



**St. Aloysius**  
18925 E 1350 Rd. • P.O. Box 577  
Paris, IL 61944



**St. Mary**  
528 N. Main St. • P.O. Box 577  
Paris, IL 61944



**St. Michael**  
205 Center St. • Hume, IL 61932  
P.O. Box 577 • Paris, IL 61944

## THE GOOD NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2023

### Parish Mission Statement

*We are Baptized and Confirmed members called to serve in the Catholic Church to reach out to our own and to others by prayer, sacrifice and service all for the praise and Glory of God.*

### Welcome

*Anyone new to the community or not yet officially registered, we welcome you to call or stop by the Parish Office during office hours to register.*



**"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."**

**- Luke 1: 45**

### CHURCH CENTRAL OFFICE

528 N. Main Street P.O. Box 577  
Paris, IL 61944  
Phone Number: (217) 466-3355  
Fax Number: (217) 466-5215

**Website: [www.stmaryschurchparis.org](http://www.stmaryschurchparis.org)**

**Pastor: Father Aloysius Okey Ndeanaefo**

**Email: [anaefoaloy melody@yahoo.com](mailto:anaefoaloy melody@yahoo.com)**

**For Appointment & Emergency only:**

**Please text (217) 412-4344**

### PARISH STAFF

**Business Mgr. & CRE: Juliana Koutsoumpas**  
[jkoutsoumpas@stmaryschurchparis.org](mailto:jkoutsoumpas@stmaryschurchparis.org)

**Custodian: Misty Elsberry**

**Music: Mary Ann Sullivan**  
[gma.sullivan80@gmail.com](mailto:gma.sullivan80@gmail.com)

**RCIA: Scott Hall**  
[stmarysrcia@stmaryschurchparis.org](mailto:stmarysrcia@stmaryschurchparis.org)

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday — Friday: 9:00 am — 4:00pm  
(Closed on Holidays and Holy days)

### MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Tue-Fri 8am at St. Mary's  
Saturday Vigil at St. Mary's: 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mass at St. Aloysius: 7:00 a.m.  
Sunday Mass at St. Michael's: 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday Mass at St. Mary's: 10:15 a.m.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Mary's: Saturdays: 4-5pm or by appointment

### MINISTRY TO HOMEBOUND

Anointing of the sick and communion calls are provided regularly for those who so desire. Please keep us informed of the needs of those who are ill.

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

*Please, call 6 months in advance of desired wedding date.*

# **Mass Intentions** FOR THE WEEK

**Tuesday, December 26**

8:00 am †Marge Chapa

**Wednesday, December 27**

8:00 am †Edwin Zuber

**Thursday, December 28**

8:00 am †Mary Englum

**Friday, December 29**

8:00 am †Anthony Urso

**Saturday, December 30**

4:00 pm †Patrick Dillon

6:00 pm Living & Deceased Parishioners

**Sunday, December 31**

7:00 am the Key & Morrissey Families

8:30 am Nana Matt & Pearman Families

4:00 pm †Joe Bosch

6:00 pm †Joshua Goodwin

**Monday, January 1**

**Solemnity of Mary**

7:00 am †John & Mary Secondino

9:00 am Rita Brink

## Parish Council & Committee Chairs

### St. Michael's

#### **Pastoral Council**

Dave Smith

[dsmith.tke718@gmail.com](mailto:dsmith.tke718@gmail.com)

#### **Finance Council**

Brian Smith

[ttsmith36@gmail.com](mailto:ttsmith36@gmail.com)

### St. Mary's

#### **Pastoral Council**

Doug Happ

[dough@pchs.k12.il.us](mailto:dough@pchs.k12.il.us)

#### **Finance Council**

Dave Sullivan

[sullivanandavid52@gmail.com](mailto:sullivanandavid52@gmail.com)

#### **Building & Grounds Committee**

Pat Catanzariti

[p.catan71@gmail.com](mailto:p.catan71@gmail.com)

#### **Deacon**

Bruce Scott

[bscott@dio.org](mailto:bscott@dio.org)

