



# Saint Mary's Catholic Church

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

ADVENTUS (Latin) = COMING (English)

ADVENT = Coming of Christ

1st Sunday  
(nearest 30th of Nov)



Prophecy  
Candle

2nd Sunday



Bethlehem  
Candle

3rd Sunday



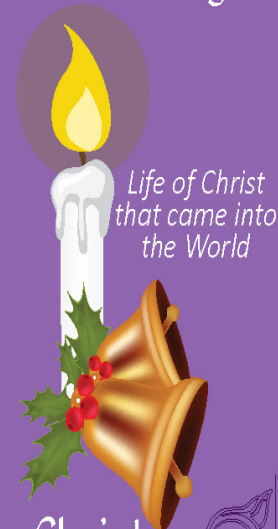
Shepherd's  
Candle

4th Sunday



Angel's  
Candle

Christmas Eve  
or Christmas Day



Christ  
Candle

## 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**  
ALTON, ILLINOIS

**THE SECOND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 10, 2023**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, December 11**

6:30 am Int of Fr. Michael  
Warren, OMV

8:00 am Nancy Goent†

**Tuesday, December 12**

6:30 am Mike Hanahant†

8:00 am Spiritual strength for those  
defending life in Granite City

**Wednesday, December 13**

6:30 am Int of Fr. Ben  
Unachukwu, OMV

8:00 am Vernon & Marie Rounert†  
Father Chris – The People of  
St. Mary's

**Thursday, December 14**

6:30 am Neal Mannst†  
8:00 am Jake Ringering†

**Friday, December 15**

6:30 am Berta Ovieda†  
8:00 am Rosie Baalman†

**Saturday, December 16**

6:30 am Nancy Weaver†  
8:00 am Rebecca Suzanne Hietzig†  
5:15 pm Gerena Dunham†

**Sunday, December 17**

6:30 am Clara, Earl, & Tom Altefogt†  
8:00 am Neal Mannst†  
9:30 am Int of Maria Meyers  
11:00 am Int of Rick Martin  
5:15 pm Int of the Josepha  
Stillwell Family

***You Are Invited!***



**TO AN ADVENT MISSION PARISH MISSION:**

**Fill the Void: Mary, Mercy, and the Eucharist**



The Season of Advent is a time to "Begin Again." Liturgically, Advent marks the beginning of a new calendar year in the life of the Church. Spiritually, Advent is a 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*** (Holy Mass will follow talk)

**THE 2ND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND WILL BE FOR THE RETIRED RELIGIOUS FUND.**

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

## Requests for Prayers

**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 Kornukhova, 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, Stella Schultz, Barb Loy, Todd Bailey...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

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 ~ 2 Peter 3:8-14 ~ Mark 1:1-8

FOCUS: Prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Today's readings speak to us of preparing for the coming of the Lord through repentance. Repentance requires us to be honest about the times we have fallen short in loving God and our neighbor as the Lord commands. Knowing that we are sinners is a necessary step in recognizing our need for the forgiveness God has graciously offered us through his Son, whose coming into the world we prepare to celebrate.

Isaiah offers words of comfort and hope that the time of exile is coming to an end and the Lord is preparing to reveal his glory to all people. Peter exhorts his community to live in holiness and devotion in anticipation of the day of the Lord. Mark begins his Gospel describing the ministry of John the Baptist who proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and that one greater than he would come and baptize with the Holy Spirit.

## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### PART ONE - THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

**363** In Sacred Scripture the term "soul" often refers to human life or the entire human person.<sup>230</sup> But "soul" also refers to the innermost aspect of man, that which is of greatest value in him,<sup>231</sup> that by which he is most especially in God's image: "soul" signifies the *spiritual principle* in man.

## COMING SOON AT ST. MARY'S

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

## Recent Baptisms

**Benjamin Daniel McClain**  
**son of Ciara Cook and Eric McClain**

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

## THIS WEEKEND 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.

## Today! Coffee & Donut Sunday!



Please join us THIS Sunday, December 10, in the Mary Ann Room (church basement), for a coffee & donut fellowship following the 6:30am, 8:00am and 9:30am Masses.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** - If you would like to help with this ministry, please speak with Phil & Mary Berger during the fellowship or call the Parish Office (618)465-4284.

### OKTOBERFEST GEAR AT COFFEE & DONUTS!

Deeply discounted Oktoberfest wear and gear will be at the 6:30am, 8am, and 9:30am Coffee and Donuts gatherings this Sunday in the Mary Ann Room. Pick up your 2024 Oktoberfest gear and a donut while you're at it!!!

### 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

As you are going down to Coffee & Donuts this weekend, please take the time to pick up your 2024 Offering Envelopes! They are located in the basement of the church across from the Mary Ann Room. Please be sure to pick up your box as soon as you can. Please ask an usher or a priest or another parishioner to help you if you cannot make it down the stairs. They will be glad to help.

### GIVING TREE

If you chose a Giving Tree ornament, please make sure that all gifts (with tag attached) are returned to the parish office no later than Monday, December 11 so we can be sure to get them to the families in time for Christmas. Thank you all for your help in blessing our Giving Tree families!!



### HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP

Come join us! The Holy Spirit Prayer Group meets Monday evenings from 5:15 - 6:35ish in the MaryAnn Room (or hallway outside) in the church basement. Members of the group seek to develop a closer relationship with God through scripture reading, praising the goodness of God through song, sharing our faith experiences, and learning about & using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Come and see if this group is for you!

