

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
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Deacon Bob Miciunas
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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



5th Sunday of Easter

**5th Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026**

Parish Ministry | Staff | Parish

Monday, May 4th
8:00 am† Irene Mersch

Tuesday, May 5th
8:00 am† Frank Bava

Wednesday, May 6th
8:00 am† Margherita Ricchio & Luigina Aiello

Thursday, May 7th
8:00 am† Jack Egan

Friday, May 8th
8:00 am† Tom & Dorothy O'Hallaren

Saturday, May 9th
4:00 pm† John J. Gleason

Sunday, May 10th
8:00 am† Douglas Baker & Aurora Sambo Santiago
10:00 am† The People of the Parish
12:00 pm† The Sharko family (Living)
6:00 pm† Dolores Marietha Salacar & Rocio Zick

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

Lois Bach	Nick Affatato
Aleena Truby	Chris MacFarlane
Mike Kern	Phil Kern
Len Wlodarski	Mary Kern
Bob Lang	

Baptism

The following children were baptized on Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, 2026

Shea Mullen Bollweg daughter of Robert & Kerry Bollweg

Dominic Maciejewski son of Matthew & Ashley Macejewski

Owen Patrick Tallon son of John & Danielle Tallon

Gavin John Tallon son of John & Danielle Tallon

Quinn Kathleen Landreman daughter of Daniel & Erin Landreman

Brooke Reilly Rylander daughter of Jeffrey & Amy Rylander

Quinn Francie Rylander son of Jeffrey & Amy Rylander

Dennison Nowak son of James & Lauren Nowak

Welcome

We welcome the following to St. Mary of Gostyn.

Michael & Lea Rotolo

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the following families.

John Tully
Aurora Sambo Santiago

Prayers for the Military

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

Parish | School Staff

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

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

Annabelle Tumlos.....Business Manager
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Erin Lawrence.....Music Director
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Pat Vena.....Sacristan/Bulletin
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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 May 3, 2026

Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12
Monday	Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday	Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday	Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday	Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11
Friday	Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12; Jn 15:12-17
Saturday	Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5; Jn 15:18-21
Sunday	Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

Diocese



Special Message from Bishop Dennis E. Spies April 2026



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy Easter! As we continue celebrating the joy of the Resurrection, I have a special request for the people of our diocese on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Kankakee County.

On March 10, severe storms and tornadoes caused widespread destruction in the area, damaging homes, vehicles, Bishop McNamara Catholic School, and affecting families throughout our diocese—including those of some of our priests. Many now face a long and challenging recovery. We continue to pray for all who were injured or suffered loss.

A Special Second Collection

To offer concrete support, I am asking every parish in the Diocese of Joliet to take up a special second collection the weekend of May 2–3 or May 9–10, 2026.

How the Funds Will Be Used

Every dollar collected will directly support two urgent needs:

- Families in Need - Catholic Charities of Joliet will administer a grant process to provide financial assistance to families who have suffered significant hardship.
- Bishop McNamara Catholic School - Assistance with repairs to buildings, buses, athletic fields, and other property not covered by insurance.

Where to Send Collections

Collections should be sent to:

Diocese of Joliet
c/o Finance Office
16555 Weber Road
Crest Hill, Illinois 60403

All funds will be distributed responsibly to those in need. Thank you for your prayers, generosity, and care for one another. May the hope of Easter strengthen us as one Body of Christ.

+ Dennis E. Spies

Sincerely in Christ,
Bishop Dennis E. Spies

Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Joliet

Adult Faith Formation

What We Believe

In the World, but Not of the World

"Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore, you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

(Matthew 24:44-45)

What happens when we die? Jesus is always calling us closer into relationship. He wants us to live our day-to-day lives so that we do not get so caught up in obligations, commitments and the 'busy-ness' of this life that the end times catch us by surprise. Of course, we are called to pursue dreams and goals and to form relationships in this world, but never at the expense of letting God fall through the cracks of our priorities. We long for all the answers, and we suddenly realize that he is here and that we have neglected him. To keep God in our midst, our next session will consider what both the Bible and the Church teach regarding the end times so as to best live our lives fully while awaiting his return.

End Times. What happens when we die? What would you do if you knew the world was to end tonight? What does our Catholic Church teach about end-of-life issues? This gathering is open to all adults interested in better understanding our faith and growing in relationship with Jesus.

Tuesday, May 5 at 7 PM in the Gathering Place

Caring for Caregivers

Caring for You...

...through your stages of caregiving. Whether you're just beginning by running errands and attending doctor visits. Or you're realizing taking care of another requires more time managing medicines and dealing with health and safety concerns. Or maybe you're a full-time caregiver. At whatever stage, Nourish for Caregivers is here to support you and your needs with practical, emotional, and spiritual support.

Challenges of Honoring Your Loved Ones' Wishes. Many caregivers struggle with decisions about how to balance loved ones' wishes with everyday realities, especially as situations change and practical issues make it difficult. See how "honoring" those for whom we care lends perspective to decision-making.

Wed., May 13 at 2 PM in the Gathering Place

St. Mary's Men's Group

Understanding the Power and Purpose of Men



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. As men embrace the call to pursue heroic virtue, they become better husbands, fathers, and leaders. We welcome men 18+ to dive deeper into the faith with 'real' conversations and fellowship.

