

St. Mary of Gostyn
Catholic Church
445 Prairie Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Rev. Shaun Cieslik
Pastor
scieslik@stmarygostyn.org

Rev. Christopher Otieno
Parochial Vicar
cotieno@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



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 9, 2026

Monday, August 10th
8:00 am† Virginia Mates

Tuesday, August 11th
8:00 am† Kelly McHugh Walter

Wednesday, August 12th
8:00 am† Loretta Ocwieja

Thursday, August 13th
8:00 am† Robert Orseske, Jr.

Friday, August 14th
8:00 am† Doris Hanlon

Saturday, August 15th
4:00 pm† Hazel Olson & Raymond Heye

Sunday, August 16th
8:00 am† The People of the Parish
10:00 am† Angeline & Michael Prince
12:00 pm† Ayeesa Claire
6:00 pm† Jack Vallerugo

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

Aleena Truby	Lois Bach
Robert Truby, Sr.	Scott Melrose
Tom Dooley	Bonnie Hagen
Florence Fullen	Gloria Carcello
Paul Krefft	Ron Cuchna
Megan McClellan	Michael Kwee
Ryan	Mary Signer
Candice Kornack	

Welcome

We welcome the following families to St. Mary of Gostyn.

Athanasius & Millicent Lutta
Anthony & Monica Markas
Kyle & Yasseline Knoke
Joseph & Grace Ginex

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the following families.

Gen Hadamik
Dennis Hofmaier
Sean Durkin
Daniel J. Nicholson

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

Baptism

The following child was baptized on Sunday, August 2, 2026.

Nora Mae Nasca
daughter of Rosario & Leslie Nasca



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 August 9, 2026

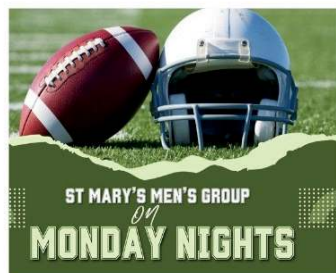
Sunday	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Rm 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33
Monday	Feast of Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9; Jn 12:24-26
Tuesday	Memorial of Saint Clare, Virgin Ez 2:8-3:4; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
Wednesday	Ez 9:1-7; 10-18-22; Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; 2 Cor 5:19; Mt 18:15-20
Thursday	Ez 12:1-12; Ps 78:56-57, 58-59, 61-62; Mt 18:21-19:1
Friday	Memorial of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or Ez 16:59-63; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Mt 19:3-12
Saturday	Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Vigil 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28 Mass During the Day: Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56
Sunday	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

Adult Faith Formation

STARTING THIS FALL

* *St Mary's Men's Group*

Begins August 24

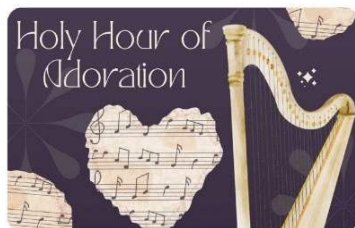


Something amazing is happening Monday nights! Inspired by the practice of Stations of the Cross, this study brings the Scriptures to life, immerses you in the story of salvation history, and opens your eyes to amazing spiritual insights. It will also reshape the way you see your entire life.

* *Thursday AM Women's Cafe*

Begins September 10

Join other women of the parish in dynamic faith conversations exploring our rich Catholic understanding of Salvation.



Sacred Sounds

The August 11th Holy Hour will feature the harp, played by our Music Director, Erin Lawrence. One distinctive purpose of the harp throughout scripture is praise! Join us to praise our Lord and King! In addition to the harp music, the Holy Hour includes Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, and opportunity for individual confession. Come for a few minutes or the whole hour on Tuesday, August 11, 7PM in Church.



Beginning this September!

Interested in the Catholic faith?

We invite you to register for our Becoming Catholic Living Catholic classes starting this September! The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is the way we welcome people into Catholic Church. Our OCIA Inquiry Course will begin in the Fall and is a way to encounter the love of Jesus and learn to live as a Catholic through a process of study, exploration, faith-sharing, and faith formation.

Together, we'll share in the journey, growing closer in relationship as a faith community, with each other and with Jesus.

OCIA classes will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm, specific dates to be scheduled. Curious? Scan the QR code or visit our website to learn more and to fill out an 'interest form'. Or, call the Parish Office at 630.969.1063.

- If you're baptized in another faith tradition or never been baptized, or attending Mass because your spouse is Catholic, we welcome you to this journey of faith, and if interested, become Catholic.
- Or, if you're baptized Catholic, but have not received all your Sacraments, we welcome you.
- If you're a life-long Catholic, we invite you to accompany inquirers along the faith journey, a way to share your faith in conversation with others and model what it means to live as a Catholic.



Homebound Ministry of Care

If you or a loved one are temporarily or permanently homebound and unable to attend Mass, the St. Mary's Homebound Ministry of Care team can bring Holy Communion to your home on a regular basis. To arrange to have a trained lay parishioner bring Holy Communion to your home, contact the Parish Office at 630.969.1063.



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Two Steps Forward . . .

Why did Jesus walk on water to the disciples in the boat? Did he want to scare them? No, his first words to them were "Do not be afraid." While they were being tossed by wind and waves, he showed them that he was not affected by the storm. If they had had faith, they might have realized that if Jesus was safe, they would be, too. We too must make that leap of faith, especially when we are afraid.

