

Church of Saint Mary

October 26th &
November 2nd 2025

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

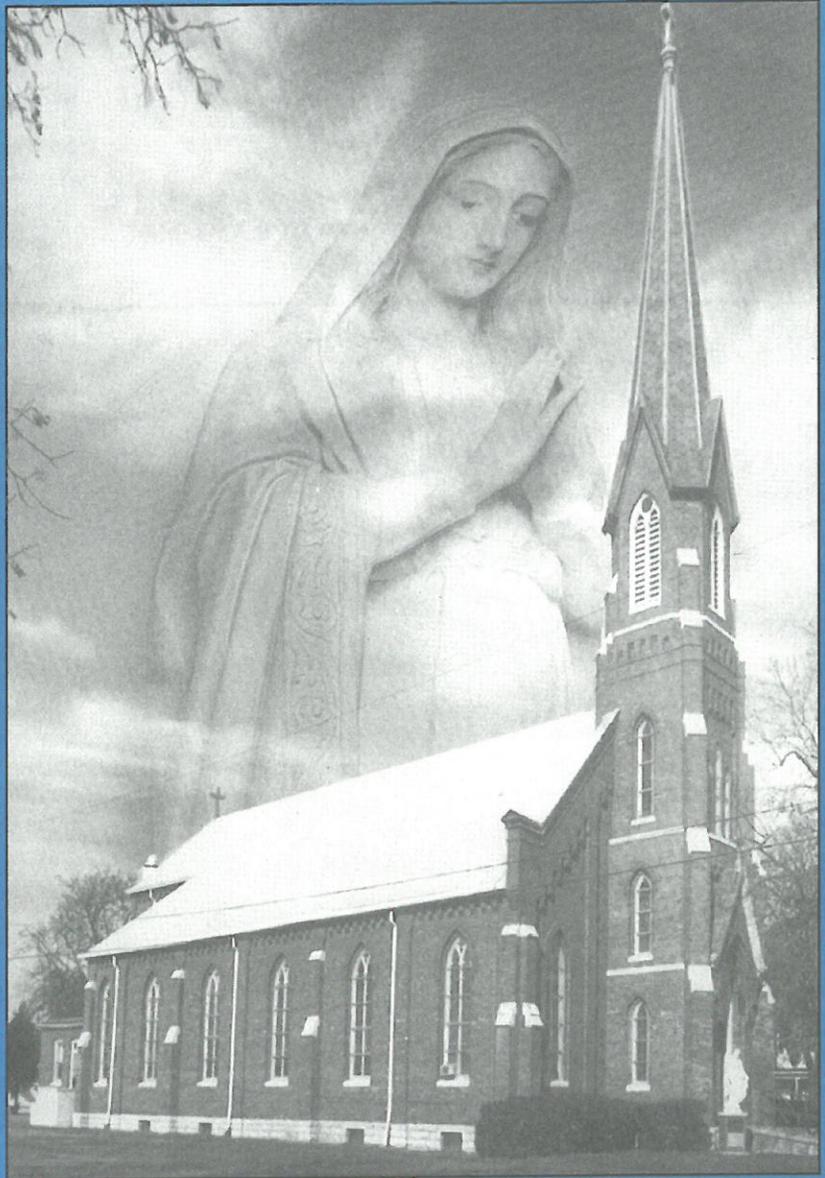
P.O. Box 159
303 South Division Street
Utica, IL 61373
Phone & Fax 815-667-4677
office@stmarysutica.org
www.stmarysutica.org

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

Fr. Michael Driscoll, Pastor
Fr. Paul Carlson, Pastor ^{11/1}
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.



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

Gospel Meditation for October 26th

The Lord ...knows no favorites.

Many siblings joke with—or taunt—each other about being their mother's or father's "favorite". Their parents will protest that they have no favorites. And although it's true that they love each of their children deeply, it's natural to have preferences. That's why siblings sometimes engage in friendly competition to win over mom or dad.

So it can be hard to believe Sirach when he tells us that God "knows no favorites". But it's true! There is nothing any of us can do to convince the Lord that he should love us more than someone else. If anything, his heart goes out more to the oppressed and the lowly, and their prayer "pierces the clouds". Their humility and their need, not their achievements or wealth, draw God's heart toward them.

