



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

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

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 to 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.



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." - Mt 11:10

YEAR A

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. GLP

CHURCH CENTRAL OFFICE

528 N. Main Street P.O. Box 577 Paris, IL 61944

Phone Number: (217) 466-3355

Website: www.stmaryschurchparis.org

Pastor: Father Aloysius Okey Ndeanaefo

Email: anaefoaloy melody@yahoo.com

For Appointment & Emergency only:

Please text (217) 412-4344

PARISH STAFF

Business Mgr.: Juliana Koutsoumpas
[jkoutsoumpas@stmaryschurchparis.org](mailto:j koutsoumpas@stmaryschurchparis.org)

Parish Engagement & Religious Education Coordinator:

Mary Liz Wright
mlwright@stmaryschurchparis.org

Custodian: Misty Elsberry

Music: Mary Ann Sullivan
gma.sullivan80@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Tuesdays 5:00pm at St. Mary

Wed-Fri 8am at St. Mary

Saturday Vigil at St. Mary: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Mass at St. Aloysius: 7:00 a.m.

Sunday Mass at St. Michael: 8:30 a.m.

Sunday Mass at St. Mary: 10:15 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

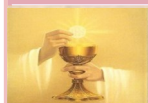
St. Mary's: Saturdays: 3:15—3:45pm or by appointment

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 16

5:00 pm L & D of Bill & Kathy Zuber Family

Wednesday, December 17

8:00 am ✝ William Waller

Thursday, December 18

8:00 am ✝ Pauline Anderson

Friday, December 19

8:00 am Nana Matt & Pearman Family

Saturday, December 20

4:00 pm ✝ Fr. David Zimmerman

Sunday, December 21

7:00 am Living & Deceased parishioners of our parishes

8:30 am ✝ Jim Mulcahey

10:15am ✝ Beverly Hanner



December 20/21, 2025

St. Mary 4:00pm (Sat.)

GREETER: Doug Happ

LECTOR: Jim Moore

EM: Lugene Joines & Volunteer

SERVERS: Volunteer

GIFTS: Volunteer

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

GREETER: Joe Keys

LECTOR: Angie Barrett

EM: Linda Hahn

SERVERS: Scott Neal

GIFTS: the Keys Family

St. Michael: 8:30 am (Sun.)

GREETER: David Smith

LECTOR: Kevin Smith

SERVERS: Millie Wilhoit/Abner Wood

GIFTS: the Wood Family

St. Mary: 10:15 am (Sun.)

GREETER: Brad Cash/Judy Haymaker

LECTOR: Chris Wright

EM: Andy Goodwin, Brian Murphy & Terry Sullivan

SERVERS: Santi Rea/Jocelyn Tracy

GIFTS: the Magers Family

Happening This Week

Tuesday, December 16

5:00 am ~ 5:00 pm Adoration - St. Mary

5:00 pm Mass - St. Mary

Wednesday, December 17

8:00 am Mass - St. Mary

6:30pm ~ 8:30pm—OCIA Class at St. Mary

Thursday, December 18

8:00 am Mass - St. Mary

Friday, December 19

8:00 am Mass & Adoration- St. Mary

Saturday, December 20

10:00am Advent Class at St. Mary

3:15 ~ 3:45pm Confession at St. Mary

4:00 pm Mass - St. Mary

Sunday, December 21

7:00am Mass - St. Aloysius

8:30 am Mass - St. Michael

10:15 am Mass - St. Mary

**Christmas Decorating at St. Mary
after 10:15am Mass**

Reminders

December 27: Christmas Party after 4:00pm Mass

February 3: 5:30pm St. Mary's Pastoral Mtg.

February 3: 6:30pm St. Mary's Finance Mtg.

Christmas Choir

Choir practice for
St. Mary's Christmas Eve Mass
will be **Mondays the 15th & 22nd**
at 6:30 p.m.

All wishing to sing is welcome to come
and join us in making a joyful noise
unto the Lord!

