

# Church of Saint Mary

March 1st, 2026  
2nd Sunday of Lent

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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: 4:00-4:45pm  
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

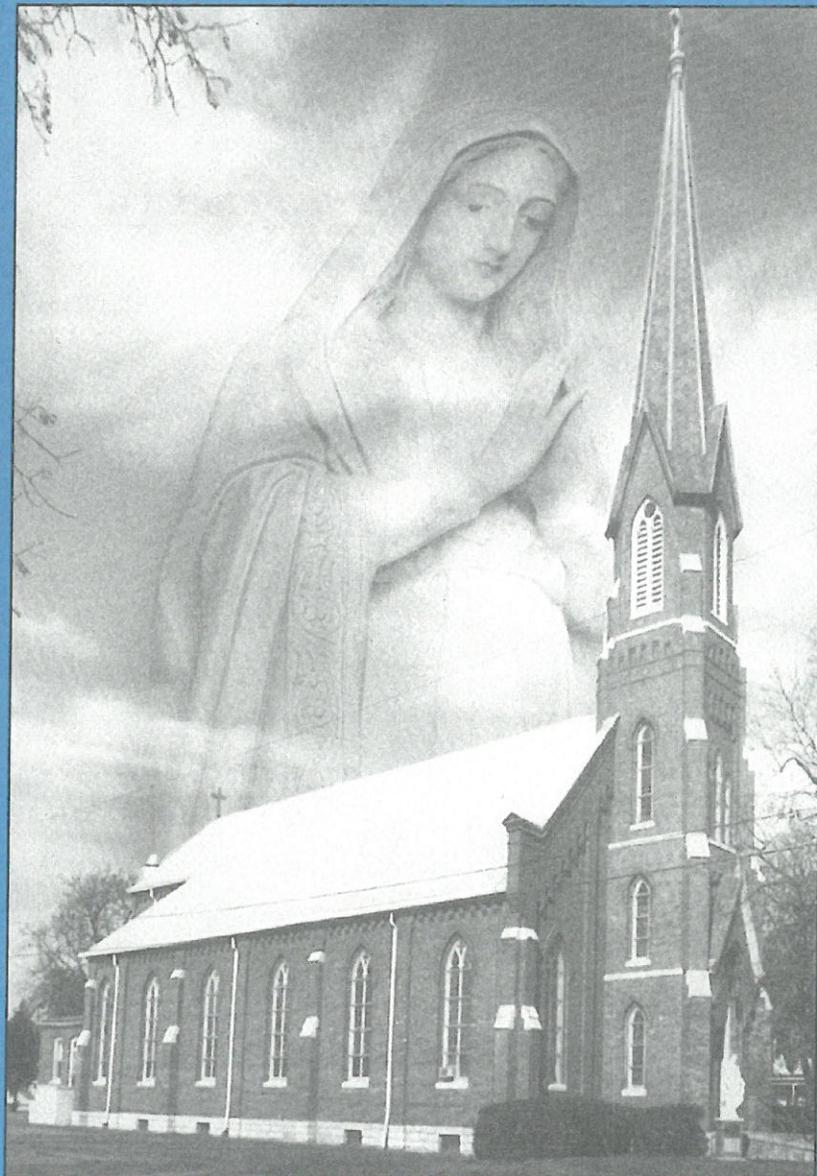
Hours: Wednesdays & Fridays  
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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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

## Lenten Studies/Discussion this week—Monday, March 2nd

- Crux Discussion Group meets in the Mother's Chapel, Oglesby at 2:00 p.m.
- Behold the Lamb bible study - Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by class in the Mother's Chapel at Holy Family.

**1st Saturday Rosary:** Volunteers are needed to help lead the Rosary on the first Saturday of each month before the 5:00 p.m. Mass (beginning about 25 minutes before Mass). We are especially in need of someone to lead next Saturday, March 7th. If you are willing to help, please contact the parish office.

