

St. Mary of Gostyn
Catholic Church
445 Prairie Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Rev. Shaun Cieslik
Pastor
scieslik@stmarygostyn.org

Rev. Asirvadam Dandu
Parochial Vicar
adandu@stmarygostyn.org

Deacon Al Agurkis
deaconal@stmarygostyn.org

Deacon Bob Miciunas
deaconbob@stmarygostyn.org

Deacon Thomas Jagielo
deaconthomas@stmarygostyn.org

Parish Center
Hours: M-F, 8:30AM-4:30PM
(630)969-1063
Website
www.stmarygostyn.org

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

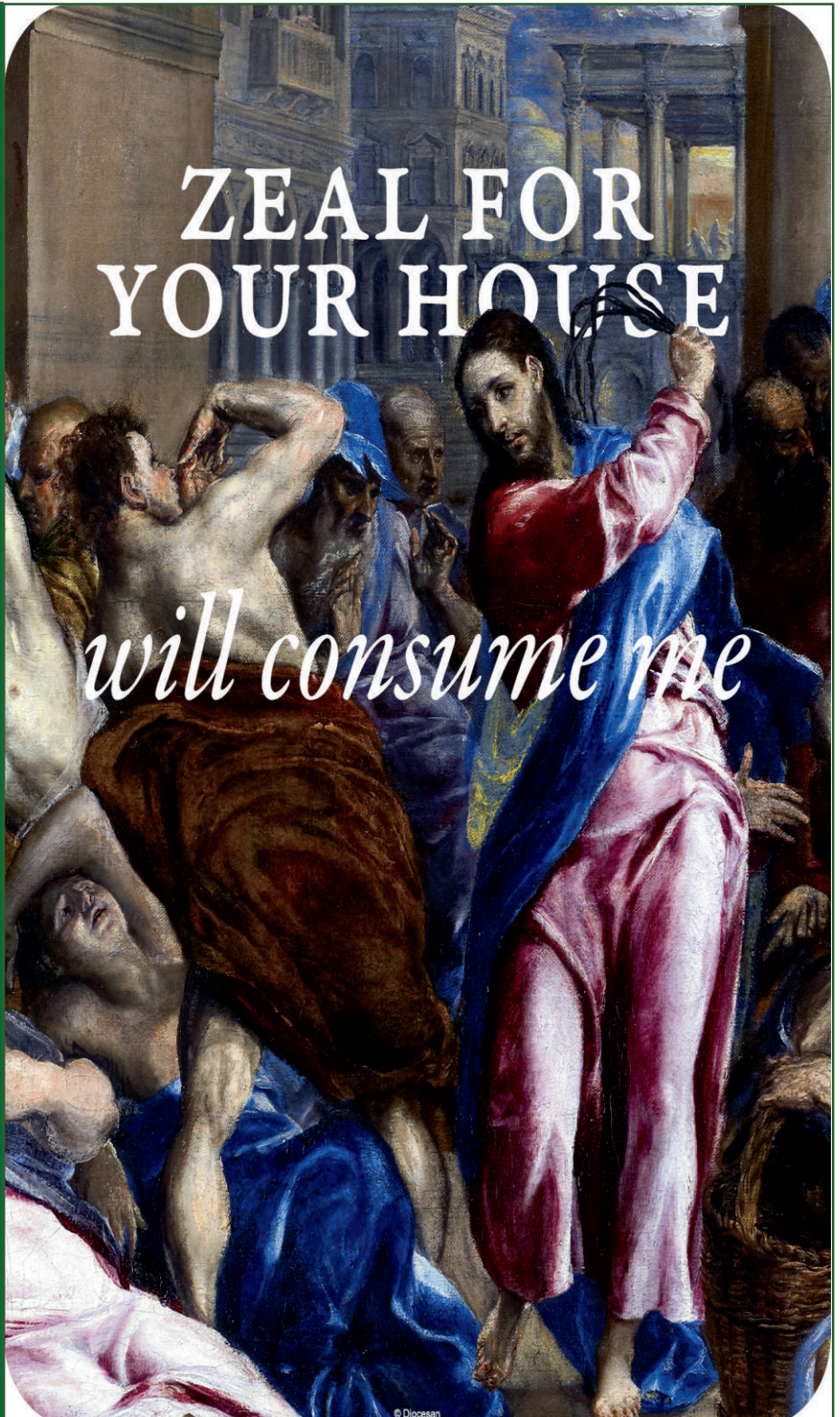
Religious Education Office
(630)960-3566
445 Prairie Avenue
Downers Grove

