

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH



PARISH COMMUNITY Pastor

FR. CHRISTOPHER UHL, OMV
Bridge...College...Earthquake
cuhlomv@msn.com
FR. BENJAMIN UNACHUKWU, OMV
FR. LELAND THORPE, OMV
FR. DAVID BEAUREGARD, OMV
DEACON JIM SCHWARTZKOPF

PARISH OFFICE

Mon-Fri 8:30am to Noon & 1pm to 3:30pm 618-465-4284
Fax: 618-463-4637
VOICEMAIL & DROPBOX

SCHOOL OFFICE

618-465-8523 Middle School 618-465-9719 www.smsalton.com

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays & Saturdays: 6:30 am & 8:00 am

Saturdays: 5:15 pm (for Sunday Obligation)

Sundays: 6:30 am, 8:00 am*, 9:30 am, 11:00 am & 5:15 pm

*8:00 am on Facebook Live Daily

Rosary: 7:30 am daily in the Church

Day before Holy Day: 5:15 pm Holy Days: 6:30 am, 8:00 am 12:00 noon and 5:15 pm (if announced)

First Friday of the Month: 5:15 pm

CONFESSIONS

First Friday Of The Month: 4:00-5:00pm Saturday: 4:00-5:00pm & 7:00-8:00pm Sunday: 4:45-5:15pm AND BY APPOINTMENT

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the office if you or a loved one needs to be anointed. 618-465-4284, and press 1

BAPTISMS

On Sundays after the 11:00 a.m. Mass Please contact the Parish Office to make an appointment.

MARRIAGES

To be arranged at least six months before marriage. Call the Parish Office.

Check out our Facebook page... St. Mary's Catholic Church

519 East fourth Alton, Illinois
OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY
WWW.STMARYSALTON.COM

St. Mary's Catholic Church

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 4

6:30 am Int of Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV

8:00 am George Woelfel†

Tuesday, December 5

6:30 am Judy Mortland† 8:00 am Tim Molloy, Sr.†

Wednesday, December 6

6:30 am Frances "Pat" Hellrung† 8:00 am Int of Connie & Bob

Schneider & Family

Father Chris – The People of St. Mary's

Thursday, December 7

6:30 am Terry Jackson†

8:00 am Joan & Emmitt Fitzgerald†

5:15 pm Roger L. Kamp†

Friday, December 8

6:30 am Stella Lyons†

8:00 am Victor Pinta†

Noon Deceased Members of the

Brown & Vogel Families†

5:15 pm Mike Fischer†

Saturday, December 9

6:30 am Wayne Wagnon†

8:00 am Barbara Moehn†

5:15 pm Pauline Ceppenati†

Sunday, December 10

6:30 am Int of Larry & Mary Roderfeld

8:00 am Int of Meredith Ragsdale

9:30 am Anthony Geisen†

11:00 am Tammy Greco†

5:15 pm Marcella Lane†

The twofold coming of Christ

We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom.

In general, whatever relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future.

At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels.

We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The Savior will not come to be judged again, but to judge those by whom he was judged. At his own judgment he was silent; then he will address those who committed the outrages against him when they crucified him and will remind them: You did these things, and I was silent.

His first coming was to fulfill his plan of love, to teach men by gentle persuasion. This time, whether men like it or not, they will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity.

The prophet Malachi speaks of the two comings. And the Lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple: that is one coming.

Again, he says of another coming: Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who will endure the day of his entry, or who will stand in his sight? Because he comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's herb, and he will sit refining and cleansing.

These two comings are also referred to by Paul in writing to Titus: The grace of God the Savior has appeared to all men, instructing us to put aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religiously in this present age, waiting for the joyful hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Notice how he speaks of a first coming for which he gives thanks, and a second, the one we still await.

That is why the faith we profess has been handed on to you in these words: He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore come from heaven. He will come at the end of the world, in glory, at the last day. For there will be an end to this world, and the created world will be made new.

From the Instructions to Catechumens by St Cyril of Jerusalem

THE 2ND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND WILL BE FOR OUR CHURCH CAPITAL FUND.
THE 2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND WILL BE FOR OUR PARISH SCHOOL.

