

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 Jagiello

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

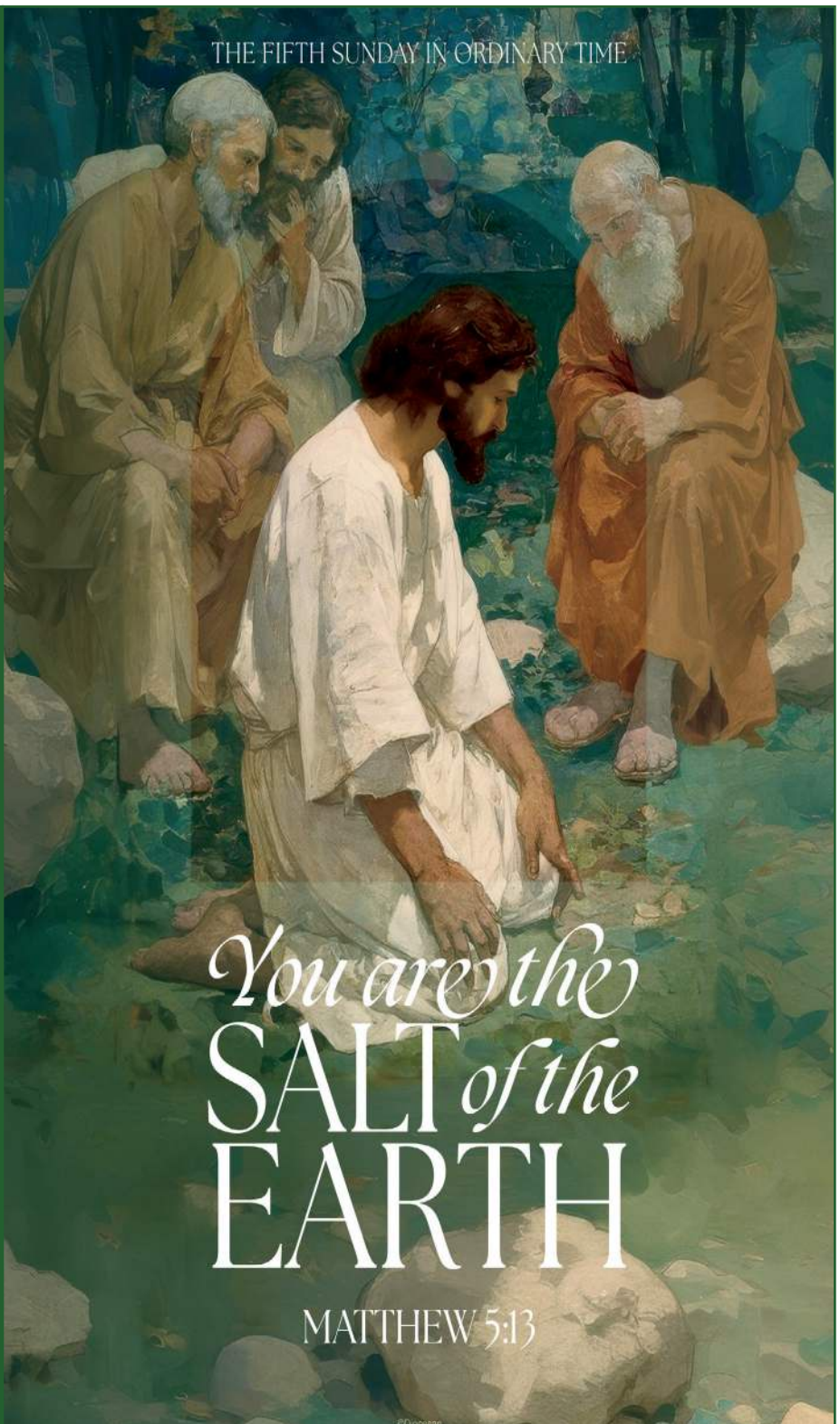
Monday-Friday.....8:00am

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



THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

You are the
SALT of the
EARTH

MATTHEW 5:13

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 8, 2026

Prayer Ministry | Staff | Parish

Monday, February 9th
8:00 am† Fr. Michael Walsh & Mary Ellen Walsh

Tuesday, February 10th
8:00 am† Annabelle Adams & Carol Orseske

Wednesday, February 11th
8:00 am† Irene Mersch

Thursday, February 12th
8:00 am† Joseph C. Halac & Sandra Drabik

Friday, February 13th
8:00 am† Barbara Lenski

Saturday, February 14th
4:00 pm† Carol Musial & Jim & Margaret Shannon

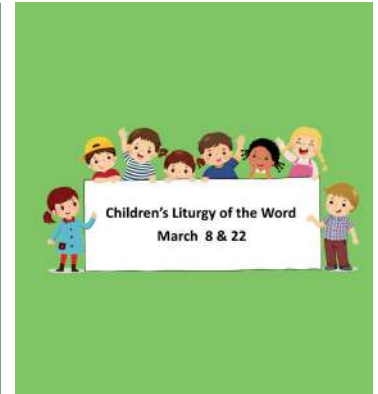
Sunday, February 15th
8:00 am† Phyllis Scolieri & Victoria Swartz
10:00 am† Emily Torres
12:00 pm† The People of the Parish
6:00 pm† Evelyn Hearn & John Sommer

Prayers for the sick

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	Mike Kern
Frank & Buddy Davis	Gloria Caracello
Jan Pietka	Garry Kornack
Lauren Marshall	Joseph Leto
Frances Mchaffey	Jim Mchaffey
Stephanie Rodriguez	Julie Worch
Lois Bach	Sue Conrad
Sharon Kling	Karen Swanson
Nick Affatato	Dorothy Troost
Patricia Arbutnot	Susan L. Aparicio
Jerry Benish	Laura Davidson
Bonnie Hagen	Scott Melrose
Michael Carbon	Mary Mayer
Sarah Szcypkowski	Gail Earley
Ann Marie Juscik	Koka Haralambos
John Saniat	Larry McCarthy
George B. Metzger	Daniel Kozar
Matt Selfridge	Kathy Larson
Hunter Gomez	Rob Truby, Sr.
Kathleen Tully	Anna Bandur
Sean Bandur	Robert Jaskula
Laura Marcantonio	Kenneth Boese
Robert McMahan	Sue Gowgiel
Tony Ramazzotto Jr.	Michelle Deaton
Paula Jascot	Annette Caruso
Konrad Miskowicz-Retz	Laura Davidson
Sarah Karmazin	Jerry Benish
Joanne Tutje	Jaroslav Andrasz
Antonina Andrasz	Lawrence Swartz
Margaret MacDonald	Ron Agurkis
Mary Signer	Bob Toerpe

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



Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the following family.

Joann Rod



