



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
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 21, 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.



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."

- Lk 16:8b, 13 **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 23
 5:00 pm ✝ Tom Carroll

Wednesday, September 24
 8:00 am ✝ Ed Pool

Thursday, September 25
 8:00 am Nana Matt & Pearman Family

Friday, September 26
 8:00 am ✝ Bertha & Jack Bernard

Saturday, September 27
 5:30 pm ✝ Richard Willis

Sunday, September 28
 7:00 am Living & Deceased parishioners of our parishes
 8:30 am ✝ Jodi Bosch
 10:15am ✝ Ed & Virginia Sullivan

Happening This Week

Tuesday, September 23
5:00 am ~ 5:00 pm Adoration - St. Mary
 5:00 pm Mass - St. Mary
7:00pm KC Meeting

Wednesday, September 24
 8:00 am Mass - St. Mary

Thursday, September 25
 8:00 am Mass - St. Mary


Friday, September 26
 8:00 am Mass & Adoration- St. Mary

Saturday, September 27
4:00 ~ 4:45pm Confession at St. Mary
 5:30 pm Mass - St. Mary

Sunday, September 28
 7:00am Mass - St. Aloysius
 8:30 am Mass - St. Michael
 10:15 am Mass - St. Mary

2nd Collection—CNEW A-GAZA

11:15am St. Mary's & St. Al's PSR Kick Off Cook Out



September 27/28, 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: Randy Stone
LECTOR: Phyllis Stone/PSR
SERVERS: Abner Wood/Landon Keske
GIFTS: the Wood Family

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

GREETER: Brad Cash/Judy Haymaker
LECTOR: Jim Aydt
EM: Christi McClain, Mary Liz Wright & Janet Tracy
SERVERS: Santi Rea/Jocelyn Tracy
GIFTS: the Magers 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.

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

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.*

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/stalloysiusnortharm>



St. Mary Paris

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



St. Michael Hume

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



Bequests:

**Have you documented your final wish-
es?** 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.

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.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

September 26

Deb Kirsch

September 27

Clarissa Jansen

September 27

Ron Crandell

September 29

Vicki Ballard

Lacey Staub

September 30

Anita Rhodes

October 1

Thomas Blandford

Romona Mattingly

Helen McMullen

Scott Tracy

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: **\$.00**
Up-to-date total: **\$7,925.00**
Fund needed: **\$82,205.00**

St. Mary's Parish ~ **Goal:** **\$725,250.00**
Weekly received: **\$6,635.00**
Up-to-date total: **\$277,803.00**
Fund needed: **\$447,447.00**



Weekly Offertory September 13/14 2025

ST. ALOYSIUS

Sunday \$805.00
Online Giving \$0
Total Collection: **\$805.00**

ST. MICHAEL

Sunday \$1,370.00
Online Giving \$70.00
Total Collection: **\$1 440.00**

ST. MARY

Sunday \$2,714.00
Online Giving \$70.00
Church in Africa \$20.00
Total Collection: **\$2,804.00**

Thank you for your support!

2025/2026 Fiscal Year Diocesan 10% Tithing

St. Aloysius Parish

August Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$454.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$914.00

St. Michael's Parish

August Diocesan Monthly Tithing: 486.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$1,049.00

St. Mary's Parish

August Diocesan Monthly Tithing: \$2,406.00
Total Fiscal Year Tithing to date: \$4,481.00

Prayer Requests

For the Sick

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

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

A Prayer for Catechists (Catechetical Sunday)

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church. Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word. Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you. Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son. We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

A special Collection for the unfortunate in Gaza



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,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

2025 Respect Life Mass
Rosary Walk and Luncheon
Saturday, October 11 | 9 a.m.
Holy Family Catholic Church,
Granite City

Join Catholics from across the Diocese of Springfield as we celebrate Respect Life Month with a morning of prayer, fellowship, and inspiration. The day will begin with the **Respect Life Mass at 9 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church (2606 Washington Ave, Granite City)**. Following Mass, participants will take part in a Rosary Walk through the community, giving witness to the dignity of every human life. A complimentary luncheon will follow, featuring guest speaker Kristi Hofferber, Executive Director of A Beacon of Light. Kristi will share her powerful testimony and her work in helping women and families choose life, offering hope and support at every stage. This event is a beautiful opportunity to unite in prayer for an end to abortion and for a culture that embraces life from conception to natural death. All are welcome—families, youth, clergy, parish staff, and members of the community. No registration or fees are required.

St. Charbel's First Class Relic and relics of other saints coming to Vandalia/Springfield in October

A First Class relic of St. Charbel Makhlouf, the miraculous Maronite priest, monk, and hermit from Lebanon, is coming to our diocese for the first time from his homeland—and Catholics across Illinois are invited to this rare spiritual encounter. The relic will be available for public veneration at two locations: the Sanctuary of the Sorrowful Mother in Vandalia on **October 7–8 (Mass at 5 p.m., veneration from 4–8 p.m. both days)** and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield on Sunday, **October 19, following the 10 a.m. Mass**. Additional relics of holy men and women—including St. Padre Pio, St. Carlo Acutis, the three Fatima children, and a piece of the True Cross—will also be present. Come bring your intentions and experience the powerful intercession of the saints.