**Boys TEC:** Come find brotherhood, prayer, and peace! "What is impossible with man, is possible with God." (Luke 18:27). High-school young men are invited to attend the upcoming TEC retreat at Sts. Peter & Paul in Peterstown (just south of Mendota), March 14th -16th. Visit: [www.peterstowntec.com/attend-a-weekend.html](http://www.peterstowntec.com/attend-a-weekend.html) to register.

**Tortellachi:** During Lent, our pasta group shifts to making vegetarian tortellachi. Filled with spinach and cheese, these 1-lb. bags are perfect for your next meatless Friday meal. You can call Jennifer and make arrangements to pick up pasta from the Utica rectory during office hours.

**KC Fish Frys:** Make plans this Friday to enjoy delicious seafood prepared by the Oglesby Knights of Columbus. To place your order, call (815) 883-3181. The menu includes fried cod or butterfly shrimp, served with fries, coleslaw and bread. While your carryout is being prepared, guests are welcome to sit, visit, and enjoy a drink at the KC's bar.

**In Remembrance:** Holy Family recently received a memorial gift in honor of Janice Washkowiak. We are deeply grateful for this thoughtful remembrance and for the beautiful way it honors her life of faith.

**Homebound Visits:** Monthly communion visits are available for parishioners who are unable to attend Mass due to health concerns. If you or a loved one would like to be added to our schedule, please contact the parish office.

**St. Joseph Day Table:** In honor of the Feast of St. Joseph, an evening Mass will be celebrated at Holy Family on Thursday, March 19th, at 6:00 p.m., followed by a traditional St. Joseph Table dinner. Please sign up in the main vestibule if you plan to attend.



Don't be late for Mass next weekend!

Daylight savings time begins on March 8th. Set your clock ahead one hour before going to bed on the 7th.

**You Are the Potter:** There are still spots available for the pottery wheel demonstration, part of Fr. Windy's Day of Recollection in Utica on Saturday, March 7th. Mass begins at 9:00 a.m., followed by the demonstration. If you would like to attend, please sign-up in the back of church.

**Stations of the Cross:** The Stations of the Cross are one of the simplest, yet most powerful, ways to prayerfully walk with Jesus. Each of the fourteen stations invites us to reflect on a sacred moment from His condemnation to His death and burial. Join us each Friday during Lent as we journey with Our Lord.

St. Mary, Utica – 5:30 p.m. & Holy Family, Oglesby – 7:00 p.m.

**Ministry Volunteers:** Readers and Altar Servers should have received an e-mail with the Spring schedule. If you have any conflicts with your availability, simply call or e-mail the parish office and we will be happy to make adjustments. Additionally, we are in need of volunteers for Holy Week and Easter. Please let us know if there are particular dates when you are able to assist at Mass. Positions will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

**PADs Dinner:** The meal provided by the parishioners of St. Mary's Church will take place this Wednesday. Thank you to this month's great team of volunteers (Carol Vesel, Mary Kay Hodgson, Mary Ann Woodshank, Laurie Ulrich, Jane Wilson, Mary Ann Voreis, Dave and Cheryl Alleman, and Maximilian Claahsen) for their time and faithful support of this ministry.

**In Appreciation:** Thank you to those who have made donations to support the work of Catholic Charities throughout our diocese. These funds, along with a generous memorial gift from the estate of Jean Conway were mailed this week.

**Minok Easter Candy Sale:** This weekend is your last opportunity to order the area's favorite chocolates/caramels while supporting Altar & Rosary. Extra order forms and envelopes are available on the back table; completed forms may be placed in the collection box at the back of church. Slow-cooked in copper kettles and cut by hand since 1915, this beloved candy will be delivered in time for Easter. Pickup will take place during Holy Week at the Utica parish office.



