



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 Baptism of the Lord January 12, 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

Fax Number: (217) 466-5215

Website: www.stmaryschurchparis.org

Pastor: Father Aloysius Okey Ndeanaefo

Email: anaefoaloymelody@yahoo.com

For Appointment & Emergency only:

Please text (217) 412-4344

PARISH STAFF

Business Mgr. & CRE: Juliana Koutsoumpas
jkoutsoumpas@stmaryschurchparis.org

Custodian: Misty Elsberry

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

OCIA: Scott Hall
scott.hall51990@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: 5:30 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

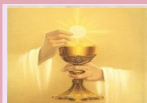
St. Mary's: Saturdays: 4 ~ 4:45pm or by appointment

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

Saturday, January 18

5:30 pm Living & Deceased parishioners of our parishes

Sunday, January 19

7:00 am † John & Mary Secondino

8:30 am † Harold Stone

10:15am † Beverly Hanner



January 18/19, 2025

St. Mary 5:30pm (Sat.)

GREETER: Doug Happ

LECTOR: Jim Moore

EM: Eugene Joines & Volunteer

SERVERS: Volunteer

GIFTS: Volunteer

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

GREETER: Joe Keys

LECTORS: Tommy Morrissey

EM: Linda Hahn

SERVERS: Scott Neal

GIFTS: the Keys Family

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

GREETER: David Smith

LECTORS: Kevin Smith

SERVERS: Leah Wood

GIFTS: the Wood Family

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

GREETER: Brad Cash

LECTORS: Chris Wright

EM: Adam Cash, Andy Goodwin & Terry Sullivan

SERVERS: Santi Rea/Jocelyn Tracy

GIFTS: Volunteer

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.*

Happening This Week

Tuesday, January 14

Adoration 5:00am—5:00pm at St. Mary

No Mass

7:00pm KC Meeting

Wednesday, January 15

No Mass

12:00pm Prayer Lunch at St. Mary

Thursday, January 16

No Mass

Friday, January 17

No Mass

Saturday, January 18

5:30 pm Mass

4:00 - 4:45pm Confession at St. Mary

Sunday, January 19

7:00am Mass - St. Aloysius

8:30 am Mass - St. Michael

10:15 am Mass - St. Mary

***Fr. Samuel Bagyo Celebration Masses
this weekend.***

Reminders

Jan. 28: 7:00pm KC meeting

Feb. 25: 6:30pm St. Michael Finance Council meeting

Mar. 10: 5:00pm St. Aloysius Finance Council meeting

Mar. 13: 6:00pm St. Michael Pastoral Council meeting

Mass Intention Requests

Submit requests to the Parish Office:

jkoutsoumpas@stmaryschurchparis.org

Mass stipend is \$10 /Mass.

Please make checks payable to St. Mary.

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

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/staloyusnortharm>



St. Mary Paris

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



St. Michael Hume

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



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.

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.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

January 16

Nolan Longest

January 17

Christi McClain

Maureen Sullivan

January 18

Cameron Jansen

Carlee Longest

January 19

Dale Curl

January 20

Christopher Ellis

Emori Staub

John Smith

January 22

Martha Williams

Project Rachel: Help for women and men to heal from the pain of abortion.

For assistance: call 1-877-RACHEL-5.

Contribution Statement

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your support to your church family. Your annual Contribution Statement will be handed out on January 25&26 after Sunday Mass.

May God Bless you abundantly throughout the New Year and beyond!

2024/2025 Fiscal Year Diocesan 10% Tithing

St. Aloysius Parish

October Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$224.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$1,688.00

St. Michael's Parish

October Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$588.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$2,235.00

St. Mary's Parish

October Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$6,473.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$14,448.00



Our Stewardship Weekly Offertory January 4/5, 2025

ST. ALOYSIUS

Sunday	\$2,186.00
Online Giving	\$0.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$25.00
Catholic Times	\$40.00
Total Collection:	\$2,251.00

ST. MICHAEL

Sunday	\$213.00
Online Giving	\$310.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$245.00
Christmas	\$25.00
Total Collection:	\$793.00

ST. MARY

Sunday	\$5,653.00
Online Giving	\$40.00
Christmas	\$100.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$1,299.00
Catholic Children's Home	\$50.00
Building Fund	\$510.00
Church in Latin America	\$80.00
Catholic Times	\$190.00
Sister Parish	\$105.00
Total Collection:	\$8,027.00

Thank you for your support!

