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

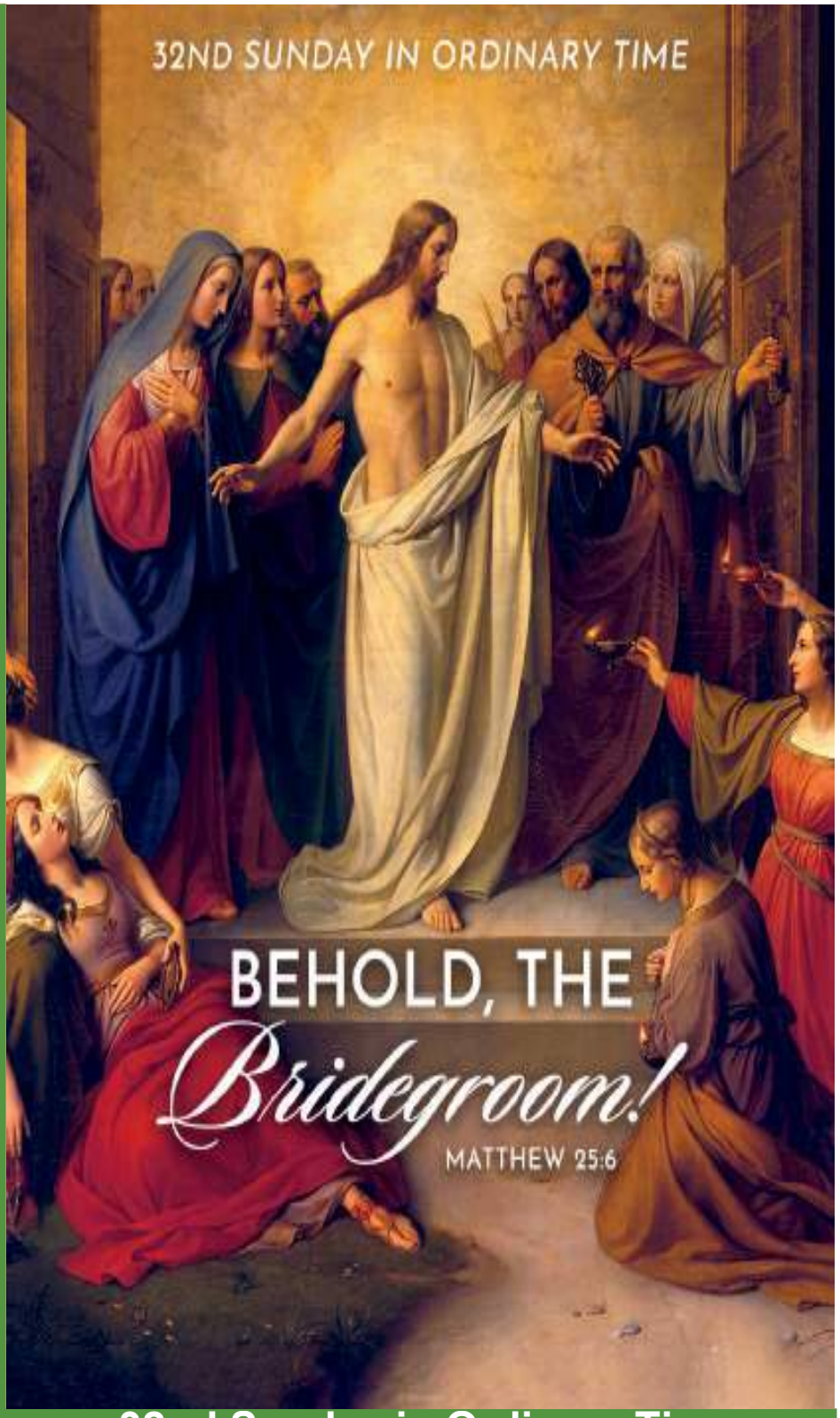
School Office
(630)968-6155
440 Prairie Avenue
Downers Grove

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



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 8, 2026

Monday, November 9th
8:00 am† Deceased members of the Starczynski Family

Tuesday, November 10th
8:00 am† Robert Oliver & Christine Merten

Wednesday, November 11th
8:00 am† Nancy Halm

Thursday, November 12th
8:00 am† Carmela Martini & Maxine Milks

Friday, November 13th
8:00 am† Greg Kozik

Saturday, November 14th
4:00 pm† Carl & Nancy Sterr

Sunday, November 15th
8:00 am† Bernard Donovan
10:00 am† David Shannon
12:00 pm† Harry Patrick Costello & Marv Ronaldson
6:00 pm† The People of the Parish

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	Phil Kern
Donald W. Johnson	Mike Kern
Marilyn Totsi	Judith Koczor
Dan Kozor	Frank Davis
Marilyn Gaughan	Mary Kern
Skip Szot	Bill LeBeau
Marie Rossi	Mary Durkin

Welcome

We welcome the following to St. Mary of Gostyn.

