

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

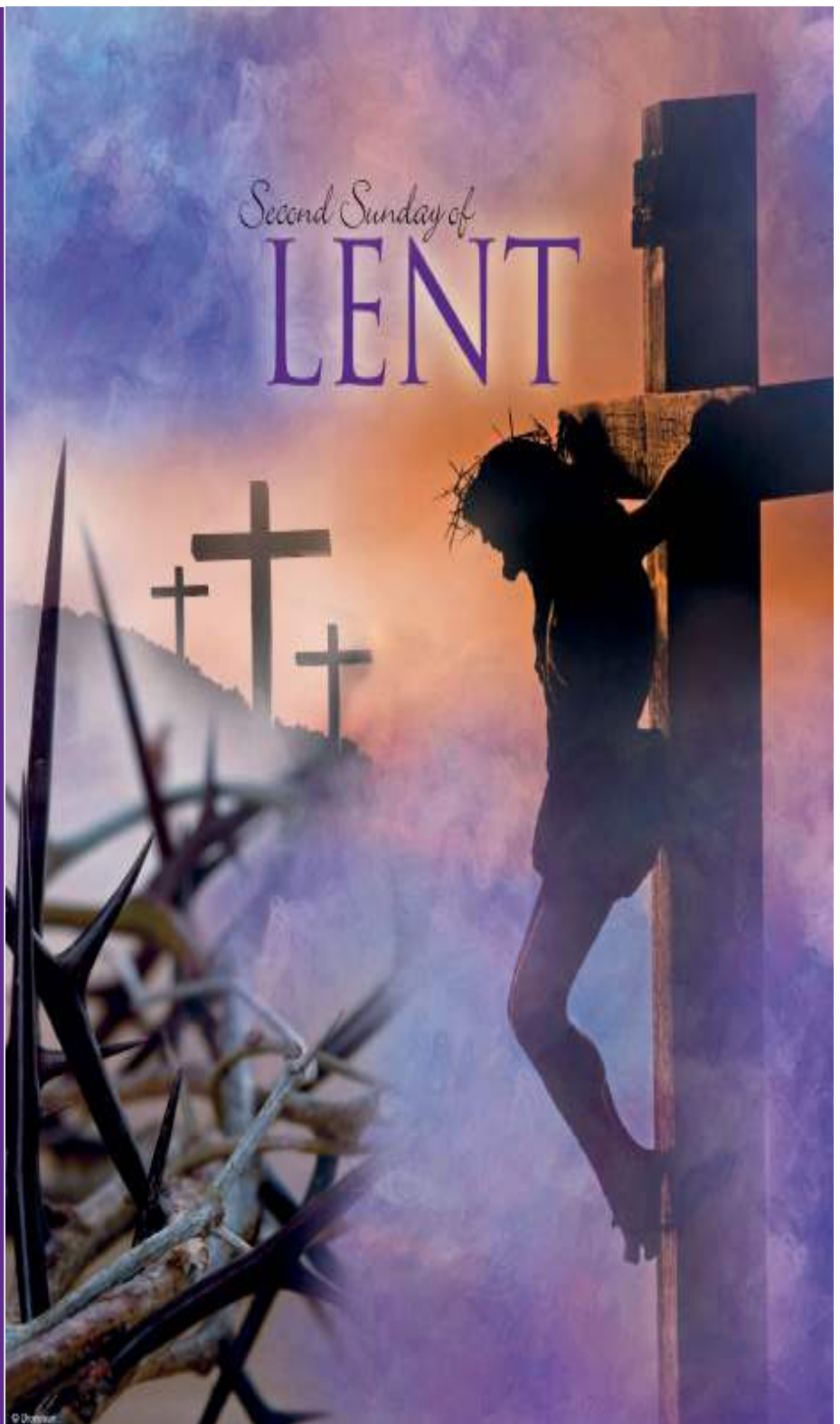
Monday-Friday.....8:00am

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



2nd Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026

Prayer Ministry | Staff | Parish

Monday, March 2nd
8:00 am† Claire & Derek Singleton

Tuesday, March 3rd
8:00 am† Patrick & Maude Cosgrave

Wednesday, March 4th
8:00 am† Gillian & Brendan Thompson

Thursday, March 5th
8:00 am† Gordon & Brigid Downey

Friday, March 6th
8:00 am† Pete DiOrio

Saturday, March 7th
4:00 pm† Fr. Michael Walsh & Mary Ellen Walsh

Sunday, March 8th
8:00 am† John Sommer & Diane Main
10:00 am† The People of the Parish
12:00 pm† Tod Johnson
6:00 pm† Ricky Gonzalez

Prayers for the Sick

Carolyn Muehler	Skip Castaldo
Judy Koczor	Dan Koczor
Janice Helene Battaglia	Don Van Dyke
Don Van Dyke	Lois Bach
George B. Metzger	Sarah Karmazin
Regina Smith	Maria Peffley
Patrick Kludac	Maureen Collins

Prayers for the Military

Peter Gartlan
Noah Sommer
Zachary Frana
Aiden Browning

Baptism

The following child was baptized on Sunday, February 22, 2026.

Kennedy Joy Runnoe daughter of Grant & Hannah Runnoe

Welcome

We welcome the following to St. Mary of Gostyn.

Anthony & Dena Cozzo-Luciano
John & Danielle Tallon

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the following family.

Lawrence Swartz



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 March 1, 2026

Sunday	Second Sunday of Lent Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9
Monday	Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday	Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-21 and 23; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday	Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt 20:17-28
Thursday	Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 16:19-31
