

# 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

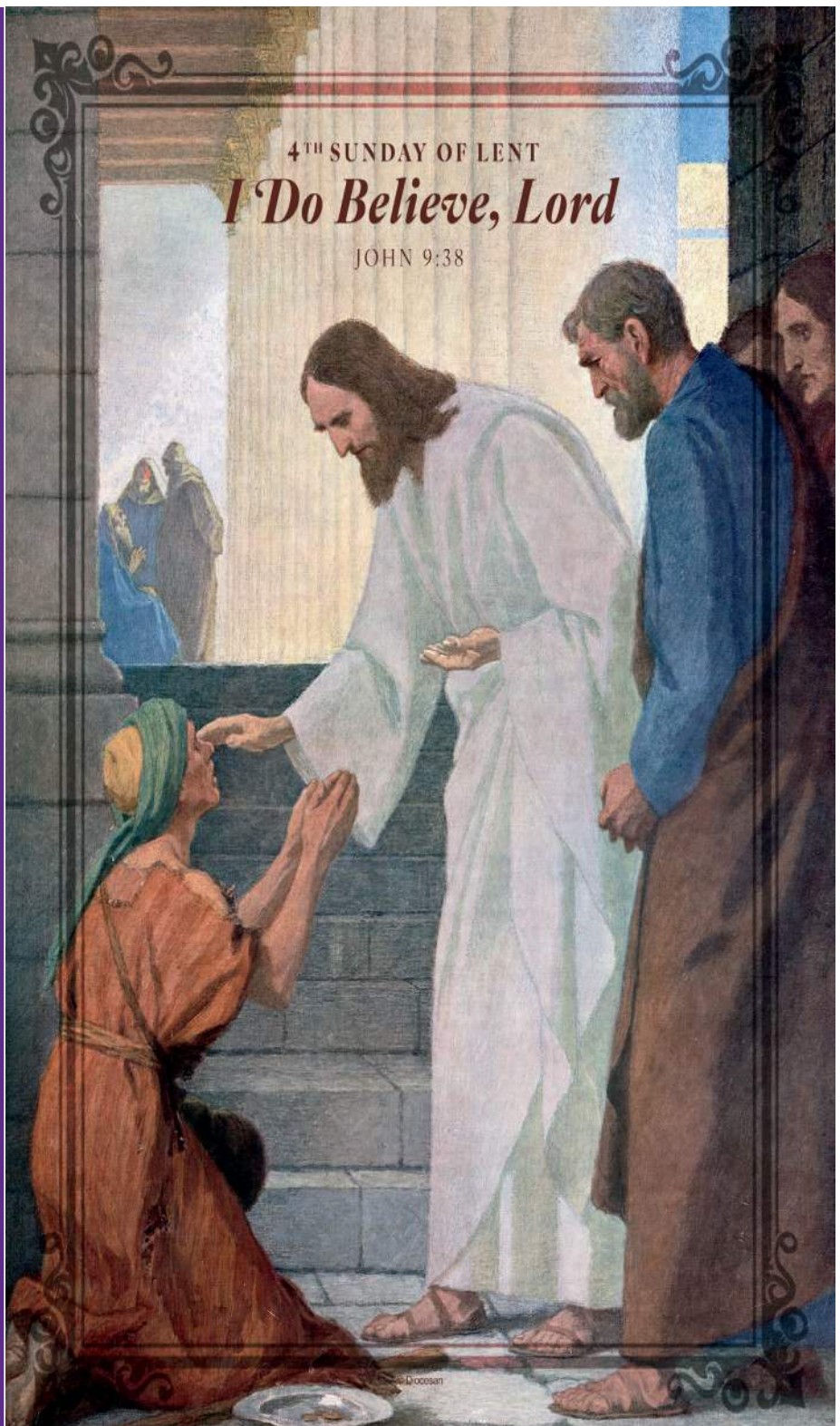
Religious Education Office  
(630)960-3566  
445 Prairie Avenue  
Downers Grove

