



St. Mary
528 N. Main Street
Paris, IL 61944



St. Aloysius
18925 E. 1350 Road
Paris, IL 61944



St. Michael
205 Center Street
Hume, IL 61932

THE GOOD NEWS

Ascension of the Lord

May 17, 2026

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

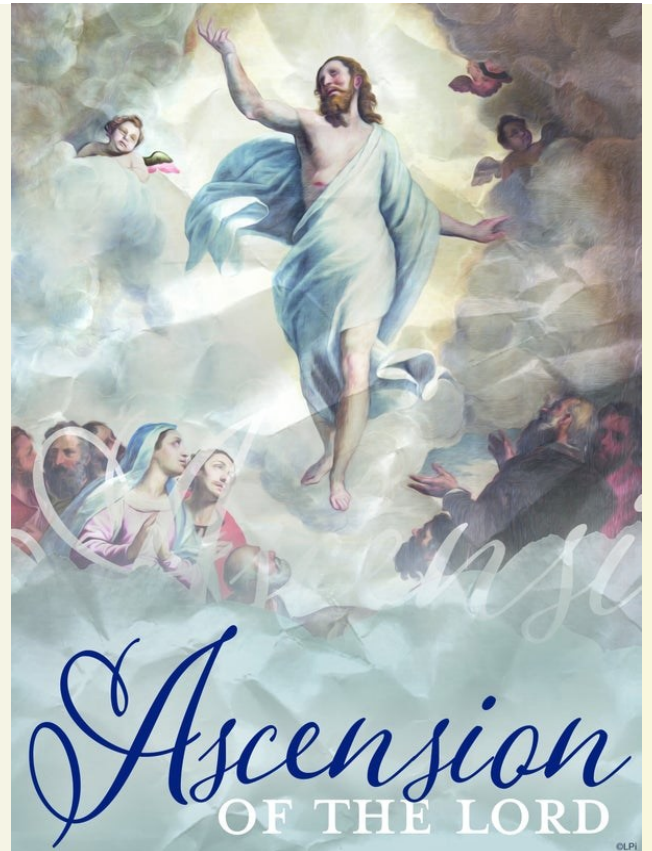
St. Mary's: Saturdays: 3:15—3:45pm or by appointment

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.



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.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Tuesday, May 19

5:00 pm † Judy Zuber

Wednesday, May 20

8:00 am † Jerry St. Louis

Thursday, May 21

8:00 am † Connor Provo

Friday, May 22

8:00 am † Rita Brink

Saturday, May 23

4:00 pm Living & Deceased parishioners of our parishes

Sunday, May 24

7:00 am † Tim Hahn

8:30am † Jim Mulcahey

10:15am † Catherine Bridwell

Happening This Week

Tuesday, May 19

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

11:00 am Hobby & Craft Circle at St. Mary

5:00pm Mass - St. Mary

Wednesday, May 20

8:00am Mass - St. Mary

6:30 pm ~ 8:30 pm OCIA- St. Mary's

Thursday, May 21

8:00am Mass - St. Mary

5:00pm Organizational Meeting—St. Michael

Friday, May 22

8:00am Mass & Adoration - St. Mary

Saturday, May 23

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

4:00pm Mass - St. Mary

Sunday, May 24

7:00am Mass - St. Aloysius

8:30 am Mass - St. Michael

10:15 am Mass - St. Mary

2nd Collection—Retired Diocesan Priests



May 23/24, 2026

St. Mary 4:00pm (Sat.)

GREETER: Volunteer

LECTOR: Jim Moore

EM: Lugene Joines & Volunteer

SERVER: Doug Happ

GIFTS: Volunteer

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

GREETER: Joe Keys

LECTOR: Jim Frisz

EM: Linda Hahn

SERVERS: Volunteer

GIFTS: the Keys Family

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

GREETER: Phyllis Stone

LECTOR: Brian Smith

SERVERS: Abner Wood/Millie Wilhoit

GIFTS: the Wood Family

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

GREETER: Brad Cash/Judy Haymaker

LECTOR: Jim Aydt

EM: Janet Tracy, Mary Liz Wright & Jeff Roush

SERVERS: Santi Rea/Jocelyn Tracy

GIFTS: the Laughlin Family

Reminders

June 8: 5:00pm St. Aloysius Finance Mtg.