217-264-3113



### St. Michael's: 4:00pm (Sat. Vigil)

**LECTORS:** Phyllis Stone

**SERVERS:** Lily Brown

**GIFTS:** Keske Family

**GREETER:** Phyllis Stone

### St. Mary's: 6:00 pm (Sat. Vigil)

**LECTOR:** Volunteer

**EM:** Eugene Joines, Jim Moore & Volunteer

**SERVERS:** Doug Happ

### St. Aloysius: 7:00 am (Sun.)

**LECTORS:** Jim Frisz

**EM:** Linda Hahn

**SERVERS:** Scott Neal

**GIFTS:** Keys Family

### St. Mary's: 8:30 am (Sun.)

**LECTORS:** Kit Kirby

**EMS:** Scott Hall, Janet Tracy & Greg Goodwin

**SERVERS:** Santi Rea

## **December 30/31, 2023**

### St. Michael's: 4:00pm (New Year's Eve Vigil)

**LECTORS:** Kevin Smith

**SERVERS:** Lilly Brown & Abner Wood

**GIFTS:** Keske Family

**GREETER:** Mike Thompson

### St. Mary's: 7:00 pm (New Year's Eve Vigil.)

**LECTORS:** Volunteer

**EMS:** Scott Hall, Volunteer & Volunteer

**SERVERS:** Santi Rea/Greg Goodwin

### St. Aloysius: 7:00 am (Solemnity of Mary)

**LECTORS:** Jim Frisz

**EM:** Linda Hahn

**SERVERS:** Scott Neal

**GIFTS:** Keys Family

### St. Mary's: 9:00 am (Solemnity of Mary)

**LECTORS:** Volunteer

**EMS:** Scott Hall & Volunteer

**SERVERS:** Volunteer

### 2023/2024 Fiscal Year Diocesan 10% Tithing

#### St. Aloysius Parish

-October Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$442.00  
-Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$1,950.00

#### St. Michael's Parish

-October Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$641.00  
-Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$2,349.00

#### St. Mary's Parish

-October Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$2,824.00  
-Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$10,257.00



### *Our Stewardship Weekly Offertory December 16/17*

#### ST. ALOYSIUS

Sunday \$892.00

Weekly Goal: \$962.00

Over/(Under) Goal: **-70.00**

#### ST. MICHAEL'S

Sunday \$900.00

Online Giving \$125.00

Retired Religious \$50.00

Weekly Goal: \$1,269.00

Over/(Under) Goal: **-\$244.00**

#### ST. MARY'S

Sunday \$3,661.00

Building Fund \$108.00

Christmas Flower \$110.00

Solemnity of Mary \$150.00

Retired Religious \$1,000.00

Weekly Goal: \$7,365.00

Over/(Under) Goal: **- 3,336.00**

*Thank you for your support!*

### Will and Estate Planning

Have you remembered St. Mary's Church in your Will and Estate planning? We have been privileged to receive many Estates/Wills over the years from devoted parishioners and supporters of St. Mary's Church. Some are large and others are small but all helps to keep the legacy of our parish. *Let us remember to pray for all of our benefactors living and deceased.*



### Prayer Requests

*Let us pray for healing and strength of those who are experiencing illness!*

James Stagg  
David Yates  
Isaac Hayes  
Colette Bernard  
Colette Kamalosky  
Katherine Lentz  
Theo Brink  
Rita Brink  
Josiphen Pedigo  
Kay Barrett  
Donnie Farris  
Dan Bruner  
Pearl Wallace  
Jean Kramer

Garry Williamson  
Michael Nugent-Dolan  
Lucas Edmonds  
Kile McKee  
Donna Woodyard  
Diana Haupt  
Marie Hibner  
Michael Ndeanaefo  
Theresa Ndeanaefo  
Ross Lanter  
Cory Ring  
Bob Joines  
George Furnish

*Our Military: Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us.*

Trent Senczyszyn  
Jeff Walsh  
Nathan Gatlin  
Caleb Machuca  
Simon Holzer  
Joe Jenness  
Richard Scott

Justin Vice  
Joe Kachmar  
Zack Lueken  
Joseph Livesay  
Raynell Kahala  
Shelly Johns

### Long Term Prayer List

Damon Scoggin  
Jean Wilcox Hibben  
Bobbie Turner  
Ian McDonald  
Nelson Zucker  
David Volk  
Pam Shoot  
Donna Keys  
Kaylee Kelleher  
Sheila Brothers  
Maxi Fitzjarald  
Joan Stirek  
Doris Bernard  
Amber Hall  
Fred Gates  
Julia McGowen  
Mary Lou Hollowell  
Jeri Ingram  
Kevin Wamsbley  
Michael Shelkey  
Gerry Scott  
Janet Mullen  
Jeff Moore  
Tom Greenwood  
Richard Rennie

