



# Saint Mary's Catholic Church

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH



# Joy



## 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](http://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](http://WWW.STMARYSALTON.COM)

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

ALTON, ILLINOIS

## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Monday, December 18

6:30 am Michael Wilson†  
8:00 am Int of Christine & Mike  
Galligan & Family

#### Tuesday, December 19

6:30 am Lucia P. Molloy†  
8:00 am Int of Emil Schlueter

#### Wednesday, December 20

6:30 am Sandy Moehnt  
8:00 am Michael Hanahan†  
Father Chris – The People of  
St. Mary's

#### Thursday, December 21

6:30 am Special Int of Pilarita Wilson  
8:00 am Pat Maloney†

#### Friday, December 22

6:30 am Deceased of the Pilarita  
Wilson Family†  
8:00 am Dagan Hampton†

#### Saturday, December 23

6:30 am Judy Farrar†  
8:00 am Ed Uhl, Sr.†  
5:15 pm Richard Cox and Bill Cox†

#### Sunday, December 24

6:30 am Albert & Marjorie Waltert†  
8:00 am Barb Crammond†  
9:30 am Int of Mary Donahue  
11:00 am Thomas Krpan†

#### Masses for Christmas Eve

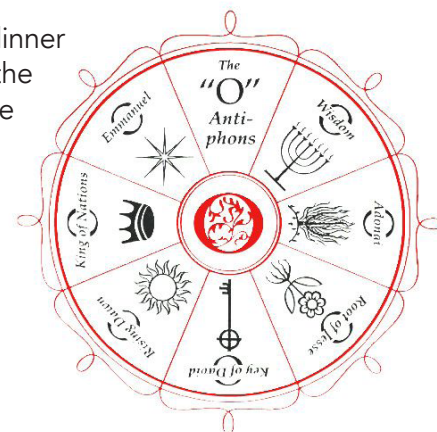
4:00 pm Madeline Ray†  
6:00 pm Ssgt. Keith Brakeville†  
8:00 pm Ruth Anne Larenast†  
12:00 am George & Felicia Goekent

## Learning and Living Our Catholic Faith

### CELEBRATE THE "O's" OF ADVENT!

On December 17 we begin the "O" Antiphons, a custom dating back to the 11th century when the monks and nuns would begin the last seven days before Christmas with a different "O" antiphon at evening prayer. The "O's" of Advent are the great gems of liturgical song which are sung each evening before the Magnificat (Mary's hymn of praise as she greets Elizabeth) from December 17 to December 23. It is still prayed this way in monasteries and Advent Liturgies today. It is also used as the Alleluia acclamation in the Advent Mass of the Day. Addressing Christ with seven magnificent titles which begin with "O", they beg Him with mounting impatience to come to save His people!

Before you light your Advent wreath at dinner time each evening this week, sing or say the O Antiphon for the day and then pray the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). Christmas is growing near! (If you would prefer to sing the O Antiphons, just find the appropriate match for the O Antiphon of the day in the verses of the hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel".)



### THE "O's" OF ADVENT

- Dec. 17 – O WISDOM, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care.  
COME! and show your people the way to salvation.
- Dec. 18 – O SACRED LORD OF ANCIENT ISRAEL, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy Law on Sinai mountain: COME! stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.
- Dec. 19 – O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. COME! let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.
- Dec. 20 – O KEY OF DAVID, O royal Power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven: COME! break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.
- Dec. 21 – O RADIANT DAWN OF THE EAST, splendor of eternal light, Sun of Justice: COME! shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.
- Dec. 22 – O KING OF ALL THE NATIONS, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, COME! and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.
- Dec. 23– O EMMANUEL, our King and Lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, COME! and set us free Lord our God.

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, Alice Banghart, Fr. Dave Beauregard, OMV, Dr. Bob Hurley ... 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.**

### COMING SOON AT ST. MARY'S

Parish Office Closes at Noon on Dec 22  
Christmas Eve – begins with 4pm Mass Dec 24  
Adoration Chapel Closed on Dec 25 & Jan 1  
Next Baptismal Prep Class – January 7  
Coffee & Doughnut Sunday – January 14

### 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

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. 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.

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 ~ John 1:6-8, 19-28

FOCUS: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

In today's readings Isaiah, Paul, and John the Baptist rejoice because they have Good News. God is with them and working through them. They are anointed, blessed, and sent to do God's will. On this Gaudete Sunday, we, too, find reason to rejoice. Let us rejoice in sharing the Good News of Christ.

In the first reading, Isaiah is anointed by the Lord and sent to announce a day of vindication by our God. In the second reading, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to always rejoice, pray, and give thanks. In the Gospel, John the Baptist testifies to the light and says he is the voice of one crying out in the desert, "make straight the way of the Lord."