Friday	Gen 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday	Third Sunday of Lent Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rm 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5- 42 or Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

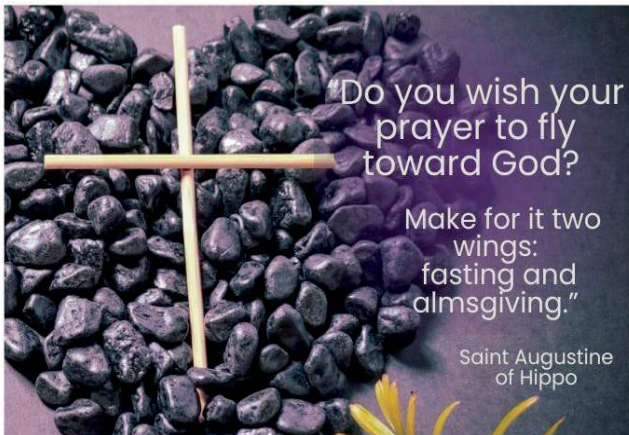
Adult Faith Formation

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, March 2 at 7 PM in the GP.



What We Believe

Prayer

Our next session of *What We Believe* focuses on prayer. A central and vital piece of our faith, prayer is talking and listening to God. In prayer, God reveals himself. Join us as we explore prayer, the raising of our hearts and minds to God, and in turn, come to know Him more deeply. All are welcome.

Tuesday, March 3 at 7 PM in Gathering Place.

Living Lent

Holy Hour of Adoration

"It is there that I dare go for the solutions to all my problems" (Saint Teresa of Calcutta) We all struggle with concerns and problems. Learn from the great Saints: Holy Hour is the place to come for 'solutions to all problems'; Lent is a perfect time to pull back from normal routines, away from noise and distractions, to find joy, guidance, grace, healing, forgiveness and peace. Holy Hour includes Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and opportunity for individual confession.

Our next Holy Hour will focus on the Lenten topic of Confession. Father Shaun will share that, as a penitential season, Lent gives us time to prepare our head and heart to enter more deeply into our relationship with Jesus. Reconciliation removes the barriers to surrender and intimacy with the one who loves us most.

Tuesday, March 10 at 7 PM in Church.

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: March 6th, March 13th and March 27th.

Fridays, 1:30 PM in Church.

Simply Soup Lunch & Stations

Something new! A simple soup lunch followed by Stations with the School Children. Registration required online or call the Parish Office.

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:

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.