Joseph & Allison Rademacher

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the following families.

Eleonore Tysiak
Andrea Braskett

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



Scripture Readings
For the Week of November 8, 2026

Sunday	Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; 1 Thes 4:13-18 or 1 Thes 4:13-14; Mt 25:1-13
Monday	Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22
Tuesday	Memorial of Saint Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church Ti 2:1-8, 11-14; Ps 37:3-4, 18 and 23, 27 and 29; Lk 17:7-10
Wednesday	Memorial of Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop Ti 3:1-7; Ps 23:1b-3a, 3bc-4, 5, 6; Lk 17:11-19
Thursday	Memorial of Saint Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr Phlm 7-20; Ps 146:7, 8-9a, 9bc-10; Lk 17:20-25
Friday	Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin 2 Jn 4-9; Ps 119:1, 2, 10, 11, 17, 18; Lk 17:26-37
Saturday	3 Jn 5-8; Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 18:1-8
Sunday	Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; 1 Thes 5:1-6, Mt 25:14-30 or Mt 25:14-15, 19-21

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

Dear Parishioners,

God continues to bless St. Mary of Gostyn parish in countless ways, and those blessings are made visible through your faithful prayers, generous spirit, and commitment to our parish family. As disciples of Christ, we recognize that everything we have is a gift from God. Through our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure, we give thanks for those gifts while supporting the ministries that nurture our faith, educate our children, care for those in need, and strengthen our parish community. Your generosity is not simply reflected in financial numbers, but in the lives touched, the faith formed, and the mission of the Church carried forward each day.

We are pleased to share the attached Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.

Financial Highlights for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

- Collections from Sunday, Easter, Christmas, and Holy Days exceeded budget by $37,371.
- Through your generosity, we once again surpassed the Diocese's goal for the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), resulting in a parish rebate of $69,088.
- The parish received $227,701 through the Employee Retention Tax Credit and $98,642 in bequests from faithful parishioners whose legacy continues to bless our community.
- Strong financial results allowed us to set aside $200,000 for future maintenance needs, helping us care responsibly for the facilities entrusted to us.
- Our Faith Formation/Religious Education Program served 400 students, guided by nearly 40 dedicated volunteer catechists who generously share their faith with the next generation.
- St. Mary School welcomed 507 students and was supported by 49 devoted faculty and staff members.
- The annual School Gala raised over $330,000 including $193,446 designated for the school playground project.
- Through the generous support of school families, the School Staff Enrichment Fund (SSEF) raised nearly $220,000. SSEF supplements teachers' salaries and wages and approximately $160,000 was paid out last year.
- The parish provided $209,064 in support of our school and $49,838 for Faith Formation/Religious Education ministries.
- The parish ended the fiscal year with an overall surplus of $786,030, including the Employee Retention Tax Credit and bequests noted above. These resources will help address significant future maintenance and capital needs as we continue to care for our aging buildings, facilities, and parking lot.

Budget Highlights for 2026-2027

As we look ahead, we remain committed to prudent stewardship and responsible planning:

- Sunday collections are budgeted for a minimal increase compared to the prior year's budget and slightly lower than 2025-2026 actual collections.
- Salaries and wages for parish and school staff include an average increase of 3.5% to 4%, recognizing their dedicated service.
- School tuition increased by $400 per child, while continuing substantial sibling discounts to support families with multiple children enrolled.
- The Faith Formation/Religious Education Program is budgeted for 400 students, and we continue to evaluate opportunities for our youth ministry in the parish.
- Parish support is budgeted at $420,000 for the school and $87,495 for Faith Formation/Religious Education, reflecting our commitment to these vital ministries.

We are deeply grateful for the many ways you support our parish. Together, we are building a vibrant parish community where faith grows, lives are transformed, and Christ's love is shared. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact our Business Office at (630) 737-9624.