June 8: 6:00pm St. Aloysius Pastoral Mtg.

June 9: 5:30pm St. Mary's Pastoral Mtg.

June 11: 5:00pm St. Michael's Pastoral Mtg.

June 28: 10:00am St. Michael's 150th Celebration

July 5 ~ 10: Totus Tuus Week

Pray & Play Dates (5:15—7:30pm) for you to mark your calendar

June 5 July 10

August 7 September 4

October 2 November 6

December 4

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and the Dying

Please call or text Father Aloysius(2127-412-4344) if you have a loved one who is seriously ill or close to death to receive this Sacrament, which can only be administered to the living. It is recommended that any Catholic who is facing surgery or has a serious illness, receive the Sacrament of the Sick. Once administered, the sense of the Lord's presence draws everyone more closely together. The sacrament is not a guarantee that healing is in the Divine Will of God. It assures that whatever the outcome, God will be present and guide the patient and family throughout the entire journey.

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
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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>



Birthdays / Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

May 21
Lori Rhodes
Stephanie Logan

May 22
Kim Keske

May 23
Ellen Aydt
Francis Holley
Shelby Keske
Nora Keske

May 24
Rachel Crippes
Meredith Grider
Jim Roush
Abel Sullivan
May 26
Jim Halloran



May 25
Steve & Chris Sunkel
May 27
John & Donita Smith

Our Dearly Departed

James Dunn & Philomena Ashley
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!
May they rest in peace!



Ascension of the Lord

Question: Couldn't Jesus have done more good if he stayed on earth, rather than ascended into heaven?

Answer: This is an interesting question! During his earthly life, Jesus gave sight to the blind, healed paralytics, drove out demons, and fed thousands with only a few loaves of bread. Imagine what he could have done if he'd never ascended into heaven! Imagine what our world could be! It's an interesting thought to consider, especially as the world faces challenges that only seem to deepen and expand. Yet at the Last Supper, Jesus says, "It is better for you if I go." Why? His response must have seemed strange to the Apostles at the time. In his place, Jesus says, he will send the Paraclete, the Comforter, the Advocate. He promises to send the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' departure allows the Apostles to become the leaders he has formed them to be. Jesus is no longer situated in only one geographical location, and his Church will never be a political kingdom. Soon after the Ascension, we celebrate Pentecost — the descent of the Holy Spirit and the radical empowerment of the followers of Jesus. We share in that empowerment and in that mission. Jesus is present in the sacraments, and he is present in us. Through our faith, hope, and love, we are called to be the good he does here on earth! ©LPI

Capital Campaign

St. Aloysius Parish ~ Goal:	\$71,220.00
Weekly received:	\$.00
Up-to-date total:	\$27,580.00
Fund needed:	\$43,640.00
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St. Michael's Parish ~ Goal:	\$90,130.00
Weekly received:	\$25.00
Up-to-date total:	\$24,280.00
Fund needed:	\$65,850.00
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St. Mary's Parish ~ Goal:	\$725,250.00
Weekly received:	\$2,305.00
Up-to-date total:	\$388,418.00
Fund needed:	\$336,832.00



Weekly Offertory May 9/10, 2026

ST. ALOYSIUS

Sunday	\$1,662.00
Online Giving	\$0
Mother's Day	\$390.00
Catholic Communication	\$92.00
Total Collection:	\$1,285.66

ST. MICHAEL

Sunday	\$2,695.00
Online Giving	\$135.00
Catholic Communication	\$125.00
Total Collection:	\$2,955.00

ST. MARY

Sunday	\$3,196.00
Online Giving	\$65.00
Retired Priests	\$110.00
Catholic Communication	\$275.00
Ascension	\$60.00
Mother's Day	\$190.00
Total Collection:	\$3,896.00

Thank you for your support!

