

Church of Saint Mary

December 11th & 18th
2022

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

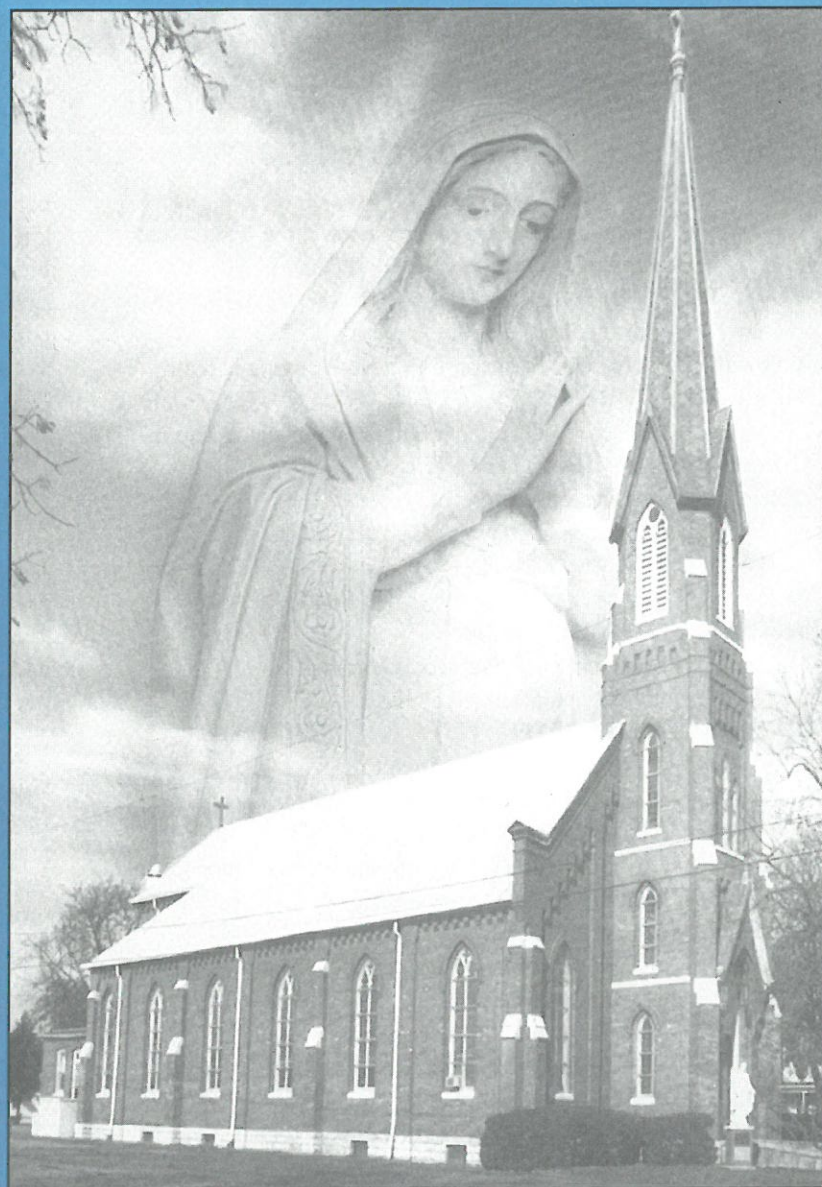
Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays
8:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

Fr. Michael Driscoll, Pastor
frdriscoll@stmarysutica.org

Jennifer Newman, Secretary
office@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, DECEMBER 10TH

5:00pm Living and Deceased Members of the Dewey and Kasap Families

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH - 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00am For the People of the Parish

10:00am + Robert, Elaine & Laura Fuller by their family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12TH - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

7:00am + Deceased Members of the Woodshank Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH - ST. LUCY

7:00am + Louise Harmon (birthdate)
by Jackie Galvan and Connie Guerrero (LEO)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH - ST. JOHN/THE CROSS

7:00am + Don A. Wegener by Joan Francis

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

7:00am + George and Patricia Weberling
by Barb and Ken Krogulski

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

7:00am + Beatty Francis by Joan Francis

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

4:00-4:45pm CONFESSIONS

5:00pm + Elizabeth Snell by Joe and Darlene Woodshank

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH - 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:15-7:45am CONFESSIONS

8:00am + Bernard "Bucky" and Dolores "Dee" Hettel
by family and friends

10:00am For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

7:00am + Nicholas Connell
by Mark and Beth Ann Connell

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

7:00am Special Intention of Kevin Murray

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST - ST. PETER CANISIUS

7:00am + Agnes Pangrcic

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

7:00am + George and Patricia Weberling
by Barb and Ken Krogulski

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23RD - ST. JOHN OF KANTY

7:00am + Joe Wegener by Joan Francis



Incense Use:

5:00 p.m. Vigil = YES

8:00 a.m. Mass = NO

10:00 a.m. Mass = YES

Meditation from The Word Among Us - December 11th

Are you the one who is to come?