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

Scripture Readings
For the Week of February 8, 2026

Sunday	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16
Monday	1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday	Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11; Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday	1 Kings 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-23
Thursday	1 Kings 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40; Mk 7:24-30
Friday	1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19; Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15; Mk 7:31-37
Saturday	Memorial of Saints Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop 1 Kings 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22; Mk 8:1-10
Sunday	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 or Mt 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

Adult Faith Formation

The Sorrowful Mysteries

St. Mary's Thursday AM CAFE

Prayer

We live in unprecedented times

Women's Lenten
Sorrowful Mysteries
of the Rosary series
begins
Feb 19th

The call to pray is urgent. The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary outline the epic battle between good and evil. Jesus Christ enters into the Garden of Gethsemane knowing precisely who He is fighting against and who He is fighting for. Our thoughtful contemplation of Christ's actions teaches us how to engage in the fight against darkness. We live in a time of unprecedented evil. Nothing is more powerful than prayer.

As we begin Lent, our Thursday AM Women's CAFE will explore this seven-episode series highlighting the life of Christ as outlined in the decades of the Rosary. Using video footage filmed on location in the Holy Land, we'll participate in an immersive and contemplative experience which will move prayer from the head to the heart. Encounters with Christ in the episodes and discussions will help lead to an even deeper relationship with Him in personal prayer and contemplation.

More information and registration for this new Women's CAFE study is online. All are welcome!

Begins Thurs. Feb. 19 at 9AM in the Gathering Place.