Bulletin Deadline

Please forward information for the bulletin
to: jkoutsoumpas@stmaryschurchparis.org
by Wednesday at 12:00 P.M.



Prayer Requests



For the Sick

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

Joan Mattingly	Andrew Hostetler
Kami Kraemer	Alice Kramer
Connie Hart	Sharon Bailey
Beverly Carr	Joan McCulley
David Volk	Rosemary Ogle
Joanie Hutchert	Jody Crandell
Steve Allen	Priscilla Hutton
Dale Cash	Leigh Ketner
Ruby Kindred	Isaac Hayes
Andrew Ferucci	Colette Bernard
John Yuza	Donnie Farris
Patricia Sullivan	Jean Kramer
Mary Jiron	Marie Hibner
Kent Laughlin	Theresa Ndeanaefo
Phil Ludington	Ross Lanter
Beverly Haase	Dan Bruner
Sydney Shanks	Sheila Brothers
Peter David	Doris Bernard
Adam Dennison	Mary Lou Hollowell
Mary Stoneburner	Joseph Finch
Julie Weger	Mary Jo Thompson
Margaret Huckleby	Marc Wolf
Melissa Cohn	
Kathryn Lentz	
Kenneth Kocher	
Jeff Brinkley	

For Our Expectant Mothers

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

Callie Keys Cannady	Jackie Owen
Victoria Machuca	Nora Walsh

For Our Military

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

Jeff Walsh	Justin Vice
Nathan Gatlin	Joe Kachmar
Caleb Machuca	Zack Lueken
Simon Holzer	Joseph Livesay
Joe Jenness	Raynell Kahala
Richard Scott	Paul Devore



Please keep Father Aloysius Ndeanaefo
and his mother in your prayers
for safe travel during their trip
to Nigeria!





9 DAYS FOR LIFE

Pray 9 Days for Life Novena

to Protect Human Life!

January 16-24, 2025

Printed copies of this Novena are available at all parishes.
Here is the link of the Novena www.9daysforlife.com

Model used for illustrative purposes only. iStock.com/nahopeion

Word of Life

“When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others’ lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“How to Build a Culture of Life” (respectlife.org/culture-of-life)

CHOICES PREGNANCY AND HEALTH HAS ASKED US TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ENVELOPE BOARDS AS IN THE PAST IN JANUARY. IT HELPS KEEP THE CENTER OPENED. IF YOU CAN LAND A HAND TO THEM, PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO:

CHOICES PREGNANCY AND HEALTH

NOTE: THE CENTER ALWAYS NEED DIAPERS, ..SIZES ABOVE 3. THANK YOU!

ST. MARY'S REP.
ROSE MARIE

Saint of the Week – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



Mother Seton is one of the keystones of the American Catholic Church. She founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. She opened the first American parish school and established the first American Catholic orphanage. All this she did in the span of 46 years while raising her five children.

Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton is a true daughter of the American Revolution, born August 28, 1774, just two years before the Declaration of Independence. By birth and marriage, she was linked to the first families of New York and enjoyed the fruits of high society. Reared a staunch Episcopalian, she learned the value of prayer, Scripture and a nightly examination of conscience. Her father, Dr. Richard Bayley, did not have much use for churches but was a great humanitarian, teaching his daughter to love and serve others.

The early deaths of her mother in 1777 and her baby sister in 1778 gave Elizabeth a feel for eternity and the temporariness of the pilgrim life on earth. Far from being brooding and sullen, she faced each new “holocaust,” as she put it, with hopeful cheerfulness.

At 19, Elizabeth was the belle of New York and married a handsome, wealthy businessman, William Magee Seton. They had five children before his business failed and he died of tuberculosis. At 30, Elizabeth was widowed and penniless, with five small children to support.

