

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



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 13, 2026

Monday, September 14th
8:00 am† Garry Kornack

Tuesday, September 15th
8:00 am† Edward &
Helen Chodorowski

Wednesday, September 16th
8:00 am† Mary Ann Holzhall

Thursday, September 17th
8:00 am† Ermanno DiBrita

Friday, September 18th
8:00 am† Eleanor Zubcic

Saturday, September 19th
4:00 pm† Annette Martel

Sunday, September 20th
8:00 am† Edward &
Helen Chodorowski
10:00 am† Fr. Michael & Mary Ellen
Walsh
12:00 pm† The People of the Parish
6:00 pm† Bernard Donovan

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	Robert Truby, Sr.
Lois Bach	Kenneth Boese
Amy Robert	Arlene Kucaba
Jason Ortega	George B. Metzger
Charlene Arnold	Alice Saniat

Welcome

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

Dan & Megan Bacarella
Daniel & Elizabeth Altosino

Baptism

The following children were baptized Sunday, September 6, 2026 at St. Mary of Gostyn.

Callum Guerin Geary son of Luke & Keelin Geary
Elle Kathryn Geary daughter of Luke & Keelin Geary

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

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the following families.

Andrew Dziadus
Alice Drennan
Alex P. Rudock
Homer Penninger
Gene Leonas



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.

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 September 13, 2026

Sunday	Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sir 27:30-28:7; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35
Monday	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Num 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Tuesday	Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 19:25-27
Wednesday	Memorial of Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs 1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22; Lk 7:31-35
Thursday	1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Lk 7:36-50
Friday	1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b, 15; Lk 8:1-3
Saturday	1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14; Lk 8:4-15
Sunday	Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

Adult Faith Formation



Exploring Life's Burning Questions:

How can I trust that what the Church teaches is the truth?
How do we know that the Bible is true? Is belief in the Trinity essential? Join us with yours!

Tuesday, September 15, 7PM in the Gathering Place.



Come with Your Questions. Grow in Your Faith.

Life brings joy, uncertainty, challenges, and questions. In every season, our Catholic faith offers a solid foundation and the presence of Christ to guide us.

Tuesday evenings are an opportunity for adults of every stage of faith to explore Scripture, Catholic teaching, Tradition, prayer, and the Sacraments. Whether you are seeking answers, returning to the Church, refreshing what you learned years ago, or simply longing to grow closer to God, you are welcome.

Through conversation, learning, and prayer, we will engage the mind, heart, and soul, deepen our faith, and grow together as a parish community.

Come as you are. Bring your questions. Grow with us.



Holy Hour of Adoration

"God speaks in the Silence."

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Away from the noise and distractions is an opportunity for guidance, grace, healing, peace, and joy. Come for the whole hour or stop in for just a few minutes. Either way, you are most welcome. Our Holy Hour includes Adoration and opportunity for confession.

Tuesday, Sept 22, 7PM in Church

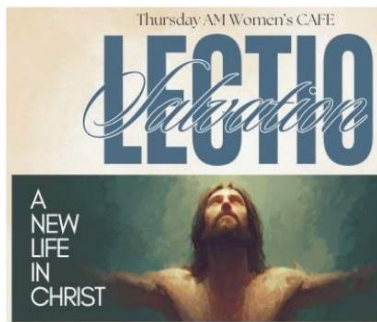
Interested in the Catholic faith? Baptized, but not Confirmed?

OICA classes will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7PM, specific dates available online. Curious? Interested in hearing more?

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.



Thursday AM Women's Café



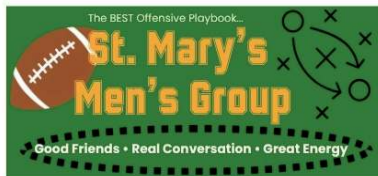
Thursdays 9AM, Gathering Place.
All women are welcome!

What exactly does Salvation mean?

Through Scripture, and Catholic Tradition, our study discussions will lead to a deeply Catholic, deeply biblical answer understanding God's salvific message. Powerful truth and practical inspiration.

St. Mary's Café features a unique style of study which engages your mind, faith, experience, and imagination, leading you to read, reflect, and respond. If you've never been to a Bible Study before, or if you are an avid Bible student, St. Mary's Café is for you!

St. Mary's Men's Group



Monday Nights 7PM, Gathering Place
All men 18+ are always welcome.
Stations of the Eucharist Study.

Something amazing is happening on Monday nights!

St. Mary's Men's Group gathers in a relaxed and casual setting to dive deeper into our faith to better understand what it means to be a Catholic man in today's world. The discussion is always "real". And, as we, as Catholic men, embrace our call to pursue heroic virtue, **we become better husbands, fathers and leaders.**



BE FORMED

THE CREED: THE HOLY SPIRIT

SEASON 13

SEPTEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 12, 2026

Join us for Season 13 to learn more
about the Creed and the Holy Spirit!