No RSVP required. For more information, visit OSMM.org or email KeckVanessa7@gmail.com.



God is Alive Part 2 / Incredible stories of faith and miraculous events in the Midwest - This original documentary produced by the diocese will captivate your students as it explores **four stories in Missouri, Edwardsville, Ashland, and Chicago** that will motivate, inspire, positively impact their relationship with God, and have them think about our faith in new ways. The documentary is 1 hour. The way it's produced, you can easily stop and start it after each story if you want to break it up. Note, the story in Edwardsville mentions rape. https://youtu.be/Bj_a7UKkYVU

Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa



This weekend we take up our collection to support the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. The people of Africa are joyous and faith-filled—but as the Church in Africa grows, the pastoral needs of the people also increase. Clergy formation, communications programs to bring the Gospel to remote territories, youth ministries that engage the next generation of disciples—these and all the

Church's needs are wide-ranging. The Solidarity Fund is an opportunity for our parish to stand with the people of Africa. Our contributions help them face these challenges and build lasting foundations of missionary discipleship. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this collection today. To learn more, visit today. To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/africa.

Prayer Campaign for LIFE

Sept. 24 – Nov. 7

Our parish will soon be participating in the annual "Prayer Campaign for LIFE", 40 days focused on building a pro-life culture. We will be joining people of faith across our nation to pray, fast, and serve to end abortion and to fight assisted suicide.

God heard the pro-life prayers of our nation, and blessed us by overturning Roe v. Wade in 2022. What a huge victory! We have the wonderful opportunity to pray in thanksgiving for this gift.

Unfortunately, the average number of abortions committed in our state *increased by over 1,300 per month* after Roe was overturned. People in surrounding states view our state as an abortion "haven" since Illinois has no abortion restrictions. We have much to pray for!

There will be opportunities to sign-up for individual prayer hours at our church as well as service hours at the Silk Purse Thrift Store in Effingham.

Everyone is encouraged to pray and fast from September 24 to Nov. 7. Watch for more details coming soon!

*"Prayer is the best weapon we have;
it is the key to God's heart."*

~St. Padre Pio

Stewardship Corner

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"No servant can serve two masters. He will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (wealth)." LUKE 16:13

Jesus knows that for many of us, God and money run "neck and neck" as top priority. Is money a "god" that you put before God? Giving money to support the Church and other charity is a pillar of our faith, just like attending Mass every Sunday and participating in parish ministry. Giving money frees us from becoming a slave to money. It increases our dependence on God and our trust that God will provide all that we need.

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

IF YOU CAN BE
TRUSTED WITH
THE SMALL STUFF,
THE BIG STUFF
WILL FOLLOW.

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September 21st

Word of Life

"Throughout salvation history, God has welcomed repentant sinners with special joy. Jesus concludes the parable of the lost sheep with these words: 'there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance' (Lk 15:7)*."

*NABRE © 2010 CCD. Used with permission.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"Life Matters: Forgiveness and Healing After Abortion"

GOOD DEAL.
I FINISHED THE
HORS D'OEUVRES.



Pastoral Reflections

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

My dear parishioners,

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

Today's Gospel consists of a parable told by Jesus (Lk 16:1-8a), supplemented by a series of sayings understood in some way to exemplify the point of the parable (Lk 16:8b-13). The problem is that scholars and commentators do not agree on the point of the parable itself. Almost every interpretation creates as many difficulties as it solves.

What shall I do? One approach to understanding this parable is to consider it to be about the prudent use of possessions. This is a topic that is very important to Lk. The steward in the parable is suspected of squandering his master's property. What seems to be highlighted here is the steward's astuteness and his cleverness in finding a way out of his crisis. His fiscal manipulations are not necessarily held up for imitation. The crisis was urgent, and the steward acted quickly, thus securing his future.

A shrewd steward. The steward had the authority to make binding contracts for his master. Interest rates were always included in the contract—even though Jews technically were forbidden to take interest from other Jews on loans and contracts. What the steward does is reduce the interest rate on each contract. In effect, he gets even at his master's expense. Keep in mind this master is an absentee landlord, and the common peasantry would have no sympathy for him whatsoever. These rich landlords made their wealth off the backs of the peasantry. Even the master is impressed by the quick and prudent response the steward made to this crisis.

Use your possessions well. The collected sayings that make up the second half of this Gospel emphasize the correct way of using possessions and wealth. The disciple must be as prudent and clever as the steward—and have a clear understanding of who he or she really serves. Possessions can either easily be misused, or they can be used for the betterment of the kingdom of God. Wealth and possessions can often become idols and the one possessing becomes, in fact, possessed by them. Each one of these sayings has a shock value aimed to startle the hearer. The question emerges over and over: What is really at stake here? What must I do to secure eternal life and not simply more possessions?

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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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FRUIN & KASH

Richard M. Kash, Jr.

Attorneys at Law
129 N. Central Ave.
Paris, IL 61944

Phone: (217) 465-4196
Fax: (217) 466-1213



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