Justice

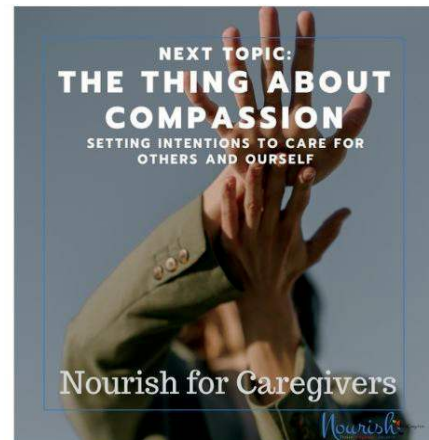
St. Mary's Men's Group

Due to the Parish Mission and our Guest Speaker, there will be no separate Men's Group meeting on Monday, February 9th, leaving your schedule open to attend the evenings with Father Tom McCarthy. Additionally, there will be no gathering on President's Day. We will resume our study on The Bible and the Virgin Mary on Monday, February 23rd, at 7PM in the Gathering Place.

Caring for the Caregiver

Nourish for Caregivers

Nourish for Caregivers is for anyone juggling the challenges of life, health and career while caring for a disabled child, an aging parent, grandparent, or spouse, either in your home, in town or at a distance. Nourish provides family caregivers practical and emotional supports, shared experiences and useful tools, all with a Christ-centered view.



*The Thing About Compassion:
Setting Intentions to Care for
Ourselves as we Care for Others*

In the changes and challenges of caring for another, we can sometimes lose sight of the need to care for oneself. As caregivers we do many things, including giving hope, compassion, love, respect and an incredible amount of time to care for our loved one. But how well do we do those same things for ourselves? We will explore ways to care for ourselves and in the process embrace the blessings and graces of caregiving. Come!

Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 2PM in the GP.

Together with Purpose

Celebrate National Marriage Week

"I urge you, brothers and sisters...that there be no divisions among you." (1 Cor 1:10) Husbands and wives united in love are a great gift to the world! Consider those things that divide you and your spouse: old grudges or disagreements. Ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of unity.

(USCCB, Daily Marriage Tip)

National Marriage Week is February 7-14.

Around Our Parish



The 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal has begun!

The Diocese of Joliet invites all parishioners to support the 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Together, we can make a profound difference.

This year theme is Beyond all Expectations: Faith that Elevates! Through the CMAA, we ensure Christ's mission and ministries reach everyone. We provide shelter for the homeless, feed the hungry, support vocations, and educate the next generation of Catholics. Our parish cannot accomplish this alone. As a diocese, we can do so much more.

Our parish goal is \$146,000. We receive 70% of any amount raised over goal to use within our parish. Please review your mailing from the Diocese of Joliet and prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's appeal.

If you do not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact the parish office. Thank you!



SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION AT OAK TRACE

Are you looking for a way to share your talents? Oak Trace is a retirement living / health facility in Downers Grove located on the 6600 block of Fairview Ave. On Sunday mornings (after the 8am Mass), St Mary's ministers distribute Holy Communion to residents in their health facility and assisted living. We currently have a ministry team who regularly participate but we are in need of more volunteers. The Sunday scheduling commitment would be up to you. It takes between 1 1/2 and 2 hours to visit all the patients/residents. Training will be provided and a Virtus account is a requirement. If you are able to assist or need more information, please email Deacon Bob at deaconbob@stmarygostyn.org or leave a message at 630-737-9636. You will then be contacted for additional information and training. There is walking required (you'll get your steps in). Thank you for your consideration. Blessings, Deacon Bob



Lent Campaign
February 18th - March 29th

Put your faith in action by joining your fellow parishioners for the Lent 2026 *40 Days for Life* prayer vigil to end abortion.

Please consider committing to a specific hour of prayer at the Access Health abortion clinic in Downers Grove during the hours of 8AM to 6PM beginning Ash Wednesday and ending on March 29th, and bring a friend.

For more information and to sign up, go to www.40daysforlife.com/downersgrove. Access Health Clinic is located at 1700 W. 75th Street, Downers Grove.