Monday, May 4 at 7 PM in the GP

Catholic Man Night

Save the Date

An evening to deepen your relationship with Christ and His Church. The night begins with Adoration and opportunity for Confession, continues with dinner and engaging talks with 'real' conversations to aid in living our faith as disciples of Christ.



This Catholic Man Night is offered in conjunction with Men of Christ Joliet, which empowers men to grow in faith and leadership through community service, mentorship, and spiritual development, fostering a deeply supportive environment for personal, and collective, growth in Christ. Watch for more details on this dynamic, not-to-be missed event.

Tuesday, June 2, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Around Our Parish



What to Expect

- ✓ New venue at Cantigny Golf
- ✓ Premier course with an elevated experience
- ✓ Fresh new schedule

New Date

- ✓ June 4
(no longer the last day of school!)
- ✓ Easier for families and friends to join

On the Course

- ✓ 3 gourmet, chef-hosted live action food stations on the course.
- ✓ Great food, networking, and energy all Day

New Sponsorship Opportunities

Bar Sponsor – \$4,000

- ✓ Foursome + premium visibility at the after-golf event

Lunch Sponsor – \$2,000

- ✓ Featured at on-course lunch stations

Hole-in-One Sponsor – \$1,500

- ✓ Exclusive sponsorship of Par 3 holes
- ✓ On-course signage + full recognition

Sandbagger Level – \$750

- ✓ Includes golf + tee box signage

Putting Contest Sponsor – \$250

- ✓ Signage at a high-traffic contest area

Register at
smggolf2026.givesmart.com

Great visibility while supporting SMG!

Don't miss this exciting new chapter of our outing. **We can't wait to see you at Cantigny!** For sponsorship details or to donate an auction item, please contact Gabriella Sense-Burns at gusenese-burns@stmarygostyn.org.

Around Our Parish



Dear Visitors to Our Adoration Chapel,

We are grateful for your presence and devotion in our Adoration Chapel, a sacred space meant to foster prayer, worship, and quiet spiritual reading.

We kindly ask that you do not leave behind personal items such as sacramentals, rosaries, or spiritual books. Please be sure to take these with you when you depart, so that the Chapel remains a simple and uncluttered place of encounter with Our Lord Jesus Christ truly present in the Eucharist. By the end of each week, any items left unattended, will be donated to a Catholic Charitable organization.

Thank you for your understanding and for helping us maintain a peaceful, reverent, and prayerful place of worship for all.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Shaun

Baptism

Hall family recent baptism at St. Mary of Gostyn.



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.

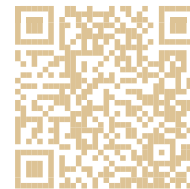
If you do not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact the parish office. Thank you!

Easter Collection \$82,342.56

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/smgonlinedonatin>

Or scan the QR Code below.



Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:00AM Mass
April 26
May 3 & 10



Around Our Parish



Deacon Christopher Otieno

My name is Deacon Christopher Otieno. I was born on December 19, 1991, in the western part of Kenya, where I grew for most part of my life. I am from a family of six, my dad, Rasmus, my mom, Lilian, and 3 siblings - Cyprian, Cecilia and Celestine. We are all Catholics. I was brought up in Catholic faith and I enjoyed going to church. It is from the frequent attendance of Mass on Sundays that my vocation to priesthood started growing. The desire to be a priest developed from seeing priest celebrate Mass, I was attracted to this, and I really wanted to celebrate Mass like these priests; their vestments and the way they conducted themselves in a solemn and recollected demeanor just attracted me even more.

I joined Mass servers at the parish and then later I went to the Minor Seminary for my High School education. Being at the Minor Seminary kept the desire burning, especially being able to attend Mass everyday and being taught by priest and nuns. When I was a sophomore, my uncle was ordained a priest, I attended his ordination and I believe at this point I made up my mind to seriously discern to be a priest in the Catholic Church. My uncle, Fr. Daniel, remains my role model to date. He inspired and encouraged me to start corresponding with the Vocations Director of Consolata Missionaries, a Religious Order he belongs to. I later joined the Consolata Missionaries in 2011 and went through their formation for 9 years. I discerned out of the Religious Order in 2020 because I felt that God was calling me to be a diocesan priest.

Through my uncle, Fr. Daniel, I met Fr. Clive who is a Kenyan priest here in the Diocese of Joliet. I shared with him my intention and desire to be a diocesan priest. Fr. Clive was kind enough to link me up with Fr. Borello, the Director of Vocation. After corresponding with Fr. Borello for two years, I was accepted to join the diocese as a seminarian. I came to USA in December 2023. I was warmly received in the diocese. I lived at the rectory in Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Aurora, which serves as my home parish here in the US. I then joined Mundelein Seminary in August 2024. While at Mundelein I used to go to St. James the Apostle as my teaching parish. I was ordained a Deacon on December 6, 2025, and I was assigned to serve at Immaculate Conception, Elmhurst. Upon my priestly ordination, coming up on June 6, 2026, I have been assigned to St. Mary of Gostyn. I look forward to serving the people of God as a priest in this parish starting July 1, 2026.

At my free time I enjoy taking nature walks, playing soccer, watching soccer (can't wait for the World Cup) meeting friends, and visiting families. My favorite foods are chicken and beef. I am very grateful to all people who have supported me in my journey of discernment so far, may God bless them abundantly. To God the glory, now and forever.

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