We see this truth played out in the parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel. When a Pharisee and a tax collector come to the Temple to pray, the Pharisee seems to think he can sway the Lord's opinion of him with his long list of accomplishments. But it doesn't work. Neither his status nor his resume qualifies him for special favors. The one who "went home justified", the one who received God's grace, was the tax collector, who approached with humility and lowliness. He knew that he couldn't earn God's approval, so he admitted his need and pleaded for mercy.

The Lord knows no favorites. That's a truth that you can hold onto today. But you can also hold onto the truth that you are a beloved child of God. Your position before him is secure. There's nothing you can do to make him love you more. There's nothing you have done that will make him love you less. So just come to him, trusting in his mercy, and let him love you—completely—for who you are!

"Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me so fully and unreservedly!"

Pray for the Sick of our Parish

Michael Ball, Katie Becker, Tim Burgess, Don and Pam Edwards, Jill Kain, Richard Kepper, Ed Liss, Ava Lukascy, Rosie Sander, Drew Shinnick, Tom Varney, Dennise Watson

Weekly Offering

Donations received October 8-21

Adult Envelopes	\$3,455.00
Loose Collection	\$2,504.50
Online Giving	\$45.00
Building Fund	\$721.00
World Mission Sunday	\$192.00
Food Pantry	\$20.00
Cemetery Upkeep	\$30.00
All Saints Day	\$5.00

10:00 a.m. Serving Schedule

October 26th	Nathan and Nina Leffers, Abby Brown
November 2nd	Finn and Rory Carter, Ava Myers
November 9th	Jake and Joey Patyk

Mass Intentions and Schedule

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

5:00pm For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH - 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am + Patricia and George Weberling
by Kathy Jo Lindner

10:00am + Sandra Harbeck (birthdate 10/27)
by Roger Harbeck

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

7:00am + Jodie Mosell

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH - STS. SIMON AND JUDE

7:00am + Fr. Ernie Pizzamiglio

7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

7:00am + Fr. Charles Beebe

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

7:00am + Mary Ann Snell Kalisiak, Floyd and Frances
Snell, William and John Snell, Donald Piontek,
Ralph Snell, Silas and Lorraine Snell, Daniel and
Elizabeth Snell

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

7:00am + Fr. John Onderko

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST - ALL SAINTS

9:00am + Msgr. James J. Swaner

5:00pm + Thos. Pfalzgraf (anniv. + 10/31)
by Geo and Mary Kay Hodgson

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND - ALL SOULS

7:15-7:45am CONFESSIONS

8:00am For the Parish

10:00am + Msgr. James J. Swaner by Wayne Williams

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD - ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

7:00am Michael Rauh (birthdate 11/2) and +Bessie Reis
(birthdate 11/2)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH - ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO

7:00am + Bill Mix (anniv. + 11/5)

7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

7:00am Elizabeth Snell (birthdate)
by Joe and Darlene Woodshank

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

7:00am + Jordan Carr

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

7:00am Living and Deceased of the Oliger Family

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

5:00pm + Patricia "Tricia" Hanson Corless
by Glenn and Sheila Hanson

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

8:00am Ed Schmitz Family
by Carol Henneberry

10:00am + Harold Aubry (anniv. + 11/12)

Weekends of October 26th & November 2nd

Readings for Week of October 26th

Sunday: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18; Psalm 34; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14
Monday: Romans 8:12-17; Psalm 68; Luke 13:10-17
Tuesday: Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 19; Luke 6:12-16
Wednesday: Romans 8:26-30; Psalm 13; Luke 13:22-30
Thursday: Romans 8:31b-39; Psalm 109; Luke 13:31-35
Friday: Romans 9:1-5; Psalm 147; Luke 14:1-6
Saturday: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; Psalm 24; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a

Readings for Week of November 2nd

Sunday: Wisdom 3:1-9; Psalm 23; Romans 5:5-11; John 6:37-40
Monday: Romans 11:29-36; Psalm 69; Luke 14:12-14
Tuesday: Romans 12:5-16b; Psalm 131; Luke 14:15-24
Wednesday: Romans 13:8-10; Psalm 112; Luke 14:25-33
Thursday: Romans 14:7-12; Psalm 27; Luke 15:1-10
Friday: Romans 15:14-21; Psalm 98; Luke 16:1-8
Saturday: Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Psalm 145; Luke 16:9-15

Announcements

Farewell Luncheon for Fr. Driscoll THIS WEEKEND!

