



Saint Mary's Catholic Church

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

LENT

prayer • fasting • almsgiving

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 19

6:30 am Int of Joseph Balan

8:00 am Clarence Williamst

Tuesday, February 20

6:30 am Int of Ryan McNamee

8:00 am Tony Ruzicka†

Wednesday, February 21

6:30 am R. Marie (Harshbarger)
McNameet

8:00 am Helen & John Surwald†
Father Chris – The People of
St. Mary's

Thursday, February 22

6:30 am Special Int of the
Greenberg/Leach Family

8:00 am Mike Hanahan†

Friday, February 23

6:30 am Clara Altefogt †

8:00 am Alman Millert

5:15 pm Robert "Whitey"
Hamilton†

Saturday, February 24

6:30 am Bill & Marilyn Halliday†

8:00 am Joan Kellert

5:15 pm Pete Bormant

Sunday, February 25

6:30 am Mary Hartshorn†

8:00 am Int of the Brakeville Family

9:30 am Warren Meyerst

11:00 am Mike Fischert

5:15 pm Ralph Milford†

Alton Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast & St. Mary's Church & School Ministry Fair!

We are planning a big event Sunday, March 17, after the 6:30am, 8am, and 9:30am Masses and everyone from our church and school is invited! We hope everyone will attend this wonderful community breakfast and spend time with all of St. Mary's Family Members both young and, well ... a little more seasoned!

While you are there, we will have members of all of our parish ministries with information about how everyone can share time and treasure with St. Mary's! St. Mary's Parish has a long and storied history of people who have helped build her up over these last 166 years –and we, all of us, are now part of that great story that is St. Mary's in Alton!

Please prayerfully consider how you might use your talents and gifts, which we know are many, to help St. Mary's to keep telling her story and spreading the Good News of Christ to the Riverbend area. The following is a list of ministries where St. Mary's can use your help. Please look it over and ask the Holy Spirit in prayer what you can do to serve at St. Mary's. We'll see you at the Breakfast and Ministry Fair!

MINISTRIES	MINISTRIES (continued)
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion -to the Home Bound/Nursing Homes -at Holy Mass	Gifts of the Holy Spirit Prayer Group
Lectors	Photographers (for different events)
Sacristy -Help – weekday Masses -Funeral Mass Help -Wedding Mass Help -Altar Linens	RCIA -Team Help -Snacks
Choir	Diaconate
Cantor	Sunday Church Cleaners
Adorers for Adoration Chapel	Pro-Life
Funeral Luncheons	Website Manager
Parish School of Religion (PSR) Catechists	St. Serra Vocations Club
Knights of Columbus	Sunday Priest Meals
Centennial Campaign	Ushers
God Squad Mentors (Youth Group)	School Volunteer
There will also be a table where you will be able to update your Parish Registration – make sure your phone number, email, address, etc., are up to date. And if you don't already receive our Saturday Parish Emails, you can sign up for that too!	

So many ways to serve and so much to do to keep our parish vital and active! We can't wait to see how you can help!

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, Marilyn Schulz, Frank J. Mooney, Catharine Williams, Marge Ridder, Jennifer Allmond, Jessica Boyd, Jerome Carrigan, Mike Klaus, Stella Schultz, Barb Loy, Todd Bailey, Alice Banghart, Fr. Dave Beauregard, OMV, Dr. Bob Hurley, Dan Cruz, Al Treichel, the James Turvey Family, Julie Henkhaus, Anne Shansey, Terri Chappell, Kay Guiccione, Gloria Schrupf ... 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.

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 MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM

373 In God's plan man and woman have the vocation of "subduing" the earth²⁴⁸ as stewards of God. This sovereignty is not to be an arbitrary and destructive domination. God calls man and woman, made in the image of the Creator "who loves everything that exists",²⁴⁹ to share in his providence toward other creatures; hence their responsibility for the world God has entrusted to them.

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Joel 2:12-18 ~ 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 ~ Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

FOCUS: Create space in your life to be filled with the merciful presence of God.

For the next 40 days we will seek, through our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, to turn our hearts and our lives back to God. We will seek to create that necessary room to be filled with His mercy. With that healing mercy, we will strive to gain mastery over our lives and conform ourselves more to Christ and His Gospel message.