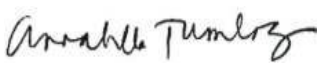
With gratitude and prayers,



Rev. Shaun Cieslik
Pastor



Joseph Romenesko
Chairman, Finance Council



Annabelle Tumlos
Business Manager

ST. MARY OF GOSTYN PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

	JULY 1, 2025- JUNE 30, 2026				
	Church	Rel Ed & YM	School[1]	2025-2026 ACTUAL	2026-2027 BUDGET
Revenue:					
Sunday Collections	$ 1,672,436			$ 1,672,436	$ 1,649,475
Christmas, Easter & Holy Days	237,963			237,963	233,000
Tuition and Fees		$ 89,215	$ 2,816,009	2,905,224	3,090,962
Fundraisers, net of costs	-		185,665	185,665	205,000
Endowment Distribution					128,836
School Programs net income[2]			16,359	16,359	10,671
Other Revenue/Donations[3]	356,776		256,812	613,588	290,699
Total Revenue	$ 2,267,175	$ 89,215	$ 3,274,845	$ 5,631,235	$ 5,608,643
Expenses:					
Salaries & Fringe Benefits	$ 778,778	$ 88,460	$ 2,683,513	$ 3,550,751	$ 3,908,006
Repairs & Maintenance	41,164		38,796	79,960	127,987
Services	151,482	1,267	293,277	446,026	472,734
Materials & Supplies	59,467	829	45,790	106,086	159,267
Rental Expense/Insurance	36,363		79,968	116,331	146,446
Utilities	60,431		65,821	126,252	134,423
Curriculum Expenses		19,860	90,752	110,612	162,981
Diocesan Expenditures	116,100			116,100	127,500
Ministries, Outreach, & Other	(35,036)	28,637	65,706	59,307	84,965
Restricted Expenses[4]			-	-	-
Capital Expenditures/Improvements	41,195		120,286	161,481	204,334
Diocesan Loans (principal & int.)	-		-	-	-
Maintenance Reserve	200,000			200,000	80,000
Total Expenses	$ 1,449,944	$ 139,053	$ 3,483,909	$ 5,072,906	$ 5,608,643
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	$ 817,231	$ (49,838)	$ (209,064)	558,329	$ -
Employee Retention Credit	227,701			227,701	
Parish Investment in Education	(258,902)	49,838	209,064	-	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	$ 786,030	$ -	$ -	$ 786,030	$ -

[1] School column includes the Elementary School, Preschool, After School Care, and Home School Association (HSA).

[2] School programs include Hot Lunch, Athletics, and Fine Arts. Revenue $257,533 less expenses of $241,174.

[3] Other revenue includes bequests, other unrestricted donations, matching gifts, Diocesan interest income, and CMAA rebate.

Additional Information as of 06/30/2026

School Endowment Fund Balance	$ 3,033,373	Diocesan Maintenance Reserve	2,140,177
Diocesan Deposit Account	$ 2,725,405	Parish Savings Account	$ 551,228

Adult Faith Formation

BUNCO BASH

THIS WEEK
THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 12

Bring your friends, your good vibes, and get ready to roll the dice! And for a good cause - free will offering to support our St. Vincent de Paul Society & Food Pantry.

7:00 - 9:00
DOORS OPEN AT 6:45PM

We'll provide the snacks
BYO the fun!
Register for full details

NO COST TO ATTEND, BUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

BUNCO | BONDING | BLESSINGS

The BEST Offensive Playbook...

St. Mary's Men's Group

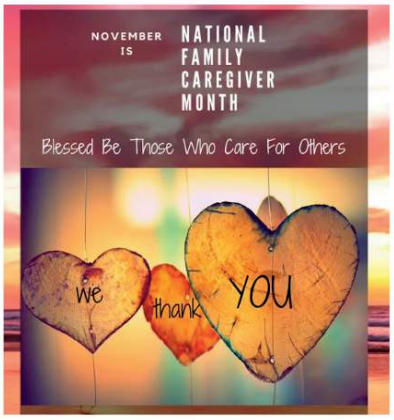
Good Friends • Real Conversation • Great Energy

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. All men 18+ are welcome to dive deeper into the faith with 'real' conversations and fellowship.

Are you a fan or a follower? Move from being just one of the crowd to a real follower of Jesus Christ. This video discussion series presented by Father Columba Jordan, focuses on essential aspects of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus: prayer, Sacraments, ongoing formation, Catholic community, and personal witness. Mondays, 7PM in the GP.

