

# Church of Saint Mary

December 7th  
2025

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## 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.

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## Parish Office

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

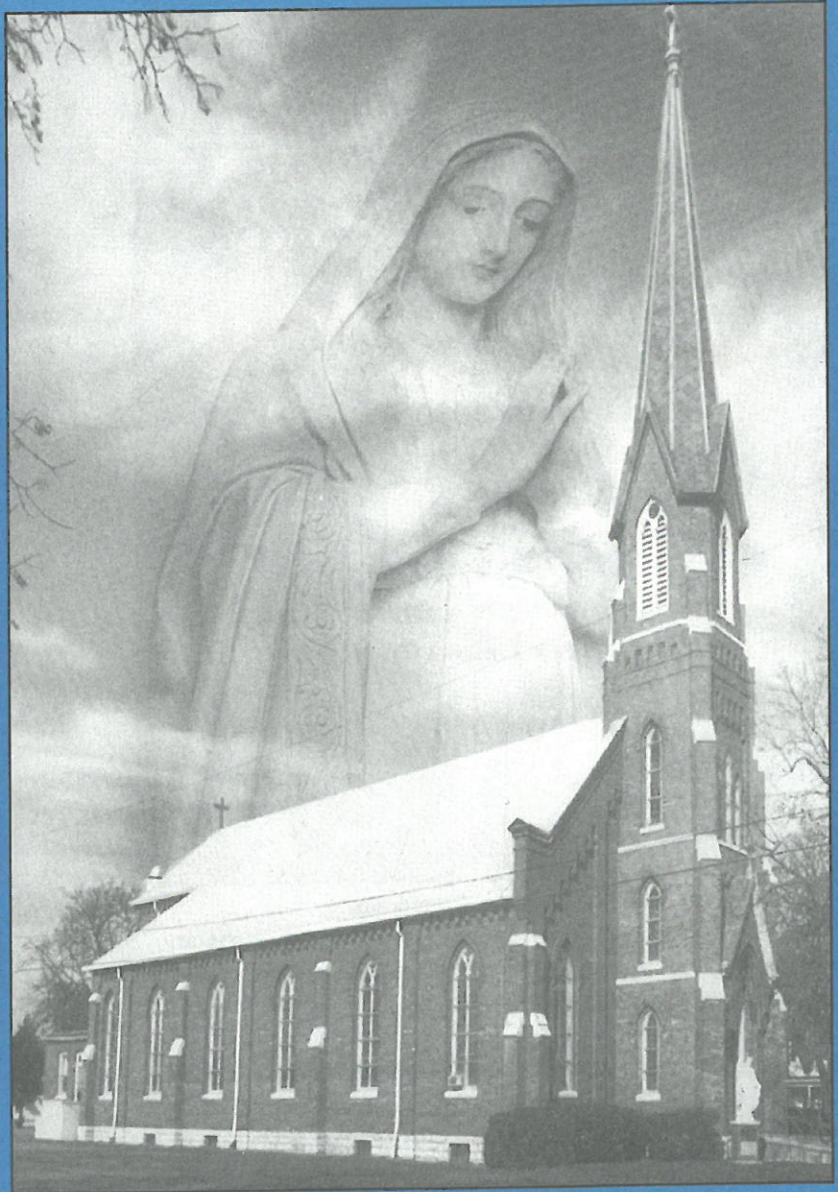
Hours: Tuesdays & Fridays  
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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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

This Weekend!

### 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**

**PADs Meals for Utica:** Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, the January meal will be fully covered by monetary donations we've received. A sign-up sheet for volunteering in the coming months is available on the back table.

**St. Martin Society - PADs Recap for Oglesby:** Thank you to all volunteers for their contributions to the two meals served in November!

- Students from The Academy of Carlo Acutis—Oglesby Campus provided a full meal for 30 clients and 5 children, including pulled pork, BBQ sauce, chips, buns, fruit and vegetable trays, cookies, and rice krispie treats. They also donated coats, jackets, hoodies, and shirts—many with the Root Beer Stand logo. The clients were very appreciative, and the students did a wonderful job.
- The team of Mary Lee McLaughlin, Ken and Barb Ficek, Kim Olszewski, Mary Olszewski, Dave and Margie Zebron, and Janet Phillips put together a delicious meal on November 30th. It included meatloaf, mashed potatoes, mac & cheese, several hot vegetable sides, buns, root beer, pumpkin tarts and rice krispie treats. After the first winter storm of the season, the hot meal was greatly enjoyed.



