

Church of Saint Mary

January 5th & 12th
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

frdriscoll@stmarysutica.org

Jennifer Newman, Secretary

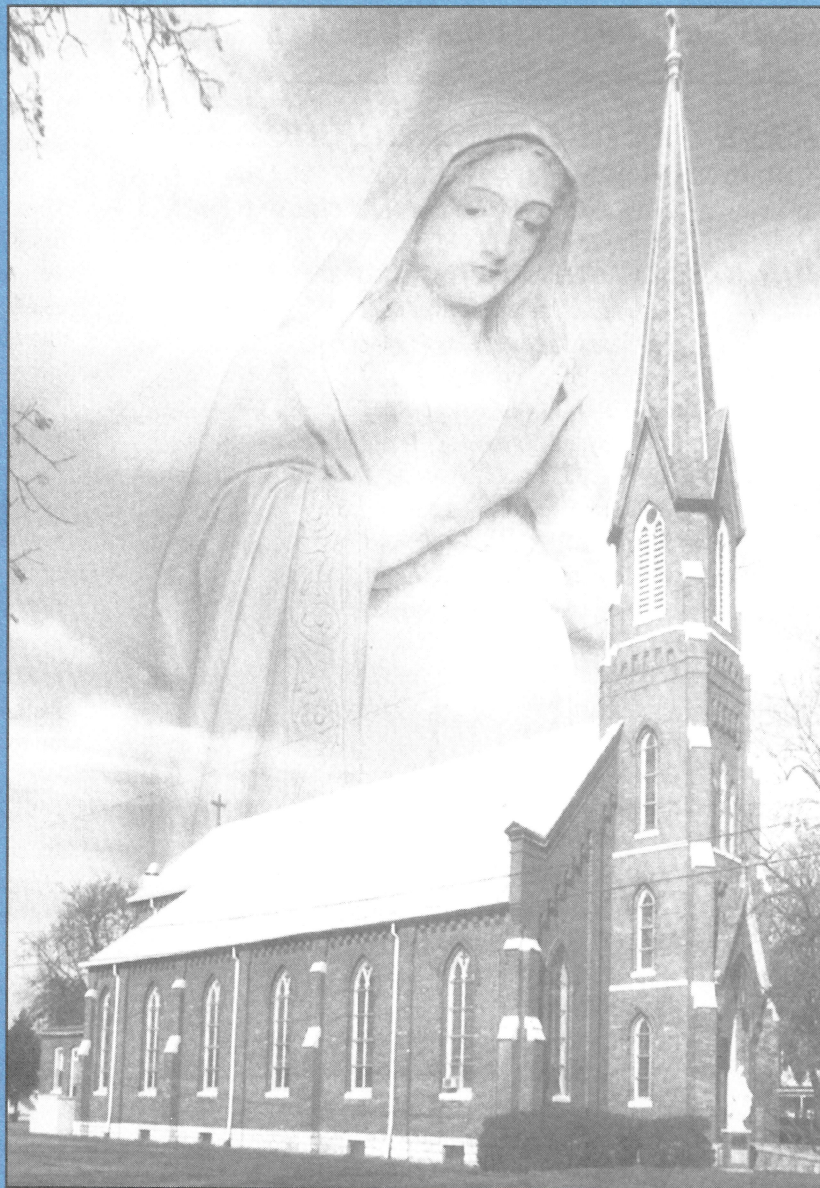
parishoffice@stmarysutica.org

Heather Leffers, CCD Coordinator

heatherleffers@stmarysutica.org

Bill Brown, Cemetery Sexton

bbrown@stmarysutica.org



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



Mass Intentions and Schedule

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4TH - ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

5:00pm + Patricia "Pat" Wagner (birthdate 1/5)
by Susan Kennel

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8:00am + Lucille Pfalzgraf (birthdate 1/6)
by Geo and Mary Kay Hodgson

10:00am For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, JANUARY 6TH - ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE

7:00am + Peter and Carol Kadelak

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7TH - ST. RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT

7:00am + Louis Escatel by Adam Ford
7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8TH

7:00am + Morris and Leona Lorenz
by Maurice and Jane Dust

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9TH

7:00am + Robert Pohar by the Manley Family

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10TH

7:00am For Mo's Healing from Surgery
by the Dust Family

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH

4:00-4:45pm CONFESSIONS
5:00pm + Martin Wheatland by Family and Friends

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH - BAPTISM OF THE LORD

7:15-7:45am CONFESSIONS
8:00am + Pat Wagner
by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas
10:00am For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, JANUARY 13TH - ST. HILARY

7:00am + Patricia Corrigan-Burk
by Wayne and Karen Williams

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14TH

7:00am Fr. Kyle Shinseki, SJ (birthdate)
7:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH

7:00am + Lois Schott

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH

7:00am + Rita Stewart (birthdate 1/17)
by Joe Plankenhorn

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17TH - ST. ANTHONY

7:00am + Loretta and Ken Harmon (wed. anniv.)
by Mark and Beth Ann Connell

Altar Servers - 10:00 a.m.

January 5th	Nathan and Nina Leffers, Abby Brown
January 12th	Finn and Rory Carter, Ava Myers
January 19th	Jake and Joey Patyk, Bentley DiLuciano

Gospel Meditation for January 5th

They ...offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

"We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar." This popular Christmas carol is appropriate for today's feast of the Epiphany. But were they "three"? Were they "kings"? Matthew only tells us that "magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem". He doesn't say how many they were, and he definitely doesn't say anything about them being kings.