Please contact the parish office if you need prayers or want to have prayers said for a relative or friend. Several times a year when the list gets long, we will begin again with a new list after a notice in the bulletin; at that time simply let the parish office know if you still require prayers. Our new office emails are: carolyn@stmarysalton.com and marci@stmarysalton.com



Please remember our brothers and sisters, who are in need of prayer.

Please remember our brothers and sisters, who are in need of prayer.

Chuck Hughes, Kay Barnett, Laura Wright, Kay Ansell, Richard Hudanick, Celeste Frasier, Sylvia Manns, Nancy Gonzales, Madison Krankel, Mary Miles, Joseph Fischer, Carol Henkhaus, Cheryl Whitten, Sarah Stirton, Chuck Pohlman, JoAnn Acheson, Roy Geisen, Toni Messinger, Sophie H., Mary Thompson, Ava Holt, Doug Manns, Joseph Gleason, Ann Reilly, Richard DuPatz, Jeff Vaughn, Levi McDonald, Allison Brakeville, Sydney Hosford, Christopher Taul, Ted Holt, Jana Howell, Michael Raymond, Mary Featherstone, Phil Pohlman, Randy Ledbetter, Margaret Schwegel, Sean Michael Donahue, Ellen Saville, Bob & Phyllis Rill, Leah Grace & Family, Linda Schafer, Mackenzie Haegele, Walter Gregory, Jenny Breden, Florence Sabaj, Terry Westfall, Rosemary Ruedin, Rollan (Jerry) Jouett, Stephen Jouett, Dolores Hill, Barbara Hill, James Eberhardt, Nancy Erickson, Kathleen Anderson, Matthew Cleland, Roy Kubicek, Amy Terhaar, Olga Kornyukhova, Julie Huch, Jim Wicklund, Nina Greenwell, Rick Faccin, Meredith Ragsdale, Vince Walter, Joan Conrad, Diane Presnell, Rick Krumrey, Mary Roderfeld, Dennis Horn, Marilynn Schulz, Frank J. Mooney, Catharine Williams, Marge Ridder, Jennifer Allmond, Jessica Boyd, Jerome Carrigan, Mary Wuellner, Mike Klaus ... and all in our parish who need prayers that are unnamed here.

Holy Mary, help those in need, give strength to the weak, comfort the sorrowful, pray for God's people, assist the clergy, and intercede for religious. May all who seek your help experience your unfailing protection. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES



Jordan Cook, Kris Drake, Kyle Gray, Brian Gehm, Alaina Gehm, Johnny Braun, Grant Wanamaker, Trenton Brown, Michael Lucas, Drew Hargus, Steven Layne Blair, Jr., Joseph Brakeville, Keith Johnson, Joseph Buehlman, Teresa Buehlman, Austin Knebel, Megan Schuette, Daniel Chartrand, Morgun Yogore, William Kerr, Alex Geisen, Matthew Gonzales, Jacob Allen, Matt Jouett, Tamara

Cardenas, Lisa Haegele, Kyle Ontis, Kaleb Denney, Caleb Rench, Danny Geringer, Samantha Gorman, Lane Oliver, Alexander Jaworski, Lance Perkey, Jonathan McCullough, Samantha Hoehn, Grace Gerhart, Trent Ward, Michael Cooke, Ed Maag, Luke Plunkett, Abby Linscott, Eddie Frieling, Avery Geisen, Ellanour Brass, Austen Goheen, Matthew Bazzell, J.C. Wuellner, Grant Haegele

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 ~ 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37

FOCUS: We must be active in our hope for Christ's return.

Hope is a theological virtue: "We desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (CCC 1817). Hope is an active state of being, not passive. During this Advent season we must be fully alive and fully engaged. We must be committed in our pursuit of the Lord; we must be people of hope!

Isaiah laments that the people have wandered from the ways of the Lord and pleads that God *rend the heavens* and come down. Paul gives thanks for the gifts Christ has bestowed while the Corinthians wait for the revelation of Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus exhorts His disciples to be watchful like servants waiting for the return of the lord of the house.

PART ONE - THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

SECTION TWO – THE CREEDS THE WORLD WAS CREATED FOR THE GLORY OF GOD MAN

362 The human person, created in the image of God, is a being at once corporeal and spiritual. The biblical account expresses this reality in symbolic language when it affirms that "then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."²²⁹ Man, whole and entire, is therefore *willed* by God.