### 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](mailto:kroberts@smsalton.com).

## GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE STUDY NEWS! IMPORTANT, PLEASE READ!

Next week, Dec 12, there will be no bible study so that everyone can attend our Parish Mission in the church with Fr. Paul Kallal (see bulletin for mission details)! We will also be off Dec 19 and Dec 26 and return in the New Year on Tuesday, January 2 with a little Christmas celebration: we will gather at 6:30pm and the study will begin at 7pm in the Parish Center. What a great start we've had to our Bible Study this year! See you in 2024 to continue our journey!

### ADDITIONAL ADVENT CONFESSION TIMES

Wednesday, December 13 ~ after the 7pm Mission Talk until all are heard.

### 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.

### 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!

### 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](mailto:carolyn@stmarysalton.com)

### 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.



## 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 ~ Noon – 5:00pm

Wednesday, December 13 ~ after the 7pm

Mission Talk until all are heard.



### Sunday December 24 ~ Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Christmas Mass Schedule: Sunday, December 24 ~ 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 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

## ST. MARY'S SCRIP

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



## CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

JUST A FEW LEFT IN THE PARISH OFFICE!

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.



## ALTON KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ACTIVITIES

Submission of Lee Lohman Scholarship Candidates to Marquette Principal - Dec 14

Council Blood Drive at SSPP Alumni Hall - Dec 13, 2 to 6 pm

Council Meeting - Dec 14, 7:30 pm, 717 State Street

Setup Nativity in St. Mary's Church - Dec 22

Council Meeting - Jan 11, 7:30 pm, 717 State Street

Council Meeting - Feb 8, 7:30 ppm 717 State Street

Knights of Columbus District Free Throw Contest - Feb 11, Noon - 2:30pm - Marquette Gym

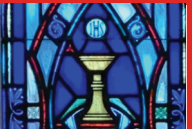
## HELP WANTED

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](mailto:resume@ablpregnancyresource.org).

## HELP WANTED

Marquette Catholic HS in Alton is seeking a qualified boys and girls varsity track and field coach. The candidate should possess good communication skills, is organized, experienced in individual and team development, and places an emphasis on sportsmanship. Interested applicants should email cover letter and resume to Marquette Catholic AD, Brian Hoener, at [bhoener@mymchs.org](mailto:bhoener@mymchs.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

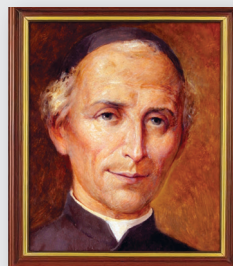
Wednesdays: 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm

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 consistently faithful to meditation and to spiritual reading, if it be only a quarter of an hour of meditation and a single page of spiritual reading."*

Learn more and request prayers online:  
[www.omvusa.org/bruno-lanteri/](http://www.omvusa.org/bruno-lanteri/)



## FORMED NEWS!

St. Mary's has partnered with the **Augustine Institute** to offer **free online access to grow in your faith and be inspired. It's called FORMED.** Discover new Advent resources and more as you and your family prepare for Christmas! There is programming for both adults and children.



What a great way to grow together in your faith and family life! To learn more, visit our FORMED page at [www.stmarysalton.com/formed](http://www.stmarysalton.com/formed). If you don't have a FORMED account, you can create a free one through this FORMED link.

## POOR BOXES

Please remember to support our St. Mary's Charitable Outreach Society and its efforts to help the poor and needy. Convenient offering boxes are located at the side entrance and the main entrance for your donations.

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you or a loved one are ill or preparing for surgery and would like to be anointed, please contact the Parish Office to schedule a time for this sacrament of healing, 618-465-4284.

**\*\*Please note, due to HIPAA policies, the hospitals can no longer notify us if you are admitted. Please reach out or have a family member reach out.**

## 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>

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**Open Monday – Friday  
8:30 am to Noon and 1:00 to 3:30 pm**

Welcome to the parish office! Business may be conducted via e-mail, phone or in person. Our after-hours drop box is also available if you wish to drop off something for the Parish Office or the school when we aren't here. Parish Office: (618) 465-4284

Marci Wendle ~ [Marci@stmarysalton.com](mailto:Marci@stmarysalton.com) and  
Carolyn Simansky ~ [Carolyn@stmarysalton.com](mailto:Carolyn@stmarysalton.com)

## GREAT RIVERS CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

### Hope is Born - A Celtic Christmas

Sun, Dec 10, 3pm

Godfrey 1st United Methodist, 1100 Airport Rd., Godfrey  
Open to the public. A free-will offering is taken.

[www.grcssing.org](http://www.grcssing.org)

## Celebrating Diocesan Year Of The Eucharist EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES EXHIBITION

**When:** Saturday, December 9 - 21, 2023, 8am - 4pm daily

**Where:** St. Paul's Church, Highland, IL, in Trinity Hall

## 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/>.

## Way of Lights Run!

### Shrine Grounds and Visitor Center, Jan 1, 2024, 5pm

Join in the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows annual 5k run and 1.5-mile fun as you welcome in the New Year!! What better way to start the year than going through this exciting course while surrounded by 1.5 million beautiful and breathtaking Christmas lights display! Cost: \$30.00 Run, \$20.00 for Walk if registered up by Dec 16. Additional \$5.00 per person starting Dec 17. For more information, visit <https://snows.org/wolrun/> or call 618-397-6700.



## PRAYER CORNER

### St Patrick's Prayer

I arise today  
Through God's strength to pilot me;  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's way to lie before me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's hosts to save me  
Afar and anear,  
Alone or in a multitude. Amen!

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:carolyn@stmarysalton.com)



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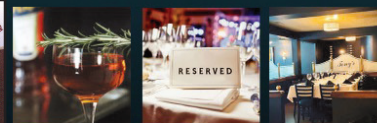
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