2025/2026 Fiscal Year Diocesan 10% Tithing

St. Aloysius Parish

March Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$467.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$4,185.00

St. Michael's Parish

March Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$669.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$5,796.00

St. Mary's Parish

March Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$2,393.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$26,556.00

Prayer Requests

For the Sick

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

Andrew Hochestler	Theresa Armstrong Coombs
Mindy Brown	Larry Elsberry
Karen Ayres	Joanie Hutchcraft
Sharon Farrington	John Yuza
Tom Wagner	Patricia Sullivan
Angie Napier	Mary Jiron
John David Jones	Kent Laughlin
Bill Englum	Peter David
John Cannady	Mary Stoneburner
Colson Zerrusen	Margaret Huckeby
Sarah Prater	Alice Kramer
Janet Vaught	Sharon Bailey
Brad Cash	Rosemary Ogle
Claudia Blumthal	Jody Crandell
John Throneburg	Leigh Ketner
Wink Cooper	Isaac Hayes
Meredith Blumthal	Donnie Farris
Sandy Thompson	Jean Kramer
Tina Halloran	Marie Hibner
Victoria Magers	Dan Bruner
John Halloran	Doris Bernard
Barry Twigg	Joseph Finch
Lahaunda Madrid	Marc Wolf
Eleanor Macey	&
Donna Keys	For those who have no one
Brian Mullenix	to pray for them
Linda McHenry	
Richard Yates	
Tamera Brown Tadlock	

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	Raynell Reynolds
Joseph Livesay	Richard Scott
Juliana Akhavan	Collyn Smith
Justin Vice	

For Our Expectant Mothers

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

Callie Keys Cannady

Let us pray for our PSR Confirmandi that God shower abundant graces upon them during this period of preparation to be true followers of Jesus Christ. They will be confirmed by Bishop Paprocki on June 6, 2026 at the Cathedral.

Our Confirmandi

<i>Carter Staub</i>	<i>Easton Pinnel</i>	<i>Emitt Keys</i>
<i>Hallie Rollings</i>	<i>Hunter Rollings</i>	<i>Jackson Tarr</i>
<i>Nora Keske</i>	<i>Romi Rea</i>	



CALLED & COURAGEOUS WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

*Living with Purpose and
Understanding our Worth*



Featured Speaker:

Dr. Mary Ruth Hackett

Catholic author, speaker, and podcast host

Sign up for Called and Courageous Women's Conference in Springfield

What is preventing you from trusting God more deeply?

Life is full of highs and lows, and it can be hard to see where God is in the middle of it all. At this year's Catholic Women's Conference, discover how to trust God in the messy, real moments of everyday life. Learn how your emotions influence your spiritual life and how to challenge the lies that lead to self-criticism, comparison, and discouragement. You'll leave with practical tools to learn how to recognize God in your daily life, grow in prayer, and live with greater confidence in your identity as a beloved daughter of God. No matter what your season of life – single, married, divorced, widowed, young adult, or retired – you'll find encouragement, community, and hope. When? **Saturday, October 10.** Christ the King parish Center, Springfield. Women ages 18+. Cost \$30. For the full schedule, speaker information, and registration, visit go.dio.org/cac. Even if you are on the fence about God, remember: God is not on the fence about you. Questions? Contact Gracie Ortiz at gortiz@dio.org or 217-321-1124.

Dear God,

You are the one who finds a way in the darkness, and clears the path for those You love. Help us to trust in Your call, and to answer generously to the unknowns we face, knowing Your will never leave us alone.. Amen. ©LPi

Answer the Call to Serve

St. Mary's is looking for a volunteer to wash the servers robes once a month. Please contact the office if you could take this opportunity to serve the Lord!
Thank you!

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Baby Bottle Blessings

Once again, beginning on Mother's Day through Father's Day, our churches will be collecting donations to benefit the Choices Pregnancy & Health Center of Paris. Baby bottles will be available for pick up on Mother's Day weekend at your church. Thank you for supporting our local families and honoring the sanctity of life! Please make check to [Choices Pregnancy & Health](#).



