

# 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](http://www.stmarygostyn.org)

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

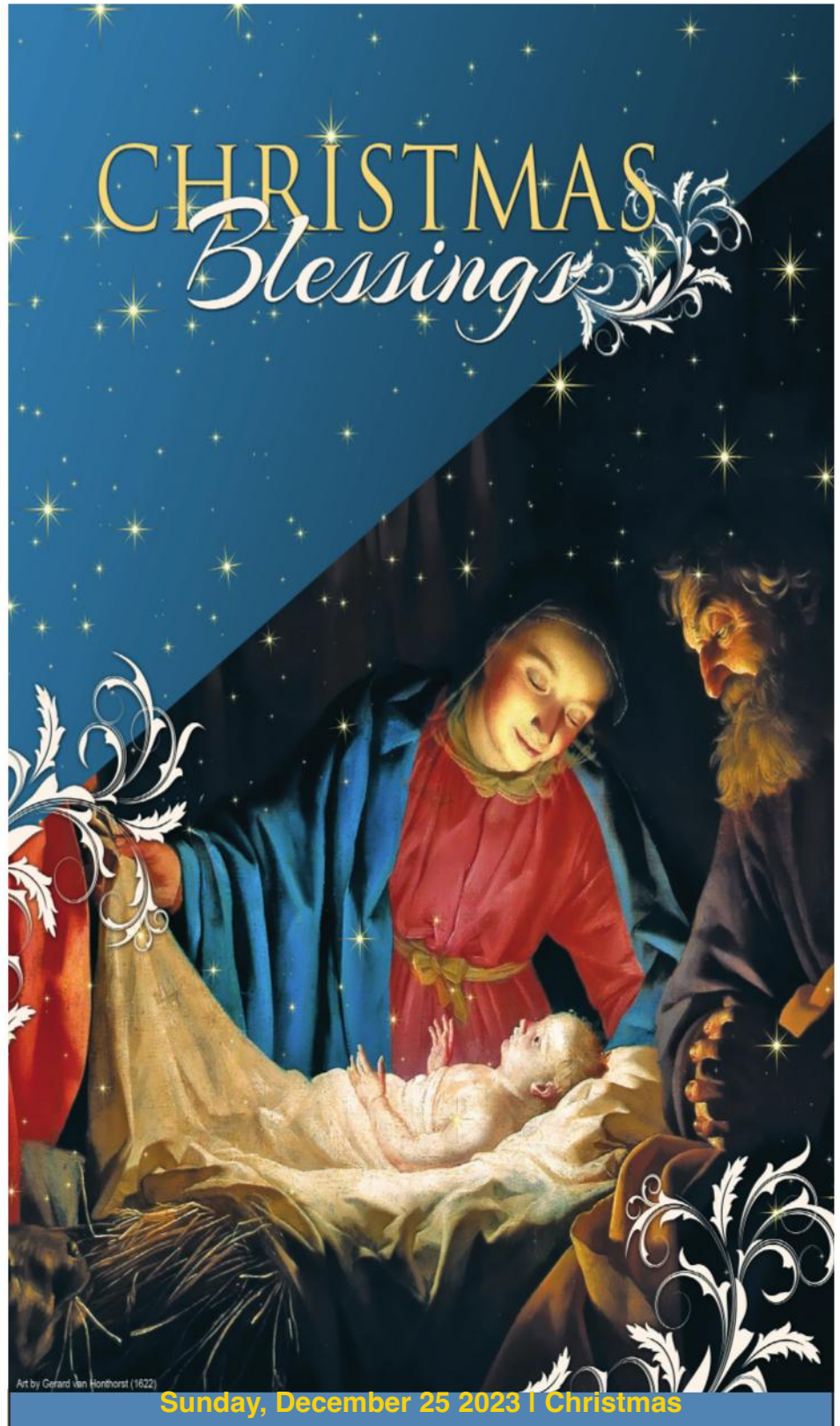
Religious Education Office  
(630)960-3566  
445 Prairie Avenue  
Downers Grove

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](http://www.stmarygostyn.org).