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
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



Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Sunday, November 9, 2025

Prayer Ministry | Staff | Parish | Diocese

Monday, November 10th
8:00 am Cindy Hunter (Living)
† Robert Oliver

Tuesday, November 11th
8:00 am † Leticia Diaz

Wednesday, November 12th
8:00 am † Jerome Girsch & Michael Collins

Thursday, November 13th
8:00 am † Lucille B. Nelson

Friday, November 14th
8:00 am † Tom Gowgiel & Loretta Ocwieja

Saturday, November 15th
4:00 pm † Jane Ellen Flynn
† Marvin Ronaldson

Sunday, November 16th
8:00 am People of the Parish
10:00 am † Mike Shannon
12:00 pm † Kathy Berg
6:00 pm † Annabelle Adams

Prayers for the Sick

Jason Malkowski	Patricia Finn
Skip Castaldo	Mary Kern
Philip Kern	John Hejny
Ginger Jurish	Patricia Kangas
Marie Rossi	Donald Ulrich
Noreen Fitzgerald	Dolores Ronaldson
Vincent Barbaro	Lauren Dempsey
Mary Miraglio	Eliza Skipworth
Frank & Buddy Davis	Mike Kern
Gloria Caracello	Jan Pietka
Garry Kornack	Lauren Marshall
Joseph Leto	Frances Mchaffey
Stephanie Rodriguez	Jim Mchaffrey
Julie Worch	Lois Bach
Sue Conrad	Sharon Kling
Karen Swanson	Nick Affatato
Dorothy Troost	Patricia Arbuthnot
Melvin Smith	Susan L. Aparicio
Reenie DeMay	Jerry Benish
Laura Davidson	Bonnie Hagen
Scott Melrose	Michael Carbon
Mary Mayer	Gail Earley
Sarah Szczepkowski	Ann Marie Juscik
Koka Haralambos	John Saniat
John McCarthy	Shirley Twardzik
George B. Metzger	Jeff Michniuk
Daniel Kozar	Matt Selfridge
Kathy Larson	Hunter Gomez
Rob Truby, Sr.	Kathleen Tully
Anna Bandur	Sean Bandur
Robert Jaskula	Laura Marcantonio
Kenneth Boese	Robert McMahon
Sue Gowgiel	Michelle Deaton
Tony Ramazzotto Jr.	Paula Jascotn

Names will be removed after four weeks.

Prayers for the Military

Kevin Braasch
Natalya Brechlin
Kathleen Halloran
Nathan Kijowski
Kyle Ng
Peter Gartlan
Noah Sommer
Michael Martel
John Svoboda
Isabella Czopek
Jack Culligan
Ben Gartlan
Zachary Frana
Aiden Browning

Children's Liturgy of the Word

10:00AM Mass
November 9 & 30



Welcome

We welcome the following to St. Mary of Gostyn:
Christopher Bannon
&
Susan Giovanazzi

Symathy

Our deepest sympathy to the following family.
Jack Egan

Parish/School Staff

Gabriella Senese-Burns.....Director of Development
gsenese-burns@stmarygostyn.org

Ed Ahern.....Operations Director
eahern@stmarygostyn.org

Annabelle Tumlos.....Business Manager
atumlos@stmarygostyn.org.

Susan Tuskey.....Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper
stuskey@stmarygostyn.org

Kelly Johnson.....Adult Faith Formation
kjohnson@stmarygostyn.org

Jennifer Liszka.....Director of Religious Education
jliszka@stmarygostyn.org

Erin Lawrence.....Music Director
elawrence@stmarygostyn.org

Pat Vena.....Sacristan/Bulletin
pvena@stmarygostyn.org

Lisa Keough.....Parish Administrative Assistant
lkeough@stmarygostyn.org

Christine Kalal.....School Principal
ckalal@stmarygostyn.org

Audrey Krueger.....Assist Principal/Co-Athletic Director
akrueger@stmarygostyn.org

Juli Majchrzak.....Marketing Director
jmajchrzak@stmarygostyn.org

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



Seminarian Education Endowment Fund

Priests are essential to our Catholic faith, as only these holy men can transform bread and wine into the life-giving Body and Blood of Christ. The Holy Spirit has blessed the Diocese of Joliet with an abundance of vocations to the priesthood.

Currently, our diocese has 27 men in seminary formation, which costs \$53,900 a year per seminarian. To ensure we are always able to support our seminarians both prayerfully and financially, the Diocese of Joliet has established this second collection.