Peter seemed to be willing to take the leap as he stepped into the water. But when his attention was distracted by the strong winds, he began to falter. This is where we can apply the story to ourselves.

Our growth in faith is not a steady progression. For every two steps forward, we may take one step back. For example, we receive God's forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation and rejoice in God's loving mercy, but later we fall back into sin. We ask God's help in prayer and when our prayer is answered, our faith in God grows. Then we become ill or wreck the car, and think that God has abandoned us. But isn't that a natural reaction?

It is natural to doubt God in times of trouble, but we are choosing to live in the supernatural when we become followers of Christ. Like Peter, we need to keep our attention on the Lord. As long as Peter looked to Jesus, he could walk on water. Only when he focused on the wind did he lose his nerve and begin to sink.

In a similar way, we can lose our focus on the Lord. We see someone we love who is gravely sick. We make a serious mistake that gets us in trouble. We lose our job and have no leads to a new one. We are frightened by news of terrorist activity. These seem more real than faith in an invisible God. That is when we must remember that true faith allows us to believe when it doesn't seem to make sense. Faith tells us that though apparently invisible, God is more real than anything we can see. Remember Jesus on the cross saying, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" The Father never abandoned his Son and God will never abandon us.

Tom Schmidt

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY August 15

Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary as a dogma of the Catholic faith on November 1, 1950. "The Immaculate Mother of God, ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory" (Dogma of the Assumption, 44).



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary August 15, 2026

There will be a 10:00AM Mass on Saturday, August 15th, for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is not a holy day of obligation this year.

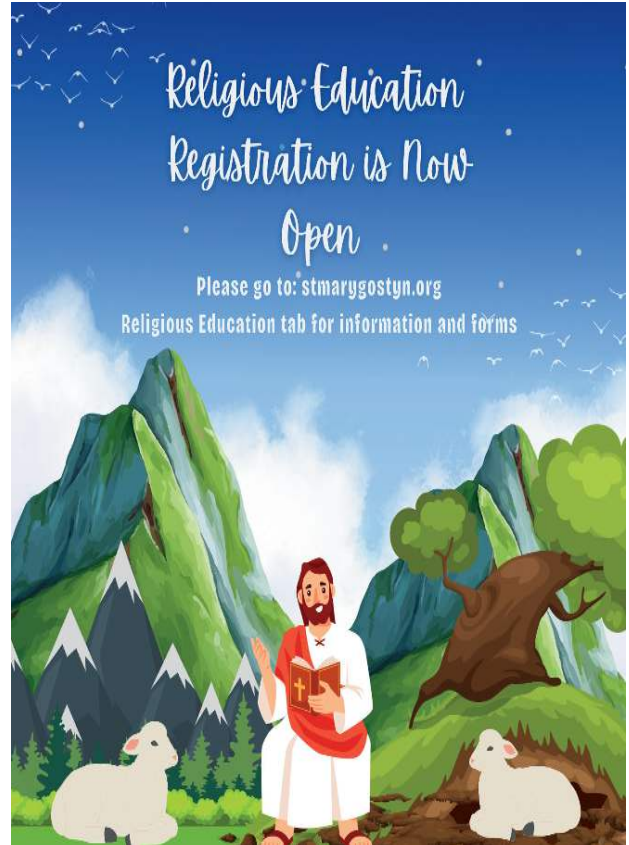


CALL FOR CATECHISTS

Our Religious Education program begins in early September. We are looking for Parishioners who would like to share their time, faith and talents with the children of our Parish.

We have need for teachers and teacher's aids in grades 1 to 8. Syllabi and lessons plans are provided for each grade level. We provide training and guidance for first time teachers, as well as long time teachers.

Please contact Jen Liska in the Religious Education office at 630-960-3566 or religiouseducation@stmarygostyn.org with any questions.



Crossing Guard

Crossing Guards needed in Downers Grove! \$17.50 per crossing/shift. Please contact Teresa Johnson at 331-318-9882



**MONDAY,
AUGUST 17
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

During supply drop off, before the ice cream social, the church will be open for you and your children to stop in --for a minute for a prayer. No program, no agenda, just an open invitation to stop and pray with and for your children as the new year begins. A simple and easy way to put **Christ at the Center**.



*As each one has received a gift, use it
to serve one another as
good stewards of God's varied grace.*

1 Peter 4:10

Volunteer!

Fall Ministry Initiative

This fall, we're looking to gather women of the parish for a to-be-determined(!) event. Volunteers are needed for planning, preparing, baking, cleaning, greeting, etc. – there's something for every ability and level of involvement!

Help create an opportunity for women to have meaningful relationships with other women, our parish family, and our Lord Jesus.

Questions? Interested in helping?

Call Joanne at 630.220.3801 or email Joann at
Denouncer.5@comcast.net



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 8:00AM 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. Training will be provided. 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



When you are grocery shopping would you consider purchasing cans of chicken, fruit, applesauce, and Progresso soup, boxes of quick food or old fashioned oatmeal. Dish detergent, tissue, olive oil, flour, sugar, and coffee are also monthly distribution.

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



Out of reverence for the House of God, food and beverages are not permitted in church. Water may be permitted when needed for a health-related concern. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.





Childrens Garden

We invite anyone who donated a commemorative brick for our Childrens Garden to retrieve it within the next couple of weeks. We thank you for your support and hope it will continue to serve as a meaningful reminder of this special parish project.

5TH ANNUAL SMG MUM SALE



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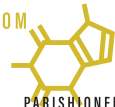
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