Sunday, December 25 2023 | Christmas

# Prayer Ministry/Staff

**Monday December 25th**

**12:00 am**

**For all the Faithful**

**8:00 am**

**For all the Faithful**

**10:00 am**

**For all the Faithful**

**12:00 pm**

**For all the Faithful**

**Tuesday December 26th**

**8:00 am**

**† Fr. Michael Walsh & Mary Ellen Walsh**

**† Joseph Karlinski**

**Wednesday December 27th**

**8:00 am**

**Joan Alban**

**Thursday December 28th**

**8:00 am**

**† Kathleen Shea**

**Friday December 29th**

**8:00 am**

**† Jean F. Choate**

**† Arlene Cihlar**

**Saturday December 30th**

**4:00 pm**

**† Cathy Heinz**

**† Adrienne Stefka**

**Sunday December 31st**

**8:00 am**

**† Brittany Battaglia**

**10:00 am**

**Margaret Clark**

**† Hugh F. Toner, Jr**

**12:00 pm**

**People of the Parish**

## Welcome

We welcome the following to St. Mary of Gostyn;

Jeannine Kukuk  
Nancy Swaback  
Peter & Jenifer Parenti

## Prayers for the Sick

John Mika	Kim Iaffaldano
Beth Smith	Luke Hyland
Baby Cameron	Jack Egan
Irene Karlinski	Rosemary Powell
Denise Deno	Richard Craven
Mary Buchler	Konrad Miskowicz-Retz
Charlene Oliver	Rose Jaskula
Pam Stefik	Sharon Kling
Kenneth Twardzik	Lois Bach
Christina Bronk	Emily Torres
Dennis Kalins	Ellie Paruszkiewicz
Sue Conrad	Adalyn Harres
Donald Smith	Barb LeBreton
Nicole Moyer	Stephanie Rodriguez
Jack Riley	Thomas Twardzik, Sr.
Barbara Compton	James Bentley
Cyndi Smith	Mary Kalins
Folisi-Steck families	Jackie Craven

## Prayers for the Military

Kevin Braasch	Michael Martel	Natalya Brechlin
John Svoboa	Kathleen Halloran	Isabella Czopek
Nathan Kjowski	Jack Cuilligan	Kyle Ng
Brendan Vrtis	Ben Gartlan	Peter Gartlan

## Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the family of  
John Obremski  
Resty M. Rios, Jr.  
Quinn Folisi

## 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

## Pastor

LET US  
ADORE HIM  
*Christ the Lord*

Dear St. Mary's Parishioners:

On behalf of Fr. Dandu, Deacon Al, Deacon Bob, and our entire parish and school staff, may you have a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May the love of the Christ-child fill your heart with peace and joy as you encounter his Real Presence in the Eucharist today and every week of the year.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Shaun



*Adoration*

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



EUCCHARISTIC  
*Adoration*

### **Adoration Chapel Advent/Christmas**

Adoration chapel will be **closed Saturday, December 23rd and will reopen Wednesday, December 27th.**

The Adoration chapel will also **be closed Sunday, December 31 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd.**



# 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**



# ADULT FAITH FORMATION

## GROW IN FAITH

What does it mean to grow in faith? Simply put, it means to grow spiritually; to mature in both knowledge of God and in godly living. Ultimately, it is to become more like Christ. As we become more like Christ, we grow in virtue: and we become more patient, more joyful, more steadfast, more filled with hope, more loving, etc. Our relationships take priority as we focus on what is truly important.

### TUESDAY EVENING AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

At St. Mary's we have several opportunities for adults to grow in faith. Most offerings are on Tuesday evenings - so mark your calendar now, and set your new year resolutions to spend Tuesday evenings at St. Mary's!

Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration and GUEST SPEAKER Abbot Austin Murphy, OSB. **Tuesday, January 9 @7PM** in Church

Becoming Catholic, Living Catholic discussions

**Tuesday, January 16 @ 7PM** in the Gathering Place

*Topic: The Liturgy -The word "liturgy" technically means the 'work of the people', yet there are two more aspects that help us understand why we even have the Mass in the first place.*

Upcoming: 3-part Lecture Series on the Sacraments, which are "as necessary as food and drink are to the body, so are the Sacraments for the health of the soul" (Bishop Robert Barron). All are welcome - **Tuesdays @ 7PM** in the Gathering Place

- January 30: Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist
- February 6: Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation & Anointing of the Sick
- Feb 20: Sacraments of Vocation: Marriage and Holy Orders

### CARE FOR CAREGIVERS

**Are you a caregiver?** You are not alone. There are 65 million Americans caring for a loved one. Maybe you're a caregiver now, or, maybe you know your caregiving days are coming soon as you see your aging or ill parent or spouse needing more and more assistance.

It's no secret that when someone takes on the role of caregiver, they take on stress, exhaustion, and frustration. As a result, caregivers often report declining health, emotional fatigue, and even spiritual depletion. Nourish for Caregivers provides the tools and resources to build a caregiver's resilience, so they can experience the many blessings that also come with caregiving. We invite you to experience practical, emotional and spiritual support offered through Nourish for Caregivers.

Our Nourish for Caregivers group meets the second Wednesday of each month @2PM. So mark your calendar to join us, all are welcome.