The second collection for this fund will take place on the weekend of Nov. 8-9. The basket will be passed one time only. Gifts will be invested in an endowment designated specifically for seminarian education.

Please prayerfully consider supporting this second collection. To learn more about this campaign, or to make a gift online, use your smart phone to scan this QR code:



Around our Diocese



Bishop Hicks' Column
November 2025



"I Have Loved You" — A Gift from the Holy Father

The wait is over! After just five months of being elected, [Pope Leo XIV](#) has speedily penned and shared with us his first [Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexi Te* \("I Have Loved You"\)](#). It radiates the heart of Jesus and reminds us that love for Christ and love for the poor are inseparable. The Holy Father teaches that when we draw close to those who are weak, forgotten, or struggling, we meet Christ himself. It is not only an invitation to charity; it is a call to conversion.

In last month's column, I invited everyone to read my pastoral letter [MAKE!](#) which lays out our diocesan vision for evangelization. If you have not yet done so, I encourage you to take some quiet time to read and pray with it, and now to also read *Dilexi Te*. These two letters, the Holy Father's and ours, speak to one another with one voice: a call to be a Church that listens, serves, and brings the love of Christ into action.

Some may think this theme of love for the poor is simply a continuation of Pope Francis and something that only Francis and Leo share in common. However, Pope Leo shows in a scholarly and deeply pastoral way that love for the poor has always been at the very heart of the Church. Throughout *Dilexi Te* he grounds this teaching in Scripture from the Old and New Testaments and draws upon the wisdom of [the Early Church Fathers](#), the lives of the saints, and the witness of countless religious orders and popular movements. He even highlights how [Saint John Paul II](#) and [Pope Benedict XVI](#) carried forward this same conviction in their own teaching. Far from being a new idea, Pope Leo reminds us that this is part of the Church's unbroken tradition, one that the world urgently needs to hear again today.

Reading *Dilexi Te* moved me deeply. It reminded me that when we share life with the poor, they evangelize us. During my years serving in El Salvador at a [home for orphaned and abandoned children](#), I remember when a donation allowed us

to buy doughnuts for all 525 children. We ran out before the adult staff could have any, including me. Then a little boy approached and offered me two thirds of his doughnut. I said, "That's generous, but give me one third and keep two thirds." He replied, "No, Padre, you're bigger and probably hungrier, you get more." That small act of love preached the Gospel better than any homily.

I was struck by Pope Leo's reminder that poverty is not only material. There is also a spiritual poverty, an emptiness and isolation that affects many, especially in our own country. He warns that this kind of poverty can be even more dangerous because it hides behind comfort or distraction. This insight challenges us to see the poor not only as those who lack food or shelter but also as those who hunger for meaning, mercy, and belonging. Our call is to reach both kinds of poverty with the same love of Christ.

Not long ago, I visited a parish food pantry where volunteers gathered to pray before they served. It was not simply about groceries; it was catechesis, evangelization, and faith in action all at once. One volunteer said, "Bishop, we try to do more than give out donations. We are trying to share God's love and see the face of Christ in everyone we serve." That is *Dilexi Te* come to life. When love meets action, we encounter Christ, and transformation happens.

May *Dilexi Te* be a roadmap for a Church that truly believes what it proclaims: that Christ's love is most visible when we serve, listen, and walk with the poor. In every act of mercy and every parish outreach, may we turn faith into action and reveal the love that Pope Leo describes so powerfully. And may we, as disciples here in the Diocese of Joliet, make that love visible in our words, our witness, and our works every single day.

Around Our Parish

Dear Parishioners,

St. Mary of Gostyn continues to be a vibrant and flourishing parish, and we are truly blessed by your kindness and generosity in answering the call to serve our parish family. As faithful disciples of Christ, we believe that giving is a sacred way to live out our faith and offer thanks for the many blessings God bestows upon us. Through our offerings, we support the mission of our parish, serve one another in love, and reflect God's mercy and compassion in concrete ways. Please see attached financial report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Financial Highlights for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