Caring for Caregivers through Every Stage of Caring

Nourish for Caregivers is for anyone juggling the challenges of life, health and career while caring for a disabled child, an aging parent, grandparent, or spouse, either in your home, in town or at a distance. Nourish provides family caregivers practical and emotional supports, shared experiences, and useful tools, all with a Christ-centered view. Wed. Nov. 11, 2PM in the GP.



Holy Hour of Adoration

At the very heart of our Catholic belief is the conviction that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist. A Holy Hour of Adoration is a continuation of worship. It is an occasion of abundant grace, a way of showing devotion to our Lord.

Come for the whole hour or stop in for just a few minutes. Either way, you are most welcome; Jesus invites you to spend time with Him.

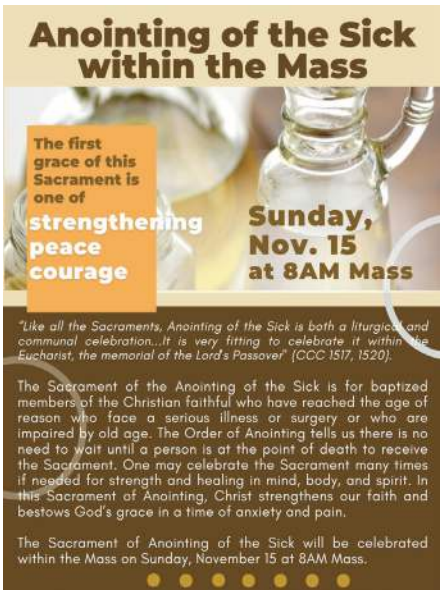
This "silent" Holy Hour will include Adoration and Benediction, as well as opportunity for Individual Confession.

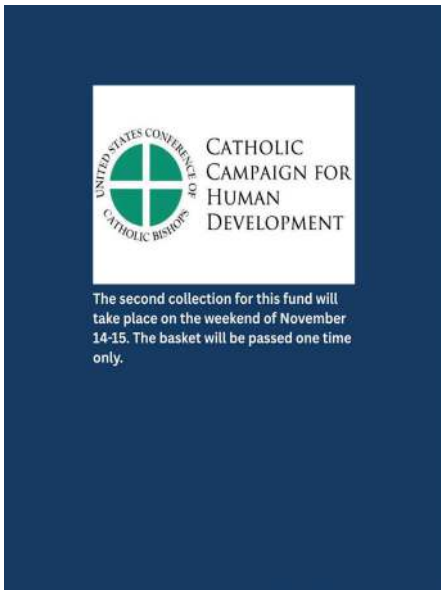
Explore Life's Burning Questions:

There are thousands of churches in the world. Is the Catholic Church the only true Church? How can I know?
Why do we need to belong to a church at all? Isn't Christianity mainly about having a relationship with Jesus?

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. Come with your questions. Grow in your faith. Tues. Nov. 17, 7PM in the GP.


DIOCESE OF JOLIET
SEMINARIAN EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND
A second collection for the education and formation of our future priests
THE SECOND COLLECTION FOR THIS FUND WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 7-8. THE BASKET WILL BE PASSED ONE TIME ONLY. GIFTS WILL BE INVESTED IN AN ENDOWMENT SPECIFICALLY FOR SEMINARIAN EDUCATION.


Anointing of the Sick within the Mass
The first grace of this Sacrament is one of
strengthening
peace
courage
Sunday, Nov. 15 at 8AM Mass
"Like all the Sacraments, Anointing of the Sick is both a liturgical and communal celebration...It is very fitting to celebrate it within the Eucharist, the memorial of the Lord's Passover" (CCC 1517, 1520).
The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is for baptized members of the Christian faithful who have reached the age of reason who face a serious illness or surgery or who are impaired by old age. The Order of Anointing tells us there is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament. One may celebrate the Sacrament many times if needed for strength and healing in mind, body, and spirit. In this Sacrament of Anointing, Christ strengthens our faith and bestows God's grace in a time of anxiety and pain.
The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated within the Mass on Sunday, November 15 at 8AM Mass.


UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
The second collection for this fund will take place on the weekend of November 14-15. The basket will be passed one time only.

