



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

The Holy Family
December 28, 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.



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: anafoaloymelody@yahoo.com

For Appointment & Emergency only:

Please text (217) 412-4344

PARISH STAFF

Business Mgr.: Juliana Koutsoumpas
jkoutsoumpas@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 30
No Mass

Wednesday, December 31
 4:00 pm Nana Matt & Pearman Family
 6:00 pm † Lois Barrett

Thursday, January 1
 9:00 am † Grace & Martin Rhodes

Friday, January 2
No Mass

Saturday, January 3
 4:00 pm Living & Deceased parishioners of our parishes

Sunday, January 4
 7:00 am L & D of Raymond & Alberta Zuber Family
 8:30 am † Tom & Mary Jane Rhodes
 10:15am † Don & Glenda Goodwin

Happening This Week

Tuesday, December 30
5:00 am ~ 5:00 pm Adoration - St. Mary
 No Mass

Wednesday, December 31
 4:00 pm Mass - St. Mary
 6:00 pm Mass - St. Michael

Thursday, January 1
 9:00 am Mass - St. Mary

Friday, January 2
 No Mass

Saturday, January 3
3:15 ~ 3:45pm Confession at St. Mary
 4:00 pm Mass - St. Mary

Sunday, January 4
 7:00am Mass - St. Aloysius
 8:30 am Mass - St. Michael
 10:15 am Mass - St. Mary



Ministers' Schedule

January 3 & 4, 2026

St. Mary 4:00pm (Sat.)

GREETER: Doug Happ
LECTOR: Jim Moore
EM: Eugene Joines & Volunteer
SERVERS: Volunteer
GIFTS: Volunteer

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

GREETER: Joe Keys
LECTOR: Lee Barrett
EM: Linda Hahn
SERVERS: Scott Neal
GIFTS: the Keys Family

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

GREETER: Randy Stone
LECTOR: Phyllis Stone/PSR
SERVERS: Landon Keske/Solomon Jansen
GIFTS: the Wood Family

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

GREETER: Brad Cash/Judy Haymaker
LECTOR: Brian Murphy
EM: Christi McClain, Chris Wright & Terry Sullivan
SERVERS: Santi Rea/Jocelyn Tracy
GIFTS: the Staub Family

Reminders

January 8: 5:30—7:00pm Pray & Play
 January 21: 12pm Prayer Lunch at St. Mary
 February 3: 5:30pm St. Mary's Pastoral Mtg.
 February 3: 6:30pm St. Mary's Finance Mtg.

Pray & Play

Many of us cannot come to our St Mary's Tuesday Adoration, we work or our families have schedules that do not allow an hour every Tuesday....

Pray and Play (an idea copied from a church in rural Alabama), is an opportunity for prayer and fun. We will host an evening of prayer and fun monthly, not always on the same day so as to reach more of our parishioners.

An evening of Pray and Play will go something like this:
 5:15—begin with Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 5:30-7:00 Families or individuals will sign up for 10 minute slots to spend time praying to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament
 5:30-7:00 Families and individuals will play games (indoor or outdoor depending on weather), going back and forth from the church to the Hall (gym) between prayer and play.
 A light meal will be provided so people can casually eat throughout the evening.

The parish secretary from St Martin of Tours, Troy, Alabama told me that this was one of their most popular events, with families and individuals enjoying the time immensely.

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
ttsmith36@gmail.com

Collection Online Giving Links & QR Codes

St. Aloysius North Arm

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



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](http://bit.ly/ParishQCD) 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!

January 2
Sandy Thompson
January 5
Mike David
January 6
Kyle Kenney

Anniversary Blessings



January 3
Martin & Rosana Rea

New Year Eve Schedule

December 31(Vigil)

4:00 pm ~ St. Mary

6:00 pm ~ St. Michael

January 1, 2026

Project Rachel: Help for women and men to heal from the pain of abortion. For assistance: call 1-877-RACHEL-5.

Capital Campaign

St. Aloysius Parish ~ Goal:	\$71,220.00
Weekly received:	\$ 0.00
Up-to-date total:	\$26,080.00
Fund needed:	\$45,400.00
<hr/>	
St. Michael's Parish ~ Goal:	\$90,130.00
Weekly received:	\$100.00
Up-to-date total:	\$9,125.00
Fund needed:	\$81,005.00
<hr/>	
St. Mary's Parish ~ Goal:	\$725,250.00
Weekly received:	\$16,400.00
Up-to-date total:	\$312,581.00
Fund needed:	\$412,669.00



Weekly Offertory December 20/21, 2025

ST. ALOYSIUS

Sunday	\$ 2,469.00
Online Giving	\$0
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$45.00
Flower	\$20.00
Total Collection:	\$2,534.00

ST. MICHAEL

Sunday	\$1,161.00
Online Giving	\$50.00
Christmas Flower	\$100.00
Immaculate Conception	\$20.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$50.00
Children's Home	\$30.00
Total Collection:	\$1,411.00