The prophet Joel teaches that true repentance is an act of the heart and not simply an outward act. In the second reading, Paul reminds us of our identity as ambassadors for Christ in the world. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches His disciples that when they pray, perform righteous deeds, or fast they should avoid seeking the adulation of others and seek only to please the Lord.

COMING SOON AT ST. MARY'S

RCIA Rite of Sending - February 18

Parish Office Closed - February 19

Video Series w/ Fr. Chris - February 23

Lanteri Guild Mass & Meeting - February 26

Hibernian's St. Patrick's Dinner - March 2

KC Breakfast & St. Mary's Ministry Fair - March 17

Congratulations to

Nicholas Ketzamanis and Hope Wahl

who were united in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony on the 9th of February. We offer our best wishes and prayers that the peace of Christ may live always in their hearts and in their home!

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

LENT AT ST. MARY'S

Lent is a time to return to the heart of your faith – the Lord! Acknowledge the importance of your relationship with God by the Sacrament of Confession, and say – “I’m sorry.” Hear His words, “I forgive you, because I love you!”

REMEMBER DURING LENT:

FAST Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 is required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

ABSTINENCE Everyone 14 years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all of the Fridays of Lent.

On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is permitted. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed.

FRIDAYS OF LENT

Mass – 6:30am, 8:00am, 1:15pm w/ school children, 5:15pm

Confessions – 4:00pm-5:00pm

Stations of the Cross in the Church – 7pm and @1:45 or 1:50 with School Children

Lenten Video Series & Discussion - after 5:15pm Mass

MERCY MARATHON

Saturday, March 16, 11:00am through 5:30pm - Confessions will be heard.

Women's Lent Discussion Group – “Rescued”

Women of the parish are invited to a discussion group for *Blessed is She's* Lenten devotional entitled “Rescued.” The group will meet weekly from 7pm-8pm on Wednesday's from Feb 14 - Mar 27 in the MaryAnn Room. Attendance is not required at all the sessions. Purchase the Rescued book for \$28 from Blessed is She. (Financial assistance is available.) For questions or to express interest, contact Melissa Woulfe at 618-973-0750 or mwoulfe@charter.net. Link to purchase devotional book from Blessed is She: <https://blessedishe.net/products/lent-devotional-for-women>

RCIA – RITE OF SENDING & ELECTION

Sunday, February 18

This Sunday our RCIA Catechumens will be sent to Springfield for The Rite of Election. During the Rite of Sending, which we celebrated here in the parish church, our pastor, Fr. Chris, will send our Catechumens to the diocesan Cathedral for The Rite of Election.

“Election” refers to the idea of “the chosen people.” In Israel's early history, God chose a people and established a covenant with them. Christians believe that God continues to choose people, now through the covenant of baptism. The Rite of Election thus establishes the names of those who will enter the New Covenant through the sacraments of initiation. The key moments of the rite are the affirmation by the godparents and the act of election. Each parish presents their Book of the Elect to the Bishop, and the names of the Catechumens are called out. Finally, during the Act of Admission or Election, Bishop Paprocki declares that the Catechumens are members of the Elect, to be initiated at the Easter Vigil.

Please keep all of our Catechumens and our Candidates and their sponsors and catechists in your prayers as they travel through these forty days of Lent toward the reception of the sacraments at Easter Vigil.

40 Days for Life Granite City Spring Campaign

The 40 Days for Life spring campaign begins on Ash Wednesday, 2/14/24 and runs until Palm Sunday, 3/24/24. **St Mary's has adopted Tuesday, 3/5/24** as a day for parishioners to stand as a witness to the dignity of life and pray peacefully on the sidewalk at the Hope Clinic in Granite City. Prayer Partners are needed from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Do you have an hour to be present on the sidewalk on our adopted day? For more information go to: 40daysgc.com. For questions or to take an hour please contact Shannon Vitali at 618-600-3111 or Don Ehrman at 618-616-0061. All are invited to join us in prayer.

LENTEN FRIDAY VIDEO SERIES!

Join Fr. Chris after the 5:15pm Mass on the Fridays of Lent for a video and discussion in the Mary Ann Room.

Topics:

Feb 23 - Exorcisms: What Catholics Need to Know

Mar 1 - The Eucharist: Real Presence

Mar 8 - Chris Stefanik: Overcoming Homelessness

Mar 15 - Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession

Mar 22 - The Search: Who is Jesus?