- We ended the fiscal year 2024-25 with a surplus of \$78,548 over budget on the combined collections from Sunday, Easter, Christmas, and Holy Days. The combined collections for the fiscal year 2024-25 were \$32,957 higher than fiscal year 2023-2024.
- Thanks to the continued support of our generous parishioners, we surpassed the Diocese's goal for the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA) once again. As a result, the Parish received a rebate of \$80,616.
- As part of the COVID-19 Tax Relief measures, the parish received the Employee Retention Tax Credit, totaling \$151,961. We also received a \$107,000 bequest from the estate of a generous parishioner.
- Due to favorable financial results, we were able to add \$200,000 designated to our future maintenance fund, reducing the need for a capital campaign in the future.
- Our Faith Formation/Religious Education (RE) ministry served 404 students, supported by nearly 40 dedicated volunteer catechists.
- The Parish School served a total of 493 students (57 in Pre-School and 436 in K-8), with 48 staff members.
- The yearly Gala was once again a successful fundraising event, raising over \$180,000 for the school and \$42,250 for the School Staff Enrichment Fund (SSEF).
- Fundraising efforts for the SSEF continue to help retain and recruit talented teachers and staff. This year, school families raised over \$145,000 for the fund, with a goal to continue this support annually. The SSEF supplements teachers' salaries and wages, with approximately \$160,000 distributed each year.
- The total Parish subsidy in the school was \$198,689 and \$34,560 in the Faith Formation/RE program.
- The overall surplus for the Parish was \$656,197 which includes the non-budgeted ERC payment and bequest referenced above. This surplus will be used to fund our significant future maintenance needs, as we continue to evaluate and address the ongoing requirements for our aging buildings, facilities and parking lot with the Diocese.

Budget Highlights for 2025-2026

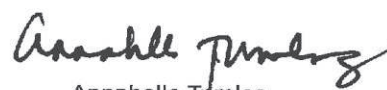
- Collections from Sundays, Christmas, Easter and Holy Days were budgeted with an overall increase of 1.4% compared to the previous year's collection.
- Salaries and wages for parish and school staff were budgeted with an average 3.5% increase.
- The school tuition fee increased by 5.5% for the current 2025-26 academic year. For families with multiple children enrolled, we continue to offer our sibling discount as follows: 2nd child: 20%, 3rd child: 45%, 4th child or more: 75% discount. In the Budget, we assumed a similar level of student enrollment for the academic year.
- The Faith Formation/RE program was budgeted for 400 students. We continue to consider hiring a part-time Youth Ministry Director.
- The Parish's subsidy to the school was budgeted at \$420,000, and \$97,605 for the Faith Formation/RE program. We have budgeted conservatively to account for potential unexpected expenses or shortfalls.

As always, we are deeply thankful for your prayers, support, and generosity. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact our business office at (630) 737-9624.

With gratitude in Christ,


Rev. Shaun Cieslik
Pastor


Joe Romenesko
Chairman, Finance Council


Annabelle Tumlos
Business Manager

Around our Parish

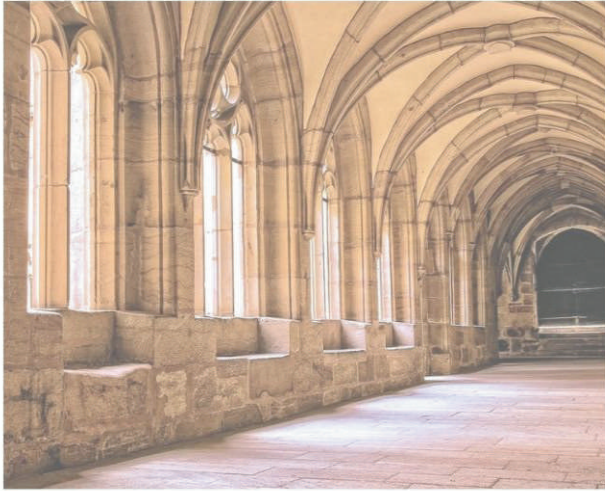
	JULY 1, 2024- JUNE 30, 2025				
	Church	Rel Ed & YM	School ¹	2024-2025 ACTUAL	2025-2026 BUDGET
Revenue:					
Sunday Collections	\$ 1,608,952			\$ 1,608,952	\$ 1,640,028
Christmas, Easter & Holy Days	238,625			238,625	233,000
Tuition and Fees		\$ 93,976	\$ 2,618,238	2,712,214	2,868,769
Fundraisers, net of costs	17,784		197,664	215,448	405,000
Endowment Distribution					-
School Programs net income ²			20,284	20,284	-
Other Revenue/Donations ³	301,166		242,750	543,916	181,250
Total Revenue	\$ 2,166,527	\$ 93,976	\$ 3,078,936	\$ 5,339,439	\$ 5,328,047
Expenses:					
Salaries & Fringe Benefits	\$ 745,856	\$ 82,292	\$ 2,453,801	\$ 3,281,949	\$ 3,683,278
Repairs & Maintenance	54,151		27,773	81,924	130,600
Services	165,120	2,495	265,648	433,263	445,467
Materials & Supplies	71,143	1,541	59,723	132,407	164,654
Rental Expense/Insurance	40,115		80,079	120,194	131,238
Utilities	53,699		54,007	107,706	116,900
Curriculum Expenses		17,052	157,673	174,725	169,539
Diocesan Expenditures	95,544			95,544	116,100
Ministries, Outreach, & Other	(38,126)	25,156	63,045	50,075	105,265
Restricted Expenses ⁴			-	-	-
Capital Expenditures/Improvements	41,550		115,876	157,426	185,006
Diocesan Loans (principal & int.)	-		-	-	-
Maintenance Reserve	200,000			200,000	80,000
Total Expenses	\$ 1,429,052	\$ 128,536	\$ 3,277,625	\$ 4,835,213	\$ 5,328,047
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 737,475	\$ (34,560)	\$ (198,689)	504,226	\$ -
Employee Retention Credit	151,961			151,961	
Capital Campaign	-		-	-	
Parish Investment in Education	(233,249)	34,560	198,689	-	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 656,187	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 656,187	\$ -
Additional Information as of 06/30/2025					
School Endowment Fund Balance	\$ 2,689,083		Capital Campaign Account		\$ 22,410
Diocesan Deposit Account	\$ 1,351,034		Parish Savings Account		\$ 1,248,075
Diocesan Maintenance Reserve	\$ 1,877,974				