## Illinois Valley Catholic Youth Living with "Radiant Hope"

YOUTH GROUP "LIFE NIGHT" SUNDAYS 6:30-8:30pm  
MARCH 8TH, 22ND, & 29TH  
QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY CHURCH, LASALLE

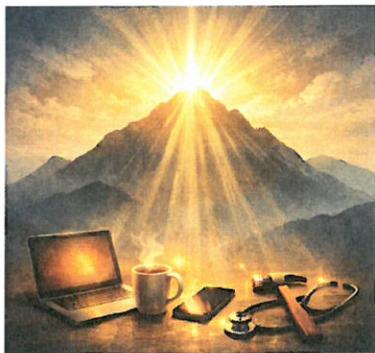


# GOSPEL MEDITATION

When I sit down to answer emails or write a Gospel reflection or return a phone call, I sometimes wonder: Does any of this humdrum work matter? Maybe you ask the same thing about your daily labor. Today's Gospel, the Transfiguration, offers a surprising answer.

Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a mountain. There, "his face shone like the sun face and his clothes become white as light" (Matthew 17:2). That detail regarding his clothes is worth considering.

We know Jesus' body is inseparably united to the divine nature. But his clothing? That's something made by human hands. It's an artifact. And yet it shines with the same uncreated light. What does this detail mean? The early Church noted that Adam and Eve's first act after the Fall was to make clothing. This clothing symbolizes all human labor that supports our dignity. In Jesus' glorified garments, we see not just the redemption of our body, but of human effort to protect and uplift human dignity.



Parents, your family is your work. Baristas, plumbers, nurses, accountants — your labor, your emails, your phone calls, your spreadsheets — can all become radiant when offered to God in love. The question isn't just do I believe in Jesus' glory, but do I believe he can share it with the work of my hands?

Lenten Challenge: Identify the "artifact" you are making to uplift the dignity of others: your job, your home, your relationships. Consciously bring it to the Lord this Sunday at Mass. Offer it to share in His glory. It will begin to shine.

During Lent the Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women offers reflections of Pope Leo XIV focused on our call to care for creation. May we prayerfully contemplate his words and consider how we can respond in our own homes, parishes and communities.



FOR SUNDAY MARCH 1ST (Second Sunday of Lent):  
"Tragically, those in the most vulnerable situations are the first to suffer the devastating effects of climate change, deforestation and pollution. Caring for creation, therefore, becomes an expression of humanity and solidarity."

Pope Leo XIV (Address Oct 1, 2025)



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

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

5:00pm + Neal and Joyce Glynn by Pat & Anne Devane

## SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST - 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00am For the People of the Parish

10:00am + Janice Washkowiak by Deena Pavinato

## MONDAY, MARCH 2ND

7:00am + Edward and Anna Lambert by Mary Holland

## TUESDAY, MARCH 3RD

7:00am + Loretta Story

7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH

7:00am + Dan Pryde and Carol Krzyaniak

## THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH

7:00am + Gary Eiten

## FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH

7:00am + Deceased Members of the William and Mary Kelly Family by M.L. Saylor

## SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH

5:00pm + Jerry Lorenzi by the Lorenzi Family

## SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH - 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00am For the People of the Parish

