

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

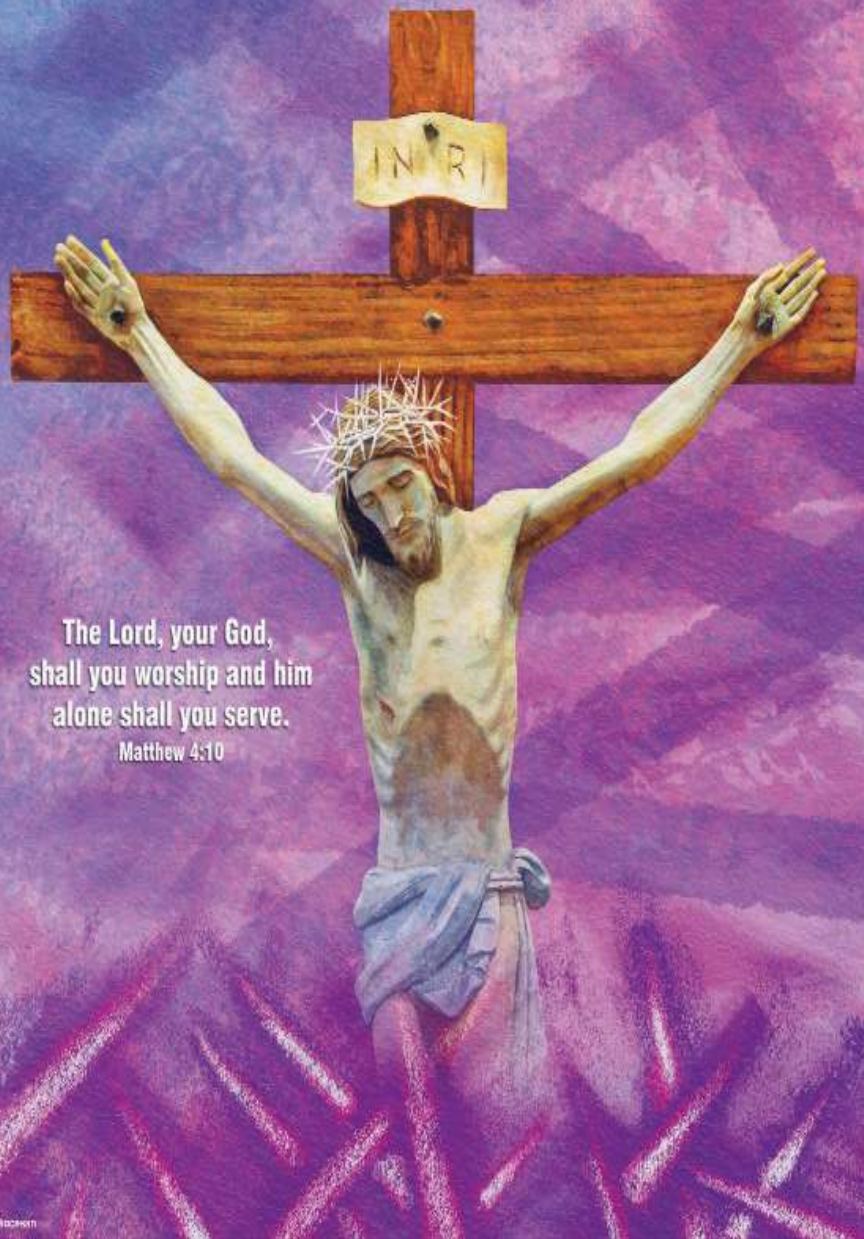
Saturday.....8:30am-9:30am

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

First Sunday of LENT



**1st Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026**

Prayer Ministry | Staff | Parish

Monday, February 23rd
8:00 am† Patti Gibbons

Tuesday, February 24th
8:00 am† Franco Albanian

Wednesday, February 25th
8:00 am† Joe & Eileen McNally

Thursday, February 26th
8:00 am† Marco & Rosa Albanian

Friday, February 27th
8:00 am† Frances S Rheintgen

Saturday, February 28th
4:00 pm† Paddy & Maeve McNally

Sunday, March 1st
8:00 am† Frances S Rheintgen
10:00 am† George Christensen
12:00 pm† Irene Mersch & George Hejny
6:00 pm† The People of the Parish

Prayers for the Sick

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Margaret MacDonald | Lawrence Swartz |
| Ron Agurkis | Mary Signer |
| Bob Toerpe | Carolyn Muehler |
| Skip Castaldo | Judy Koczor |
| Dan Koczor | |
| George B. Metzger | |

Prayers for the Military

Peter Gartlan
Noah Sommer
Zachary Frana
Aiden Browning

Welcome

We welcome the following to St. Mary of Gostyn.

James & Julie Vainisi
Robert & Kerry Bollweg
Michelle Urban
Alvin & Luisa Botacio
Nicholas & Caitlin Papadopoulos



'One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the following families.