*A friendly winter reminder from Fr. Carlson*  
Walk like a Penguin!

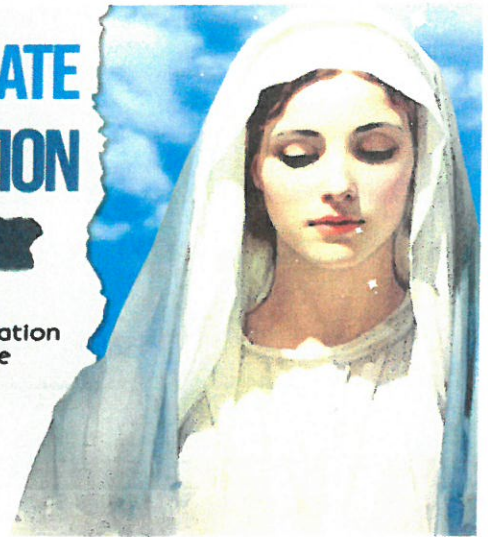
Bend your knees, keep your feet slightly outward, arms out for balance, and take short, flat-footed steps to reduce slips on ice and snow.

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

DECEMBER 8

### Holy Day of Obligation Mass Schedule

7:00 a.m. - St. Mary  
7:30 a.m. - Holy Family  
2:30 p.m. - Holy Family  
5:30 p.m. - St. Mary  
5:30 p.m. - Holy Family



**In Remembrance:** The parish community of St. Mary's grieves the recent passing of Marge Aubry. We ask you to keep her and her family in your prayers. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

### Service Project Reminders

- The *Personal Hygiene Collection* for the homeless wraps up this weekend at Holy Family. Please bring your donated items and place them in the basket beneath the bulletin board in the main vestibule.
- The *Giving Tree* is up in Utica, and we are grateful for the wonderful response so far! A few tags remain—please sign out any tags you take. Gifts should be returned to St. Mary's by December 21st.

### Altar & Rosary News

- There is not a meeting scheduled this month for St. Mary's.
- Holy Family ladies should bring their baked cookies for our annual sale to the KC Hall on Friday between 4:00-6:00 p.m.

### Holy Family Altar & Rosary Cookie Sale

**Saturday, December 13th**  
**8:00 a.m.—Noon**  
**307 E. Florence St., Oglesby (KC Hall)**

Let us do your baking!  
Mix n' match all your holiday favorites. Cookies sold by the pound.



\$8/lb. ~ Raffles avail.





# GOSPEL REFLECTION

~ Fr. John Muir

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating “locusts and wild honey” (Mark 1:6). It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

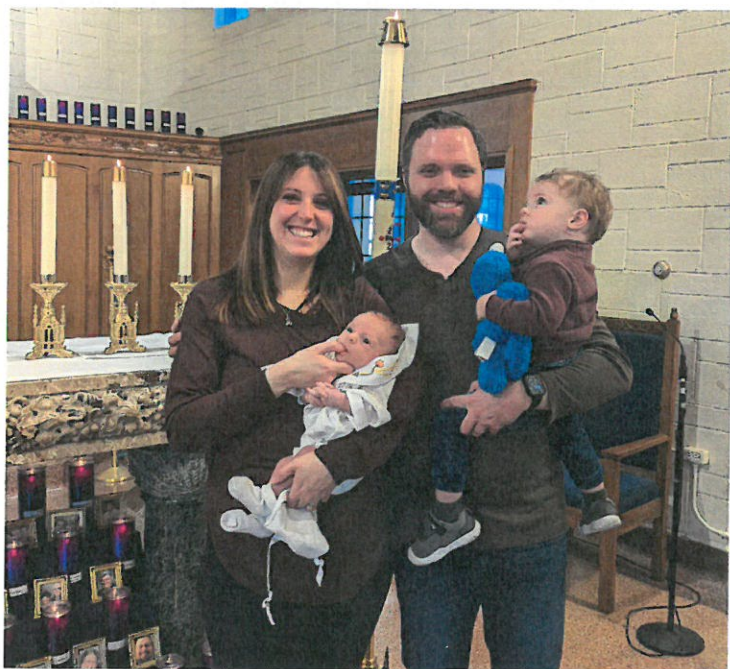
I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it!

