

Church of Saint Mary

March 22nd, 2026
5th Sunday of Lent



Mass and Sacraments

Holy Mass

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm
Sunday Masses: 8:00am, 10:00am
Monday through 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

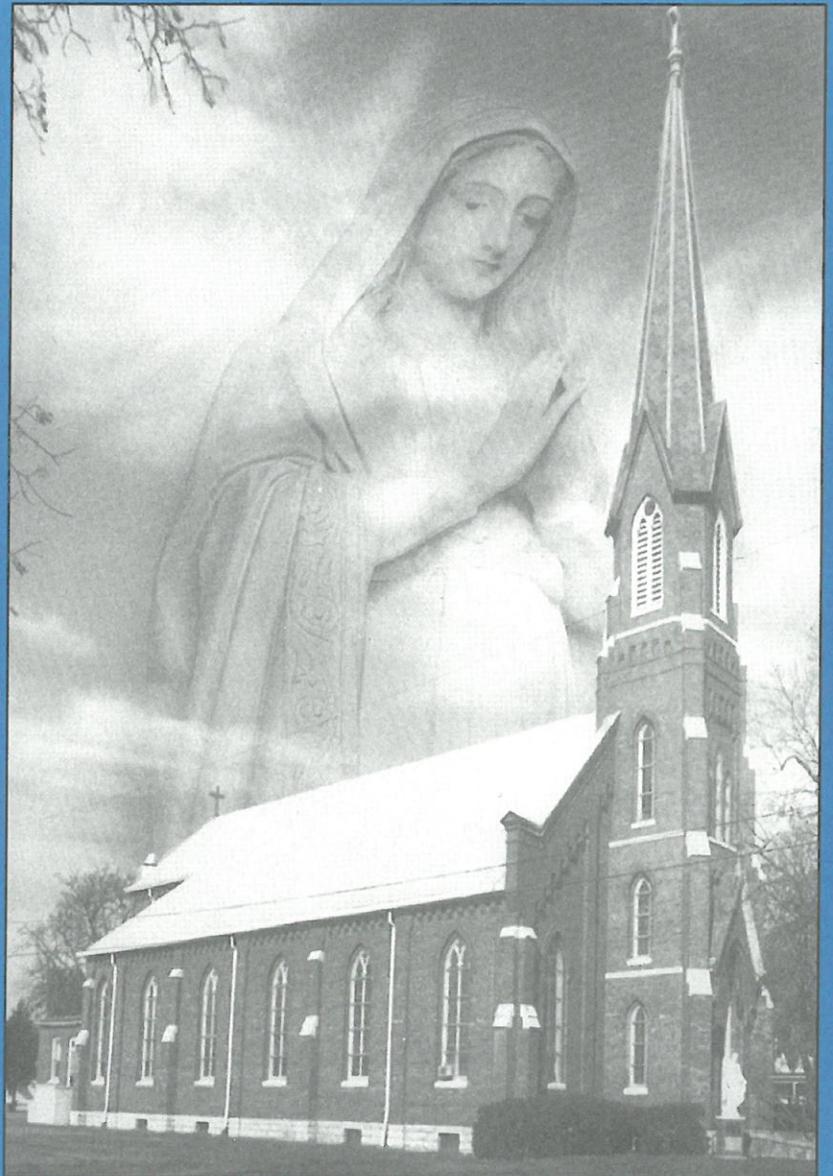
Hours: Wednesdays & Fridays
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



Fr. Paul Carlson, Pastor
fcarlson@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

Helping Hands Needed: Join us as we prepare our church and grounds for the joyful celebration of Easter at St. Mary's!

- *Saturday, March 28th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. – Spring Cleaning Day for the church grounds.* Bring your favorite yard tools for blowing, raking, and bagging leaves. Doughnuts, coffee, and water will be provided thanks to the hospitality of our Altar & Rosary Society.

- *Saturday, April 4th, beginning at 8:00 a.m. – Easter Decorating Day.* Help us prepare the church by arranging flowers and hanging banners as we get ready to celebrate Christ's Resurrection.

Crux Discussion Group: Thank you to everyone who have joined us each week. We hope that this time has enriched your spiritual journey throughout Lent. There are two remaining sessions, meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the Mother's Chapel at Holy Family on March 23rd and 30th.

Behold the Lamb: This coming Monday will be our final Lenten bible study class and evening Mass. Thank you to all who participated and made this a meaningful experience.