PRAY TO END ABORTION

Stations of the Cross
7:00PM Friday evenings
February 20 & 27
March 13 & 27



Around Our Parish



Stones of Legacy: The Golden Ticket Raffle **Your Chance to Choose the Legacy You'll Create**

Get ready! This year's Golden Ticket Raffle invites you to choose an experience that will become part of your story. Rooted in our *Stones of Legacy* theme, each prize represents a lasting memory built on tradition, adventure, and opportunity. One winning ticket. One unforgettable legacy.

Key Details:

- \$100 per ticket
- Only 300 tickets available
- Sales: Now through February 21
- **Winner drawn during the Gala event**

Choose from Four Extraordinary Legacy Experiences:

1. 🏠 **Smoky Mountain Serenity**
A peaceful 7-night alpine lodge retreat in the Great Smoky Mountains for up to 6 guests.
2. 🌿 **Italy's Golden Hills: Tuscan Villa Experience**
A 7-night stay for four in a charming 2-bedroom Tuscan villa nestled in the Italian countryside.
3. 🏌️ **Championship Legacy: U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills**
Experience golf history at the 126th U.S. Open Championship at iconic Shinnecock Hills in New York for 2 people.
4. 🎓 **One Year of SMG Tuition: Free tuition for one student for the 2026-2027 school year.**

Act Fast — Only 300 Tickets Available! Claim your Golden Ticket and choose the stone you'll add to your legacy.

Buy your Golden Ticket today!
smggala2026.givesmart.com
[GiveSmart](#)



Eucharistic Minsters of Holy Communion & Readers



Volunteer opportunity to be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or Reader

We are in need of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to assist in distributing Communion and Readers to proclaim God's Word at our 12 Noon and 6 PM Masses ONLY. One must be a registered parishioner of St. Mary's, age 16 or older, and a fully initiated Catholic (having received their sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation). If you feel that God is calling you, and if you have the gift to fulfill one of these ministries, please contact Pat Vena for more information.
pvena@stmaryofgostyn.org

Christmas Collection **\$130,519.10**

Thank you for your generosity and prayers!

For your convenience, we offer an automated donation option through our secure WeShare online giving site. You can set up donations by credit card or direct bank withdrawal, with flexible options for weekly, monthly, or other schedules. Please consider if this easy and safe method works for you.

<https://www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/smgonlinedonation>

Or scan the QR Code below:



Around Our Parish



What does it mean to be Catholic today?

Being a Catholic is more important than ever! Discover why!
Chicago-native Augustinian Father Tom McCarthy is an experienced teacher and parish mission preacher who shares God's love with everyone he meets.



Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A.
Augustinian Preaching Ministries

Scan for Childcare Registration



MONDAY, FEB 9TH 7PM
The Saints: heroes of our faith?
Prayer: is it worth it?



TUESDAY, FEB 10TH 7PM
The Family of Faith - What is my part in being a part of this family?

- ✓ Guest Speaker
- ✓ Father Tom McCarthy, OSA
- ✓ Reception Following
- ✓ Childcare Available



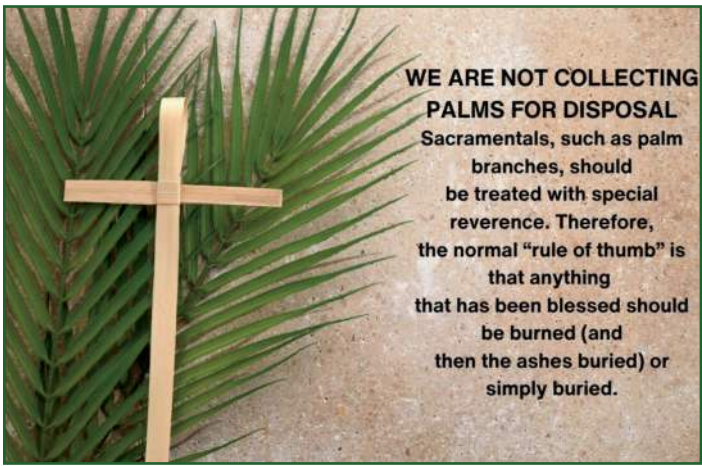
Paczki

Please join us for Paczkis, coffee, and juice in the Gathering Place February 8th after the 8:00AM & 10:00AM Mass