Parish Council & Committee Chairs

St. Aloysius

Pastoral Council

Jim Frisz

jdfrisz@gmail.com

Finance Council

Joe Keys

joekeys1@gmail.com

St. Mary

Pastoral Council

Doug Happ

dough@pchs.k12.il.us

Finance Council

John Carrington

jdcarrington19@gmail.com

Building & Grounds Committee

Brian Murphy

besdpa@yahoo.com

St. Michael

Pastoral Council

Dave Smith

dsmith.tke718@gmail.com

Finance Council

Brian Smith

tstsmith36@gmail.com

Collection Online Giving Links & QR Codes

St. Aloysius North Arm

<https://pushpay.com/g/stalloysiusnortharm>



St. Mary Paris

<https://pushpay.com/g/stmarysparis>



St. Michael Hume

<https://pushpay.com/g/stmichaelhume>



QCDs:

Give to **St. Mary, St. Aloysius and St. Michael** from your IRA- Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), also known as IRA Charitable Rollovers, are the savviest way for those age 70½ or older to use their IRAs to maximize their charitable impact. And, if you are subject to a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), an IRA gift can help you meet your RMD without increasing your taxable income. Visit bit.ly/ParishQCD to learn more about this giving option and to initiate a [QCD](#) gift to your church. For specific questions about how IRA giving may impact your personal situation, consult a financial or tax advisor.

Bequests:

Have you documented your final wishes? Creating your estate plan is an act of care that can help you protect your loved ones, communicate healthcare and financial decisions about the future, and establish a legacy that honors your Catholic faith. Our new estate planning tool at www.freewill.com/diocesefspringfield can help you write your legal will for free and makes it easy to make a sustaining gift to your parish home, ensuring the ministry of **St. Mary, St. Aloysius and St. Michael** continues for generations to come. For specific questions about how estate planning may impact your personal situation, consult a tax advisor or lawyer.

Stocks:

Consider donating stock [as a way to](#) continue supporting **St. Mary, St. Aloysius and St. Michael**. Stock giving allows you to save your cash, avoid capital gains, and maximize your impact. You may also receive a tax deduction for the full value of the gift. Visit our secure stock giving site at bit.ly/ParishStock which makes stock giving easy and secure by providing the correct transfer form, helping you fill out the necessary fields, and providing clear instructions for submitting the form to your brokerage. For specific questions about how stock giving may impact on your personal situation, consult a financial or tax advisor.

Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday!

December 20

Chad Cornwell

December 21

David Hamilton

Karen Steiner

December 23

John Halloran

Carolyn Wieland



Anniversary Blessings

December 19

John & Cindy McGeniss

Capital Campaign

St. Aloysius Parish ~ Goal: **\$71,220.00**
Weekly received: **\$130.00**
Up-to-date total: **\$26,080.00**
Fund needed: **\$45,400.00**

St. Michael's Parish ~ Goal: **\$90,130.00**
Weekly received: **\$.00**
Up-to-date total: **\$9,025.00**
Fund needed: **\$81,105.00**

St. Mary's Parish ~ Goal: **\$725,250.00**
Weekly received: **\$3,360.00**
Up-to-date total: **\$290,666.00**
Fund needed: **\$434,584.00**



Weekly Offertory December 6/7, 2025

ST. ALOYSIUS

Sunday \$2,105.00
Online Giving \$102.20
Christmas \$70.00
Collection: \$2,277.20

ST. MICHAEL

Sunday \$693.00
Online Giving \$200.00
Christmas Flower \$250.00
Immaculate Conception \$25.00
Total Collection: \$1,168.00

ST. MARY

Sunday \$5,932.90
Online Giving \$45.00
Campaign for Justice & Hope \$50.00
Christmas Flower \$375.00
Christmas Offering \$70.00
Retirement Fund for Religious \$110.00
Children's Home \$110.00
Solemnity of Mary \$60.00
Total Collection: \$6,752.90