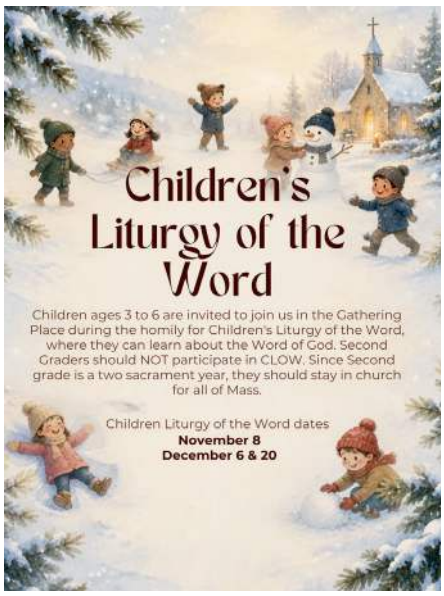

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SCHOOL NEWS
Playground Project Update
WE'VE REACHED OUR GOAL FOR THE MATCH!
A heartfelt thank you to our SMG community for your incredible support!
Thanks to the incredible generosity of our SMG community, we have reached the $100,000 matching gift goal from the Love Like Sean Foundation!
Your support will help us create a safe, engaging, and vibrant play space for students from preschool through 8th grade.
If you would still like to give to the playground project, please reach out.
Additional contributions will help us fully fund the playground project.
To learn more about the playground project, please contact Gabriella Senese-Burns at gsenese-burns@stmarygostyn.org.


Adults Only!
Space is Limited!
SMG
SMG
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NATURAL COCONUT - SOY CANDLES
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SCAN TO ORDER
20% OF PROCEEDS GO TO OUR NEW PLAY SPACE


SMG
Littlest Angels Christmas Choir
starting in November!
Open to singers in Pre-K, K and 1st grades.
Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 5:30–5:45pm beginning November 11.
For more information and to register your singer, contact elawrence@stmarygostyn.org.


Children's Liturgy of the Word
Children ages 3 to 6 are invited to join us in the Gathering Place during the homily for Children's Liturgy of the Word, where they can learn about the Word of God. Second Graders should NOT participate in CLOW. Since Second grade is a two sacrament year, they should stay in church for all of Mass.
Children Liturgy of the Word dates
November 8
December 6 & 20

Christmas Presents for Kentucky

Since 1986, St. Mary of Gostyn has generously provided Christmas presents for children in Appalachia. As we have done in the past few years, we ask that if you would like to receive a name, or would like more information, please e-mail us at ltnministry1@gmail.com or call Deacon Al at (630) 969-1063 ext. 704 or Nancy Babel (630) 852-2692. If you do send an e-mail, please include your full name, the number of children you wish to buy for, your phone number and mailing address.

The gift of New Clothing consists of a pair of jeans, socks, underwear, a winter hat and a shirt or sweatshirt. For some of the children this may be the only Christmas gift they receive.

The gifts may be dropped off at the Parish Center, 445 Prairie Avenue, between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday, November 16 through Thursday, November 19 to Deacon Al's attention. We will also be collecting the presents at 5817 Webster in Downers Grove on Sunday, November 22 from 9:30 AM 12:00 PM. Thank you for your continued support.

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Christmas 2026 Adopt-A-Family
Saturday, December 12, 2026

Adopt-A-Family is a Christmas outreach program for needy families. Typically, we have about 40 families from the Downers Grove area and 60 families from our sister parish, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, in Joliet. If you wish to participate, your family purchases a new Christmas gift valued at a minimum of $30 for each member of your adopted family (a family gift wish list will be provided to you), along with a grocery gift card for the Christmas meal.

We welcome extended families, school groups, religious education classes, scout troops, office groups, neighborhoods, and others to participate.

How to Get Involved
First, consider the size of the family that you would like to adopt. Family sizes available for adoption range from a single person (1) up to families of 10 or more.

Sign up will be by email or telephone.
For more information or to sign up, please email Cathy and Ihor Hlohowskyj at ihorcathy@sbcglobal.net or call (or text) 630-290-3447.

Once you've signed up, information about your adopted family will be provided either by email and/or mail.

Schedule
Sign-up: Beginning Nov 1 until all families are adopted.
Gift Drop-off: Saturday, Dec 12, 2026 from 8-10AM at SMG.
(Early drop-off dates will be available upon request).

3 CORNERS GRILL & TAP
EAT. DRINK. RELAX.
Join us for St. Mary of Gostyn's
SOCIAL NIGHT AT 3 CORNERS!
Wednesday, November 11
ALL DAY LONG
DINE IN OR CARRY OUT
PLEASE BRING VOUCHER
20% GOES BACK TO OUR SCHOOL!

WE ARE ONE

ST. MARY OF GOSTYN SMG PARISH SCHOOL

One Parish, One School, One Family!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Fr. Anthony Nyamai

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