COMING SOON AT ST. MARY'S

Baptismal Prep Class – December 3
Men's Evening of Recollection – December 4
Additional Advent Confessions - Dec 9, Noon-5:00pm
Coffee & Doughnut Sunday – December 10
Parish Mission w/ Fr. Paul Kallal - Dec 12 – 14
Christmas Eve – begins with 4pm Mass Dec 24

HELP NEEDED! ST. MARY'S MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL

St. Mary's is looking for someone who would be interested in directing this year's musical. We will need a director and an assistant director. If interested, send your information to Katie Roberts at kroberts@smsalton.com.

Recent Baptisms

Blake McKenzie Hoemmen daughter of Michael and Jordyn (Halm) Hoemmen

We welcome her as the newest member baptized into our Catholic Faith. May God bless her as she grows in His love.

ADVENT MISSION:

Fill the Void: Mary, Mercy, and the Eucharist

The Season of Advent is a time to "Begin Again." Liturgically, \S



Advent marks the beginning of a new calendar year in the life of the Church. Spiritually, Advent is period of preparation as we patiently await the birth of Jesus Christ. Hence, as we both prepare and wait, the Season of Advent reminds us that as men and women, we have a longing, a void for Jesus. For three nights, I

invite you to make both time and space so that Christ can fill your void with three of the greatest gifts God has given to humanity: Mary, Mercy, and the Eucharist. Please join us each evening from December 12 - 14 beginning at 7:00pm in the church. -Fr. Paul Kallal, OMV

Tuesday, December 12: Mary

Wednesday, December 13: Mercy (Confessions after talk)

Thursday, December 14: Eucharist

CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to remember a loved one at the St. Mary's Midnight Mass, please send in your intentions along with a free-will offering no later than Wednesday, December 13. The names of those intentions will be listed in the special Christmas bulletin.

POINSETTIAS

Would you like to donate a Poinsettia to decorate our church sanctuary at Christmas in memory of a loved one? If you would be interested, please drop the name/donation to the parish office (or place in the offering basket with all information printed on the envelope) no later than Wednesday, December 13. The cost of each poinsettia is \$15. After the Christmas Season, you may take the poinsettia home with you!

2024 MASS BOOK

The 2024 Mass Book is open for your intentions. We also have quite a few openings to schedule Mass intentions yet for 2023. Please contact the parish office with your requests.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS

Today, December 3

This class meets immediately following the 11:00 am Mass in the MaryAnn Room (basement of the Church). If you'd like to register for the next Baptismal Prep, Jan. 7, please call the parish office, 618-465-4284.

OKTOBERFEST GEAR FOR SALE!

We still have discounted 2023 Oktoberfest shirts, sweatshirts and koozies if you didn't get yours --or perhaps they could be a quick extra Christmas gift for your family member! Short-sleeve Ts \$10; Long Sleeve Ts \$12; Hooded Ts \$17; Youth Hoodies \$14; koozies \$3; Pins \$10 for 2023, \$5 for previous years. Stop by the parish office!

DECEMBER MILITARY MASS

The December Military Mass will be Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 PM at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Alton. Please join us to pray for our active Military, Veterans, both living and deceased, their families and our nation.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Parish Advent Mission - Fill the Void: Mary, Mercy, and the Eucharist

Tuesday, December 12, 7:00pm: Mary

Wednesday, December 13, 7:00pm: Mercy (Confessions after talk)

Thursday, December 14, 7:00pm: Eucharist

Advent Confession Opportunities:

Saturday, December $9 \sim Noon - 5:00pm$ Wednesday, December $13 \sim after$ the 7pm Mission Talk until all are heard.

December 8: Holy Day of Obligation

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Thursday, December 7 ~ 5:15pm (Vigil Mass)
Friday, December 8 ~ 6:30am, 8:00am*, Noon and 5:15pm
*Livestream will be available for the 8:00am Mass

<u>Sunday December 24 ~ Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent</u>

6:30am, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

 $\underline{\textbf{Christmas Mass Schedule: Sunday, December 24}} \sim 4:00 pm, \ 6:00 pm,$

8:00pm, Midnight (12:00am)*

Monday, December 25 ~ 6:30am, 8:00am*, 9:30am, 11:00am *Midnight Mass and 8:00am Christmas Day will be livestreamed

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day):

Monday, January 1st ~ 6:30am, 8:00am*, 9:30am, 11:00am, 5:15pm

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

The 4th grade class is selling Christmas ornaments to raise funds for their field trip to Springfield, IL. The ornament is a beautiful silver Christmas tree; in the center is a gorgeous picture of our church altar at Christmas. The ornaments are \$7 each. If paying by check, please make payable to "St. Mary's School". Order forms are available in the back of church or in the Parish Office.