Join us as we gather for a farewell luncheon honoring Fr. Driscoll and his years of ministry at St. Mary's Parish.

Enjoy sandwiches, potluck sides, and cake as we share gratitude, memories, and blessings.

The celebration will take place after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Utica Community Hall.

Let's send him off with our prayers and appreciation!

KC Illinois Vocations Raffle: The Utica Knights of Columbus will soon be mailing raffle tickets to all registered parishioners of St. Mary's Parish. Funds from this raffle help support several seminarians in the Diocese of Peoria, assisting with their tuition and living expenses as they prepare for the priesthood. Each booklet is \$25, and your generosity makes a real difference — plus, you could win big! There are 20 cash prizes, including a grand prize of \$10,000! Please return ticket stubs and payment to Chuck Voreis (319 Florence Dr., Utica) or drop them in the collection basket by November 23rd. Thank you for supporting our future priests through your participation and prayers!

All Souls Flower Display: During November, we will place vases of flowers on our side altars in remembrance of our beloved deceased. These flowers serve as a beautiful reminder to pray for those who have gone before us. Envelopes are on the back table in church. Please return ASAP.

All Saints Day Mass: Celebrate All Saints Day with Mass on Saturday, November 1st at 9:00 a.m. Let us honor all the saints—known and unknown—and be inspired to follow their example of faith and holiness.

Baby Item Supply Drive: We are collecting baby essentials to support the needs of families served by Abigail Women's Center. Your donation of diapers, shampoo, diaper rash cream, gently used baby clothing, etc. will help bring comfort and care to mothers and their little ones. Thank you for your generosity and compassion! Items will be collected in the playpen until November 9th.

AR Meeting: Our ladies group will be meeting in the 308 Building on Monday, October 27th at 6:00 p.m. Please consider joining them in their important work for our parish.

Word Among Us: The new November issue is available on the back table. Help yourself to a complimentary copy.

Calendars: Starting to make appointments for the coming year? Grab a 2026 wall calendar from the back table. They are provided complimentary by the parish and Burgess Funeral Home.

IV Cursillo: Join us on November 8th for an Ultreya at St. John the Baptist Oratory in Lostant. A potluck dinner begins at 5:15 p.m. The program speaker, Toni Hartenbower, will be speaking on "The Holy Face of Jesus and the Shroud of Turin". Mass will then be celebrated by Fr. Jeff Windy at 7:00 p.m.

Bookkeeper Position: Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Spring Valley is seeking a qualified and dedicated individual to join their team as Bookkeeper. This vital role supports the daily administrative and financial operations of the parish. They are looking for someone who is a witness of Jesus Christ, team-oriented, organized, detail-oriented, and eager to contribute to a mission-driven parish. If you are interested in becoming part of a faith-filled work environment, please contact their parish office for more information at (815) 663-3731.



INTRODUCING MILO AND THE STORM INSIDE

When little Milo feels a storm of big emotions—anger, sadness, and fear—he learns that even in the middle of the storm, God is always with him.