IV Cursillo: Please join the Cursillo family for our April Ultreya on Saturday, April 11th. It will take place at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Ottawa.

- Hall opens at 5:00 p.m., with the potluck meal beginning promptly at 5:30 p.m.
- Meeting and speaker at 6:00 p.m. (Emcee: Ray Aubry, Speaker: Miranda Reinhart, Topic: The Daisy Movement (Adopt a Priest))
- Mass will follow at 7:00 p.m., celebrated by Fr. David Sabel. Guests are welcome at all Ultreyas.



It was the 8th graders' turn to bring home some hardware. Congratulations on your Regional and Sectional Championships. State play begins March 20th. Best of luck Miracles!

Religious Education Program: St. Mary's CCD students will be on Easter break March 29th and April 5th.

Stations of the Cross: Holy Week is quickly approaching. Stations of the Cross will be held on March 27th at St. Mary's at 5:30 p.m. and at Holy Family at 7:00 p.m. Confession time will be available immediately after stations conclude at both churches.

Altar & Rosary: There is not a meeting scheduled for March.

IV Youth Group: Parents are invited to Queen of the Holy Rosary Shrine in LaSalle next Sunday (3/29) at 6:30 p.m. for an informational meeting for the youth group's upcoming trips. These opportunities for friendship and faith are ones your highschooler won't want to miss!

- June 29th-July 4th: Camp Cana in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri
- July 17th-19th: Steubenville "Worthy" Conference in Springfield, Missouri

Day of Recollection

SHROUD of TURIN

March 28th
9:00 – 11:00 A.M.
St. John's Oratory, Lostant
301 S. Sheridan St.

Join us for a morning of reflection & study
on the mysterious Shroud of Turin.

Academy of St. Carlo Acutis
Presents

GODSPELL

Conceived & Originally Directed by John-Michael Tehelak
Music and New Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Friday, March 27th at 7pm
Saturday, March 28th at 2pm
All performances are at the oglesby campus:
336 Alice Ave Oglesby IL, 61348

Tickets are available at the door
\$10 for adults, \$5 for children, and ASCA students are FREE.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

A friend of mine wrote an imaginative reflection on the raising of Lazarus that caught me off guard. She proposed that when Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb, the man was not joyful but angry and annoyed. After so much suffering, maybe death felt like a release. He had finally escaped the pain. And then, suddenly, Jesus' voice cuts through the silence: "Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:43) The light stings his eyes. The pain returns. And now he is dragged back into a world that had broken him.

It startled me at first, but the more I sat with it, the more it made sense. Sometimes, people do not want to be raised. Not at first. Think of those in the grip of addiction, despair, or numbness. The tomb can feel safer than the risk of living again. Yet Jesus, moved by the grief and faith of others (Martha, Mary, the community) calls the dead man out. Lazarus obeys. But he is still bound, head to foot. Jesus says to the bystanders, "Untie him and let him go" (John 11:44).

That is often how healing happens: slowly, reluctantly. Not just by a personal decision, but through the love and persistence of others. Resurrection is not always euphoric. It may begin in protest and confusion and only later turn to gratitude and freedom. But Christ's voice breaks through, anyway.

Lenten challenge: Who in your life needs to be called back to life? Pray for them. If that person is you, listen for the voice. It is calling even now.
~ By Fr. John Muir

FOR SUNDAY MARCH 22ND:

"With infinite love, God has created all things and given them life. That is why St. Francis of Assisi could call every creature his brother, his sister and his mother. Only a contemplative gaze can change our relationship with creation and bring us out of the ecological crisis brought on by the breakdown of our relationship with God, with our neighbors and with the earth that is the effect of sin."