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



4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

*I Do Believe, Lord*

JOHN 9:38

4th Sunday in Lent  
March 15, 2026

# Prayer Ministry | Staff | Parish

Monday, March 16th  
8:00 am† Esther Byrne

Tuesday, March 17th  
8:00 am† David & Judy Mates

Wednesday, March 18th  
8:00 am† John Sommer

Thursday, March 19th  
8:00 am† Esther Byrne

Friday, March 20th  
8:00 am† David & Judith Mates

Saturday, March 21st  
4:00 pm† David & Judith Mates

Sunday, March 22nd  
8:00 am† The People of the Parish  
10:00 am† Sister Rosemary Connelly  
12:00 pm† Thomas Sullivan & Luke Pavone  
6:00 pm Mary Meixner (Living)

## Policy for Prayers of the Sick

- Names of the sick may be added to the prayer list in the bulletin for one month. The request should be made by the sick person requesting their name or by an immediate family member on behalf of the sick person, who is not able to make the request.
- After one month**, the name will be removed from the list.
- After two months, you may request to be added again for another one-month period.

**At every Mass, we pray for ALL the living and the dead in the "Universal Prayer," that is, "The Prayer of the Faithful" and in the "Eucharistic Prayer" even if names are not mentioned.**

## Prayers for the Sick

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

## Welcome

We welcome the following to St. Mary of Gostyn.

Alice & Brynn Cloutier  
Michael & Molly Madsen  
Matt & Ashley Maciejewski  
James & Lauren Nowak

## Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the following families of

Bernard Donovan  
Eleanor Zubcic

## Prayers for the Military

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

## Baptism

The following children were baptized on Sunday, March 8, 2025.

**Aiden James Cosentino** son of Michael & Stacey Cosentino  
**William John Wenclawski** son of Daniel & Allison Wenclawski  
**Isabel Minardi Lee** daughter of Douglas and Lauren Lee  
**Parker Kayo Green** son of Jacob & Hayley Green  
**Rose Eilia Wostratzky** daughter of Randall & Melissa Wostratzky  
**Fiona Stewart Jepsen** daughter of Tyler & Siobhan Jepsen

## 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 15, 2026

Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Lent 1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a, Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 or Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday	Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday	Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday	Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday	Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary 2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Rm 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Friday	Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday	Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Lent Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Rm 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

# Adult Faith Formation

## What We Believe

*True, full, vibrantly alive Catholic life*

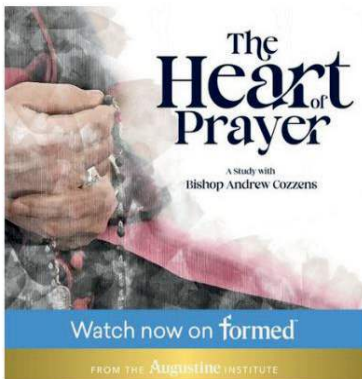
Catholic morality is about life: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Faith and Baptism give us new life in Christ. That life involves far more than simply following a set of rules.

Catholic morality is rooted in the reality of our relationship with God the Father in the person of the Word, his Son, nourished by the constant love and grace of the Holy Spirit. The Commandments and other moral rules are given to us as ways of protecting the values that foster love of God and others. They provide us with ways to express love, sometimes by forbidding whatever contradicts love.

A moral life requires grace. God assists us in living the moral life through the Church, who is our mother and teacher. Join us for this What We Believe discussion and learn more!

*Tuesday, March 17 at 7 PM in Church.*

## Salvation



*Lenten journey into prayer*

Join with Bishop Andrew Cozzens in an intimate, serene retreat-like setting to reveal the beauty and power of prayer, with practical and down-to-earth guides. This rewarding Lenten experience will transform your heart and prepare you for the joys of Easter.

Dive into the beauty of the Catholic Faith, at home or on the go, including this Heart of Prayer retreat, through St. Mary's subscription to FORMED.org. Access thousands of movies, audiobooks, studies, and documentaries--for FREE. Solid Catholic content, all in one place. Check it out at FORMED.org.

