

Church of Saint Mary

December 22nd & 29th
2024

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

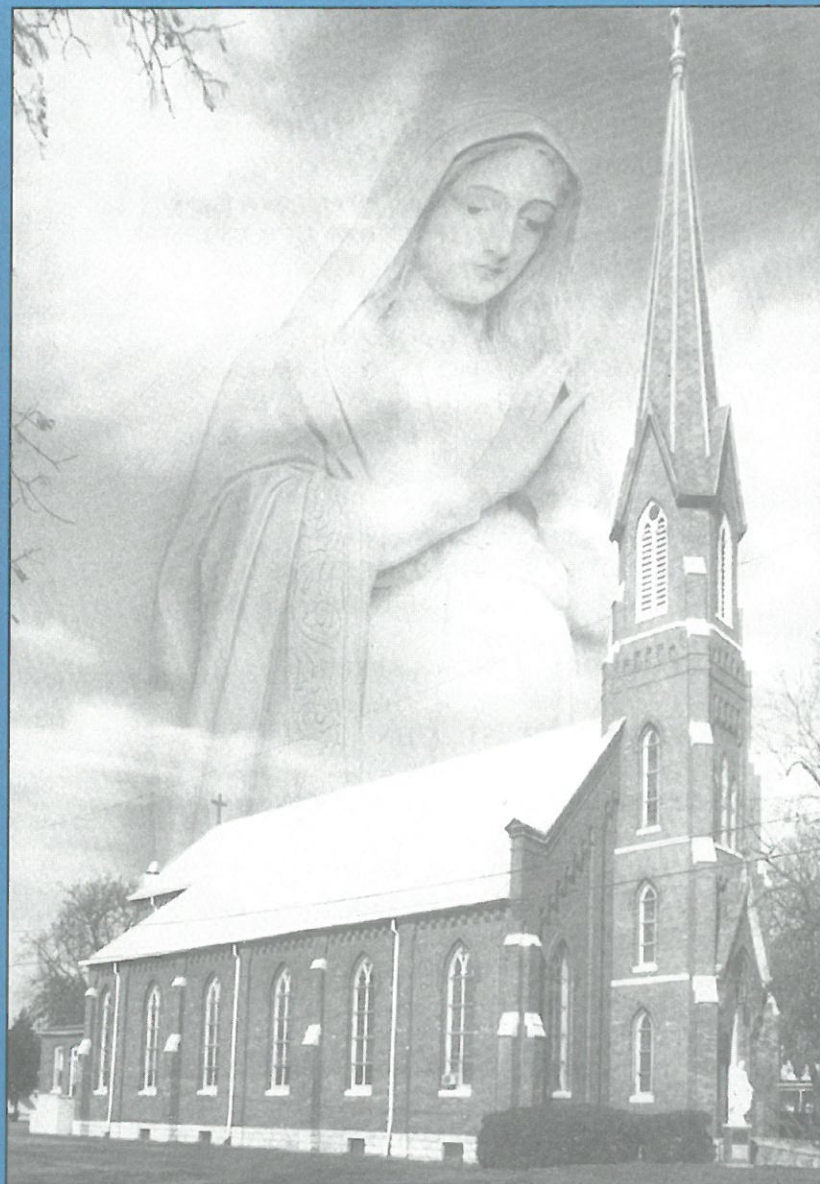
Hours: Tuesdays & Fridays
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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.

Weekends of December 22nd & 29th

Readings for Week of December 22nd

Sunday: Micah 5:1-4a; Psalm 80; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45
Monday: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25; Luke 1:57-66
Tuesday: *Vigil*-Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 89; Acts 13:17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 *Night*-Isaiah 9:1-6; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14
Wednesday: Isaiah 62:11-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20
Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalm 31; Matthew 10:17-22
Friday: 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97; John 20:1a, 2-8
Saturday: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124; Matthew 2:13-18

Readings for Week of December 29th

Sunday: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52
Monday: 1 John 2:12-17; Psalm 96; Luke 2:36-40
Tuesday: 1 John 2:18-21; Psalm 96; John 1:1-18
Wednesday: Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
Thursday: 1 John 2:22-28; Psalm 98; John 1:19-28
Friday: 1 John 2:29-3:6; Psalm 98; John 1:29-34
Saturday: 1 John 3:7-10; Psalm 98; John 1:35-42

Announcements

Christmas Masses at St. Mary's

Tuesday, December 24th
4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25th
9:00 a.m.

Christmas Memorial Flowers: Thank you to everyone that donated towards the purchase of flowers for the sanctuary. Your gift has robed the church in glorious majesty and is a lovely remembrance for so many loved ones. Our memorial listing can be found on the back of the bulletin.

Dirty Elephant Bingo: We often receive Christmas gifts that are purchased with a loving heart... yet we have no use for the gift in our home. It should go to a home that will truly appreciate it. That's where "Dirty Elephant Bingo" comes in! On January 12th, the St. Joseph Socialites of Marseilles, Illinois are hosting this fun game at the church Hall (200 Broadway St.) where unwanted Christmas gifts are the prizes. For those that never win anything, when someone wins here, the people to their left and 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.