2025/2026 Fiscal Year Diocesan 10% Tithing

St. Aloysius Parish

October Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$402.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$1,807.00

St. Michael's Parish

October Diocesan Monthly Tithing: 570.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$2,564.00

St. Mary's Parish

October Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$2,217.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$9,500.00

Prayer Requests

For the Sick

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

Debbra Finney	Beverly Haase
John Halloran	Peter David
Scott Tracy	Mary Stoneburner
Barry Twigg	Margaret Huckeby
Jordan Peterson	Melissa Cohn
Lahaunda Madrid	Kathryn Lentz
Eleanor Macey	Kenneth Kocher
Vasya Hanson	Jeff Brinkley
Donna Keys	Andrew Hostetler
Brian Mullenix	Alice Kramer
Linda McHenry	Sharon Bailey
Richard Yates	Rosemary Ogle
Jana McIntosh	Jody Crandell
Tamera Brown Tadlock	Leigh Ketner
Theresa Armstrong Coombs	Isaac Hayes
Larry Elsberry	Donnie Farris
Connie Hart	Jean Kramer
David Volk	Marie Hibner
Joanie Hutchcraft	Ross Lanter
Steve Allen	Dan Bruner
Ruby Kindred	Doris Bernard
John Yuza	Joseph Finch
Patricia Sullivan	Marc Wolf
Mary Jiron	
Kent Laughlin	

For Our Military

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

Henry Arp	Justin Vice
Jeff Walsh	Michael Whitacre
Joe Kachmar	Nathan Gatlin

For Our Expectant Mothers

We pray that God will bless and protect them during this time of waiting.

Julie Magers Yawanis

For Our Faith Formation

Please pray for all our families, especially those who have child/children at home, that God, the Almighty Creator, will lavish abundant grace upon them so that they may, in the midst of the busyness of their daily life, find time to study the Holy Scripture, to pray together with their child/children, and to keep holy on the Lord's Day!

Prayer Lists

Please let the office know if you know that:

- 1) the person whom you requested is healed or passed away
- 2) the Expectant Mother has given birth to her baby
- 3) members in our Military you added retired from serving

Thank you very much!

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

Luke: 2:14



St. Aloysius, St. Mary & St. Michael's Christmas Potluck Party

Mark your calendar!

All parishioners are invited to our Christmas Potluck Party
 at **5:00pm** at St. Mary's Hall on **December 27!**

There will be joyful sing along and inspiring games
 to fill your evening!

*Please come and let us rejoice
 the goodness of the Living God!*

Stewardship Corner

3rd Sunday of Advent

"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." JAMES 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

Word of Life

December 14

"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free."

USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

Our Dearly Departed

Doris Stone

Donald Happ Sr. - Father to Doug Happ

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!

May they rest in peace!



The four apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe took place in December 1531, when Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to the Catholic faith, encountered a woman dressed as an Aztec princess on Tepeyac Hill in present-day Mexico City. The woman, who was pregnant, spoke to him in his native language. She identified herself as the Mother of God.

Over the next four apparitions, Our Lady requested that Juan Diego implore the local bishop to build a church on the hill, and performed miracles to prove her identity. Through one of the miracles, she imprinted her image onto Juan Diego's *tilma*, or cloak; the tilma bearing that image can still be viewed today at

the basilica which now stands on the site of the apparition.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is venerated as the Patroness of the Americas, and she is beloved worldwide as a symbol of motherhood, faith and identity. Her feast day is Dec. 12.

©LPi

Advent & Christmas Schedule 2025

Advent Penance

December 16 @6:00 pm ~ St. Mary
December 18 @6:00 pm ~ St. Michael

December 24 ~ Christmas Vigil

4:00 pm Mass ~ St. Mary
6:00 pm Mass ~ St. Michael
7:30 pm Mass ~ St. Aloysius

Dec. 25~ Christmas Day

9:00 am Mass ~ St. Mary

December 31(Vigil)

4:00 pm ~ St. Mary
6:00 pm ~ St. Michael

January 1, 2025

9:00 am ~ St. Mary



*We will decorate St. Mary's church
for Christmas*

*on December 21, 2025
after 10:15am Mass.*

*Please come and join us!
Many hands will make the work lighter!
Thank you!*

Welcome, Dominic André Seifert!

