



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 Exaltation of the Holy Cross
September 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.



THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
"No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man." For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

- Jn 3:13, 17

YEAR C

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: anaefoaloymelody@yahoo.com

For Appointment & Emergency only:

Please text (217) 412-4344

PARISH STAFF

Business Mgr.: 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

Tuesday, September 16
No Mass

Wednesday, September 17
No Mass

Thursday, September 18
No Mass

Friday, September 19
No Mass

Saturday, September 20
5:30 pm ✝ Don & Linda Clayton

Sunday, September 21
7:00 am ✝ Tim Hahn
8:30 am ✝ Charles & Clella Barrett
10:15am Living & Deceased parishioners of our parishes

Happening This Week

Tuesday, September 16
5:00 am ~ 5:00 pm Adoration - St. Mary
No Mass


Wednesday, September 17
No Mass
12:00pm Prayer Lunch at St. Mary's Meeting Room

Thursday, September 18
No Mass

Friday, September 19
No Mass

Saturday, September 20
4:00 ~ 4:45pm Confession at St. Mary
5:30 pm Mass - St. Mary

Sunday, September 21
7:00am Mass - St. Aloysius
8:30 am Mass - St. Michael
10:15 am Mass - St. Mary
Collection for Church in Africa



September 20/21, 2025

St. Mary 5:30pm (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/Rosemary Keys
GIFTS: the Keys Family

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

GREETER: Beth Harbaugh
LECTOR: Martha Williams
SERVERS: Leah Wood/Solomon Jansen
GIFTS: the Wilhoit 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 Laughlin Family

Reminders

October 20: 5:00pm St. Aloysius Finance Mtg.
October 20: 6:00pm St. Aloysius Pastoral Mtg.
November 4: 6:30pm St. Mary's Finance Mtg.
November 8 ~ 11: Parish Mission Retreat
December 4: 6:00pm St. Michael's Pastoral Mtg.
December 4: 6:30pm St. Michael's Finance Mtg.

Prayer Lunch

September 17, 2025

Everyone is invited to our monthly Prayer Lunch
at noon held at St. Mary's meeting room.
Menu of the Month:
Pork Loin with the Trimmings & Cabbage Rolls.
See you then!

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

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>



EIU Newman Center Annual Gala



Are you an alumni, friend, parent, or have a connection to EIU and the Newman Center? Consider attending this year's **Newman Night Gala, October 25th**, as we remember our past, celebrate the present, and ensure the future of our catholic student community and center here at EIU.

For more details call 217-348-0188, visit our website eiunewman.org/newmannight, or email John Johnson at development@eiunewman.org.



Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa



Next week our parish will take up a collection to support the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. Although the Church in Africa is growing, many still lack access to basic resources and pastoral care. The Solidarity Fund supports pastoral projects to build the capacity of the Church and foster lasting peace and reconciliation across a continent often marked by division and tension. To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/africa.

Birthdays/Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

September 18

Carole Halloran

September 19

Mary Liz Wright

September 20

Lois Moore

September 21

Matt Sullivan

September 21

Chip Keske

Jocelyn Tracy

September 22

Will Magers

Bonnie Stephens

Lucas Sullivan

September 23

Caroline Mae Keys

Jim Muhlbauer

September 24

Anthony Wood



September 18

Matthew & Lisa Ellis

Capital Campaign

St. Aloysius Parish ~ **Goal:** **\$71,220.00**
Weekly received: **\$.00**
Up-to-date total: **\$25,450.00**
Fund needed: **\$45,770.00**

St. Michael's Parish ~ **Goal:** **\$90,130.00**
Weekly received: **\$125.00**
Up-to-date total: **\$8,050.00**
Fund needed: **\$82,080.00**

St. Mary's Parish ~ **Goal:** **\$725,250.00**
Weekly received: **\$2,969.00**
Up-to-date total: **\$274,137.00**
Fund needed: **\$451,113.00**



Weekly Offertory September 6/7, 2025

ST. ALOYSIUS

Sunday **\$1,809.00**
Online Giving **\$0**
Total Collection: **\$1,809.00**

ST. MICHAEL

Sunday **\$2,170.00**
Online Giving **\$70.00**
Total Collection: **\$2,240.00**

ST. MARY

Sunday **\$5,294.00**
Online Giving **\$60.00**
Assumption **\$20.00**
Church in Africa **\$120.00**
Total Collection: **\$5,494.00**

Thank you for your support!