Joyce Bouslog  
Ronnie Strow  
Katie Lenz  
Roger Wolfe  
Peter David  
Bryan Albert  
Nancy Wrede  
Kehlin Crawford  
Joseph Finch  
Sean Bradley  
Christa Swinford  
Payton Holzer  
Jack Livesay  
Mary Jo Thompson  
Mike Elledge  
Mike Duke  
Roseann Tate  
Patricia Wilson  
Marc Wolf  
Danielle Fox Lindsey  
Kevin Farris  
Steve Osborne  
Lincoln Downing  
Rosie & Bill Myers  
Lois White

## Announcements, Events and Activities

### Birthdays & Anniversaries



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**December 30**

Scott Neal  
Missy Speicher

**December 30**

Amanda Martin  
Gerri Miller

**December 25**

Nick Barrett  
Bob Bridwell

**December 27**

Carol Sullivan

**December 28**

Lorraine Bailey  
Emilee Roush

**December 29**

Emmitt Keys

**December 26**

Douglas & Anne Happ

**December 29**

Charles & Rose Marie Ketner



### Dates & Events

**Monday, December 25**

8:30 am Christmas Day Mass - St. Mary's

**11:00am—5:00pm Fellowship Meal at St. Mary's Parish Hall**

**Tuesday, December 26**

5:00 am - 5:00 pm Adoration-St. Mary's

**6:00 am Men's Scripture Reflection-St. Mary's Mtg. Rm.**

8:00 am Mass - St. Mary's

**Wednesday, December 27**

8:00 am Mass - St. Mary's

**9am-10am-Scripture Study-St. Mary's**

**Thursday, December 28**

8:00 am Mass - St. Mary's

6:30 pm OCIA (Formerly RCIA)-St. Mary's Mtg. Rm.

**Friday, December 29**

8:00 am Mass & Adoration- St. Mary's

**Saturday, December 30**

4:00 pm Mass - St. Michael

6:00 pm Mass - St. Mary's

**Sunday, December 31**

7:00 am Mass - St. Aloysius

8:30 am Mass - St. Mary's

4:00 pm New Year's Eve Vigil Mass - St. Michael

7:00 pm New Year's Vigil Mass - St. Mary's

9:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass - St. Mary's

**Monday, January 1**

7:00 am Mass - St. Aloysius

9:00 am Mass - St. Mary's

### Reminders

**December 25:** Fellowship Meal 11:00am—5:00pm at the Parish Hall

**January 9:** KC Meeting-STM Annex - 7:00 pm

**January 10:** Prayer Lunch at St. Mary's at noon

**January 12:** KC hosting Spaghetti Dinner at the Parish Hall from 4:30 - 7:00pm fundraiser for Choices

**January 23:** KC Meeting-STM Annex - 7:00 pm

**January 23:** St. Mary's Pastoral Council Meeting in the meeting room at 5:00pm

**January 30:** St. Michael's Finance Council Meeting at 6:30pm

**February 6:** St. Mary's Finance Council Meeting at 5:00pm

*St. Mary's Office will be closed on December 26<sup>th</sup>.*

## Christmas Schedule

**December 23, 2023 (Saturday)**

4:00 pm ~ St. Michael's

6:00 pm ~ St. Mary's

**December 24, 2023 (Sunday)**

7:00 am ~ St. Aloysius

9:00 am ~ St. Mary's

**December 24, 2023 ~ Christmas Vigil**

4:00 pm Mass ~ St. Michael's

7:00 pm Mass ~ St. Aloysius

(Choir ~ 6:30 pm)

9:00 pm Mass ~ St. Mary's

(Carols Begin at 8:30 pm)

**Dec. 25, 2023 ~ Christmas Day**

8:30 am Mass ~ St. Mary's

**December 30, 2023 (Saturday)**

4:00 pm ~ St. Michael's

6:00 pm ~ St. Mary's

**December 31, 2023 (Sunday)**

7:00 am ~ St. Aloysius

8:30 am ~ St. Mary's

**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

**December 31, 2023 (Vigil)**

4:00 pm ~ St. Michael's

7:00 pm ~ St. Mary's

**January 1, 2024**

7:00 am ~ St. Aloysius

9:00 am ~ St. Mary's





← Our PSR students at St. Michael's created their Jesse Tree to celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At St. Mary's, our students painted with Mrs. McClain at our second meeting of the month. Children created their own art piece of the New-born baby Jesus Christ in the Manger.  
*The Word was made flesh, and dwelt amongst Us!*  
 - (John 1:14)





# Receive your God who came down from Heaven and dwelt among us!

*Merry Christmas!*

Dear Parishioners,

Please pick up your family gift from your church in Gathering Space at St. Mary's, in church entrances at St. Aloysius and at St. Michaels.