Congratulations to the proud parents

Robert & Bridget Seifert

and to the proud grandparents

Greg & MaryAnn Sullivan

Fellowship Meal

St. Mary's Church is hosting a Fellowship Meal on **December 25th from 11~ 4 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. **Donations of cookies need be dropped off, on Sunday December 22nd.** Please contact Anita Rhodes (217) 275-3798 if you have any questions. **Thank you!**

December 17 Prayer Lunch

Everyone is invited to
our monthly Prayer Lunch
held at St. Mary's meeting room.

Menu of the Month:

Traditional Christmas Ham Dinner

See you then!

Have you ever heard of **Ember Days**?

We live in a world of abundance and instant gratification. Help your family understand the concept of sacrifice and patience. Ember Days are observed four times per year with fasting and prayer. Pick up a sheet on the Advent table to learn more about how to observe these important days in our Liturgical Year.

"What is St. Joan of Arc's favorite
Christmas carol?"



"O, Holy Knight!"



St. Joan of Arc led the French to victory in 1429, a valiant soldier for Jesus. (Being French, she probably preferred French carols, though).

Pastoral Reflections

3rd Sunday of Advent

My dear parishioners,

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

In his oracles, Isaiah often draws imagery from nature. In this reading, the prophet uses the image of a desert transformed into a garden to express the changes service to God can make in the world. The prophet was all too familiar with the ill effects of misguided leadership. The royal line of David sapped the life out of the kingdom through their refusal to allow the standards of heaven to guide their policies.

Traditional qualities of the coming Messiah focused on someone who would be a successful military warrior similar to the great King David. Jesus did nothing that would qualify him for this traditional role. John the Baptist has heard of Jesus' works which emphasize service and blessing. He thus sends his disciples to question Jesus and find out who he is.

No direct answer. Jesus gives John's disciples no direct and clear answer as to whether or not he is the Messiah. Instead, he encourages them to tell John what they hear and see happening in the ministry of Jesus. Jesus points to a succession of works all aimed at helping those in need. Jesus emphasizes what today we would call the corporal works of mercy. Jesus says nothing about military power, successful victories over others, or mystical glory. Instead, he echoes what is found in Isaiah 35:5-6. Jesus seems aware that this response will disappoint those awaiting a traditional Messiah. He declares those blessed who are not offended by all this.

Who is John the Baptist? Jesus compares John the Baptist implicitly to the great prophet Elijah. He was a fierce proclaimer of God's plan. He wore rough clothing and worked mostly in the Judean desert. John is every bit the prophet that Elijah was and more so. John is the one whose message prepares the way for the Messiah. He is the fulfillment of the scripture quote from Malachi 3:1 and Exodus 23:20. "Behold I am sending my messenger ahead of you . . ."

Is Jesus the Messiah? Some commentators see a post-resurrection debate going on in this Gospel passage between the Christian disciples and the disciples of John the Baptist. More important than that is the ambiguity that runs throughout the passage regarding the messianic identity of Jesus. Does Jesus fulfill a prophetic messianic expectation voiced by prophets such as Isaiah? Or does Jesus redefine all traditional messianic expectations and therefore create a new understanding of what it means to be the Messiah? To address these questions adequately, one must examine carefully the full story unfolded by the Gospel. How Jesus is the expected Messiah must emerge from within the Gospel narrative and not be imposed on it.

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Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Aloysius



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The Unity Prayer

My adorable Jesus, May our feet journey together. May our hands gather in unity. May our hearts beat in unison. May our souls be in harmony. May our thoughts be as one. May our ears listen to the silence together. May our glances profoundly penetrate each other. May our lips pray together to gain mercy from the Eternal Father.

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