2025/2026 Fiscal Year Diocesan 10% Tithing

St. Aloysius Parish

July Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$460.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$460.00

St. Michael's Parish

July Diocesan Monthly Tithing: 563.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$563.00

St. Mary's Parish

July Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$2,075.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$2,075.00

Prayer Requests

For the Sick

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

Dylan Wagle	Peter David
Katherine McClean	Adam Dennison
Lahaunda Madrid	Mary Stoneburner
Eleanor Macey	Margaret Huckeby
Vasya Hanson	Melissa Cohn
Gerry St. Louis	Kathryn Lentz
Donna Keys	Kenneth Kocher
Brian Mullenix	Jeff Brinkley
Linda McHenry	Andrew Hostetler
Richard Yates	Alice Kramer
Jana McIntosh	Sharon Bailey
Tamera Brown Tadlock	Rosemary Ogle
Theresa Armstrong Coombs	Jody Crandell
Larry Elsberry	Priscilla Hutton
Connie Hart	Leigh Ketner
David Volk	Isaac Hayes
Joanie Hutchcraft	Donnie Farris
Steve Allen	Jean Kramer
Ruby Kindred	Marie Hibner
Andrew Ferucci	Ross Lanter
John Yuza	Dan Bruner
Patricia Sullivan	Doris Bernard
Mary Jiron	Joseph Finch
Kent Laughlin	Marc Wolf
Phil Ludington	
Beverly Haase	
Sydney Shanks	

For Our Military

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

Caleb Machuca	Justin Vice
Henry Arp	Michael Whitacre
Jeff Walsh	Nathan Gatlin
Joe Jenness	Raynell Kahala
Joe Kachmar	Richard Scott
Joseph Livesay	Simon Holzer

For Our PSR Families

We pray that God grant abundant grace upon all of our parents and children so that our Christian identity becomes rooted in the lives of our children through day-to-day religious practices.

Prayer Lists

Please let the office know if you know that:

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

Thank you very much!

The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady



of Sorrows, commemorating the Seven Sorrows of Mary, with a specific feast day on September 15. Key celebrations during the month include the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14, a feast that honors the true cross of Christ, and the Nativity of the

Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8. The liturgical color for September, which falls during Ordinary Time, is green, symbolizing hope for the faithful's eternal harvest.

Prayer to our Sorrowful Mother for a particular grace

O mother most holy and sorrowful, Queen of Martyrs, you who stood by your Son as He agonized on the cross. By the sufferings of your life, by that sword of pain that pierced your heart, by your perfect joy in heaven, look down on me kindly as I kneel before you, sympathizing with your sorrows and offering you my petition with childlike trust.

Dear Mother, because your Son refuses you nothing, ask of His Sacred Heart to mercifully hear my prayer and to grant this prayer in accord with His most perfect will. Therefore, through the merits of His Sacred Passion, along with those of your sufferings at the foot of the cross,

I pray...*your intention*...

Mother most merciful, to whom shall I go in my misery if not to you who pities us poor sinful exiles in this valley of tears? I beseech you to offer Jesus but one drop of His most Precious Blood and but one pang of His Loving Heart. Remind Him that you are our sweetness, our life and our hope, and your prayer will be heard. Amen

Right to Life of Edgar County

We are sponsoring several events in the next few weeks.

- Honey Bee Festival Booth: Consider volunteering for an hour or two at our booth on the downtown square, Sept 26th and 27th to help distribute information and be a pro-life witness to our community.

- Diaper Shower: In January we were asked to prayerfully adopt a baby in danger of abortion. During the month of October, nine months have come and those saved babies are now in need of diapers. If you named your adopted baby, feel free to place a gift tag with his or her name on a box of diapers and all will be donated to Choices Pregnancy. Donation box will be in the gathering space.

RTLEC Board: We look forward to any of you coming forward to assisting our RTLEC board with upcoming activities and events.

Please feel free to contact me for more details.

Mary Ann Sullivan

A special Collection for the unfortunate in Gaza will be collected on the weekend of September 27/28.



DIocese of Springfield in Illinois
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 2, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Church mourns the terrible suffering of Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Gaza and surrounding areas who are struggling to survive, protect their children, and live with dignity in dire conditions. The Holy Father continues to call for a cease fire and for aid to enter the territory, noting with great sorrow that "Gaza is starving."

The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) is there providing vital emergency humanitarian relief and medical and psychological care for the sick, malnourished and wounded.