St. Mary's AM CAFE

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

We continue our Women's CAFE series exploring mystery of The Scourging at the Pillar. The Scourging takes place within the context of Jesus' trial. In and out of the praetorium, however, Pilate is the one amid the real trial between the truth that resides inside and the demands of the world outside. Our thoughtful contemplation of Christ's actions teach us how to engage in the fight against darkness. We live in a time of unprecedented evil. Nothing is more powerful than prayer. All women of the parish are welcome, join in!

Tuesday, March 6 at 9 AM in the GP.

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



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
March 6, 13, & 27



Around Our Parish



Holy Week and Easter Schedules and Mass Times

Passion (Palm) Sunday, March 28th - 29th
4:00PM Mass Saturday
8:00AM, 10:00AM, 12:00PM & 6:00PM
Mass Sunday

Holy Thursday, April 2nd

8:00AM Morning Prayer in Church
7:00PM Mass of the Lord's Supper (incense will be used)
Following Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel until 12:00AM (Midnight)

Good Friday, April 3rd

8:00AM Morning Prayer in Church
3:00PM Passion of our Lord Service with Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion

Holy Saturday, April 4th

8:00AM Morning Prayer in Church
There will be no morning Reconciliation on this day
1:00PM Food Blessing in Church
8:00PM Easter Vigil Mass (incense will be used)

Easter Sunday, April 5th

8:00AM in Church
10:00AM in Church and Gym
12:00PM in Church
6:00PM No Mass

Adoration Chapel Hours
Monday - Friday, 8:30AM-4:30PM
Saturday - Sunday Adoration
Chapel Closed

The Adoration Chapel will be closed on Wednesday, April 1st at 4:30PM and will reopen on Tuesday, April 7th at 8:30AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays, 8:30AM-9:30AM (no Reconciliation on Holy Saturday, April 4th)

Tuesday evenings March 10th and 24th 7:00PM-8:00PM with Holy Hour Adoration

Tuesday, March 31st 6:30PM-8:00PM last Reconciliation before Easter



Fasting and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Roman Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Roman Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

ST. MARY OF GOSTYN'S
St. Patrick's Day
EVENT
LIVE IRISH DANCING - DINNER - DRINKS

SATURDAY, MARCH 7th
5:00PM till 9:00PM
SMG Activity Center
Celebration ends at 9pm. Must be 21 or older to consume alcohol.

TICKETS \$40 PER ADULT AND \$10 PER CHILD
TICKETS INCLUDE DINNER AND DRINKS

Scan the QR code to register.

Lent Booklets

Now Available at the Faith Network Desk after all Masses

Around Our Parish



Golf Outing Committee Meeting
Thursday March 12 @ 6:30 PM
Parish Center

New and returning members please join us for an initial meeting for our Golf Outing that will be held on June 4 at Cantigny Golf. Volunteers will meet once a month from March through June. This is a short time commitment, but is sure to be a lot of fun! Please email Gabriella Senese-Burns gsenese-burns@stmarygostyn.org if you are available to attend. If you are interested in being on the committee, but not able to attend the initial meeting, please send an email letting us know. We look forward to seeing everyone on March 12!

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.



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@stmarygostyn.org



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 630.969.1065



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

Unit Costs In Action for SMG 6th Graders

Sixth graders are learning about unit costs by using real Meijer sale ads to select items and calculate the best value. For many students, this was their first time reading a sale ad, making the lesson both eye-opening and practical. It was a great way to connect math skills to real-world shopping decisions.



What's happening in Religious Education...

On January 28th & 29th, all grades at every session participated in a Service Project. We made Valentine's Day cards for an organization called "Cards for Hospitalized Kids". They distribute the cards to children in hospitals all over the country. I never do an exact count, but the picture speaks volumes - there is a lot of love!



Ms. Kelleher's Wednesday 6:30 5th grade RE class wrote letters to Pope Leo XIV in October. They received a response back from the Holy Father's secretary, Monsignor Anthony Ekpo, last week! Included were these 2 prayer cards.



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