VISIT BEFORMED.NET TO LEARN MORE
AND TO REGISTER

**Join Be Formed, in groups here at St. Mary's or in
one of the many virtual day/time options
available through the Diocese of Joliet.
Be Formed is an occasion for each person to have
a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ!**



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

CLOTHING DRIVE

**DATES: OCT 10TH 2:30PM - 5:15PM
OCT 11TH - 7:30AM - 12:30PM**

CLOTHING/LINENS ONLY

Clothing - Adult, children & baby
Coats & Jackets
Purses & Backpacks
Shoes & Boots
Bedding, Linens & Towels



**SORRY NO TELEVISIONS OR COMPUTERS
NO LARGE EXERCISE EQUIPMENT
NO VACUUMS NO FURNITURE
NO BABY EQUIPMENT NO BOOKS
NO SPORTING EQUIPMENT NO TOOLS
NO TOYS**



-supporting St. Vincent de Paul
Chicago Archdiocese



St. Vincent DePaul's August Update

"No Christian can regard the poor simply as a societal
problem; they are part of our 'family.' They are 'one of us.'"

Pope Leo XIV

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

During the summer months, the food pantry volunteers assisted over 500 families. Families were provided with fresh meat and produce, as well as boxed and canned food staples and household supplies, all donated from local grocery stores and the people of St. Mary's.

SVDP is grateful for St. Mary's Parishioners who thought of the pantry as they enjoyed summertime activities. Those who read our monthly article and weekly eblast have helped by providing the items that are most requested and in short supply in the food pantry.

We ask our generous St. Mary donors to purchase the items that are requested in the bulletin and the Monday eblast. Some items that once were popular, are not requested very often, so donating the published items will help our neighbors the most.

At this time, the pantry is in need of cans of fruit, applesauce, regular size jars of peanut butter, oatmeal, strawberry and grape jelly, crackers, and boxes of tissues. Olive oil, coffee, tea, toothpaste, laundry and dish detergent are also needed for monthly distribution.

REGULAR SIZE grocery items are preferred for storage and distribution purposes. Only unopened items can be distributed. Any items that are past the expiration date must be discarded.

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

Grief support

**Six week session begins
September 24th at 2:00PM
in the Gathering Place**

**To register or for more
information please call
630.969.1063**

Adults Only!

Space is Limited!



PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Come out and have a great time with fellow parents!

All ticket sales count towards the suggested family contribution.

**SUNDAY
20
SEPTEMBER**

\$50 PER PERSON

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3:00PM - 5:00PM

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Invite your friends, family, book clubs, and neighbors to participate by shopping for books, gifts, and toys.

Every purchase helps create a place to play!

Fundraiser proceeds are based on pre-tax purchases of in-stock and pre-order items only. Additional discounts, coupons, and membership discounts do not apply.

ST. MARY OF GOSTYN

SMG

PARENTHOOD SCHOOL



School News

Music and Prose... That's How It Goes!

As part of the SMG Summer Reading program, eighth grade students designed album covers, chose a variety of songs to reflect the literary elements of their summer reading selections, and analyzed the novel's connections to the musical lyrics. Musical selections ranged from John Lennon and Billy Joel to Imagine Dragons and Luke Combs.



SMG Students Celebrate 6th Grade Bible Mass

On September 2, 2026, the SMG sixth graders came together for their annual Bible Mass, a special tradition that starts their journey into studying the Old Testament in religion class. Fr. Christopher Otieno led the Mass, guiding the students through prayers and reflections. Parents and teachers joined in to celebrate with the students, making the day a warm and memorable experience for everyone involved.



Crossing Guard



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



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 Liszka in the Religious Education office at 630-960-3566 or religiouseducation@stmarygostyn.org with any questions.



Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word will begin Sunday, September 13th at 10:00AM Mass. Children ages 3 years old to 6 years old will have the opportunity to learn about the word of God during the homily down in the Gathering Place.

Children Liturgy of the Word dates
September 13
October 4, 18, 25




Book Club
TUESDAYS
5:30 PM


Rosary
EVERY WEDNESDAY
8:45 PM

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ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE WELCOMED!



Scan QR Code to register for weekly sign up.

Sunday, September 20 | 7 PM

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OF THE GOTHIC CATHEDRALS
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TICKETS



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TRAILER



Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time The Cross of Forgiveness

Why should we forgive those who hurt us? This Sunday's Gospel gives us three reasons: First, because Jesus commands it. Second, because forgiveness is part of loving one another. And third, because we want to be forgiven for our sins.

In this passage, Jesus commands us to forgive without ceasing, without limit. That might be a challenge for even the most patient person. Does this mean we should let someone hurt us again and again? No. It is possible to forgive someone and also prevent them from hurting us, if we do so with love (the second reason). For example, we might forgive an alcoholic relative, but still insist they seek help. Since forgiveness is part of love, it is also part of tough love.

That leads to the third reason: we forgive because we have been forgiven. Jesus already died for our sins. If we truly believe that Jesus rose again and that we will rise with him to eternal life despite our sins, how can we refuse to forgive someone who hurts us?

By Tom Schmidt

WE ARE **ONE**



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