10:00am + Marge Aubry (birthdate 3/9)  
by Chuck and Mary Ann Voreis

## Ministry Schedule

### Saturday, February 28th @ 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Connie Guerrero

### Sunday, March 1st, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Kathleen DiLuciano

Altar Server: C.J. DiLuciano

### Sunday, March 1st, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Mary Ann Voreis

Altar Servers: Finn and Rory Carter, Abby Brown

### Sunday, March 8th, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Pat DeVane

### Sunday, March 8th, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Colette Spears

Altar Servers: Nina Leffers, Olivia and Bobby Villarreal

## Weekly Contributions February 21st-27th

Adult Envelopes: \$1,535.00

Loose Collection: \$827.00

Online Giving: \$175.00

Catholic Charities: \$10.00

Building Fund: \$200.00

Catholic Education: \$85.00

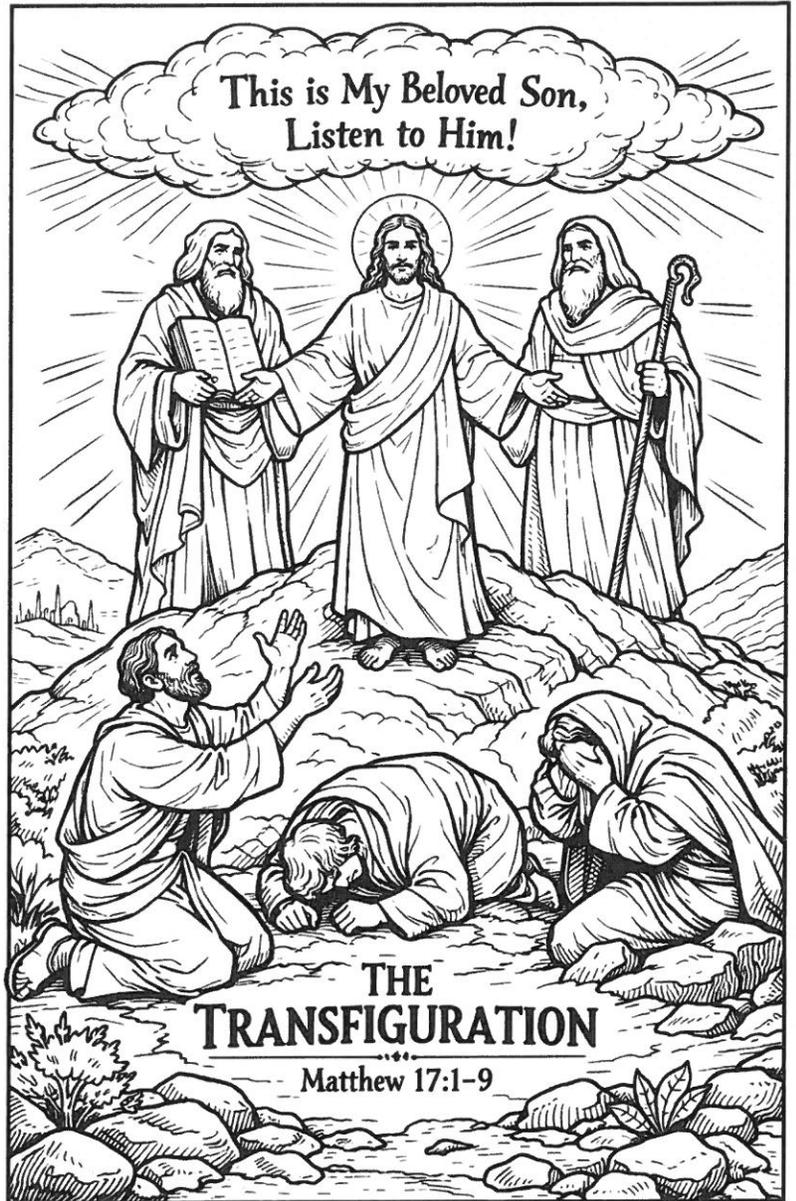
Aid to Easter Europe: \$75.00

Word Search.

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

BELOVED	CLOTHES	CLOUD
ELIJAH	JAMES	JOHN
LIGHT	MOSES	MOUNTAIN
PETER	RISE	SHADOW
TENTS	TRANSFIGURE	VISION
VOICE	WHITE	WISH

Color.



Crossword.

ACROSS

- A bright \_\_\_\_\_ overshadowed them.
- One of the three disciples present (brother of James).
- One prophet who appeared with Jesus (giver of the Law).
- The event is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- "This is my beloved \_\_\_\_\_."
- The disciple who said, "Lord, it is good that we are here."

DOWN

- Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a high \_\_\_\_\_.
- They were instructed not to tell anyone their vision until "the Son of Man has been raised from the \_\_\_\_\_."
- "\_\_\_\_\_ to Him."
- Jesus' clothes became white as \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus' face shone like the \_\_\_\_\_.

