

St. Mary of Gostyn

Catholic Church

445 Prairie Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Rev. Shaun Cieslik
Pastor

Rev. Asirvandam Dandu
Parochial Vicar

Deacon Al Agurkis
Deacon Bob Miciunas

Parish Office
(630)969-1063
Website
www.stmarygostyn.org

School Office
(630)968-6155
440 Prairie Avenue
Downers Grove

Religious Education Office
(630)960-3566
445 Prairie Avenue
Downers Grove

Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil for Sunday
4:00pm
Sunday..8:00am, 10:00am,
12:00pm, 6:00pm

Monday-Friday.....8:00am

Confessions
Saturday.....8:30am-9:30am
Holy Hour on Tuesday 7:00pm
or by appointment

New Parishioners
We encourage you to register
in person at the Parish Office,
or register online through our
website, www.stmarygostyn.org.



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V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.



*Hail Mary,
full of grace,
The Lord is with thee.*

©Diocesan - The Visitation - Philippe De Champaigne, 1643

Sunday, December 17 2023 | 3rd Sunday of Advent

Prayer Ministry/Staff

Monday December 18th

8:00 am

† Christopher McCarthy

Tuesday December 19th

8:00 am

† Kathryn Kramarczyk

Wednesday December 20th

8:00 am

† Jim Massura

Thursday December 21st

8:00 am

† James E. Hanlon, Sr.

† Kenneth J. Lalla

Friday December 22nd

8:00 am

† Aldona Ruginis

Saturday December 23rd

4:00 pm

People of the Parish

Sunday December 24th

8:00 am

† Robert Conlon

10:00 am

living intention for Arlene Lopez

† Vickie Swartz

3:00 pm

For all the Faithful

7:00 pm

For all the Faithful

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the families of
Dennis Kalins
John Obremski

Welcome

We welcome the following to St. Mary of
Gostyn;
Joseph & Alba Ortinau
Matthew & Nicole Schober

Prayers for the Sick

John Mika

Beth Smith

Baby Cameron

Irene Karlinski

Denise Deno

Mary Buchler

Charlene Oliver

Pam Stefik

Kenneth Twardzik

Christina Bronk

Mary Kalins

Sue Conrad

Donald Smith

Nicole Moyer

Jack Riley

Barbara Compton

Cyndi Smith

Kim Iaffaldano

Luke Hyland

Jack Egan

Rosemary Powell

Richard Craven

Konrad Miskowicz-Retz

Rose Jaskula

Sharon Kling

Lois Bach

Emily Torres

Ellie Paruszkiewicz

Adalyn Harres

Barb LeBreton

Stephanie Rodriguez

Thomas Twardzik, Sr.

James Bentley

Prayers for the Military

Kevin Braasch

John Svoboda

Nathan Kjoski

Brenday Vrtis

Michael Martel

Kathleen Halloran

Jack Cuilligan

Ben Gartlan

Natalya Brechlin

Isabella Czopek

Kyle Ng

Peter Gartlan

Baptism

The following child was Baptized on Sunday, December
10, 2023;

Ava Jean Desautels daughter of Michael and Kimberly
Desautels.

Parish/School Staff

Terri O'Dekirk.....Director of Development

Ed Ahern.....Facilities Director

Annabelle Tumlos..Business Manager

Kelly Johnson.....Adult Faith Formation

Jennifer Liszka.....Director of Religious Education

Erin Lawrence.....Music Director

LeAnne Brown.....Parish Administrative Assistant

Christine Kalal.....School Principal

Audrey Krueger....Assist Principal/Co-Athletic Director

Juli Majchrzak.....Marketing Director

St. Vincent dePaul Society....(630)969-1068

Diocese

Bishop Hicks' Column

December 2023

EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL AND SYNODALITY, TOGETHER



ARE YOU A CUBS FAN? OR ARE YOU A WHITE SOX FAN? If you have any roots in Chicagoland, you instinctively understand that you must declare one or the other. It is common practice to choose one team — one is never a fan of both!

