

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

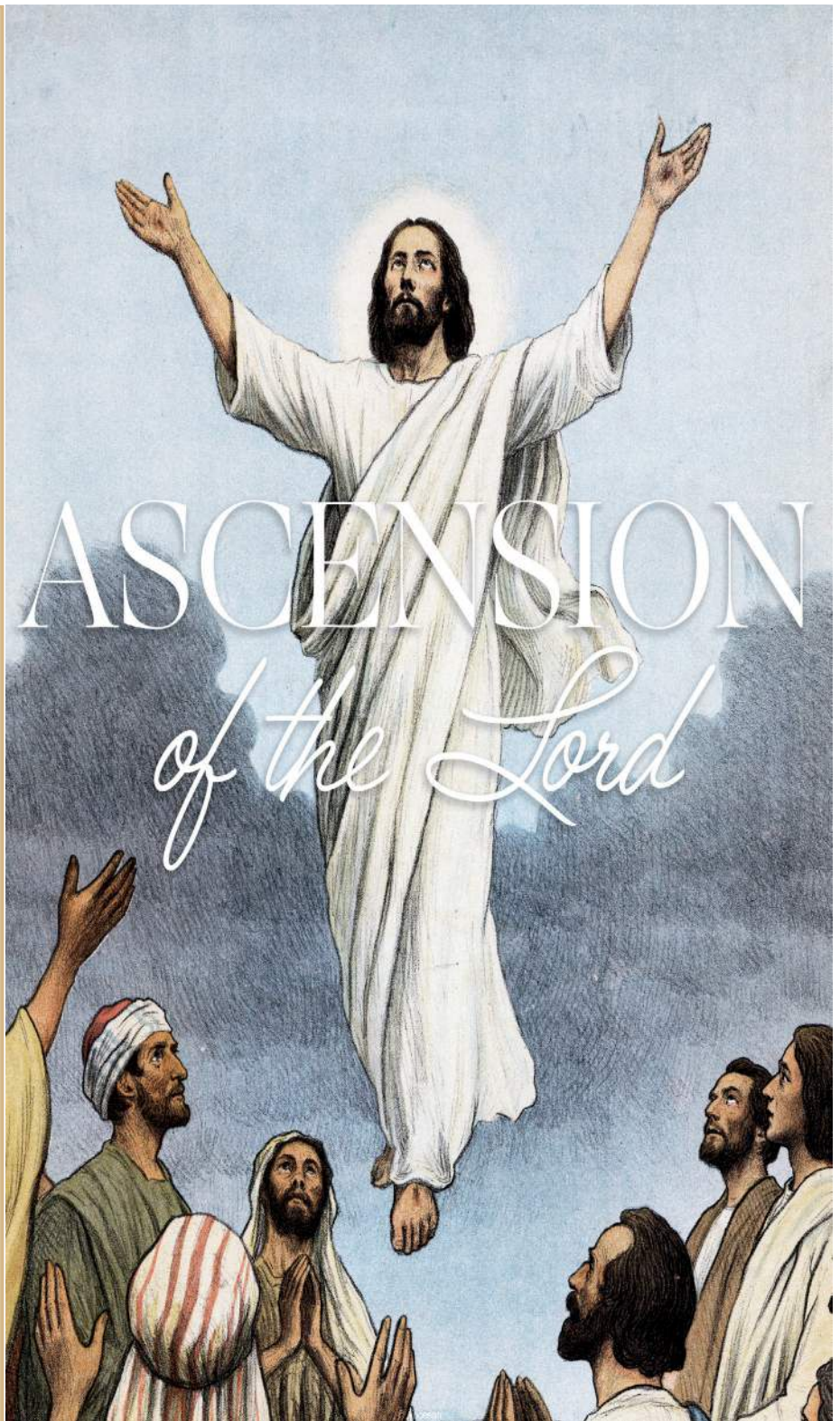
School Office
(630)968-6155
440 Prairie Avenue
Downers Grove

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



Ascension of the Lord
May 17, 2026

Parish Ministry | Staff | Parish

Monday, May 18th
8:00 am† Eugene & Irene Mersch

Tuesday, May 19th
8:00 am† Doris Hanlon

Wednesday, May 20th
8:00 am† Robert Noonan

Thursday, May 21st
8:00 am† Loretta Ocwieja

Friday, May 22nd
8:00 am† Ronald Rodi Sr.