ST. MARY

Sunday	\$10,232.00
Online Giving	\$596.00
Christmas Flower	\$160.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$295.00
Children Home	\$345.00
Food Pantry	\$825.00
Total Collection:	\$12,453.00

2025/2026 Fiscal Year Diocesan 10% Tithing

St. Aloysius Parish

November Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$338.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$2,145.00

St. Michael's Parish

November Diocesan Monthly Tithing: 646.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$3,210.00

St. Mary's Parish

November Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$7,583.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$17,083.00

Prayer Requests

For the Sick

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

Tina Halloran	Beverly Haase
Victoria Magers	Peter David
John Halloran	Mary Stoneburner
Scott Tracy	Margaret Huckeby
Barry Twigg	Melissa Cohn
Jordan Peterson	Kathryn Lentz
Lahaunda Madrid	Kenneth Kocher
Eleanor Macey	Jeff Brinkley
Vasya Hanson	Andrew Hostetler
Donna Keys	Alice Kramer
Brian Mullenix	Sharon Bailey
Linda McHenry	Rosemary Ogle
Richard Yates	Jody Crandell
Jana McIntosh	Leigh Ketner
Tamera Brown Tadlock	Isaac Hayes
Theresa Armstrong Coombs	Donnie Farris
Larry Elsberry	Jean Kramer
Connie Hart	Marie Hibner
David Volk	Ross Lanter
Joanie Hutchcraft	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	Michael Whitacre
Jeff Walsh	Nathan Gatlin
Joe Kachmar	Richard Scott
Justin Vice	Collyn Smith

For Our Expectant Mothers

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

Julie Magers Yawanis	Allie Halloran
Hannah Furnish	Alex Furnish
Nicole Smith	

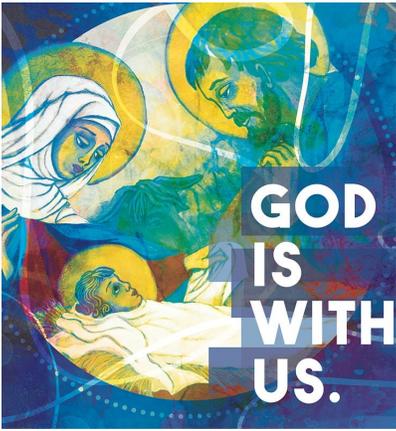
Prayers

Please keep Father Aloysius Ndeanaefo in your prayers for safe traveling to Nigeria and back to the US, and for his family, especially on these special days when they prepare to bury his mother Theresa Ndeanaefo:

January 14—Vigil Mass at Cathedral Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, Onitsha

January 15—Mass of Resurrection/Burial at St. Joseph's Parish in Umuhu Okabia

Thank you!



Fr. Aloysius and Staff
Wish you A Very Merry Christmas
& A Happy New Year

★
 Glory
 to God
 in the Highest
 and on earth
 peace
 & goodwill
 to all!
 Luke: 2:14

December 28 *Word of Life*

“Dearest St Joseph... Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things.”
 USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
 A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life
 (www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph)

Stewardship Corner

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

“And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17
 Giving thanks to God and using our words and actions to give all glory to God is the foundation of living a stewardship lifestyle. We were made in God’s image and likeness, gratitude and generosity is in our DNA. As beloved sons and daughters of God, we are all part of God’s family. Using our gifts to help others is our gift back to God and helps grow the Body of Christ here on earth and establishes a pathway to Heaven for each of us.

ILLINOIS
PRO-LIFE
MARCH

Here is an opportunity for you to tell the Living God that you tried your best to stop Satan killing the babies in the womb and people with infirmities !

Sign up now for Illinois Pro-Life Mass and attend Illinois Pro-Life March afterward – On Thursday, March 19, you are invited to join thousands of pro-life advocates, being a joyful witness to life and raising your voice for the voiceless at the Illinois Pro-Life Mass and March. The day begins with Mass at 10 a.m. at the Exposition Building on the grounds of the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki and concelebrated by bishops and priests from across the state. You must register for the Mass by going to dio.org.
 After the Mass, there is a rally at the capitol at 1 p.m. with guest speakers, and then a march around the capitol at 2 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will also be going on at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception from noon to 5 p.m. Confessions at the Cathedral will also be available from 1:30 – 5 p.m. Last year, about 2,000 people attended the Illinois Pro-Life March, the vast majority being students from Catholic grade schools, high schools, and Newman Centers. Priests, seminarians, religious, and the lay faithful from every corner of the diocese and the state also showed up in strong numbers.

HOLY FAMILY



i SPYDER WEBB!
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Thank You!