Word of Life

May 17th

"The Lord says to us, 'Do not fear: I am with you' (Isaiah 41:10). He speaks these words not as one who merely observes our pain, but as one who experienced immense suffering. And the very wounds that bear witness to his suffering indicate the essence of our identity and worth: we are loved by God. Reflecting on the healed wounds of the Risen Christ, we see that even our most difficult trials can be the place where God manifests his victory. He makes all things beautiful. He makes all things new."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Be Not Afraid" NABRE © 2010 CCD. Used with permission.

Summer Camp - Totus Tuus

Totus Tuus is a summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic Faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. Parents and grandparents, please register your child/children and save the week for the Lord! **Just scan the QR code below!**

Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:14



TOTUS TUUS

5-10 JULY
2026

St. Mary,
Paris



Grades 1-6

Monday-Friday
9:00am-2:30pm
Bring sack lunch

Grades 7-12

Sunday-Thursday
6:30-8:15pm
Snack provided



QUESTIONS?

Email Mary Liz Wright at mlwright@stmaryschurchparis.org



Stewardship Corner

The Ascension of the Lord

"I am praying for them..." JOHN 17:9

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation – not just our last resort. Pray for friends and family, and especially for those that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank, and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you. Teach others how to pray. It has been said that teaching someone how to pray is the best gift you can give someone.

Meeting Invitation

There will be an organizational meeting for St Michael's 150th celebration May 21 at 5:00 pm in the parish life center. Anyone who is interested in attending may come.

Thank you !

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

Project Rachel

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

Pastoral Reflections

Solemnity of Ascension

My dear parishioners,

God Is Good!!! All the Time!!! And All the Time!!! God Is Good!!!

Philip was one of those seven worthy members of the community chosen to take care of the distribution of goods to people in need (Acts 6:1-7). However, through the power of the Holy Spirit, Philip also advanced the Gospel in many other ways. Here we see once again Luke's overriding interest in demonstrating that the Holy Spirit was always the driving force behind the expansion of the Gospel.

Jesus continues his "farewell discourse" by making a strong connection between loving him and keeping his commandments. Throughout the passage, Jesus will use words such as commandments, word, and words. The reader should understand all these terms as synonyms. They represent the totality of what Jesus says and what he reveals about God.

Another advocate. One of the ways Jesus will maintain a presence in the world after he returns to the Father is by sending another advocate. The Greek term is *parakletos*, which is often translated as "paraclete." Jesus specifies that he will send "another advocate," indicating that he himself was the first one. This advocate plays a role similar to a defense attorney. He is a teacher who bears witness to Jesus and serves as a prosecutor of the world. He is the Spirit of truth whom the world will reject, but the disciples will accept him because they know him.

I will not leave you orphans. It is important for Jesus to reassure his disciples that they will not be left alone when he returns to the Father. One way that Jesus will be present will be in the form of the advocate. Another way is through his Resurrection. The world will not see this, but the disciples will. This new form of life will also be extended to the disciples. All this will result in the understanding, on the part of the disciples, of the divine mutuality that exists between God, Jesus, and the disciples. Jesus is in the Father, the disciples are in Jesus, and Jesus is in the disciples. This is how the disciples will share in the Father's love.

Keep my commandments. Jesus makes it very clear that simply knowing his commandments is not enough. The commandments have to be observed and put into practice. This is how the disciples demonstrate their love for Jesus: by keeping his commandments. Those who love Jesus, and therefore keep his commandments, are also assured that they will be loved by God. In addition to this, Jesus will also love the disciples and, in this process, reveal himself to them. All of this is aimed at encouraging the disciples to understand that Jesus' departure will, in fact, be a saving event that will benefit them all.

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Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Aloysius



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Paris Council #860**

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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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Matt and Kadie Boland, Parishoners
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VICTIM ASSISTANCE FOR THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation: 217-321-1155

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