The reason we may think they were kings is because of today's first reading, which tells the people of Jerusalem, "Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance". And we usually think there were three of them because they offered Jesus three gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. So although we don't know their names, how many they were, or their countries of origin, we do know the most important thing: when they found the child Jesus, they "prostrated themselves and ...offered him gifts".

Let's ponder the gifts that we might offer our King today:

- Gold is a precious metal that represents wealth. What is your gold? Maybe it's the time you offer to serve him, or it's your money that you can share with the poor.
- Frankincense was a gift of worship. You can offer him the frankincense of the prayers and praises that rise from your heart to the throne of the Lord Almighty.
- The myrrh is a perfume that foreshadowed Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The myrrh you can offer are the times you sacrifice yourself to care for your family or those closest to you.

On this feast day, bring your precious gifts to the Lord. Offer him everything you have. Pour out your life before him and pay him homage. Jesus is pleased with every gift that you have for him.

"Jesus, I want to praise you and offer all I am to you!"

Weekly Offering

Donations received December 18th-31st

Adult Envelopes	\$5,874.00
Loose Collection	\$1,086.00
Building Fund	\$610.00
Food Pantry	\$170.00
Immaculate Conception	\$10.00
Online Giving	\$165.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$20.00
Christmas Collection	\$2,635.00
PADs Meal Donations	\$120.00
Diocesan Collections	\$10.00
Altar & Rosary Dues	\$10.00

Thank you for your generous support of our parish!

Weekends of January 5th & 12th

Readings for Week of January 5th

Sunday: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12
Monday: 1 John 3:22-4:6; Psalm 2; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 John 4:7-10; Psalm 72; Mark 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 John 4:11-18; Psalm 72; Mark 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 John 4:19-5:4; Psalm 72; Luke 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 John 5:5-13; Psalm 147; Luke 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 John 5:14-21; Psalm 149; John 3:22-30

Readings for Week of January 12th

Sunday: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-38; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22
Monday: Hebrews 1:1-6; Psalm 97; Mark 1:14-20
Tuesday: Hebrews 2:5-12; Psalm 8; Mark 1:21-28
Wednesday: Hebrews 2:14-18; Psalm 105; Mark 1:29-39
Thursday: Hebrews 3:7-14; Psalm 95; Mark 1:40-45
Friday: Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Psalm 78; Mark 2:1-12
Saturday: Hebrews 4:12-16; Psalm 19; Mark 2:13-17

Announcements



House Blessing: On the Feast of the Epiphany, it is a very special tradition to ask the blessing of God on your house throughout the following year. This blessing can help us remember that God is a part of our comings and goings and every aspect of our daily lives.

Using chalk (*blessed chalk may be found on the back table*), write on the outside of your house or inside above the front main entrance, above or next to any entrance:

20 + C + M + B + 25

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.

IV Youth Activity: High school students are invited to a special youth group night on Sunday, January 12th. From 5:00-8:00 p.m., they will be Ice Skating at Echo Bluff Park in Spring Valley!

Help Needed: Lend a helping hand! On Sunday, January 19th after the 10:00 a.m. Mass we will be taking down the Christmas decorations. It would be great to have lots of volunteers! Some men/older boys are particularly useful in taking the trees down and carrying them to the basement for storage.

Meeting Information: Our Altar & Rosary Society will hold its first meeting of the New Year on January 27th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Consider joining this wonderful women’s organization!

PADs Appeal: There are a couple open slots for the February 5th meal at the homeless shelter. If you can prepare a dish, we would love for you to volunteer! Additionally, for those that would like to help but don’t cook much or maybe are busy with other time commitments, we have envelopes on the back table to allow for monetary donations. With the client count steadily around 50, help in any capacity is much appreciated!

Teens Encounter Christ: Planning and registration for the Spring boys and girls retreats is underway. Why attend TEC? Check out the answer by scanning the QR code!

Boys Retreat—March 1st through 3rd
Girls Retreat—April 5th through 7th

Why attend TEC?



Dirty Elephant Bingo: On January 12th, the St. Joseph Socialites of Marseilles, Illinois are hosting Dirty Elephant Bingo where unwanted Christmas gifts are the prizes. For those that never win anything, when someone wins here, the persons to their left and their right also win! You’re probably wondering what’s so dirty about this game. Well, each winner can choose a prize from the table... or steal someone else’s prize. Burgled people are allowed to choose a new prize from the table. Sounds like fun, right? All ages are welcome. There is no cost to attend - just a prize for the bingo games. Refreshments will be provided.

Marquette News

- The Academy will hold a Freshman Open House for perspective new students on Wednesday, January 22nd. Details can be found on the school website - www.marquetteacademy.net.
- Marquette’s Musical Bingo will be held on Saturday, February 8th. Enjoy a fun night out at MAES for bingo and trivia featuring music through the decades! Tickets cost \$20 per person and will go on sale January 6th. Visit the school’s website or contact the Advancement Office for more details.

Mass Intentions: Please use the blue forms on the back table to submit your Mass requests for the 2025 calendar year. While we are starting to run low on availability, there are still many dates to choose from. The Mass stipend per date is \$10 and should be included with your request.

2024 Giving: We are humbled by your financial support of St. Mary’s Church. If you would like to receive a copy of your donation statement for the 2024 calendar year, please contact Jennifer at the parish office.

Pray for the Sick of our Parish

Michael Ball, Katie Becker, Tim Burgess, Rory Carter, Don and Pam Edwards, Tony Hinterlong, Jill Kain, Mary (Snell) Kalisiak, Richard Kepper, Ed Liss, Rosie Sander, Drew Shinnick, Tom Varney, Dennise Watson, Karen Williams

The Beauty of St. Mary's at Christmas!

Thank you to all that helped decorate.