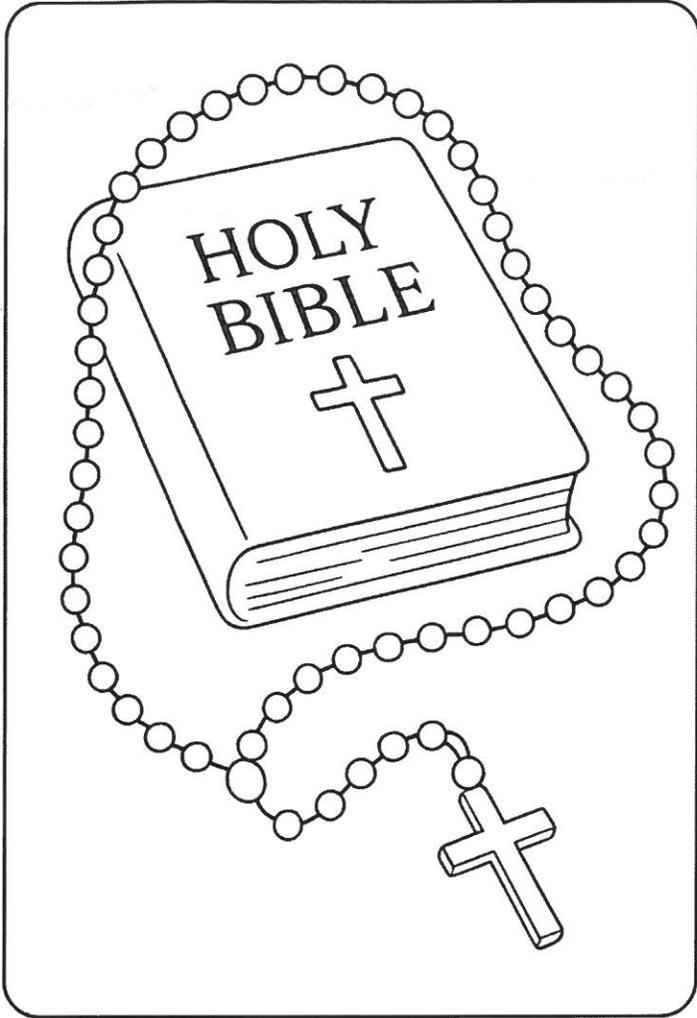
This heartwarming picture book helps children recognize their feelings and find peace through faith.

Available now on Amazon!

Search "Milo and the Storm Inside" or scan the QR code below to order your copy.



Color.



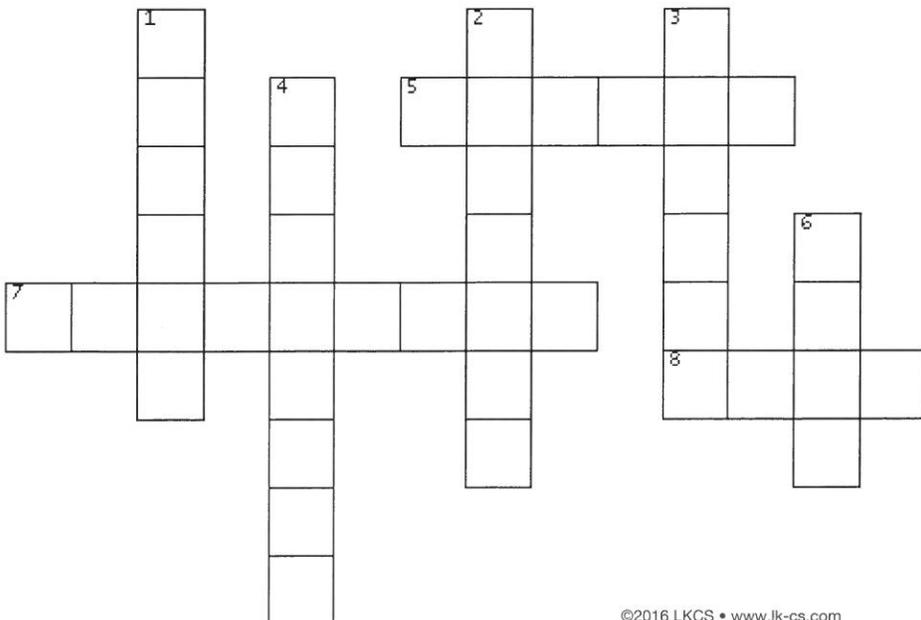
Word Search.

U F C O L L E C T O R Y H O J
 L U F I C R E M R S B F A I P
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Word Bank

COLLECTOR	DISHONEST	EXALTED
FAST	GREEDY	HEAVEN
HUMBLLED	JUSTIFIED	MERCIFUL
PARABLE	PHARISEE	PRAY
RIGHTEOUSNESS	SINNER	TEMPLE
THANK	TITHES	TWO

Crossword.



ACROSS

- 5. "O God, be merciful to me, a _____."
- 7. Jesus said the humble man went home _____ before God.
- 8. The tax collector would not even raise his _____ to heaven.

DOWN

- 1. The tax collector beat his _____ and prayed for mercy.
- 2. The Pharisee stood in the temple and prayed this way — about _____ (Luke 18:11).
- 3. The story takes place in the _____, where both men went to pray.
- 4. The parable teaches us to have this virtue — opposite of pride.
- 6. The Pharisee said he fasted twice a _____.