



**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

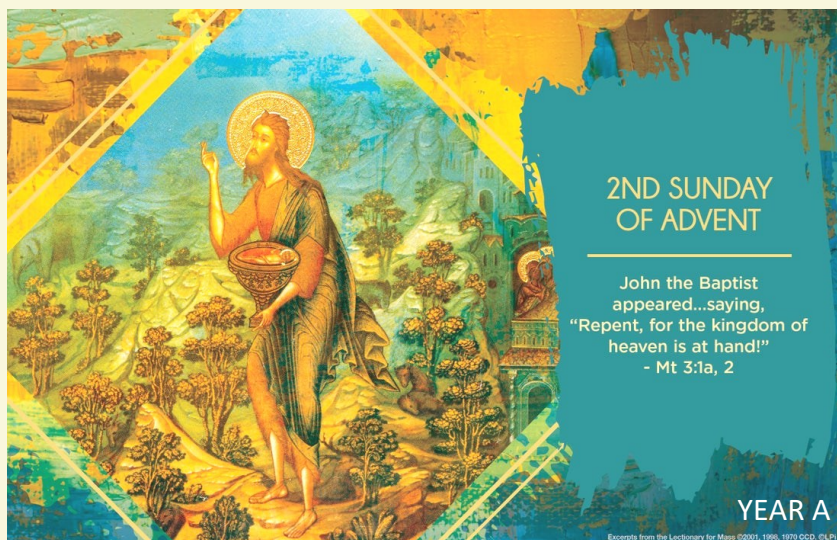
**THE GOOD NEWS**  
**2nd Sunday of Advent**  
**December 7, 2025**

**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](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.:** Juliana Koutsoumpas  
[jkkoutsoumpas@stmaryschurchparis.org](mailto:jkkoutsoumpas@stmaryschurchparis.org)

**Parish Engagement & Religious Education Coordinator:**

Mary Liz Wright  
[mlwright@stmaryschurchparis.org](mailto:mlwright@stmaryschurchparis.org)

**Custodian:** Misty Elsberry

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

### Monday, December 8

10:00 am ☩ Marion Finch  
5:00 pm ☩ Mary Storey  
7:00 pm ☩ Don & Glenda Goodwin

**Tuesday, December 9—No Mass**

### Wednesday, December 10

8:00 am ☩ John McMullen

### Thursday, December 11

8:00 am ☩ Tom Carroll

### Friday, December 12

8:00 am ☩ Fr. Daren Zehnle

### Saturday, December 13

4:00 pm ☩ Ed Pool by Julie Gross

### Sunday, December 14

7:00 am Living & Deceased of Raymond & Alberta Zuber Family  
8:30 am ☩ Ruth & Shorty Dickerson  
10:15am ☩ Charles & Veronica Englum



**December 13/14, 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:** Kevin Smith  
**LECTOR:** Phyllis Stone/PSR  
**SERVERS:** Leah Wood/Abner Wood  
**GIFTS:** the Jansen Family

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

**GREETER:** Brad Cash/Judy Haymaker  
**LECTOR:** Mary Liz Wright/Bryce McGrath  
**EM:** Andy Goodwin, Brian Murphy & Janet Tracy  
**SERVERS:** Santi Rea/Jocelyn Tracy  
**GIFTS:** the Laughlin Family

## Happening This Week

### Monday, December 8

10:00 am Mass - St. Mary  
5:00 pm Mass - St. Michael  
7:00 pm Mass - St. Mary

### Tuesday, December 9

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

*No Mass (Father attending Fr. Daren's funeral in Quincy)*

### Wednesday, December 10

8:00 am Mass - St. Mary

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

### Thursday, December 11

8:00 am Mass - St. Mary

### Friday, December 12

8:00 am Mass & Adoration- St. Mary

### Saturday, December 13

**10:00am Advent Class at St. Mary**

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

4:00 pm Mass - St. Mary

### Sunday, December 14

7:00am Mass - St. Aloysius  
8:30 am Mass - St. Michael  
10:15 am Mass - St. Mary

**Retirement Fund for Religious Collection**

## 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.

## New things on our Advent table!

We have added some activity sheets and stories to the table.

**St Nicholas'** Feast Day is December 6<sup>th</sup>. Learn about this kind Bishop of Myra and why he is remembered for his generosity to the poor.

**St Lucy's** Feast Day is December 13<sup>th</sup>. She was martyred in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century and is the patron saint of the blind. Make her special St Lucia buns to celebrate!

We celebrate the apparition of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The story of Juan Diego and the image our Blessed Mother left on his cloak are a miraculous gift to us. Learn more about this historical event and how the image survives nearly 500 years later.