Saturday, May 23rd
4:00 pm† Paul Kludac

Sunday, May 24th
8:00 am† Joannie Degnan Barth
10:00 am† The People of the Parish
12:00 pm† Doris Hanlon & Larry Szmurlo
6:00 pm† Saputo Dorotea

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
Daniel Nicholson	Anne Marie Juscik
Arthur Merzlock	George B. Metzger
Jerry Hoke	

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the following families.
Eileen Nakis
Barbara Mittman
Bob Lang

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
ggenes-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
jlliszka@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 May 17, 2026

Sunday Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:12-14; Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11a

In those places where the observance of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord has been transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter, the Mass and readings of the Ascension are used.

Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Mt 28:16-20

Monday Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Jn 17:20-26

Friday Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19

Saturday Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5 and 7; Jn 21:20-25

Sunday Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

Around Our Parish

50th Anniversary of priesthood



Father Larry Dreffein, OFM

Larry Dreffein, OFM, 58 years a Franciscan, 50 years a priest, pastor, teacher, administrator, spiritual director, adult educator, and confessor. He has experience in both the Roman and Eastern traditions of the Church. He has worked with all ages and 27 years working with ministry focused with Senior Citizens.

Golden Jubilee Celebration

Join us Sunday, June 7, 2026, St. Mary of Gostyn, Downers Grove, beginning with the 10:00AM Mass as we honor Father Larry for 50 years of dedicated service to the priesthood. A reception with coffee, juice and donuts will follow in the Gathering Place, hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

Around Our Parish



JOLIET

**TUESDAY
JUNE 2**

CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT

**“From Established Church to
Missionary Church”**



Keynote
Fr. Shaun Cieslik
Pastor

and featuring
Alessandro DiSanto
Co-Founder @ Hallow
and



Rick Sparke
Commercial Airline Pilot
Southwest



5:30 - 8:30 pm - dinner provided
Register with QR code



MenOfChrist.net/Joliet

St. Mary of Gostyn | Downers Grove

Adult Faith Formation

Bringing Christ to People

Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession

A **Eucharistic Procession** is a public witness of the veneration toward the most holy Eucharist, conducted through public streets. It is an extension of the worship of Jesus Christ, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Witness
of
Faith



Honor
Christ



Openly reaffirming our faith in Jesus Christ, alive and truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist, a Eucharistic Procession publicly adores, praises and thanks the Lord, who continues “to love us to the end”.

A Eucharistic Procession allows for prayerful worship of the Lord while moving around. If you want to go to another Mass time, still come; simply gather by St. Mary's Church entrance as Mass is ending to join the beginning of the Procession.



Sunday, June 7th, beginning after Noon Mass



Begins at St. Mary's & processes to St. Joe's



All are welcome

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 Scripture, study, 'real' conversations, and fellowship.

Monday, May 18 at 7 PM in the GP

What We Believe

The Communion of Saints

The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints are role models for us as disciples (learners of the faith) and apostles, those who are sent. Our rich tradition of those who have gone before us demonstrates the love of the Lord. Learn more about this 'mighty cloud of witnesses' at our next *What We Believe* session.

Tuesday, May 19 at 7 PM in the GP

About Our Faith

A Papal Encyclical

A Papal Encyclical is a letter sent to bishops, intended to guide them in their relations with their flocks, and containing views on church teachings and doctrine in a particular area.

Following in his predecessor, Pope Leo releases his first encyclical to address social issues. In 1891, Pope Leo XIII released the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* ("Of New Things"), recognizing the upheavals of the Industrial Revolution and addressed labor rights, private property and the moral responsibilities of both workers and employers. This landmark encyclical helped define what is now known as Catholic Social Teaching.

Over the years, other 'social encyclicals' have been released on May 15th, the anniversary of *Rerum Novarum*. Drawing inspiration from his namesake, Pope Leo XIV said from the onset that he will continue to address the profound changes in our world, including AI, peace, and global order. In wisdom, the Church is firmly established in enduring principles and truth—the dignity of every person, preferential treatment of the poor, priority of common good and the limits of power—and continues to guide while confronting the realities and challenges of every age.

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

Register at smggolf2026.givesmart.com

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

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 gsenese-burns@stmarygostyn.org.



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!



Volunteer Photographer

Would you like to share your photography talents with St Mary of Gostyn? SMG is looking for a volunteer photographer to cover special Parish events, such as, the Easter Vigil, Baptisms, Confirmations, anniversary and special Masses, and similar events held in church. The photographer would communicate with the pastor and parish staff to determine what coverage is necessary. Pictures would be provided to staff for promotion in the bulletin, the Monday blast, and social media.