Do you ever have doubts? Everyone does, even John the Baptist. Herod had thrown John into prison and kept the threat of execution hanging over him. Sitting in that cell, John began to wonder if he had labored for nothing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus a question: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Why would John ask such a pointed question? Probably because Jesus' ministry didn't fit John's idea of what God's kingdom should look like. Unlike John, Jesus wasn't a fire-and-brimstone preacher. He seemed more concerned with healing sick people than with overthrowing Herod. He wasn't popular with many Jewish leaders either. So doubts about Jesus began to creep in.

Rather than rebuking John's disciples, Jesus described his ministry: the sick are healed, the dead are raised, and the poor hear the good news. John's disciples would have recognized these as signs of the Messiah foretold by Isaiah.

Jesus wasn't put off by John's doubts. Quite the opposite, he praised John as the greatest of all those "born of women". Jesus knew John; he loved him and understood the trial he was enduring. Knowing what John was going through, he treated him with compassion. And he will do the same for you.

You may have doubts. Bring them to Jesus. Ask him to help you recall his work in your life: when you experienced his forgiveness, knew his love, or felt his presence. Let him reassure you that he knows you and loves you. Let him strengthen your faith. As Isaiah proclaims in another prophecy, "A bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench". With his love, Jesus can set your doubts to rest and fan your smoldering faith into a blazing fire.

"Jesus, help me to believe in you more and more each day."

Weekly Offering

Donations received November 16-December 7

Adult Envelopes	\$5,689.00
Loose Collection	\$1,483.00
Building Fund	\$1,040.00
Online Giving	\$352.16
Food Pantry	\$50.00
Pink CCD	\$47.00
Campaign for Human Dev.	\$97.00
Mission Appeal	\$2,123.00
Immaculate Conception	\$40.00
Christmas	\$40.00
Bishop's Seminarian Appeal:	\$152.00
Cemetery Upkeep	\$10.00
Religious Retirement Fund	\$25.00

10:00 a.m. Altar Servers

Dec. 11th	Joey and Jake Patyk, Nathan Leffers
Dec. 18th	Nathan and Nina Leffers, Lexi Sawin, Finn Carter

Bulletins are printed every two weeks. Please keep this in mind when submitting information for publication.

Weekends of December 11th & 18th

Readings Week of December 11th

Sunday: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Monday: Zechariah 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Psalm 34; Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday: Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Psalm 85; Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday: Isaiah 54:1-10; Psalm 30; Luke 7:24-30

Friday: Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8; Psalm 67; John 5:33-36

Saturday: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72; Matthew 1:1-17

Readings Week of December 18th

Sunday: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

Monday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71; Luke 1:5-25

Tuesday: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday: Song of Songs 2:8-14; Psalm 33; Luke 1:39-45

Thursday: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7 8abcd; Luke 1:46-56

Friday: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25; Luke 1:57-66

Saturday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89; Luke 1:67-79

Announcements

Eucharistic Holy Hour: There are just two Advent Holy Hours left! Join us on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for reflections by local priests during this special liturgical season. There will also be time for silent prayer, adoration, and confession.

December 13th - Fr. Paul Carlson

December 20th - Fr. Nicolas Wilson

Sacrament of Reconciliation

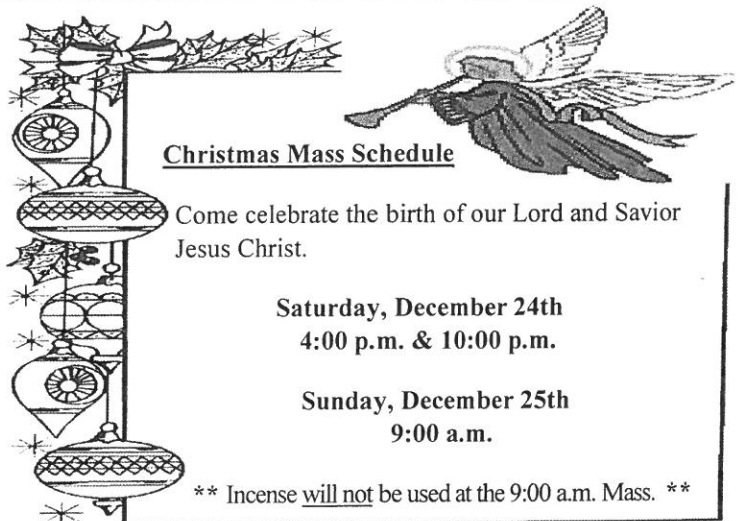
Confession times during Advent are available:

Sunday, December 11th	7:15 - 7:45 a.m.
Tuesday, December 13th	7:20 - 7:50 p.m.
Saturday, December 17th	4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
Sunday, December 18th	7:15 - 7:45 a.m.
Tuesday, December 20th	7:20 - 7:50 p.m.