NOTE FOR THE DEC. 24 & 31 BULLETINS

Please note that anything to be put in the Dec 23/24 and Dec 30/31 bulletins will need to be turned into the parish office no later than December 14. -carolyn@stmarysalton.com



ST. MARY'S SCRIP

Please remember to use SCRIP for all your Thanksgiving purchases and Christmas gift-giving! Stop by the parish office.

Special Collection For Retired Religious

Bishop Paprocki has asked us to contribute to the 2023 Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This annual appeal assists nearly 25,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests nationwide. Your generous donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide vital financial support, enabling religious communities to care for their aging members. Please keep them in your prayers. This special collection will be taken up at Masses the weekend of December 9/10.

DID YOU MISS THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS?

Watch the talks from the Eucharistic Congress speakers!

- Everyone loved the speakers at the diocesan Eucharistic Congress Oct. 28 in Springfield! Now you can watch their inspiring, funny, thought provoking, and uplifting talks. Go to dio.org/catholictimes and click on videos. While you're there, you can check out a recap video of the historic day and watch the Mass. Note, Dr. Scott Hahn's talk is not able to be published due to contract stipulations.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 8 -ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT!

Visit the Cathedral in Springfield or Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Alton, receive an indulgence! – The diocesan-wide Year of the Eucharist going on now has a heavenly treasure of our Catholic faith attached to it. Bishop Thomas John Paprocki received permission from the Holy See, granting a plenary indulgence to those who make a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield or Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Alton (the "Old Cathedral") now through Dec. 8. One must also partake in the other usual conditions to receive this indulgence by going to Confession, receiving the Eucharist, and saying prayers for the intention of the Pope. These acts "may be carried out several days preceding or following the performance of the prescribed works. But it is more fitting that communion and the prayer for the pope's intentions take place on the day the work is performed" (Handbook of Indulgences, Norms for Indulgences, 23.3). An indulgence is a gift and grace that remits the temporal punishment due to a sin.

ALTON KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ACTIVITIES

Council Blood Drive at SSPP Alumni Hall – Dec 13 Council Meeting – Dec 14, 7:30pm, 717 State Street

HELP WANTED

A Beacon of Light Pregnancy Help Center is looking for a part-time Nurse Manager. If you are looking for a rewarding opportunity at a pregnancy help center, and you are a licensed registered nurse in the state of Illinois, please consider applying. This is a paid 20-hour per week position. We are seeking a qualified candidate who shares our mission and would like to be a part of the great work we are doing in Maryville, IL and the surrounding communities. Resumes and salary requirements can be emailed to resume@ablpregnancyresource.org.

St. Mary's Adoration Chapel

http://www.adorationpro.org/maryalton

Adorers Needed:

Tuesdays: 8:00pm

Saturdays: 4:00pm, 5:00pm, 6:00pm

Additional Adorers Needed:

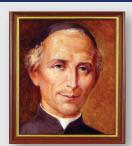
Mondays: 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 6:00pm

Tuesdays: 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:00pm

Wednesdays: 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm Thursdays: 3:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm Fridays: 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:00pm

Saturdays: 3:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:00pm

Venerable Bruno Lanteri



"Be aware that after a fall the evil spirit makes it seem difficult to return to ask God for forgiveness and almost impossible to correct the fault; on the contrary,

the good spirit reduces the difficulty, makes it easy to obtain forgiveness, gives us energy, and encourages us, persuading us at the same time that we cannot be without faults, but that by means of these we must humble ourselves the more, and seek forgiveness from God.

Learn more and request prayers online:

www.omvusa.org/bruno-lanteri/



PRAYER CORNER

Prayer for the 1st Sunday of Advent

God of light and life,
give us hope as we wait
for your coming again.
When we are tempted
to be grateful to have found you
while others are lost,
send us out into the darkness
in search of those
who need you most. Amen.