While in Italy with her dying husband, Elizabeth witnessed Catholicity in action through family friends. Three basic points led her to become a Catholic: belief in the Real Presence, devotion to the Blessed Mother and conviction that the Catholic Church led back to the apostles and to Christ. Many of her family and friends rejected her when she became a Catholic in March 1805.

To support her children, she opened a school in Baltimore. From the beginning, her group followed the lines of a religious community, which was officially founded in 1809.

The thousand or more letters of Mother Seton reveal the development of her spiritual life from ordinary goodness to heroic sanctity. She suffered great trials of sickness, misunderstanding, the death of loved ones (her husband and two young daughters) and the heartache of a wayward son. She died January 4, 1821, and became the first American-born citizen to be beatified (1963) and then canonized (1975). She is buried in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

January

The Month of the
Holy Name of Jesus

Prayer of Rejoicing

Fill our hearts, Lord,
with rejoicing as we seek and discover You.
Your ways are full of
wonder, glory, surprise, and joy.
Amen.



Pledge to pray 9 months for a baby in danger of abortion

During 2025, pledge to pray for a baby in danger of abortion by saying Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen's prayer : *"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby (baby's name) that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion. Amen."* Involve your entire family by choosing a baby's name together to adopt and pray for throughout the 9 months.

January 15, 2025

Prayer Lunch

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

January Menu:

Beef Noodles, Mashed Potatoes & Hot Rolls

See you then!

Stewardship Corner

The Baptism of Our Lord

"John answered them all, 'I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...' " – Luke 3:16

The Catholic Catechism states that *"Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will."* In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

Catholic

Q & A

Baptismal Bib

Question:

At my grandson's Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?

Answer:

When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers and this is symbolized by the white garment.

©LPi

Pastoral Reflections

The Baptism of the Lord

My dear parishioners,

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

Midway through his book, the oracles of Isaiah turn to the theme of service. This is a dramatic change from the first half of the book in which the prophet made every attempt to awaken king and people to the disadvantages of seeking security in earthly resources rather than in God. Human pride got in the way, preventing Isaiah's audience from hearing his message. As a result, the kingdom collapsed and many were exiled to Babylon.

The Servant is God's chosen people Israel (Is 41:8). Enlightened by the experience of exile, they are now ready to serve the Lord. Gifted with the Spirit of God, they will show the way for the rest of the nations. They will proclaim their message by example rather than by raised voices in the streets. Their lesson will restore what is bruised and fan into flame what is only smoldering. They will not stop until the earth is filled with the kind of justice that comes only with a right relationship with God.

God holds the right hand of Servant Israel. As long as the people remain so close to God, they are assured of success in their mission. God's plan is that they will become a beacon of light for the rest of the nations, illuminating the path they are to follow. Those blinded by misguided interests will be able to see their way clearly. Those held prisoner by earthly concerns will be set free. Those who once stumbled about in the darkness of sin and ignorance will walk free. Earlier verses described the nations still preoccupied with the making of idols, imagining that the illusions of the world would bring them the security that they sought so desperately.

All of the Gospels strongly counter such an idea by clearly presenting Jesus as far superior to John the Baptist and having John himself proclaim this. John the Baptist baptizes with water, but Jesus who is mightier than John will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. Jesus' baptism has a strong sense of purification, indicated by the presence of the Holy Spirit and fire. Lk will again show this purification aspect in the Pentecost experience in Acts 2. Everything about Jesus surpasses John the Baptist.

Almost all commentators and exegetes agree that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Seemingly, Jesus wanted to show his allegiance to the message of John the Baptist and the need to prepare for God's coming. Lk does not get involved in that question, nor does he describe the actual baptism of Jesus himself. Lk focuses on what happened immediately after the baptism. First of all, Jesus was praying. Prayer sets the context for what Jesus sees and what he hears. Secondly, Jesus sees and hears some remarkable things. What he sees are the heavens open and the Holy Spirit descending upon him in bodily form like a dove. What he hears is the heavenly voice affirm, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

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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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