May God be with you always!



★  
*Glory  
to God  
in the Highest  
and on earth  
peace & goodwill  
to all!*

Luke: 2:14



*Thank You!*

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Angel Tree, whether you bought a gift or made a monetary donation. The need was even greater this year.

St. Mary's provided gifts for children in need in the Paris area who otherwise would not have had a Christmas. We are blessed to have such a generous parish family.

- Mary Ann and Marian

## Fellowship Meal

St. Mary's Church is hosting a Fellowship Meal **on December 25th from 11 am to 5 pm** in the Parish Hall. Soup, sandwiches and cookies will be served. This meal is open to the public. *Free will donations are appreciated.*

Volunteers are needed. Please come and join us if you are able to help. Please contact Anita Rhodes (217) 275-3798 if you have any questions.

**Anita would like to borrow some games to enrich this Fellowship Meal. Please bring them in if you have some to lend to her.**

Thank you!

## Quote of the Week

*Our Lord was born not just of her flesh but also by her consent.*

- Fulton Sheen

"GOD IS  
LOVE.  
WHOEVER  
LIVES IN  
LOVE LIVES  
IN GOD  
AND GOD  
IN HIM."



ST. JOHN, APOSTLE

## Contractor Quotes:

St. Mary's Church is looking for contractor quotes for a proposed one room and bath addition to our Rectory. If you or someone you know, would like to submit a quote for this project, please contact the parish office for more details. A Building and Grounds member will contact you with further information.

## Bulletin Deadline

Please forward information for the bulletin to: [jkoutsoumpas@stmaryschurchparis.org](mailto:jkoutsoumpas@stmaryschurchparis.org) by Wednesday at 2:00 P.M. before the following Sunday publication.

# Pastoral Reflections

4th Sunday of Advent



My dear parishioners,

God is Good!!! All the time!!! And all the time!!! God is Good!!!

In our first reading, King David finds it disconcerting that he resides in a beautiful palace with aromatic cedar paneling while God's Ark of the Covenant rests in a simple tent. David's prophet encourages the king to take whatever steps he has in mind. But God corrects David's thinking. Despite all the resources he now has at his disposal, David is in no position to do God any favors. Such thinking could lead to serious missteps. And, in fact, it does as later chapters make clear (see 2 Sm 10–12).

Birth announcements were part of the royal culture of ancient times. The purpose of a birth announcement was to declare something very significant about the identity of the newborn child. Mary and Joseph, however, are not part of royal culture. They come from the peasantry. No one expected anything exceptional to come from the peasantry. But, as the angel Gabriel will remind Mary toward the end of this Gospel, "Nothing will be impossible for God."

**The birth announcement.** Birth announcements are found not only in ancient secular cultures. They are present in the Old Testament (Gen 16:11–12; Jgs 13:5, 7; Is 7:14). Their purpose is to show that God is at work unfolding salvation history. The one receiving the announcement is urged not to be afraid. The name of the newborn is often given and the mother is declared to be in God's favor. The actual birth is announced and the important future role of the child is described. Luke has taken those basic ingredients and shaped them into the birth announcement of Jesus.

**Mary's response.** Keeping in mind that Mary is a peasant girl, it is easy to understand just how overwhelming the angel Gabriel's message must have been. There is nothing in her experience that provides Mary with any clues for making sense of what she has been told. She finds it troubling as she ponders its possible meaning. Throughout all of this, it is important to keep in mind who the main character of this narrative really is. God is the main character. Mary has found favor with God and it is God who will bring about this most extraordinary event in and through a very ordinary person.