- To Rosemarie Ketner & DeAnn Cash for keeping the Altar Linens washed and ironed.
To Lugene Joines who said yes to follow Rosemarie's footsteps to be St. Mary's Linen Lady.
To all the lectors, servers, Eucharistic Ministers and Sacristans.
To Anita Rhodes and Karen Todd for beautifying our church all year long.
To all who helped with Christmas decorations for our churches.
To our organists, Jerri Ricketts, Priscilla Hutton, Damian Macey, Chandler Dorjahn and Ruth Ann Smith, and to Mary Ann Sullivan for directing St. Mary's choir, and to our choir members. We appreciate the many hours you spent practicing for Masses. Music adds joy to our celebrations.
To all who serve on Councils, committees, and ministries in all our churches.
To the members of the Knights of Columbus who support the parish whole heartedly by doing anything that needs to be done around St. Mary's.
To all the church ladies who shared their time and talents by cooking, baking, and serving our community.
To Linda Cartwright who cooks for our monthly Prayer Lunch.
To Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home for providing parishioners beautiful calendars.
To the loyal group of parishioners who fold and stuff our bulletins each week.
To all those who count our collections every week.
To Leonard Waller, Andy Goodwin & Spencer Hall for assembling the outside crib, so that we might wish all who travel Main St. a Merry Christmas and remind them of the reason for the season.
To Scott Neal and Misty Elsberry for setting up St. Mary's Christmas sign at the park.
To each member of St. Mary's, St. Michael's and St. Aloysius who support our parishes generously.
To all the dedicated volunteers who help with our Religious Education programs.
To all who donate generously to our food pantry that serves the unfortunate in our community.
To those who donate and volunteer at the Compassionate Clothing Closet.
To those who keep our church grounds tidy and neat, our grass mowed and trimmed this summer.
To Mary Ann Magers and Marian Mattingly for sharing their time and talents in arranging the Angel Tree for the Children in need.
To those who bought gifts for the Angel Tree project.
To Anita Rhodes, those helped and those who made cookies for the Fellowship Meal on Christmas Day at St. Mary's Parish Hall to reach out to those in need.

*May God Bless each and every one of you
In the coming new year and beyond!*



Join us for the monthly deanery date night!

Sunday, January 18th
4pm-7pm
at Saint Aloysius Church (Bishop Creek)

4pm Prayer Service in Bishop Church
Followed by our speakers, Kramer & Andrea Soderberg,
and catered dinner from Niemerg's in the parish hall

Childcare provided
\$30 per couple

Address:
19812 E 1000th Ave
Dieterich, IL

**RSVP here
by 1/12:**



Pastoral Reflections

The Holy Family

My dear parishioners,

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

Jesus ben Sirach looks to the law of the Lord for wisdom. He knows the word of God provides the people with all they need to lead meaningful lives. In this reading, Sirach gives his readers the fundamentals for keeping a family close and secure. He begins by stressing how important it is to keep God at the center of the family. God is the origin of all. It was God who granted Adam and Eve the great privilege of having children in their own likeness. Sirach urges children to respect their parents from bringing them into the world and nourishing them to adulthood. Sirach ranks respect for parents with offering sacrifice to God in the temple. By giving honor to parents, children will enjoy benefits only God could grant them: prayers answered, atonement for sin, long life, having sons and daughters of their own. Sirach could have held up Joseph as an ideal example. Joseph respected his father, Jacob, in his old age. Because Joseph listened to the wisdom of his father, Joseph enjoyed blessings he could never have gained from the court of pharaoh.

This portion of Mt's infancy narrative describes the various places the infant Jesus was taken by Joseph in order to protect him from Herod and then Archelaus. Mt presumes that the reader is very familiar with the story of the birth of Moses in Exodus. The irony and intrigue that surrounded the birth and early days of Moses is clearly reflected in the present Gospel passage. Joseph is once again the lead character in the story. What he is supposed to do and when he is supposed to do it are communicated to him in dreams. Again, a bit of a reflection on the Joseph story in Gen: 37 - 50. Because Herod was seeking to kill the infant Jesus, Joseph is instructed to take Mary and Jesus and go to Egypt. This would put them outside the jurisdiction of Herod, ensuring their safety.

After the death of Herod, Joseph is able to take his family and leave Egypt. Mt at this point inserts another fulfillment formula based on Hos 11:1, "Out of Egypt I called my son." This is to bring to mind the ancient tradition of the exodus wherein God brought the chosen people out of Egypt. Jesus, too, will be led out of Egypt, but this time as Son of God. Mt is stressing the continuity between ancient Israel and Jesus, the Son of God. Eventually, Herod dies, and it is then safe for Joseph to take his family into Israel. Again, this reflects the experience of Moses in Ex 4:19.

What seemed to be safe due to the death of Herod turns out to be another form of danger because Herod's son Archelaus was also a threat. This obstacle is given as the reason why the Holy Family ended up in Nazareth. Matthew sees this as once again fulfilling what the prophets said, "He shall be called a Nazorean." The only problem is that no such prophecy can be found in the Scriptures. Some think that this is a general reference based on such texts as Is 11:1 and Jgs 13:5, 7. Mt's real point is that all of these moves from Egypt to Nazareth have taken place through the careful guidance of God. Thus, from the very beginning, the Holy Family was faced with danger, intrigue, and divine guidance. They lived by faith that, as God had earlier guided the chosen people from bondage to freedom, God would do the same for this chosen family.

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Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Aloysius



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"Sincerely Caring For Your Family's needs"

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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