Photographers need technical and software skills in order to complete their tasks.

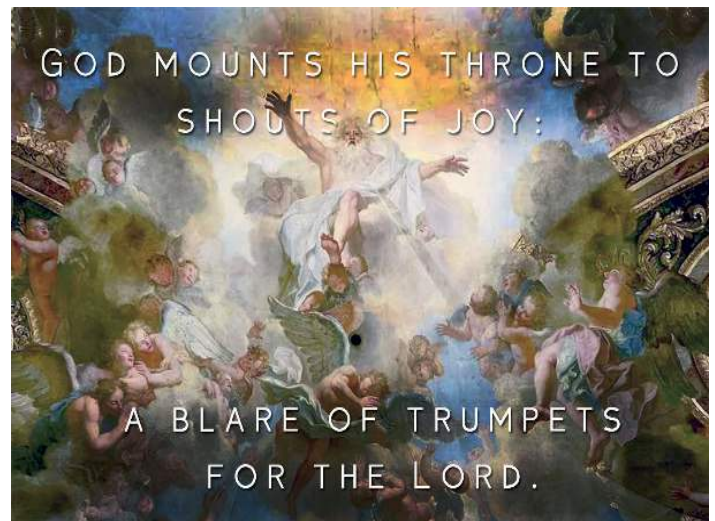
Some skills for a Photographer include:

- Ability to work flexible hours to accommodate special events
- Knowledge of photography techniques
- Proficiency with photo editing software and camera equipment
- Communication skills
- Supply their own camera equipment

If there is interest, please contact Deacon Bob at deaconbob@stmarygostyn.org.

Baptism

Grigas family recent baptism at St. Mary of Gostyn.



Around Our Parish



St. Vincent DePaul's April Update

"Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God." Proverbs 14:31

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

As the weather warms up, the line at our weekly food distribution grows longer. We served close to 200 families in April, bringing our yearly total to 614 families. One or two new families have registered each week.

Thanks to the generosity of the St. Mary School Families our shelves are stocked with hygiene and household items. We are grateful to the Student Council and their sponsors for organizing a drive to collect items like dish detergent, paper products, and hygiene items.

Our supply of food staples is dwindling. As summer approaches, the donations to the food pantry typically drop. Please continue your weekly or monthly support by purchasing a few items when you do your weekly grocery shopping.

At this time, the pantry is in need of cans of chili, fruit, mixed vegetables, soup, and beans (pork and beans or other varieties). Other items needed include regular size boxes of cereal, boxes of rice and potato side dishes, and crackers. Check the Monday eBlast to see what products the pantry needs weekly.

REGULAR SIZE and UNOPENED grocery items are preferred for storage and distribution purposes.

The pantry also appreciates the donation of paper grocery shopping bags with handles.

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

HELPING THOSE IN NEED APRIL BY THE NUMBERS

In April, we received 44 calls from neighbors seeking assistance. Each call is returned, with some referred to other agencies or unable to be reached.

We completed 9 home visits allowing us to better understand and respond to each situation.

Thanks to your generosity, we provided rent assistance to 6 households, averaging \$1512 per family and co-assisted financially with Holy Trinity in Westmont on 2 additional calls for rent.

Through donors, 40 families received Aldi gift cards to help with Easter meal shopping. We also paid a car payment and utility payments. We recognize how essential reliable transportation is for families to get to work and remain financially stable. In one case, we connected a neighbor with Sharing Connections, covering the access fee and moving truck costs. The family was thrilled to receive essential furniture and household items.

Thank you for your financial support which makes this work possible and brings hope to our neighbors in need.

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

WE ARE

ONE

One Parish, One School, One Family!

<p>Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.</p> <p>Simply go to www.DM.CHURCH/1651</p> <p>...or scan </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EWTN.COM/RADIO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EWTN Global Catholic Radio</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">TUNE IN</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: yellow;">We LOVE your smile!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Patient Focused Comprehensive Dental Care for the Entire Family</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gentle & Compassionate Care • Advanced Treatment • Local, Family-Owned Practice <p style="text-align: center; color: blue; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">630-963-6750</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JacksonFamilyDentistry.us Eric G. Jackson, DDS, MAGD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2033 Ogden Avenue Downers Grove, IL 60515</p>
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