Pope Leo XIV (Address Oct 1, 2025)



Peoria Diocesan Council of
Catholic Women

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 22nd, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Kathleen DiLuciano

Altar Server: CJ DiLuciano

Sunday, March 22nd, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Mary Ann Voreis

Altar Servers: Abby Brown, Bobby and Olivia Villareal

Saturday, March 28th, @ 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Connie Guerrero

Sunday, March 29th, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Ryan Mann

Sunday, March 29th, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Colette Spears

Altar Servers: Finn and Rory Carter, Nina Leffers



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

SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST

5:00pm + Mary Kalisiak (anniv. + 3/19)
by Joe and Darlene Woodshank

SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND - 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00am For the People of the Parish

10:00am + James Lorimer

MONDAY, MARCH 23RD

7:00am + Lou Riva (birthdate)

TUESDAY, MARCH 24TH

7:00am + Scott Hancock

7:00-8:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN UTICA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25TH - ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

7:00am + Frank Assalley

4:30-6:30pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN OGLESBY

THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH

7:00am + Frank Kastigar

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH

7:00am + Norbert Dudek by the Rogowski Family

5:30pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN UTICA

7:00pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN OGLESBY

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

5:00pm + Thomas Pfalzgraf (birthdate)

by Geo and Mary Kay Hodgson

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH - PALM SUNDAY

8:00am + Jim Galvan by Joe and Linda Plankenhorn

10:00am For the People of the Parish

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

March 14th-20th

Adult Envelopes: \$1,640.00

Loose Collection: \$689.00

Online Giving: \$45.00

Catholic Charities: \$10.00

Building Fund: \$130.00

Cemetery Upkeep: \$80.00

Catholic Relief Services: \$151.00

Easter Memorials: \$461.00

Annual Diocesan Appeal Progress

Holy Family: 227%

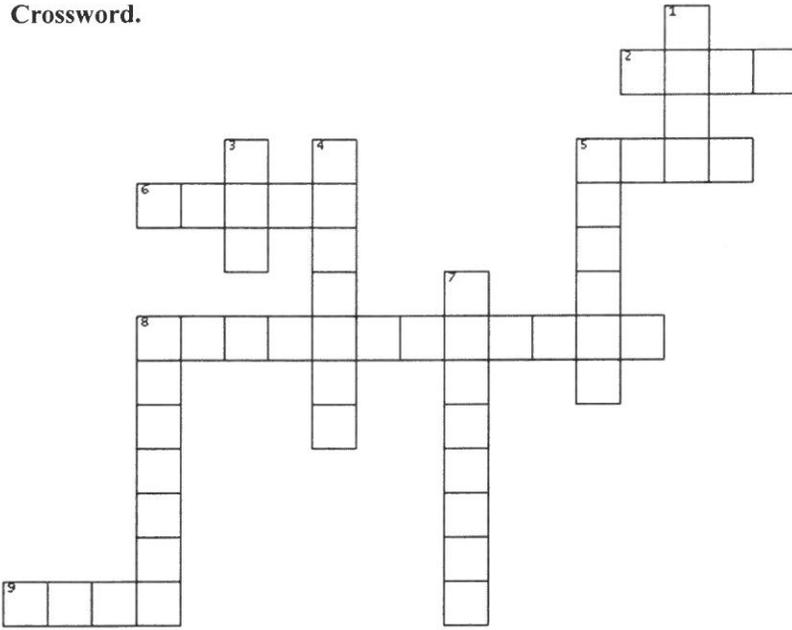
St. Mary: 63%

Gifts to the 2025 campaign assist important evangelization ministries throughout the Peoria Diocese. It truly is the best way to support our churches!

Return your donation in the blue envelopes mailed out a couple weeks ago, or take a new pledge card from the main vestibule.

Kids Corner

Crossword.



ACROSS

2. The place where the dead are laid
5. Who is Lazarus' sister who sat at the Lord's feet?
6. What covered the entrance to Lazarus' tomb?
8. The dead man came out, bound hand and foot with these? (two words)
9. "I am the resurrection and the _____."

DOWN

1. How many days had Lazarus been in the tomb?
3. Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of ____?"
4. What is the name of the village where Lazarus lived?
5. Who is Lazarus' sister that is known for her active service?
7. What did Jesus tell his disciples that Lazarus was doing?
8. Many who saw this miracle began to _____.

Sudoku.

		6	8	7	4	5		
7		2	6	3				
			9			1		7
			3					5
6		5		4	9		1	
2						6		9
		4						1
3			1	8		7	4	
5			4	2	6	3		

Word Search.

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

ASLEEP	BELIEVE	COMFORT	DAYS
DEATH	FATHER	GLORY	ILL
LAZARUS	LIGHT	MARTHA	MARY
MASTER	PERFUME	RABBI	RESURRECTION
RISE	STUMBLE	TEACHER	TOMB
UNTIE			

Maze. Jesus calls for Lazarus to "Come out" from the tomb. Help find the way.