RITES OF ACCEPTANCE & WELCOMING

For the past thirteen weeks Inquirers have been attending weekly sessions which instruct them about the Catholic way of life and encourage them to ask questions. This Sunday at the 9:30 Mass they will take the first liturgical step on the journey which can lead them to become members of the Catholic Church. This first step is called **The Rite of Acceptance into** the Order of Catechumens & the Rite of Welcoming of Candidates. During this celebration, the Inquirers express and the Church accepts their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ. After this ceremony, the unbaptized of these persons will be called "Catechumens" and those who are already baptized will be called "Candidates". These Catechumens and Candidates will continue to receive their weekly instruction and, in addition, will attend the 9:30 Mass together. After the homily each week, they will be led downstairs where their catechists will further their instruction on the readings of the Mass and about the Mass itself. We congratulate our Inquirers for entering the next stage of their formation process, the "Catechumenate". May God bless all them on their continuing journey.

Parishioners, Please keep these Catechumens, Candidates and their catechists in your daily prayers and welcome them into our parish family and activities! Thank you.

Fr. Leland celebrating a special home Mass

We have celebrated many special "home Masses". At your winter family gatherings, please consider this unique and beautiful way to bless your family and/or bless a special celebration in your family. If you are interested in a home Mass, please contact one of the priests here at St. Mary's and we will arrange it.



JOIN US FOR MEN'S EVENING OF RECOLLECTION WITH OPUS DEI

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR IS HAPPINESS

NOT A MOMENTARY HAPPINESS, BUT ONE THAT

IS DEEP AND LASTING

AND BOTH HUMAN AND SUPERNATURAL

ST. JOSEMARIA

St. Mary's Church (519 E. 4th St. in Alton) Monday, December 4, 2023 6:30 - 8:00 PM

An Opus Dei evening of recollection is similar to a very short silent retreat, long enough to enter deep into prayer but short enough to fit into your busy schedule.

This evening will involve times of quiet prayer, a practical talk on spiritual life, opportunities for confession, and solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

For more information, call 618 799 2929 or go to opusdei.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BLOOD DRIVE

The Alton Knights of Columbus are hosting a Blood Drive on Wednesday, December 13 at Saints Peter & Paul Alumni Hall, 717 State Street, from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Please sign up or walk in, your donation will save lives in the Alton area. You can sign up at https://www.redcrossblood.org/.

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows -Shrine Grounds and Visitors Center

From Nov 17 - Dec 31, 2023, 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Indoor activities closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The Way of Lights Display depicts the journey of Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem using over 1.5 million beautiful lights. This year, we have added colored lights to celebrate the birth of Jesus and continue to offer activities for young and old alike!

Cost: No charge for display, donations accepted and additional charges for some activities.

For more information, call 618-397-6700 or visit our website at https://snows.org/wayoflights

GREAT RIVERS CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT Hope is Born - A Celtic Christmas

Friday, December 8, 7:00pm & Saturday, December 9, 3:00pm The Bridge Church, 504 E 12th St., Alton

Sunday, December 10, 3:00pm Godfrey 1st United Methodist, 1100 Airport Rd., Godfrey Open to the public. A free-will offering is taken. www.grcssing.org

Celebrating Diocesan Year Of The Eucharist EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES EXHIBITION

When: Saturday, December 9 - 21, 2023, 8am - 4pm daily Where: St. Paul's Church, Highland, IL, in Trinity Hall

LITURGICAL ROLES

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES:

New schedules have gone out by email and through MSP.

If you are offline and need your schedule, contact the parish office. If you would like to discontinue or change ministries, also contact us and we will get you set up.

If you have lost access to your account, contact msp@stmarysalton.com for assistance.

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Servers and Lectors are welcome to resume all roles.

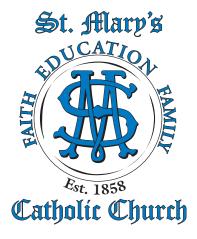
LIVE STREAMING SCHEDULE

https://www.facebook.com/stmarysalton No account or login is required to watch Mass at 8:00 am Daily

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ENTRIES:

On or before Tuesday at 3:30pm.

Please submit any bulletin requests (pending approval) to: Carolyn Simansky at carolyn@stmarysalton.com



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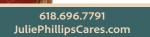
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