## 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 16 at 7 PM in the GP.*

## Thursday AM Women's CAFE

*Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary*

We continue this Lent study as Our Lord is paraded through the Via Dolorosa as a public spectacle. Our Lord takes our sin and shame upon His shoulders and carries it up Calvary's hill. Jesus calls us into His saving act by an invitation to take our crosses and unite them to His. All are welcome.

*Thursday, March 19 at 9 AM in the GP.*

## Stations of the Cross

Note: There are no Stations on Friday, March 20.



## Afternoon Stations with the School Students

All are welcome to the afternoon stations with the SMG school students.

*Friday, March 27 at 1:30 PM in Church.*

## Stations of the Cross in the Evening

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. This Friday will be use the traditional devotion, **The Way of the Cross**, which prayerfully commemorates Jesus' last moments.

*Friday, March 27 at 7 PM in Church.*

# Around Our Parish



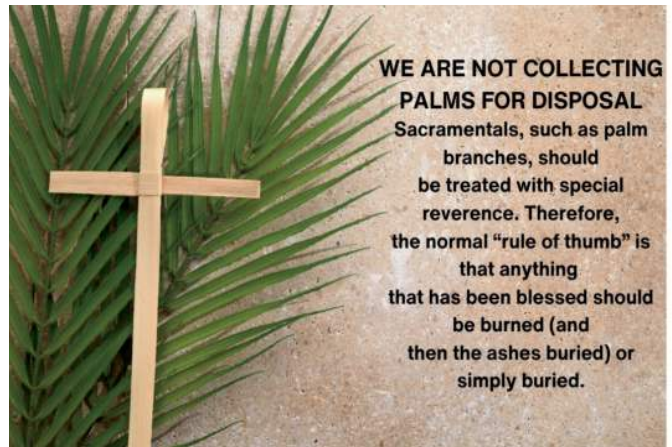
## The 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal has begun!

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!



## Stations of the Cross 7:00PM Friday evening March 27



## 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.

## Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital

Volunteers Needed  
Catholic Communion Ministry  
Good Samaritan Hospital – Downers Grove  
Contact: Gail Miskowicz-Retz at  
[Gail.Miskowicz-Retz@aah.org](mailto:Gail.Miskowicz-Retz@aah.org)

or  
630-852-5347

# 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

## A Call to Stewardship Monthly Collection February 2026

Envelope Donations.....	\$ 94,137
Online Giving.....	\$ 48,030
Adjustment: January.....	\$ 900
Total Collection.....	\$ 143,067

Total Collection to Date.....	\$1,125,342
Collection Goal to Date.....	\$1,072,326
Balance over (under).....	\$ 53,016

Second Collection for Central/Eastern Europe: \$ 8,126.55

Thank you, as always, for your generosity!

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



**40 DAYS FOR LIFE™**  
*life is precious -defend it*

**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](http://www.40daysforlife.com/downersgrove). Access Health Clinic is located at 1700 W. 75th Street, Downers Grove.

**PRAY TO END ABORTION**

*Solemnity of the  
Annunciation  
Novena*

Join us in praying a special novena March 16-24 in preparation for the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord on March 25. The Annunciation commemorates the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to inform her that she was to be the mother of our Savior. After giving her consent to God's word, Mary becomes the mother of God. Let us follow the example of Mary and call upon her intercession to help us open our hearts to say "yes" to God! Copies of the novena can be picked up in the Narthex at the Prairie Street entrance.

**RESPECT LIFE** Ministry

# Around Our Parish



## St. Vincent DePaul's February Update

"There is no more profitable practice as a companion to holy and spiritual fasting than that of almsgiving"

### FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Are more families using the SVDP food pantry? The answer is yes. Compared to last year, the number of families we assist has increased by at least 6%. Our pantry team starts greeting neighbors by 7:00 AM on Wednesday mornings and food is being distributed until 11:00 AM with little downtime. It is a busy morning!

Without the generous help of St. Mary parishioners, the pantry could not provide the staples that are distributed weekly. SVDP is grateful for the help and recognizes our mission is a success only because of those donations that come into the pantry each week. Please continue to choose to assist the Food Pantry as part of your Lenten almsgiving.

