

# Church of Saint Mary

March 8th, 2026  
3rd Sunday of Lent



## 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

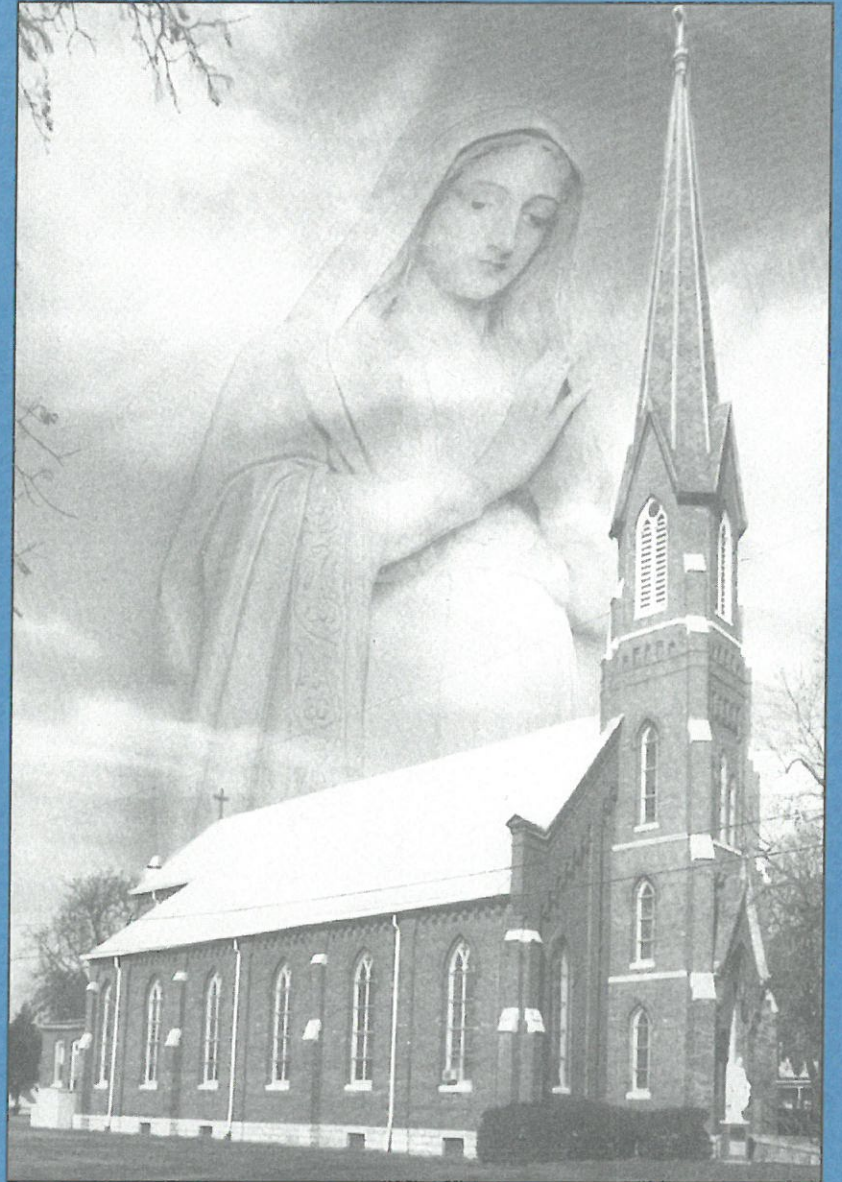
Hours: Wednesdays & Fridays  
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



Fr. Paul Carlson, Pastor  
frcarlson@stmarysutica.org  
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

**Alfano's Pizzas:** Orders will be ready for pickup this week! If you selected Utica for your pickup location, please stop by the rectory on Wednesday or Friday from 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Easter Memorials:** An envelope for Easter flower memorials is included in your new packet. To ensure all remembrance names are listed in the Easter bulletin, please return your envelope by March 23rd.

**Boys TEC:** High school young men are invited to attend the upcoming Teens Encounter Christ retreat at Sts. Peter & Paul in Peterstown (just south of Mendota), March 14-16. Come experience brotherhood, prayer, and peace! *"What is impossible with man is possible with God."* (Luke 18:27)

Register at: [peterstowntec.com](http://peterstowntec.com)



## St. Joseph Day Table


We will celebrate with Mass at 6:00 p.m. on March 19th, followed by a gathering at the Knights of Columbus Hall (307 E. Florence St., Oglesby).

The main course will be provided; please bring a dish to share.

A sign-up sheet is available in the back of church.

**Annual Diocesan Appeal:** Every one of our parishes is the beneficiary of the Annual Diocesan Appeal! The Diocese is the sum total of all the parishes. Thousands of Catholics in the Diocese are directly or indirectly served by Diocesan programs and services. In addition, any money that is paid over the parish's goal is returned to the parish for its own programs and services as extraordinary income. Please give consideration to participating. You can return blue envelopes in the collection basket.

**Ravs:** We have both meat and vegetarian (spinach & cheese) pasta available for purchase (1lb. bags for \$8). Stop by the Oglesby office or contact Jennifer to set up a Utica pickup.



