

Church of Saint Mary

January 4th, 2026
Epiphany of the Lord

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

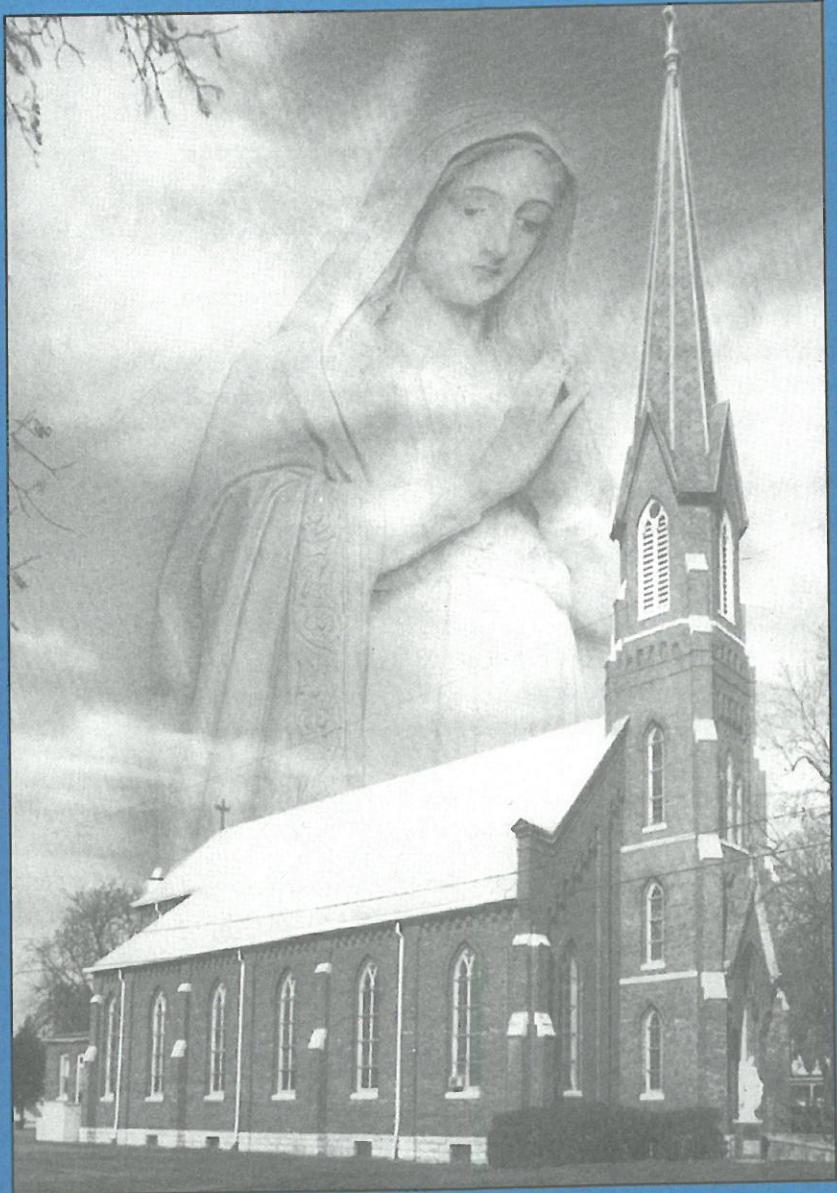
P.O. Box 159
303 South Division Street
Utica, IL 61373
Phone & Fax 815-667-4677
office@stmarysutica.org
www.stmarysutica.org

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

Fr. 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

Contribution Statements: Please note that both Holy Family and St. Mary Parishes will be mailing 2025 contribution statements to all registered parishioners within the next couple of weeks... no requests necessary. We are deeply grateful for your generous financial support throughout the year, which makes our ministries and mission possible. Thank you for your continued stewardship and commitment to our parish communities!

In Gratitude: As always, our volunteers at St. Mary's made the church sparkle in joy and awe of our newborn king! Special thanks to the Altar & Rosary for their organization of this effort.