Attention 10 o'clock Servers: The new Altar Server Schedule for January and February can be found on the backside of the bulletin.

CCD Schedule: We hope families enjoy the time off for Christmas break. Classes resume January 5th.

Christmas Decorating: Altar & Rosary will be decorating the church for the Christmas holiday after 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 22nd. All help is greatly appreciated!

Word Among Us: Pick up a complimentary copy of the newest issue on the back table.

Morning Mass: Fr. Driscoll will be away from the parish for a short retreat. Therefore, we will not have public Mass on Friday, December 27th. Mass and the scheduled intention will be offered privately.

Did you Know?

Your child can attend a Catholic School Financial Assistance Is Available

Tuition assistance scholarship grants named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2025-2026 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need and objectively assessed. Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from the Diocesan website www.cdop.org under "Catholic Schools" and then under "John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship". Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist at the bottom of the webpage for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award. Parents must apply online at: online.factsmtg.com/aid. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2025-2026 school year must reapply. Deadline date for the completed application is April 25, 2025. Notification of grant awards will be made in June of 2025.

Meeting Information: There will be no Altar & Rosary meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 27th, 2025.



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, December 31st
5:00 p.m.

*We will offer a Eucharistic Holy Hour for
Adoration at the conclusion of Mass.*

Wednesday, January 1st
9:00 a.m.

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



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

Gospel Meditation for December 22nd
Mary...entered the house of Zechariah.

Mass Intentions and Schedule

- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST - ST. PETER CANISIUS**
5:00pm + Joseph M. Carey (anniv. +) by Teresa Carey
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND - 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
8:00am + Dave Mix
10:00am For the People of the Parish
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 23RD - ST. JOHN OF KANTY**
7:00am + Maurie Lorenz by Maurice and Jane Dust
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE**
4:00pm + Bernard "Bucky" and Dolores "Dee" Hettel
by family and friends
10:00pm + Patrick Scullans (anniv. + 12/26
by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Dunklau
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY**
9:00am Knights of Columbus #1775 Deceased Members
and their families
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26TH - ST. STEPHEN**
7:00am Margaret Mary Smith (birthdate 12/29)
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27TH - ST. JOHN**
PRIVATE + Frances Marini (anniv. +)
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28TH - THE HOLY INNOCENTS**
4:00-4:45pm CONFESSIONS
5:00pm Fr. Michael J. Driscoll (birthdate)
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**
7:15-7:45am CONFESSIONS
8:00am + Vic Zemanek by Scott and Darla Zemanek
10:00am For the People of the Parish
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 30TH**
7:00am Living and Deceased Members of the Olinger
Family
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, VIGIL**
5:00pm Ben Loy (birthdate)
5:45pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1ST - MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**
9:00am + Msgr. James J. Swaner
by John and Carol Henneberry
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 2ND - STS. BASIL THE GREAT &
GREGORY NAZIANZEN**
7:00am Leif Valdez (birthdate) and Sharon Wells
(birthdate)
- FRIDAY, JANUARY 3RD - HOLY NAME OF JESUS**
7:00am + Braxton Carr

Altar Servers - 10:00 a.m.

December 22nd	Finn and Rory Carter, Bentley DiLuciano
December 29th	Ava Myers, Nina Leffers, Olivia Villareal
January 5th	Nathan and Nina Leffers, Abby Brown

When you think of the Visitation of Mary, which is described in today's Gospel reading, you normally think she's going to see Elizabeth—and she is. But Zechariah was probably there as well, even though he would have been a silent presence. Just think how his inability to speak might have heightened his perception of what was going on around him. While we have no record of Zechariah's experience, we can imagine what this visit might have been like for him.

When Zechariah first saw Mary, worn from the journey but alive with excitement and hope, perhaps his heart leaped for joy just as his son did. Imagine his tired face and furrowed brow softening into a warm smile as he welcomed their surprise visitor!

When he heard Elizabeth call their young cousin "the mother of my Lord", Zechariah could tell that something remarkable was going on. Any shock or doubt he might have felt at hearing his wife give Mary such a title would have dissolved as he remembered the angel's promise that his son would "go before" the Lord and prepare his way.

When Elizabeth praised Mary for believing what the Lord said to her, Zechariah's own faith might have been buoyed up and his anticipation kindled. Any regret at his own response to his heavenly messenger likely faded when he observed Mary's wholehearted surrender to the Lord's will.

Today, just a few days before Christmas, place yourself in the scene of the Visitation as a silent presence like Zechariah. Take some time to slow down your thoughts. Imagine Mary entering your house carrying Jesus in her womb. How does your heart respond to the sound of her greeting? Do you recognize Jesus in her? Can you praise God for Mary's faithful response to his word to her?

"Lord, help me to listen to what you're saying to me today.