**CARE FOR CREATION**

FOR SUNDAY MARCH 8TH:  
 "Our mission to care for creation, to foster peace and reconciliation, is Jesus' own mission, the mission that the Lord entrusts to us. We hear the cry of the earth and we hear the cry of the poor, because this plea has reached the heart of God."  
 Pope Leo XIV (Address Oct 1, 2025)

*Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women*



**PADS Dinner:** On Tuesday, February 3rd, Bob and Amy Walker, Renee Walker, Loretta Ceretto, Cathy Granata, Deb Kotar, Janie Quaka, Stephanie and Addison Raffety, and Mia Uranich prepared and served dinner for 40 clients at the homeless shelter. The delicious meal included chicken casserole, cheesy potatoes, homemade bread, desserts, fresh fruit, and beverages. Thank you to these generous volunteers for sharing their time and talents!

**Catholic Daughters:** Catholic Daughters Court De La Salle#276 will meet on Tuesday, March 10th at the LaSalle Knights of Columbus Hall at 6:00 p.m. with rosary recited followed by meeting. All women of the parishes are welcome to attend.


## 2026 LENT RETREAT

# THE PRESENCE OF

# God

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ST VALENTINE CHURCH  
1109 PULASKI ST., PERU, IL 61354



16, 17, & 18

MARCH

MON-WED


6:00 PM

HOLY MASS

6:45 PM

RETREAT TALK

Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P., the Dominican Orders Promoter of the rosary returns to our area for a three-day retreat. Discover the closeness of God in our daily lives, and how to come closer to Him.



## Lenten Devotions - This Week

### Monday

Crux Discussion Group @ 2:00 p.m.  
Holy Family Chapel

Behold the Lamb Mass & Bible study @ 6:00 p.m.  
Holy Family Church

### Tuesday

Eucharistic Adoration/Confession 7:00-8:00 p.m.  
Saint Mary Church

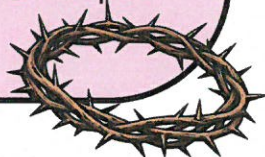
### Wednesday

Eucharistic Adoration/Confession 4:30-6:30 p.m.  
Holy Family Church

### Friday

Stations of the Cross/Confession @ 5:30 p.m.  
Saint Mary Church

Stations of the Cross/Confession @ 7:00 p.m.  
Holy Family Church



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

By Fr. John Muir

Recently I received a note from a teenager I met years ago. He wrote, "Dear Father Muir, you probably do not remember me, but I wanted to thank you for your inspiring and humorous homilies at the parish. They helped me appreciate the beauty of Catholicism, which I have now embraced in a personal way." That small note moved me more than he probably imagined. I had no idea my words had taken root in him. I was simply sowing seeds — week by week, Mass by Mass. Someone else — his parents, a youth minister, or God Himself — was doing the deeper work. Now this young man is joyfully reaping a harvest of faith.

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers living water to a Samaritan woman whose life had been full of searching and disappointment. By the end of their encounter, she becomes a bold and joyful evangelist. Then Jesus turns to his disciples and says something easily overlooked: "One sows and another reaps" (John 4:37). He is helping them — and us — understand how evangelization works. Often, the one who sows the seeds of faith is not the one who sees the fruit.

This Lent, ask yourself: Are you in a sowing phase or a reaping phase? If you are sowing — raising children, praying for someone, mentoring — be patient. Your work matters. If you are reaping — seeing someone come alive in faith — be grateful. You are standing on sacred ground, tilled and watered by others.

Lenten challenge: Thank someone who once sowed faith into your life. And keep sowing, even when the harvest is unseen.



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

### 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

### MONDAY, MARCH 9TH

7:00am For the Holy Souls in Purgatory

### TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH

7:00am + Lois Schott  
7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH

7:00am For the Holy Souls in Purgatory

### THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH

7:00am + Dick and Beth Snyder, Lisa Sartin, and Kathy Hayden

### FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH

7:00am + Debbie Sheridan by Bill and Janet Politsch

### SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH

5:00pm + Dick Johnson (anniv. + 3/28)  
by Judie Jeppson and Mary Marsh

### SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH - 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00am + Raymond Klimek (birthdate 3/14, anniv. + 3/15)  
by Stanley Mirtich  
10:00am + Merlene McConville  
by Paul and Amy McLachlan

## Ministry Schedule

### 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

### Sunday, March 15th, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Dave Ludford

### Sunday, March 15th, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Pat Devane

Altar Servers: Jake and Joey Patyk

## Weekly Contributions February 28th-March 6th

Adult Envelopes: \$2,280.00	Aid to Eastern Europe: \$10.00
Loose Collection: \$798.00	Catholic Relief Services: \$50.00
Catholic Charities: \$10.00	Easter Memorials: \$205.00
Building Fund: \$50.00	
Catholic Education: \$40.00	

Word Search.

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

Color.



BELIEVE	DRINK	ETERNAL
GIFT	HOUR	JOURNEY
MESSIAH	MOUNTAIN	RABBI
REAP	SAMARITAN	SOW
SPIRIT	SYCHAR	TESTIFY
THRISTY	TRUTH	WATER
WELL	WORSHIP	

Crossword.

ACROSS

- The woman left this behind when she went to the town.
- The woman believed Jesus was a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty \_\_\_\_\_."
- Jesus' disciples had gone to buy this.
- The town in Samaria where Jesus stopped.
- What did Jesus ask the woman for?

DOWN

- True worshipers worship the Father in spirit and \_\_\_\_\_.
- The woman said, "Our ancestors worshiped on this \_\_\_\_\_, but your people say the place to worship is Jerusalem."
- Jesus stayed with them for how many days?