## Parish Council & Committee Chairs

### St. Aloysius

#### Pastoral Council

Jim Frisz  
[jdfrisz@gmail.com](mailto:jdfrisz@gmail.com)

#### Finance Council

Joe Keys  
[joekeys1@gmail.com](mailto:joekeys1@gmail.com)

### St. Mary

#### Pastoral Council

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

#### Finance Council

John Carrington  
[jdcarrington19@gmail.com](mailto:jdcarrington19@gmail.com)

#### Building & Grounds Committee

Brian Murphy  
[besdpa@yahoo.com](mailto:besdpa@yahoo.com)

### St. Michael

#### Pastoral Council

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

#### Finance Council

Brian Smith  
[tstsmith36@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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 11**

Doris Bernard

And Goodwin

Mary Ann Magers

**December 12**

Rosemarie Ketner

**December 13**

Carter Staub

**December 16**

DeAnn Cash

Sheree Hutchings

Maria Pia Vitale

**December 17**

Lucy Tarr

## Capital Campaign

**St. Aloysius Parish ~ Goal:** **\$71,220.00**  
**Weekly received:** **\$ .00**  
**Up-to-date total:** **\$25,950.00**  
**Fund needed:** **\$45,270.00**

**St. Michael's Parish ~ Goal:** **\$90,130.00**  
**Weekly received:** **\$1000.00**  
**Up-to-date total:** **\$9,025.00**  
**Fund needed:** **\$81,105.00**

**St. Mary's Parish ~ Goal:** **\$725,250.00**  
**Weekly received:** **\$200.00**  
**Up-to-date total:** **\$287,306.00**  
**Fund needed:** **\$437,944.00**



## Weekly Offertory November 29/30, 2025

### ST. ALOYSIUS

Sunday \$588.00  
Online Giving \$.00  
Christmas Flower \$25.00  
**Collection: \$613.00**

### ST. MICHAEL

Sunday \$355.00  
Online Giving \$436.10  
**Total Collection: \$1791.10**

### ST. MARY

Sunday \$3,235.34  
Online Giving \$65.00  
Campaign for Justice & Hope \$50.00  
Christmas Flower \$70.00  
Christmas Offering \$20.00  
Retirement Fund for Religious \$40.00  
Children's Home \$100.00  
Solemnity of Mary \$20.00  
**Total Collection: \$3,610.34**

**Thank you for your support!**

## 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.*

Bridget Seifert	Julie Magers Yawanis
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### For Our Faith Formation

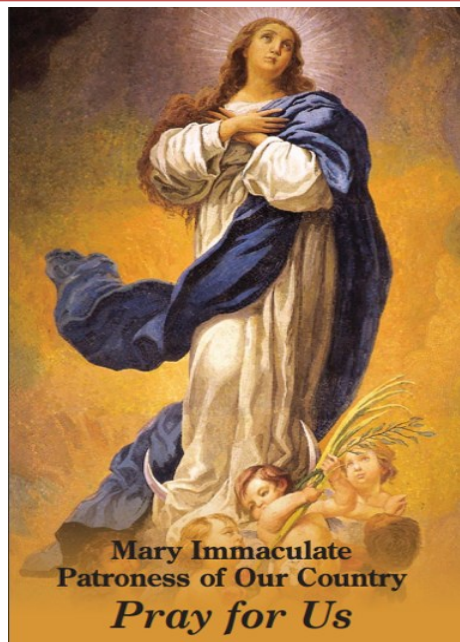
Please pray for all our families, especially those who have child/children at home, that God, the Almighty Creator, will lavish abundant grace upon them so that they may, in the midst of the busyness of their daily life, find time to study the Holy Scripture, to pray together with their child/children,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



## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Patronal feast day of the United States of America* (December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

On December 8th, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (This feast is a holy day of obligation for dioceses in the United States.) On this feast, we celebrate Mary's conception free from the stain of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary's life began the moment she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. So, too, does every human life begin at the moment of fertilization: "[You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb](#)" (Ps 139:13).

On this solemnity, consider praying Pope Francis' [Prayer for the Immaculate Conception](#): "We are in need of your immaculate gaze, to rediscover the ability to look upon persons and things with respect and awareness."

## Stewardship Corner

### 2nd Sunday of Advent

*"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Matthew 3:10*

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more things that go unused. Our time, talent, and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

## Word of Life

"Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn how at [respectlife.org/support-her](http://respectlife.org/support-her).

*USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities*

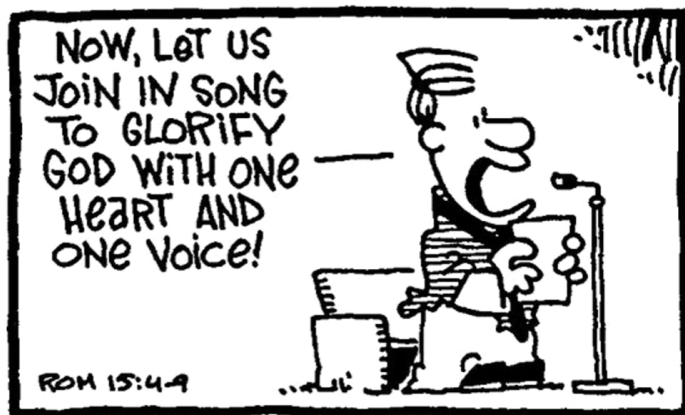
*"10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"*



## St Michael will be hosting coffee and donuts

after 8:30am Mass on Gaudete Sunday December 14th.  
Everyone is welcome! Please come and share in fellowship.

### 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## 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.

*Thank you* to everyone who helped

with the Angel Tree, whether you bought gifts or made a monetary donation. St. Mary and St. Aloysius 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 parishioners!

- Marian Mattingly & Mary Ann Magers

## 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

## Our Dearly Departed

Gerald St. Louis  
Dorothy Colter (mother to Shirley Stolz)  
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!  
May they rest in peace!

## What is Eucharistic Adoration?

The practice of Eucharistic Adoration is a centuries old ritual and falls within a broader category of devotions and rituals that are associated with the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In a particular way, Eucharistic Adoration is an extension of the worship and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that occurs in every Mass.

In a long-standing practice, a period of Eucharistic Adoration often ends with "benediction," the blessing of the faith with the Blessed Sacrament.

Several parishes throughout the United States have introduced the practice of perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, while other communities have the custom of shorter periods of Eucharistic Adoration. Care should always be taken that these periods of adoration respect the instructions outlined in Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass, the liturgical book that gives the instructions for the proper celebration of Eucharistic Adoration.

Although adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can never take the place of Eucharistic Communion, many Catholics find great comfort and consolation in their prayers before the Eucharist enshrined in the tabernacle or when it is exposed in the monstrance (both are equally valid, as the Christ is not more present in one than in the other). But when we consider our eucharistic devotions, it is always important to remember the fundamental connection these acts of devotion have to the celebration of the Eucharist in the Mass and reception of Christ in Communion. ©LPi

## Rosary before Mass

Please come and join us to pray the Rosary.

Sunday @8:00am — St. Michael

Sunday @9:45am — St. Mary

Rosary before Daily Mass at St. Mary

# *Pastoral Reflections*

## *2nd Sunday of Advent*

My dear parishioners,

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

Isaiah anticipates a better future for his people. When that day comes, the royal house will at last exhibit the ideals God always looked for in Israel's leaders. The opening line of the reading likens this welcome change to a flowering branch generated from the stump of a tree. In preceding verses, the royal line of David's father, Jesse, was reduced like a forest of trees cut down. Now new life springs from what remains.

**Divine spirit.** The ideal king Isaiah speaks of will display gifts that come from God. These are wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of God. Such gifts distinguish this ideal monarch from predecessors who allowed the false appearances and hearsay to guide them. Isaiah encountered such limitations in his dialogue with King Ahaz (Is 7). By contrast, the throne of David will now be characterized by concern for the poor and correction of the proud and the ruthless. In other words, the standards of heaven will be upheld by this new king.

**Gospel.** No sooner does Matthew conclude his infancy narrative than he quickly introduces the character of John the Baptist. He emerges from the Judean desert proclaiming the urgent need to repent because God is about to unleash God's rule over the people (kingdom of heaven).

**Prepare the way of the Lord.** Matthew understands John the Baptist to be that voice in the wilderness proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah (Is 40:3). His mission is to prepare for the advent of the Lord. For Matthew, the Lord is Jesus. John the Baptist is described in terms that recall the person and mission of the prophet Elijah (2 Kgs 1:8). He looks like Elijah, dresses like him, and eats a similar diet. John the Baptist is also a person who attracts many people who align themselves with his message by being baptized by him in the Jordan River. This is not the same baptism later practiced by Christians. This was a Jewish baptism practiced by various groups, including the Essenes who also frequented the Judean desert and who might have influenced John the Baptist.

**The Pharisees and the Sadducees.** John the Baptist gives special focus and a severe reprimand to the Pharisees and the Sadducees. These two groups represented Jewish leadership that had failed to guide the people in the ways of authentic Torah. They seem to think that salvation is something one inherits simply by being a son or daughter of Abraham. John the Baptist emphasizes to them that evidence of sincere repentance is manifested in good fruit and not in empty words.

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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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