## 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

**364** The human body shares in the dignity of "the image of God": it is a human body precisely because it is animated by a spiritual soul, and it is the whole human person that is intended to become, in the body of Christ, a temple of the Spirit.<sup>232</sup>

Man, though made of body and soul, is a unity. Through his very bodily condition he sums up in himself the elements of the material world. Through him they are thus brought to their highest perfection and can raise their voice in praise freely given to the Creator. For this reason man may not despise his bodily life. Rather he is obliged to regard his body as good and to hold it in honor since God has created it and will raise it up on the last day.<sup>233</sup>

### 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



## Recent Baptisms

**Reid Charles Hinrichs**  
**son of Arend and Caitlin (McLaughlin) Hinrichs**

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

## BANNS OF MARRIAGE

1st announcement between  
**Jacob Buhs and Sydney Marshall**

Oblate Christmas  
Open House

December 26th  
4pm to 7pm



St. Mary's Rectory

525 East 4th Street

Alton, Illinois

Join the Oblates of St. Mary's for a little Christmas cheer!  
Our Open House will feature a tour of the rectory decorations,  
chapel, common areas and of course, some Christmas cheer —  
hot chocolate and treats...

## ADORATION CHAPEL CLOSED ON...

The Adoration Chapel will be closed on Christmas Day, Dec 25, and the Feast of the Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, Jan 1.

## PARISH OFFICE CLOSED ON . . .

In observance of Christmas, the Parish Office will be closed beginning at Noon on Friday, December 22 through December 26, open on December 27 & 28, and closed on December 29. We will then be open for regular days/hours again beginning January 2, at 8:30. If you have something to drop-off to the Parish Office while we are closed, please use the after-hours drop box located on the porch just below the Parish Office mailbox; we will be checking it. We will be monitoring our email. Please do not hesitate to contact us, if needed. *We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

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

There will be no Bible Study on Dec 19 and Dec 26. We return to the study 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!

## 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).

## NOTE FOR THE DEC. 24 & 31 BULLETINS

The bulletin information for the rest of December has already been submitted. No new items can be accepted for the Dec 24 and Dec 31 bulletins. Information for January bulletins can be submitted to [carolyn@stmarysalton.com](mailto:carolyn@stmarysalton.com). Thank you.

## HOME MASSES

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.

## 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**  
FAITH AT HOME

**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.

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### 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

## 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.

## SUCCESS CARDS

St. Mary's 8th grade class is selling Success Cards. They are \$10 each. Includes so many local businesses! You can purchase Success Cards from both school offices, the Parish office, or your favorite 8th grader. They are good all through 2024!

## LANTERI GUILD

There will be no meeting in the month of December. We will meet again the last Monday of January.

## 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

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

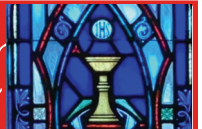
## HELP WANTED

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

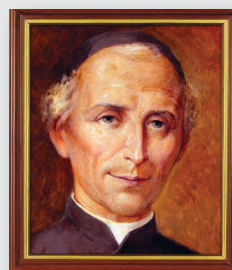
Wednesdays: 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm

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  
also to the examination  
of conscience, which you  
can do while you are  
working."*

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





## 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>

### **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

### **Bethalto Knights of Columbus Chicken Dinner**

**Sun, Dec 17, 11:30AM – 2PM at Our Lady Queen of Peace, 132 Butcher St., Bethalto.**

Dine In, All-You-Care-to-Eat: \$12 Adults, \$6 Children (ages 5-10)

Drive-Thru or Carry Out: \$12 for half chicken or five (5) chicken strips, and choice of three (3) sides. *No custom orders available for drive thru.* Side Options: Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy. Public Welcome.

FOR CARRY OUT OR DRIVE THRU: PLEASE ENTER FROM PRAIRIE STREET INTO THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT FOR PICKUP.

Proceeds go to Bethalto K of C Charities and OLQP Parish.

### **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.

### **Pre-School Christmas Program**



**Pre-School  
decorating  
their tree**



### **Student Council making cards for homebound parishioners!**



## **PRAYER CORNER**

### **Advent Prayer**

For the desert places in which  
we walk, the streets we roam,  
the paths we cross: Guild our feet.  
Take us to places where you would go,  
Give us words that you would use,  
that in this Advent season  
of promise and preparation  
we might point the way  
with John the Baptist  
to the Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sin of the world!  
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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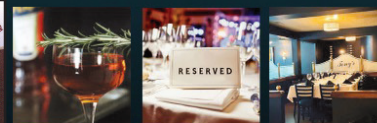
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