Popcorn Fundraiser: There are only a few days left to support Holy Family's Altar & Rosary Society with an order for their popcorn fundraiser! The 2-gallon tins are fully customizable, with 11 delicious flavors to choose from. Order forms may be found on the back table. Orders must be received by January 7th.

Mass Intentions: Dates in 2026 are still available to offer a Mass for your loved ones. Use the blue forms on the back table to submit your request. The Mass stipend fee of \$10/Mass should be included.

Eucharistic Adoration: O Come Let Us Adore Him! Leave the busyness of the day behind and come sit in the presence and love of our Redeemer and King. Eucharistic Adoration is offered weekly at our parishes:

Tuesdays from 7:00—8:00 p.m. @ St. Mary, Utica
Wednesdays from 4:30—6:30 p.m. @ Holy Family, Oglesby

"Every Holy Hour we make so pleases the Heart of Jesus that it is recorded in Heaven and retold for all eternity!" ~ St. Teresa of Calcutta



Academy of St. Carlo Acutis



The Oglesby Campus got a facelift! Many thanks to Jason Ebner and Bob Walker for generously giving their time to install the new Academy sign above the entrance. It looks fantastic!

PADs Dinner: The sign-up sheet is on the back table in Utica. If you are able to prepare a dish for the February meal, please sign up!

Polish Dinner: Don't forget to purchase your tickets for St. John Baptist de La Salle's Polish Dinner on January 17th! The meal will be served from 3:30—8:00 p.m. in the Academy of St. Carlo Acutis Gymnasium (LaSalle Campus). Dinner includes potato and cheese pierogi, Polish sausage, sauerkraut, glazed carrots, a beverage, and dessert. Enjoy an evening of polka music, games, and a bake sale. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children age 10 and under. Carry-outs will be available. For ticket information, please contact the parish office at (815) 223-0641.

Fish/Shrimp Fry: The Oglesby KC will be serving up some great seafood on Friday, January 9th. Carryout dinners will be available from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Choose between cod or shrimp, or grab the combo platter. All meals are served with fries, coleslaw and bread for \$17. Call (815) 883-3181 to place your order.

Diaconate Ordinations!

On December 20th, Bishop Louis Tylka ordained two seminarians to the transitional diaconate at St. Mary's Cathedral.

• **Deacon Blake Miller**, (lower photo, left) a member of Holy Trinity Parish in Bloomington, discerned a call to the priesthood after renewing his faith during graduate studies. He holds a master's degree in College Student Affairs from Eastern Illinois University and remains active with the Knights of Columbus and as an alumni advisor for Sigma Pi. In his free time, he enjoys cooking and baking with his family. Deacon Miller is assigned to St. Philomena Church in Peoria.

• **Deacon JohnPaul Stedwill**, (lower photo, right) is from St. Jude Parish in Peoria and is a graduate of Benedictine College with degrees in biology and philosophy. After discerning God's call through prayer and the sacraments, he felt inspired to surrender his own plans of being a medic in the US Armed Forces and serve the Church more deeply. He enjoys backpacking and thoughtful conversations in the outdoors. Deacon Stedwill is assigned to St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Streator.

We joyfully congratulate our new Deacons and ask you to keep them in your prayers as they begin this important stage of their ministry in service to the Church. May God bless and guide them as they proclaim the Gospel and serve God's people.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

By Fr. John Muir

When I was 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.

When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.

That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.

The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become.



On the Feast of the Epiphany, it is a cherished tradition to ask God's blessing upon your home for the year ahead. This blessing serves as a beautiful reminder that God is present in our comings and goings and in every aspect of our daily lives.

Using chalk (blessed chalk may be found on the communion rail at Holy Family and, - on the back tables at St. Mary), write on the outside of your house or inside above the front main entrance, above or next to any entrance:

20 + C + M + B + 26

The first and last numbers refer to the current year. "C M B" is an abbreviation for "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means, "May Christ bless this dwelling!" It also comes from the names of the three kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

You may recite the prayer below as you bless your home.