Dolores Mendoza
Emmanuel Roldan
Carol Zangler
Loretta Baloun



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 22, 2026

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Sunday | First Sunday of Lent Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Rm 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11 |
| Monday | Lev 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt 25:31-46 |
| Tuesday | Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15 |
| Wednesday | Jonah 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32 |
| Thursday | Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12 |
| Friday | Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26 |
| Saturday | Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48 |
| Sunday | Second Sunday of Lent Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Tim 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9 |

Adult Faith Formation

Holy Hour of Adoration

Pray for Peace

Join us for a moment of grace, a moment of peace. As we begin Lent, spend time in Eucharistic Adoration. In the presence of our Lord Jesus, we pour out our hopes and dreams, worries and concerns, in honest dialogue with the Lord present with us.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops recently urged all to offer a Holy Hour for Peace as "a moment of renewal for our hearts and for our nation". Our first Lent Holy Hour of Adoration will be a silent hour for peace. "Many people today feel powerless in the face of violence, injustice, and social unrest. To those who feel this way, I wish to say clearly: your faithfulness matters. Your prayers matter. Your acts of love... matter." (Archbishop Coakley, president of the USCCB).



The Lord speaks of peace to his people and his holy ones, and to those who turn to him.
(Ps 85:9 Entrance Antiphon, 34th week in Ordinary Time)

Let us pray together, confident that God hears the cry of his people and remains close to all who seek him. In a world wounded, we come before the Lord—Prince of Peace—to entrust Him our hearts, our communities, and our nation to Him. Holy Hour of Adoration will include Benediction and opportunity for individual confession.

Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 7 PM in Church.

Peace

St. Mary's Men's Group

Understanding the Power and Purpose of Men

The Bible And the Virgin Mary. St. Mary's Men's Group gathers in a relaxed setting to better understand what it means to be a Catholic man in today's world. We welcome men 18+ to dive deeper into the faith with 'real' conversations and fellowship. As men embrace the call to pursue heroic virtue, they become better husbands, fathers and leaders.

Monday, Feb. 23 at 7 PM in the GP.

Stations of the Cross

We Adore You, O Christ, and We Praise You

The rich tradition of the Stations of the Cross allows us to put ourselves into the story as we too journey to Calvary. See how Lent becomes more significant as the focus is on the Cross and the depth of the Lord's loving response to you, and to today's world.



Afternoon Stations with the School Students

All are welcome to the afternoon stations with the SMG school students: February 20th, March 6th, March 13th and March 27th.

Fridays, 1:30 PM in Church.

Simple Soup Lunch & Stations

Something new! A simple soup lunch followed by Stations in Church. Registration required online or call the Parish Offices at 630.969.1063.

Friday, March 13th, Noon in the GP.

Stations of the Cross in the Evening

Centered on the Christ, the Station's prayers focus on particular intentions:

Feb. 20: **Praying the Stations of the Cross for Healing** - Personal, hopeful and prayerful-to enrich and support you during this Lenten season.

Feb. 27: **With Saint Pope John Paul II** - these unique Scripture-based Stations help us come to grips with the reality of God's love and mercy.

Mar. 6: **You Have Redeemed the World**, Praying in the Holy Cross Tradition.

Mar. 13: **Stations of the Cross for Seniors** focuses on uniting the physical, emotional, and spiritual trials of aging with Jesus' suffering, offering hope & purpose.

Mar. 27: **The Way of the Cross**, the traditional devotion commemorating Jesus' last moments.

Fridays, 7 PM in Church.

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



Thank you to our Sponsors who helped make this Event a Success!



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Around Our Parish



**Eucharistic Ministers
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@stmaryofgostvn.org

Anointing of the Sick within the Mass

The first
grace of
this
Sacrament
is one of

—
**strengthening
peace
courage**

**Sunday, March 1
at 8:00AM Mass**



**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.

Leni Booklets



**Now Available
at the
Faith Network Desk
after all Masses**



How Do We MAKE Disciples for Jesus?

What: Join us for a conversation with Auxiliary Bishop Dennis Spies on how to make disciples for Jesus in the Diocese of Joliet. Continuing the legacy of Archbishop Ron Hicks of New York, the event will focus on common questions about putting our faith into action and making disciples in our parish communities.

Where: St. Mary Immaculate Parish, 15629 Illinois Route 59, Plainfield, IL

When: Thurs., March 5, 6:30-8 pm



Scan the QR Code to RSVP



MAKE is a call to action—rooted in Catechesis, Evangelization, and Faith into Action—to follow Jesus' Great Commission to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

make.diojoliet.org



Around Our Parish

School News

Friday Fun with Secret Readers

Third grade invites parents to come in and read to the students each Friday as a Secret Reader. This is a special part of the third-grade year and something both students and parents truly look forward to! It is always so exciting because the students do not know who the Secret Reader will be each week, and it gives parents a wonderful opportunity to be involved in the classroom. We love having parents come in to read and visit with us each week. It is a blessing to have such a supportive community of SMG families who partner with us and support our school.



SIMPLE SOUP LUNCH & STATIONS OF THE CROSS

SOUP AND STATIONS... NOURISHMENT FOR THE BODY AND SOUL

Join us for simple, meatless soup lunch. Lent provides an opportunity to worship and pray, as well as gather to share a meal together. Friday, March 13 lunch at Noon in the GP, followed by Stations with the school children at 1:30 PM.

Registration required. Scan QR code, register online or call the office at 630.969.1063

WE ARE **ONE**



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One Family!



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