Donated food and household products are most appreciated, and donated cash allows us to purchase items we are low on. At this time, the pantry is in need of toothpaste, bars of soap, cans of chili, mixed vegetables, peas and tuna. Check the Monday eBlast to see what products the pantry needs weekly. Please donate REGULAR SIZE and UNOPENED grocery items which are preferred for storage and distribution purposes.

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

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

### HELPING THOSE IN NEED

#### S.V.D.P. CLOTHING DRIVE UPDATES

April Clothing Drive Cancelled

October Clothing Drive Cancelled

The Joliet Diocesan Council of St. Vincent de Paul has made the difficult decision to close its thrift stores after several years of operation due to ongoing financial losses. The two remaining thrift store locations in Addison and Morris will close on June 30, 2026.

As a result of this decision, St Mary of Gostyn, and all conferences within the Joliet Council, will no longer be conducting clothing drives.

We are deeply grateful to our parishioners and community members who have generously supported our clothing drives over the years. Your donations have made a meaningful difference in the lives of countless neighbors in need.

While this chapter is closing, our mission to serve neighbors in need continues. Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference remains committed to assisting local families through our weekly food pantry, home visit ministry and other outreach efforts such as our Christmas Adopt a Family program.

Through our home visits, we meet individuals and families exactly where they are and we gain an understanding of their circumstances. These visits allow us not only to assess practical needs, but to offer a listening ear and a compassionate heart. Practical assistance may include help with rent, utilities or medical payments, enrollment in our food pantry, or referrals to other trusted local agencies.

We THANK YOU for your continued prayers and financial support as we carry on this important work.



### Catholic Relief Services

There will be a collection for Catholic Relief Services, March 14th and 15th.

The basket will be passed one time only.

### Easter Vigil Candles

Dear Parishioners,

We have been informed by the diocese through our Catholic Mutual Insurance policy, that the individual Easter Vigil candles present a substantial risk for potential injury. Therefore, parishioners are prohibited from using candles throughout the church.

The Vigil Mass will remain very prayerful and spiritually uplifting. We will continue the rich tradition of beginning the Liturgy outside at the fire, while processing with the Paschal Candle through the dark Church, symbolizing our Risen Lord. Thank you for your understanding and assistance in keeping everyone safe.

St. Mary of Gostyn Staff

### ABOUT OUR FAITH

#### DIVINE MERCY

##### MESSAGE AND DEVOTION

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. And, He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

#### Remember Your A-B-Cs

The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

**A - Ask for His Mercy.** God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

**B - Be merciful.** God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

**C - Completely trust in Jesus.** God wants us to know that all the graces of His mercy can only be received by our trust. The more we open the door of our hearts and lives to Him with trust, the more we can receive.

This message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, who wrote a diary recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. The message and devotional practices proposed in the Diary of Saint Faustina are completely in accordance with the teachings of the Church and are firmly rooted in the Gospel message of our Merciful Savior. Properly understood and implemented, they can help us grow as followers of Christ.

Excerpt from [thedivinemercy.org](http://thedivinemercy.org)



# Around Our Parish

## School News

### Congratulations SMG Battle of the Books Teams!

This year's SMG Battle of the Books team consisted of 40 readers in grades 4 through 8. Students read between 8 and 11 books, covering a variety of genres. At the Battle of the Books at the Cathedral of St. Raymond, SMG had 2 winners. John Paul A. took 2nd place in the Individual Middle School competition and Abby S. took 1st place in the Individual Middle School competition. In addition, Michael L., Joshua F. and Paige K. all won free books. Congratulations to all of our readers!



JOIN US FOR

# TRIVIA Night

SATURDAY  
APRIL 18 AT 7PM

\$30 PER PERSON

GATHER YOUR TEAM AND PICK YOUR THEME!  
BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND BEVERAGES.

SMG ACTIVITY CENTER

Register at [smgtrivia2026.givesmart.com](http://smgtrivia2026.givesmart.com)

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One Family!



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