During these past two years, throughout our country and within the Catholic Church, that same principle seems to have been applied to the National Eucharistic Revival and the Synod on Synodality. As you know, the Eucharistic Revival is a three-year initiative of the Church to enkindle a living relationship with Jesus Christ in the holy Eucharist. The Synod on Synodality is an international, multiyear undertaking during which Catholics give feedback and deeply listen to each other — so, as a Church, we can all discern together where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

Curiously, many people seem to be taking sides; they are in favor of one, but not the other.

The week before Thanksgiving, I joined over 250 bishops in Baltimore for a week of meetings hosted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We began the meetings with prayer, adoration, benediction, and Mass. The first address to the assembly was given by Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the Papal Nuncio. When it comes to the Eucharistic Revival and the Synod, he encouraged us to move away from an “either/or” approach, and to instead embrace and promote both. The special connections between the Eucharistic Revival and the Synod prevailed through our week of meetings.

At one point, Cardinal Pierre beautifully reflected on the road to Emmaus story from the Gospel of Luke (24: 13–35). Along their journey, the disciples debated their theological points of view while Jesus listened to them. “Listening, corresponds to the humble style of God,” said the cardinal, quoting Pope Francis. “God loves humanity: that is why he addresses his word to them, and why he ‘inclines his ear’ to listen to them.”

You see, *listening* is essential for a synodal Church because it is a dimension of love. Through this Emmaus moment, Jesus accompanies, listens, and discerns with His disciples. Then, their hearts were set on fire because they recognized His true presence in the Eucharist. After this Eucharistic encounter, they go

back to the other disciples and proclaim that Jesus is alive and — with missionary zeal — are committed to sharing the risen Christ with the world.

Cardinal Pierre concluded his presentation with these moving insights: “Our people need us to be adventurers for the Lord. They need us to be united with one another. They need to see how our diversity, harmonized, displays the beauty of the Church and of the Catholic faith. They need to be reminded that salvation comes not from one idea or another, but through a shared encounter with the living person of Jesus, who is love.”

Most of us can agree we are a stronger Church when we both listen *and* keep the Eucharist as our source and summit. Let’s look for ways to stay united with each other and with Christ.

From the onset, I announced that the Diocese of Joliet was going to participate in both the National Eucharistic Revival and the Synod on Synodality. Walking in numerous Eucharistic processions and attending many talks about the Eucharist, I am proud of how robustly our clergy and parishioners have promoted and embraced this Eucharistic Revival. I look forward to participating in our continued celebrations of the Eucharist in the Diocese of Joliet, and will joyfully attend the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July 2024. That event will launch us into the next phase of the revival by enthusiastically taking the Eucharistic Lord into the world and putting our faith into action as missionary disciples.

At the same time, I am also proud of how we have participated in the Synod on Synodality. For over six months, groups gathered throughout every deanery of our diocese to listen intently to each other. The themes from these listening sessions were gathered and compiled into a report sent to Rome. The first half of the synod concluded in the Vatican this October. With faithful hope, we await the next steps for the second half next October.

As a baseball fan, I am fiercely loyal to my team, while politely ignoring the other. Gratefully, that’s not what our Church does when it comes to the National Eucharistic Revival and the Synod on Synodality. Like you, I love Jesus so much — especially in the Eucharist — *and* at the same time — through Him, with Him, and in Him — I desire a *listening* Church that calls us to be on mission! With faith and trust in God, I look forward to walking on this all-connected journey with you ahead.

DIOCESE OF JOLIET



Advent/Christmas



Advent and Christmas Mass Schedule

Fourth Sunday Of Advent December 23, 2023

Saturday Vigil for Sunday

4:00PM Mass

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023

8:00AM, 10:00AM Mass, *no 12:00PM Mass*

Christmas Eve December 24, 2023

3:00PM Mass in Church and Gym

7:00PM and 12:00AM Mass in Church

12:00AM Mass will have incense

Christmas Day, December 25, 2023

8:00AM, 10:00AM, 12:00PM Mass in Church

No 6:00PM Mass

New Years Eve Mass December 31, 2023

8:00AM, 10:00AM, 12:00PM Mass

No 6:00PM Mass

New Year's Day Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God January 1, 2024

9:00AM Mass



A SEASON TO REJOICE

Advent

GROW IN FAITH

Did you notice? What's different at Mass this weekend? The readings for this 3rd Sunday in Advent, also called Gaudete, or Rejoice, Sunday encourage us to rejoice, in anticipation of the nearness of the Lord's coming. Throughout the readings, the themes of hope and repentance dominate as we anticipate the three-fold 'coming' of Christ:

- Christ in History, born in a manger in Bethlehem;
- Christ in Mystery, present today in his Sacraments, especially, 'par excellence' in his Real Presence in the Eucharist; and,
- Christ to Come Again at his Second Coming.