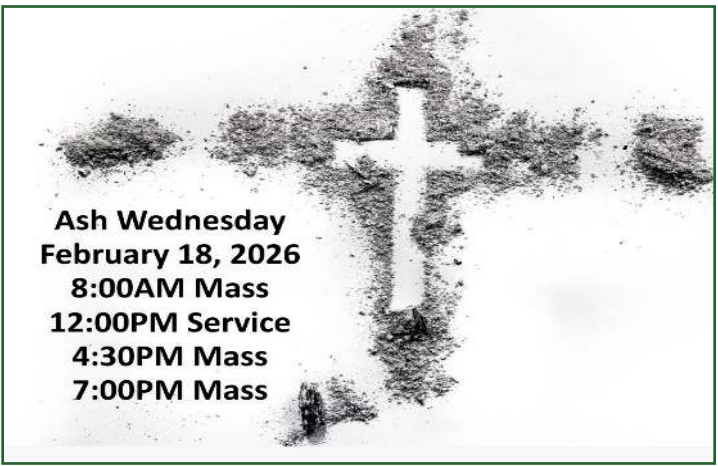


President Day Monday, February 16th

In observance of President Day, the Parish Office and Adoration Chapel will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2026.



WE ARE NOT COLLECTING PALMS FOR DISPOSAL
Sacramentals, such as palm branches, should be treated with special reverence. Therefore, the normal "rule of thumb" is that anything that has been blessed should be burned (and then the ashes buried) or simply buried.



Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026
8:00AM Mass
12:00PM Service
4:30PM Mass
7:00PM Mass



Around Our Parish



St. Vincent DePaul's January Update

"What we do for the poor is not something we do for God. Our work is what we allow God to do through us"
-Blessed Fredric Ozanam

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The very cold days of January brought many neighbors to the Food Pantry. The pantry served 140 families this month thanks to the generous donations of St. Mary's parishioners. The donations have been plentiful, but the items we need most are always found in the weekly Monday eBlast from St. Mary's.

The pantry is grateful to the many parishioners that stepped up to donate food and household items. A special thank-you goes to St. Mary's 5th grade Cub Scout Troop who visited the pantry with donations and Andrienne Mannella who sponsored a neighborhood food drive for the pantry.

Donated food and household products are most appreciated, as well as, donated cash that allows us to purchase items we are low on. At this time, the pantry could use donations of regular or small bottles of oil, regular size boxes of cereal, cans of chili or fruit and dish soap. Check the Monday eBlast to see what products the pantry needs weekly. Please donate REGULAR SIZE and UN-OPENED grocery items.

Monthly Items	Specialty Items	
Coffee and Tea	Pancake Mix	Rice
Laundry Detergent	Oatmeal	Cleaning Products
Dish Detergent	Cake Mixes	
Vegetable or Olive Oil	Frosting	
Condiments	Flour	
Toothpaste	Sugar	

Tips for Donating to the Food Pantry

- Items must not have expired dates.
- Regular size items are best.
- Items must be unopened.
- Items must be packaged.
- Items must have labels; bulk items can't be divided.
- Avoid donating large containers or bulk items.

Donate requested items (we sometimes have large supplies of items, and limited space for storage; for example, right now we have about 400 boxes of macaroni and cheese and only about 20 neighbors will ask for macaroni and cheese each week).

Monetary donations can be placed in collection baskets during Mass using the SVDP envelopes available at the church entrances or an envelope labeled SVDP donation or mailing an envelope to: SVDP/St Mary of Gostyn, 445 Prairie Ave, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Online Donations are now being accepted as well.
For Zelle - send the donation to svdp@stmarygostyn.org
For PayPal - send to St. Vincent DePaul Society-St. Mary of Gostyn
For Venmo - send to svdpSMG

PANTRY DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM OR USE THE FOOD BARRELS AT THE CHURCH ENTRANCES.

Thank you to all our friends of the SVDP

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ONE

One Parish, One School, One Family!

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