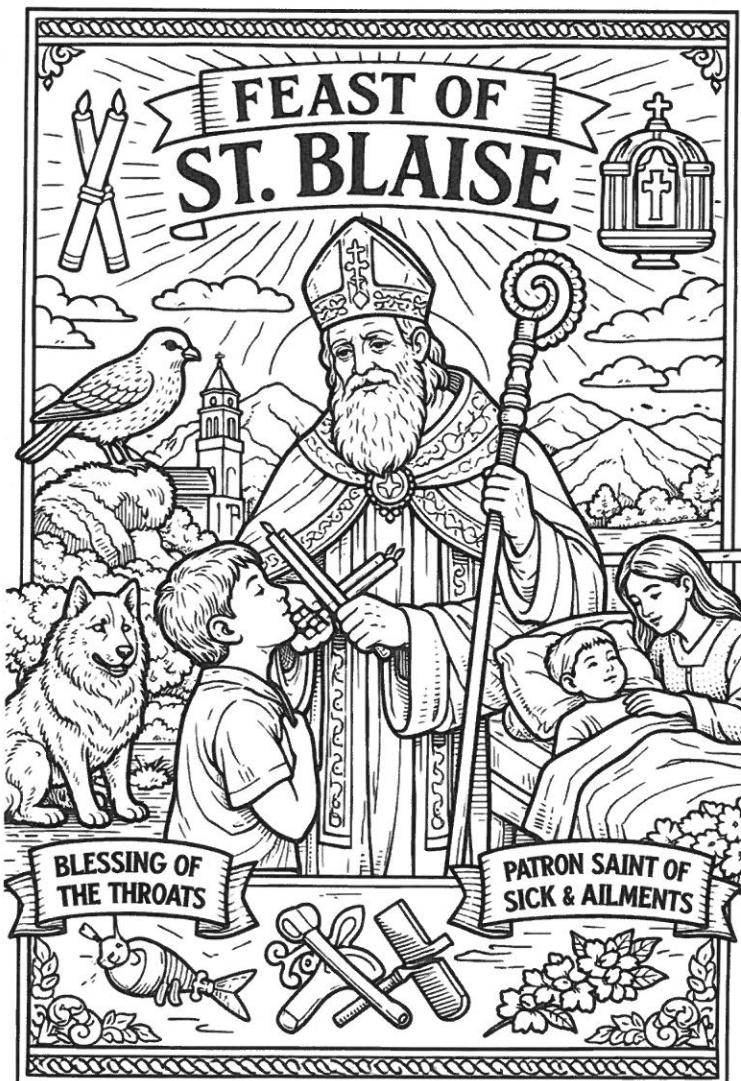
Weekly Contributions January 24th-30th

Adult Envelopes: \$1,370.00	Solemnity of Mary: \$20.00
Loose Collection: \$557.00	PADs Meal: \$50.00
Building Fund: \$20.00	
Catholic Charities: \$10.00	
Cemetery Upkeep: \$80.00	
Online Giving: \$130.00	

Word Search.

BLESSED	CHILDREN	COMFORTED
GLAD	GREAT	HEART
HEAVEN	HUNGER	INHERIT
INSULT	KINGDOM	LAND
MEEK	MOUNTAIN	MOURN
PEACEMAKERS	RIGHTEOUSNESS	SATISFIED
SPIRIT	TEACH	THIRST

Color.



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

St. Blaise
Feast Day: February 3rd

St. Blaise was a Catholic bishop and a holy man who loved God and cared deeply for others. He is best known for helping people who were sick. One special story tells how St. Blaise prayed for a boy who was choking, and the boy was healed. Because of this miracle, St. Blaise is known as the patron saint of throat illnesses.

Every year on his feast day, February 3rd, the Church remembers St. Blaise in a special way with the *Blessing of Throats*. During this blessing, the priest holds two crossed candles and asks God to keep us healthy and safe. St. Blaise reminds us to trust God, to pray for those who are sick, and to show kindness and care to everyone we meet.

St. Blaise, pray for us!



Visit CatholicMom.com for
 more resources for you and
 your family!