¹ School column includes the Elementary School, Preschool, After School Care, and Home School Association (HSA).

² School programs include Hot Lunch, Athletics, and Fine Arts. Revenue \$216,959 less expenses of \$196,675.

³ Other revenue includes bequests, other unrestricted donations, matching gifts, interest income, and CMAA rebate.

Adult Faith Formation



An Evening with Christ:

Adoration & the Benedictine Rule

Eucharistic Adoration offers us a beautiful opportunity to spend quiet time in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

During this Adoration, we will have a reflection on the Benedictine Rule. Discover the timeless wisdom and practical guidance for spiritual growth offered by St. Benedict, a rule that has shaped monastic life and inspired countless individuals for over 1500 years. Learn how these ancient principles can enrich your daily life and deepen your faith journey.

Whether you are familiar with Benedictine spirituality or curious to learn more, this evening with Guest Speaker Fr. Jim Schwab offers a unique chance to grow in faith.

Tuesday, November 11 at 7PM in Church

Generosity

Cookies with St. Nicholas

Mark Your Calendar

Enjoy cookies, community, and a special visit from Saint Nicholas! His secret generosity and love of children remind us that true gift-giving sees Christ in the poor and the vulnerable.

December 7 after 8 & 10AM Masses



Coping with the Holidays

Nourish for Caregivers

For caregivers, the holidays are often fraught with fear or frustration struggling to manage the routine caregiving on top of the added demands of the season. But centering on our faith helps maintain peace and good will.

St. Mary's Nourish for Caregivers provides family caregivers practical and emotional supports, shared experiences and useful tools, all with a Christ-centered view. Our Nourish group gathers monthly; all are welcome, come once or come each month. Wed., Nov. 12 at 2PM in the GP.

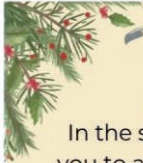


November is National Caregivers Month

Blessed Be Those Who Care For Others



Women's Advent Tea



Tea's the Season

In the spirit of Advent, we warmly invite you to a Women's Tea. Take time to focus on the Advent Season with faith and fellowship. Enjoy a traditional tea with sweet treats, an optional cookie exchange and a special serenading sing-along with our Kindergarten students.

No charge, however, registration is required: online at www.stmarygostyn.org or 630.789.8460.

Tuesday, December 9, 1-3PM in the GP



Around our Parish

Adopt-A-Family

How to Get Involved

First consider the size of the family that you would like to adopt. Family sizes available for adoption range from a single person up to families of 10 or more. Sign up will be by email or telephone. Email Cathy and Ihor Hlohowskyj at Ihorcathy@sbcglobal.net or call (or text) 630-290-3447.

Once you've signed up, information about your adopted family will be provided either by email and/or mail.



Sign up: Beginning Nov 1 until all families are adopted
Gift drop off: Saturday, Dec 6 from 8-10AM at SMG
(Early drop-off dates will be available upon request)

Anointing of the Sick within the Mass

The first grace of this Sacrament is one of

strengthening peace courage

Sunday, Nov. 9
at 8:00AM Mass

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