**The identity of Jesus.** Key to this birth announcement is the disclosure of who this newborn child is. The angel Gabriel carefully unfolds this identity. His name is Jesus which means God saves. He will be called Son of the Most High, which means that he is the Son of God. He will carry on the great Davidic dynasty of king David. He will rule this dynasty forever. He will be the anointed one, the Messiah. He will be conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit reemphasizing that he will be God's Son. Mary is indeed the handmaid of the Lord who has the courage to believe that nothing is impossible for God.

Excerpts from "Sunday Homily Helps", is used by permission of Franciscan Media. [www.FranciscanMedia.org](http://www.FranciscanMedia.org)

Sincerely in Christ,  
Fr. Aloysius



**Merry Christmas, everyone!!!**  
Father Aloysius & Staff



**Knights of Columbus  
Paris Council #860**

**Listen to Catholic Radio  
WHOJ - 91.9 FM  
ourcatholicradio.org**



**Larsson Woodyard & Henson, LLP**  
Certified Public Accountants  
702 E. Court St. • (217) 465-6494  
www.lwhcpa.com

**A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION**

Gracious and loving God, we come to you in humble prayer for the United States of America.

*Bless our President.* Give him wisdom and strength to serve the American people and lead our country in ways that are pleasing to you.

*Bless the Congress.* Instill in them knowledge and understanding to enact laws that protect the sanctity of life - from the unborn to the elderly; and promote the good of all people.



508 E. Jasper St. • Paris, IL 61944 • 217-466-5824



**LONGVIEW  
BANK**

*Bless the people of the United States.* Make us aware of our responsibility as citizens to uphold the principles of life, liberty, justice, and equality.

Send your Holy Spirit upon our beloved country. Make us people of faith in time of uncertainty. Make us people of hope in times of trouble. Make us people of compassion with those who are less fortunate. Make us people of peace in our homes, our communities, our country and our world.

*We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
Our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

**THE MEMORARE**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known,  
that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help,  
or sought thy intercession was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee,  
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come;  
before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions,  
but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.



**Stewart & Carroll  
Funeral Home**

303 E. Wood St., Paris, IL

217-465-6311

*The best service for your money*



**THIEL ACCOUNTING  
& Financial Services**

514 South Central Ave  
Paris, IL 61944  
thielaccounting.com  
217-463-6950

www.templetonfuneralhome.com  
217-465-4775

Peter Templeton  
Mark Anderson

**TEMPLETON  
FUNERAL HOME**

**Sullivan Ag Services, Inc.**

Ag Drainage Backhoe Scraper  
Greg & Matt Sullivan • 217-822-2671

**CHURCH INSURANCE AGENCY**



**465-4022**

BRUCE YOUNG, ANN KENNEY,  
& TEI LEWSADER agents

**"FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS"**

**Malfunction Junction**

**Seed Sales**

Jake & Amanda Barrett • 217-269-3142

**FRUIN & KASH**

Richard M. Kash, Jr.

Attorneys at Law

129 N. Central Ave.  
Paris, IL 61944

★ ★ ★

Phone: (217) 465-4196  
Fax: (217) 466-1213



**Compliments of  
Tim Crippes  
and Family**

**Compliments of  
Keith, Becky & Kami  
Kraemer**



Jeffrey D. Staley-Henne, DMD

**SAVOREE FAMILY FARMS**

marksavoreefarms.com  
217-264-2850

God Bless the American Farmer!

**WILSON'S**

Lawn & Labor

NUISANCE ANIMAL  
REMOVAL

**ODD JOBS**  
Of any kind

**GREG WILSON**  
217/251-9370

**Join the Movement!**

Open an Account Online | [BANKPROSPECT.COM](http://BANKPROSPECT.COM)



**PROSPECT BANK**  
The Opportunity Bank MEMBER FDIC

**TRUSTMARK  
PROPERTIES**

Mark and Karen Savoree, Parishoners  
Matt and Kadie Boland, Parishoners

217-264-2850 trustmarkpropertiesllc.com

(217) 465-3335  
501 Grandview Street  
Paris, IL 61944



INGRUM WASTE DISPOSAL PARIS, ILLINOIS

**ANDERSON LAW OFFICES**

Rob Anderson

465-3535 1204 N. Main St., Paris

Real Estate • Wills • Trusts • Estate Planning • Estates

**Honey for Sale**

Terry Sullivan • Mark Juscius  
**217-251-2324**



217-463-1765

P.O. Box 921, Paris, IL 61944

*"let them know – you found their ad in the bulletin!"*