We would do well to, as St. Paul enjoins us, to *"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks"* (1 Thes 5:13).



CAREGIVERS NEED CARE TOO

For some, the holiday seasons are particularly difficult, whether it's because there is an empty place around the table this year, or because 'things' just look different as family, friends, and situations change. Caregivers, in particular, often struggle during the holiday seasons. We know, we've been there too. So, for you, during these holiday seasons, and everyday, there are various resources available to help you navigate the emotional turmoil as well as a variety of ways to connect with others: www.stmarygostyn.org.



RECONCILIATION

Advent is a perfect time for Reconciliation. It allows us to Sacramentally acknowledge our own sinfulness as we prepare for the Nativity. It also allows God to touch us - for us to encounter Christ present in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Individual Confession (last chance before Christmas) on Thursday, December 21st, 6:30-8:00 PM.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Behold daily he humbles himself as when from his 'royal throne' (Wisdom 18:15) he came into the womb of the Virgin; daily he himself comes to us with like humility; daily he descends from the bosom of his Father upon the altar in the hands of the priest.

Saint Francis of Assisi

Around the Parish



Dear SMG Chapel Adorers:

Thank you for your love and devotional prayer for our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, Sacramentally present in the Eucharist. We are truly blessed to have a Eucharistic Adoration chapel at St. Mary's.

Campus safety is an ongoing priority at St. Mary's, and it's important that all our visitors feel safe in our Chapel. Recently, there has been some suspicious behavior taking place in our Chapel and passage hallway on the weekends. Unfortunately, we do not have staff oversight on the weekends to monitor or respond if an emergency occurs.

Therefore, as of January 2, 2024, our Adoration Chapel will be closed on the weekends (Saturday & Sunday). Our new Adoration hours will correspond with our Parish Center hours, Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. It's important that we maintain a safe environment for everyone, including our Chapel Adorers. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Shaun



Adoration Chapel Advent/Christmas
Adoration chapel will be **closed Saturday, December 23rd and will reopen Wednesday, December 27th.**
The Adoraton chapel will also **be closed Sunday, December 31 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd.**



The first reading from Isaiah for Christmas Day reads...How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, proclaim salvation...

On behalf of the St. Mary Appalachia Outreach Mission, we would like to thank all of you for bringing good tidings to the children in McCreary County, KY. This year we continued to distribute the names via e-mail and phone calls, and through the grace of God, all 221 names were distributed. The children of McCreary County, KY. enjoyed their new clothes, toys, and toiletries. None of this would have occurred if not for your generosity.
May the peace of Christ bless you and your families.



Around the Parish



Time to get the HOTTEST TICKET in Town

The 2024 Garden Gala committee is thrilled to announce the official opening of registration for the most anticipated event of the year - The Annual St. Mary of Gostyn Gala! This enchanting evening promises to be a celebration of our school, bringing together parents, parishioners, supporters, and friends for a night of camaraderie and generosity. The Annual Gala serves as a vital fundraising initiative to support the education and growth of our children at St. Mary of Gostyn.

The Garden Gala Details

- Saturday, February 3, 2024 at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace.
- Cocktail hour starts at 6pm with an Open Bar and Hors d'oeuvres.
- You will be seated at 7pm for dinner with a preselected meal choice. Please see the details below.
- Dress code: Semi-formal to formal.

Dinner Choices

Filet Mignon and Chicken Combo
Salmon Filet
Vegetable Kabob

Please see our website to register!

smggala2024.givesmart.com

There are still opportunities to sponsor the event and/or donate an auction item. Your support will help to underwrite this event. Thank you. Details are on the website under "Sponsorship Opportunities".

Diocesan is proud to now be printing

St. Mary's Sunday Bulletin

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