John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ.



**Baptism Blessing:** Kyle Kristopher Sienza was baptized by Fr. Carlson at Holy Family on November 22nd. He is the son of Kristopher and Amanda (Sangston) Sienza. May God’s grace and blessings guide him throughout his life. Congratulations!



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

## Mass Intentions

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH - ST. NICHOLAS**

5:00pm + Norbert Dudek by the Rogowski Family

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH - 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00am + Ron Lindner by Kathy Jo Lindner

10:00am + Sharon Doerr (anniv. + 12/4)

by Chuck and Mary Ann Voreis

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

7:00am + Lois and Helen Story

5:30pm + Mary Ann Snell Kalisiak

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH - ST. JUAN DIEGO**

**CUAUHTLATOATZIN**

7:00am + Braxton Carr

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH - OUR LADY OF LORETO**

7:00am Living and Deceased Members of the Olinger Family

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH - ST. DAMASUS I**

7:00am + Deceased Members of the Woodshank Family  
by Joe and Darlene Woodshank

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

7:00am + Walt and Frances Marini

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH - ST. LUCY**

5:00pm For the People of the Parish

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH - 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00am + Nick Van Wingerden

10:00am + John Meyers by Mary Holland

## Ministry Schedule

**Sunday, December 7th, @ 10:00 a.m.**

Altar Servers: Finn and Rory Carter, Nathan Leffers

**Sunday, December 14th @ 8:00 a.m.**

Reader: Dr. David Ludford

**Sunday, December 14th, @ 10:00 a.m.**

Reader: Mary Ann Voreis

Altar Servers: Jake and Joey Patyk, Abby Brown

## Weekly Collection: Nov. 26th-Dec. 5th

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Adult Envelopes  | \$1,025.00 |
| Loose Collection | \$432.00   |
| Online Giving    | \$30.00    |



Word Search.

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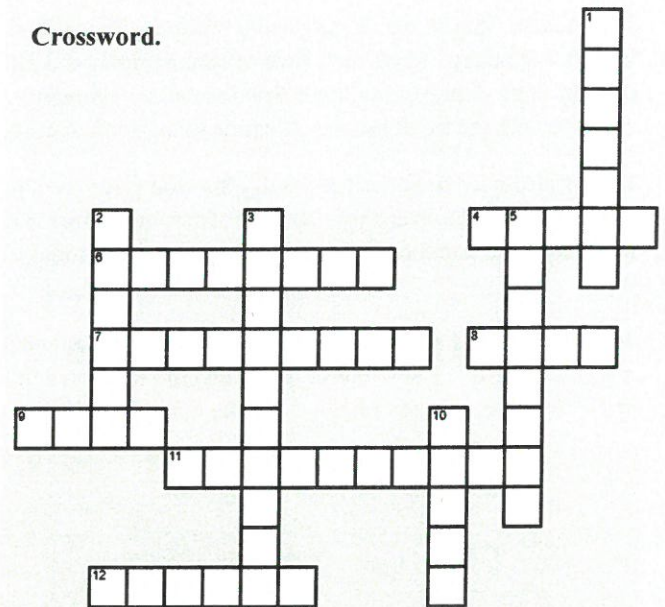
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| ABRAHAM | BAPTIZE   | CAMEL     |
| DESERT  | FAN       | FIRE      |
| HONEY   | JOHN      | LEATHER   |
| LOCUSTS | MIGHTIER  | PHARISEES |
| PREPARE | REPENT    | RIVER     |
| ROOT    | SADDUCEES | SANDALS   |
| SINS    | SPIRIT    | STONES    |
| VIPERS  | VOICE     | WATER     |

Color.



*Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
December 12th*

Crossword.



Across

4. A messenger of God.
6. Mary said, "Behold, I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord."
7. The act of saving. Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Jesus' Mother, and our mother too!
9. "\_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord a new song."
11. The third person of the Trinity.
12. "Holy Mary, \_\_\_\_\_ of God."

Down.

1. The name of the Angel that came to Mary.
2. Mary was \_\_\_\_\_ to be the mother of Jesus.
3. Pure without blemish
5. A town in Galilee where Mary was from.
10. Mary was "full of \_\_\_\_\_."