Given the extraordinary nature of this crisis, The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, President of the USCCB, has asked our Diocese to take up a special collection to provide humanitarian relief and pastoral support for our affected brothers and sisters in Gaza and surrounding areas in the Middle East and send donated funds to CNEWA. This organization has well-established partnerships with the Catholic Church in the region which allows them to respond quickly and efficiently.

The situation in Gaza and across the Middle East cries out for the assistance of the Catholic community of the United States. Please prayerfully consider supporting this special collection. In lieu of envelopes, please include "Gaza" in the memo line of check offerings.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Thomas John Paprocki

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

Brothers, please say YES to these calls!

Catholic Men's Overnight Retreat, September 27-28, Villa Maria Retreat Center

Norbertine Father Herman Joseph Johanneck, O. Pream, presents the upcoming overnight retreat, "Sons of the Father, Men in Christ." The retreat begins at noon on Saturday, September 27 and concludes after lunch on Sunday, September 28. Visit dio.org/events for a more detailed schedule and to register. The cost is \$150 and includes overnight accommodations (single occupancy), meals, and retreat materials. Deadline to register is September 22. Contact events@dio.org with questions.

Men's Leadership Summit taking place in Edwardsville Oct. 18

Do you feel like just another guy in a pew? You're not alone. The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois has invited John Edwards from Just a Guy in the Pew to host a Men's Leadership Summit on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville (110 N Buchanan St.) to bring single and married men together to support one another, get inspired by their faith, gain and enhance leadership skills, and discuss best practices for men's ministry. John is a dynamic, inspirational spiritual leader who has a powerful witness story of hard drug use to finding Christ in a radical way.

Register at dio.org/events/mens-leadership-summit. Cost: \$30. Includes materials/food and drink. Deadline to register is Oct. 1. Contact: Gracie Ortiz, Director of Marriage and Family Life at gortiz@dio.org or 217-321-1124 for questions.

Stewardship Corner

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." John 3:16

God created us to be in relationship with Him. Sin broke that relationship. Jesus came to earth so that we may reconcile our relationship with God. Following Jesus' example, we can be blessed with a joy-filled life on earth and eternal life in Heaven. These four points are known as the "kerygma" – the first proclamation of the Gospel. This core message is the basis of our Catholic faith. How do you live this out in your daily life?

Word of Life

September 14th

"We pray to you, O Lord, that we always recognize each member of this human family as being made in your image and beloved by you, with worth and dignity."

USCCB, "Prayer to Heal Racial Division"

"What does the tiger say to his friends before they go hunting for food?"



"Let us prey."



The Bible tells us to pray in every circumstance; don't forget that God is always here, listening, and loving!

CLP

Pastoral Reflections

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

My dear parishioners,

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

The evangelist Luke dedicates the whole of Chapter 15 to the theme of forgiveness. This is a key emphasis running throughout the entire Gospel. Luke is convinced that anyone who is willing to repent of his or her sins can be assured of God's forgiveness. He presents three parables to make his point. Each one deals with "lost and found."

The sheep and the coin. These two parables are short. The first deals with a shepherd who loses one sheep out of a 100 and hunts it down until he finds it. The second parable tells of a woman who loses one of 10 coins and sweeps the entire house until she finds it. Both the shepherd and the woman rejoice at finding what was lost. Luke interprets both parables from the perspective of the lost sheep and the lost coin. For him, these represent sinners. Luke's teaching is that there is more joy in heaven and among the angels over one sinner who repents than over many who do not.

No Christian believer would argue with Luke's teaching. However, is that exactly what Jesus taught? Neither the sheep nor the coin repent. In fact, both the shepherd and the woman are depicted as extremely assertive in finding what was lost. No real shepherd would ever do that nor would an ordinary person sweep a whole house to find a penny. Jesus seems to focus on the shepherd and the woman as metaphors for God. This is how much God loves us. God's love for us appears extreme, and repentance is not a requirement!

A father and two lost sons. This third parable uses the same dynamic as the previous ones. The younger son squanders his inheritance and brings monumental shame upon himself and his family. He should have been shunned by his father for life. When the young son returns home, not because of repentance but out of desperation, the father treats him like royalty with no questions asked. Again, no repentance and an extreme father.

The elder-son syndrome. The elder son is just as lost as the younger one but will not admit it. He hates how the younger son has been accepted back, but he will not accept for himself that same graciousness from his father. Again, the father requires no repentance and continues to treat the elder son with extreme love. Could God be this extreme with God's love? Jesus says yes. Jesus' teaching is even more radical than Luke's.

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