### BEGINNING IN JANUARY

**St. Mary's Thursday AM CAFE** - In exploring sacred Scripture, you'll more deeply understand Christ and His Church. Engage the mind and feed the soul, this time together with other women of the parish will help you grow closer to Christ. **Thursdays @9AM.**

**St. Mary's Men's Group** - Strengthen your faith through real discussions centered on the life-affirming message of Jesus Christ in our Catholic tradition. As iron sharpens iron, St. Mary's Men's Group encourages each other to reach their full potential. **Mondays @7PM.**



**GUEST  
SPEAKER  
TUES. JAN. 9TH**

### EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Humility, obedience,  
meekness, and love are  
the virtues that shine  
through the Cross and  
the Blessed Sacrament  
of the Altar.  
O my Jesus, help me  
imitate you!

Saint Anthony Mary Claret



## 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](http://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".



**Children's Liturgy of the Word**

Children's Liturgy of the Word will take place the following Sunday;

January	February	March	April	May
1/6	2/4	3/3	4/7	5/5
1/14	2/11	3/10	4/21	5/12
1/28	2/18		4/28	

## ADVENT

 SUNDAY KIDZ

C	L	K	D	L	L	S	R	L	S	B	V	R	E	F	X
E	I	K	J	U	V	C	X	A	E	U	E	J	O	B	S
B	F	W	K	T	F	A	B	G	V	L	R	J	S	V	Q
E	P	P	K	I	J	N	V	F	I	I	X	O	S	E	A
G	K	M	S	G	A	D	Y	L	O	E	G	I	E	N	Z
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D	G	B	I	E	S	E	E	M	A	C	D	F	J	N	R
N	L	A	S	U	R	R	K	R	M	V	T	F	F	O	C
E	U	P	D	L	R	F	S	U	W	A	S	G	C	E	S
W	A	K	U	V	S	I	C	K	L	W	N	F	K	A	A
S	B	J	C	R	E	S	A	M	A	R	Y	U	Y	M	L
A	N	G	E	L	P	N	M	Y	A	V	H	R	E	I	Q
I	L	L	E	Y	L	L	T	B	P	N	F	T	L	L	P
S	N	Q	H	L	Y	F	E	B	X	K	D	P	J	D	L
J	E	S	U	S	I	W	R	E	A	T	H	R	D	R	G

**WORDSEARCH**



MARY  
ANGEL  
JESUS  
ADVENT  
CANDLE

JOSEPH  
PURPLE  
WREATH  
BELIEVE

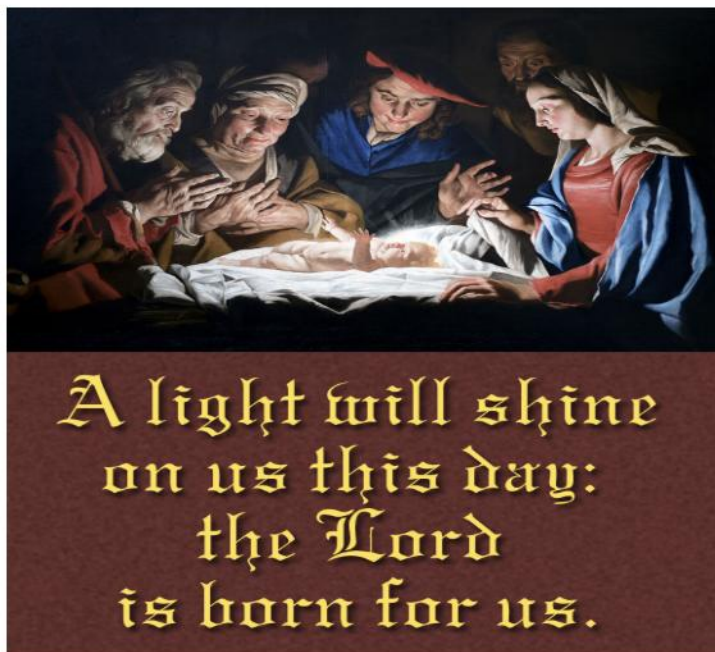
REJOICE  
SAVIOR  
EMMANUEL  
GOODNEWS  
ISRAEL



## Around the Parish

### A Call To Stewardship

Monthly Collection	November 2023
Envelopes	\$ 59,420
Online Giving	\$ 46,675
Total	\$106,095
Collection Goal To Date	\$596,400
Collection to Date	\$629,338
Collection Variance over/under	\$ 32,938



**Thank you for your generosity!**

**Diocesan is proud to now be printing**

## *St. Mary's Sunday Bulletin*

**You are invited to help support our Parish!**

***For opportunities to advertise,  
please call 800-997-4986***

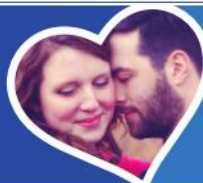
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