Christmas Flower Memorials: What a wonderful way to remember our departed loved ones and help decorate the church in splendor. Envelope packets contain a burgundy "Christmas Flower Offering" envelope for you to use. For those that didn't receive envelopes this time, you make still participate simply by dropping a regular envelope in the collection basket, marked for flowers. We ask that everyone please PRINT memorial names and return by Monday, December 19th to be included in our memorial listing.

Christmas Decorating—Volunteers Needed: We will be decorating the church on Saturday, December 24th, starting at 8:00 a.m. We are in need of some guys to help put the Christmas banners up. If you can't be here right at 8:00 a.m., please join us when you can. Decorating shouldn't take much more than 2 hours. All help is greatly appreciated!

PADs Dinner: There is a new sign-up sheet on the back table for the meal on Wednesday, January 4th. Thank you to everyone that has helped prepare a dinner for the homeless shelter!



Christmas Mass Schedule

Come celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Saturday, December 24th
4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25th
9:00 a.m.

**** Incense will not be used at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. ****

Morning Mass Note: We will not have public Mass on Thursday, December 29th. Fr. Driscoll will offer a Mass for the scheduled intention privately.

Food Pantry: Our last few deliveries of food to the local pantry totaled 53lbs. Thank you for your continued generosity.

10:00 a.m. Servers: Please send an e-mail with your availability for January and February. We will be working on new schedules!

Retirement Fund For Religious: Nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer and ministry—educating the young, tending the sick, aiding the needy, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a profound shortage in retirement savings. Your support of the Retirement for Religious helps furnish care, medicine, and other necessities. There is a blue bordered envelope for this weekend titled "Share in the Care". Please use this envelope to donate to the religious retirement fund. For those that didn't receive their envelope packets, you can still contribute by either using a blank envelope labeled for the collection, or by simply writing "Religious Retirement" on the memo line of your check.

Giving Tree: Thank you to all who took tags. The joy you have brought to families in need is very much appreciated! Please note that all gifts need to be returned, under the tree, with the tag attached by the end of the 10:00 a.m. Mass on December 18th.

Altar & Rosary Note: There will not be a meeting in December. We ask that you mark your calendars for the January meeting (Monday, the 23rd); as this is one week earlier than usual.

In Gratitude: Many thanks to the anonymous donor that left money for our parish's building and grounds care. May God bless you!

Pray for the Sick of our Parish

Michael Ball, Katie Becker, Don and Pam Edwards, Hank Farrar, Darlene Jenkins, Jill Kain, Richard Kepper, Tori Lou Klimek, Ed Liss, Judy Lock, Ava Lukacsy, Rosie Sander, Drew Shinnick, Dennise Watson

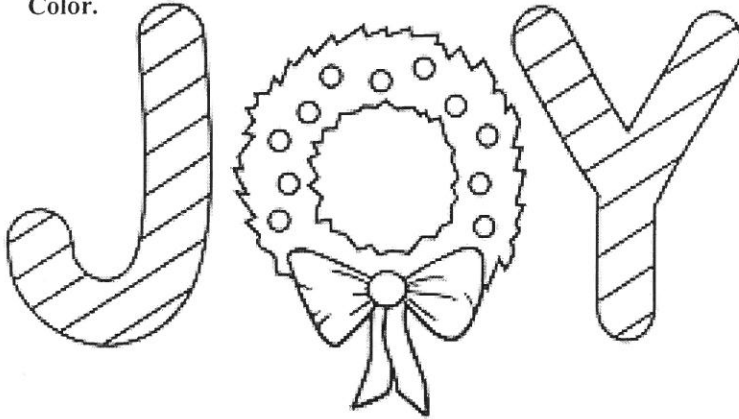
Kids Corner

Word Bank

BLESSED	BLIND	CLEANSSED
DEAD	GOOD NEWS	HEAVEN
JESUS	LAME	LEPERS
MESSANGER	PROCLAIMED	PROPHET
RAISED	SIGHT	WALK

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

Color.



Hidden Message: Unscramble each word and then put the letter that matches the number in the boxes to complete the hidden phrase!

NDILB

1				5

ISRDEA

					4

RHAE

			12

CNSEEDAL

						6	8

THSIG

				14 3

FADE

			15

AEDD

			2

ALWK

			13 9

SSJEU

				16

LMAE

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PEERL

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LOYAR

				17 18

1	2	3	17	7	8

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11	18

11	2	6	6	2	5	14	2 12

9	3	2	9	8

17	15

18	17	16

3	2

13	4	7	7

10	12	2	10	9	12 2

18	17	16	12

13	9	18