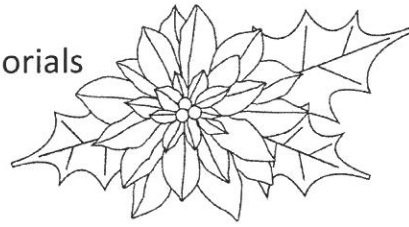
Weekly Offering

Donations received December 4th—17th

Adult Envelopes	\$2,885.00
Loose Collection	\$1,396.00
Building Fund	\$973.00
Food Pantry	\$95.00
Immaculate Conception	\$180.00
Online Giving	\$124.25
Solemnity of Mary	\$5.00
Christmas Collection	\$140.00
Cemetery Upkeep	\$20.00

Thank you for generously supporting our parish!

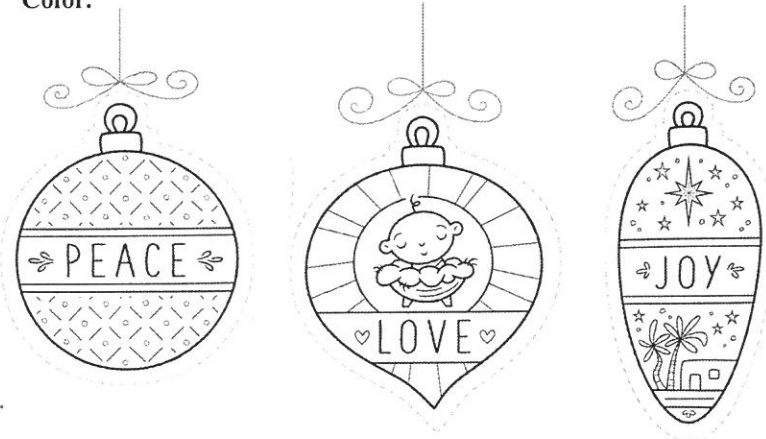
Christmas Memorials 2024



Jerry Lorenzi • Paul and Ann Pivonski • Paul Jr., and Diane Pivonski • Al and Lena Lorenzi • Don and Paula Clark • Zemanek Family • Wilson and Sunderbruch Family • Deceased Members of the Pfalzgraf and Hodgson Families • Msgr. James J. Swaner • Deceased Members of the Scullans and Fialko Families • Deceased Members of the Trump and Johnson Families • Sally Wanda Dunklau • John Rogowski Family • Deceased Members of the Larson and Ricci Families • Mr. and Mrs. James Plankenhorn • Mr. and Mrs. Joe Calderon • Kathryn Casey • Jon S. Plankenhorn • Mr. and Mrs. Ken Dean • Clara Wysniski • Tony King • Ron Lindner • Joe and Esther Campeggio • Patricia and George Weberling • Carolee and Gene Farris • Pozzi Family • Ray and Helen Swietek • Hank Lushina • Sharon Towne • Richard Johnson • Ed and Charlotte Panneck • Tom Ulanowski • Deceased Members of the Johnson Family • Pat Wagner • Boon and Irene Kennel • Linda Young • Tom Ohler • Marvin and Clara Schmitz • Glenda Henneberry • Richard and Marie Henneberry • Carolyn, Laura, and Stephen Schmitz • Gary Douglas • Deceased Members of the Robey and Keller Families • Deceased Members of the Skolek and Hedrick Families • Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dordan • Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lucas • Ed and Dody Rooney • Deceased Members of the Newcomer and Assalley Families • Robert Byczynski • Patricia Byczynski • Charlotte Klein • Rose Byczynski • Deceased Family and Friends of the Vesel Family • Wojciechowski Family • Muratori Family • William and June Comiskey • Brian Comiskey • Linda Deisbeck • Claahsen and Hadley Families • Brown and Kain Families • Alleman and Lorden Families • Andrew Harmon • Leanne Baker • Connie and Fritz Harmon • Joeyllen McConville • Melvin Mertel Family • Aldo Bernardoni Family • Alayna Goetz • Deceased Members of the Kasik Family • Deceased Members of the Woodshank Family • Bill Mix • Doherty Family • Grusk Family • Woodshank and Snell Families • Mr. and Mrs. John Brown • Judy Hoffman • Gary Calkins • Steven Siemers • Deceased Members of the Pennell Family • John and Helen Gross • Kenneth and Darlene Thorsen • Sandra Brown

Kids Corner

Color.



Word Search from Christmas Day Gospel.

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

Word Bank

BETHLEHEM	ENROLL	FIRSTBORN
FLOCK	GLORY	GOVERNOR
INN	JOY	MANGER
NAZARETH	PEACE	SAVIOR
SHEPHERDS	SWADDLING	TOWN

10:00 a.m. Altar Serving Schedule January & February

January 5th	Nathan and Nina Leffers, Abby Brown
January 12th	Finn and Rory Carter, Ava Myers
January 19th	Jake and Joey Patyk, Bentley DiLuciano
January 26th	Peter and Olivia Villareal, Nathan Leffers
February 2nd	Ava Myers, Abby Brown, Nina Leffers
February 9th	Finn and Rory Carter, Bentley DiLuciano
February 16th	Jake and Joey Patyk, Ava Myers
February 23rd	Peter and Olivia Villareal, Nathan Leffers