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who live here and all who visit. May we be blessed with health, kindness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ~Amen.



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

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3RD

5:00pm + Lucille Pfalzgraf (birthdate)
by Geo and Mary Kay Hodgson

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8:00am + Tony Hinterlong
10:00am For the Parish

MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH - ST. JOHN NEUMANN

7:00am + Virginia McLachlan
by Greg and Sharla Scullans

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6TH

7:00am + Irene Rohde by family and friends
7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7TH

7:00am + Pat Wagner (birthdate 1/5) by Joe Plankenhorn

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH

7:00am + Rita Stewart (birthdate 1/17)
by + Loretta Harmon

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9TH

7:00am Patricia Georges by Pat and Anne DeVane

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10TH

5:00pm + Jerry Lorenzi (anniv. +1/18)
by the Lorenzi Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH - BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8:00am + Msgr. James J. Swaner by Richard Mertel
10:00am + Sandy Brown by Ed Brown

Ministry Schedule

Sunday, January 4th, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Kathleen DiLuciano

Sunday, January 4th, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Colette Spears

Altar Servers: Nina Leffers, Olivia and Peter Villareal

Sunday, January 11th, @ 8:00 a.m.

Reader: David Ludford

Sunday, January 11th, @ 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Mary Ann Voreis

Altar Servers: Jake and Joey Patyk

Weekly Contributions December 20th-28th

Adult Envelopes: \$3,470.00	Building Fund: \$132.00
Loose Collection: \$1,590.00	Food Pantry: \$70.00
Christmas Collection: \$2,105.00	
Christmas Loose: \$932.00	
Online Giving: \$130.00	
Immaculate Conception: \$25.00	
Solemnity of Mary: \$17.00	
Christmas Flowers: \$55.00	

Kids Corner

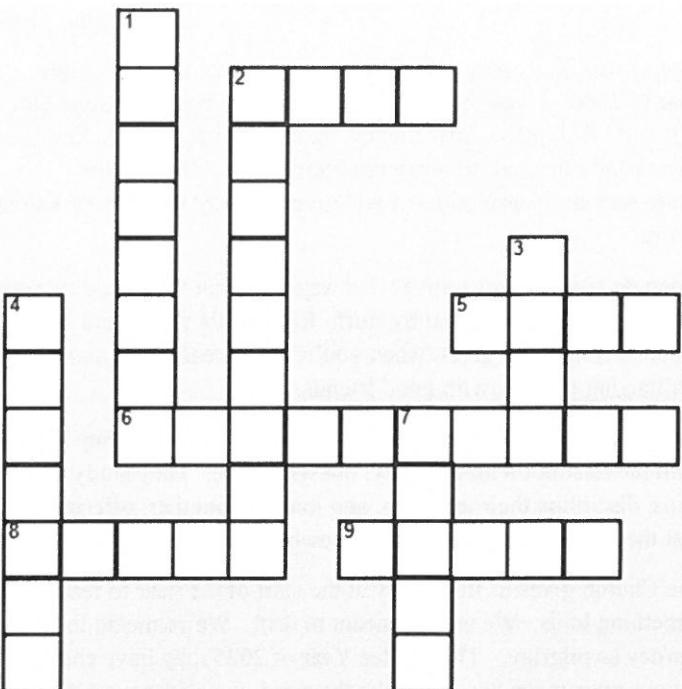
Crossword.

Across

- 2 Run away from
- 5 Jesus' mother
- 6 Jesus, Mary, Joseph
- 8 The king who wanted to hurt Jesus
- 9 The place the Holy Family went

Down

- 1 The 2nd place the Holy Family went to live
- 2 Come true; happened
- 3 The three kings
- 4 A person who tells us about God
- 7 Who came to Joseph in a dream



Word Search.

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

Color.



They brought him gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.

BETHLEHEM	BORN	DREAM
FRANKINCENSE	GOLD	HEROD
HOMAGE	MAGI	MYRRH
PROPHET	RULER	SEARCH
STAR	TROUBLED	WARNED



Visit CatholicMom.com for more resources for you and your family!