LENTEN STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

February 18 - 1st Sunday of Lent

“After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God....” – Mark 1:14

Have you ever thought about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to go to Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that He was proclaiming. It took great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, living a stewardship lifestyle takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that He will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS

Our next class will be March 3 after 11am Mass. To register, please call the parish office, 618-465-4284.

PARISH OFFICE NEWS

We will be closed this Monday for Presidents' Day.

2024 ST. MARY'S CALENDARS

The 2024 St. Mary's Church Calendars are still available at the entrances to the church. Please take them home to your family and friends!

CEMETERY NEWS

- **Help Needed!** We need some help just to close or open the gates at St. Joseph's Cemetery. Please contact Tommy Jennings, 618-973-9619, if you can help with all or part of this duty. This would be Tues., Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun. evenings and Sat. mornings.

- The last day for pickup up of Christmas decoration and flowers at St. Patrick's Cemetery and St. Joseph's Cemetery will be Feb. 21. All decorations left in the cemeteries after that date will be removed.

2023 TAX STATEMENTS

The tax statements for your 2023 offerings are ready! If you would like a copy of your contribution statement for 2023, please contact the parish office.

Tax statements are only printed and mailed upon request.

GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE STUDY NEWS!

We meet each Tuesday night at 7:00 at the Parish Center. In case of inclement weather, watch your email for a Flocknote from Fr. Chris.

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!

DAILY ROSARY

Please join us each morning at 7:30am in the Church for our daily rosary. All are welcome to come and pray along!

ALTON KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ACTIVITIES

Regional Free Throw Contest - Mar 10, St. Ambrose Gym, doors open 11am

Council Meeting - Mar 14, Rosary 7:05 pm, Mtg at 7:30pm,
Ss Peter & Paul School Knight's Room

Pancake Breakfast - Mar 17, Suddes Hall with St. Mary's Ministry Fair

40 Days for Life Day - March 19, 7 am to 5 pm,
at the Hope Clinic, Granite City

Council Blood Drive - Apr 10, 1pm to 5pm at Alumni Hall,
Ss Peter & Paul, 717 State Street

LENTEN CONCERT

Join musician Dennis Keller and our own Mindy Cochran, along with others, for an afternoon of praise and worship music celebrating the Lenten Season at St. James the Greater Church, 6401 Wade Ave, St. Louis.

LANTERI GUILD

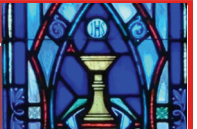
(last Monday of each month)

Are you interested in knowing more about the founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary and growing in your Catholic Faith? Join Fr. Ben and the Lanteri Guild as members will be meeting on Monday, February 26, beginning with Mass at 7:00pm to discuss more about Venerable Bruno Lanteri and growing deeper in our faith. *All are welcome!*

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2024 Church Offering Envelopes have now been moved to the Parish Office. Please contact the Parish Office if you still need to pick up your envelopes, 618-465-4284. **Thank you!**

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

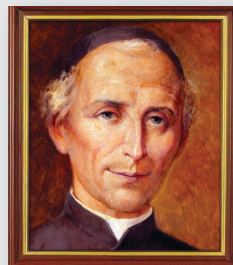
Wednesdays: 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm

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



"At Holy Mass, at the Offertory I will have the sentiments and heart of the High Priest Melchizedek!"

Learn more and request prayers online:

www.omvusa.org/bruno-lanteri/



UPCOMING EVENTS

GODFREY K of C FISH FRY!

Starts February 16 and runs through all Fridays of Lent (7 Fridays). 4:00 to 7:00PM at the McNicholas Club at 1713 Stamper Ln. in Godfrey. Adults are \$14 and children 6-12 are \$7, under 6 is free. We serve buffalo, whitefish, whole catfish, shrimp and baked fish. Sides are potato salad, fries, onion rings, green beans, slaw, spaghetti, cheese pizza and coffee or tea. Questions? Call Stephen Mikoff at 618-420-5557.

Bethalto Knights of Columbus Chicken Dinner

Sunday, February 18th, 2024 • 11:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

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

Celebrating Black History Month GOSPEL MASS & SOUL FOOD LUNCHEON

10am, February 25, Church of the Little Flower,
800 Stevenson Dr, Springfield.

RSVP required at: <https://go.dio.org/bcc>

Organized by the Black Catholic Commission

St. Patrick's Celebration & Dinner

The Hibernians St. Patrick's Celebration and Dinner will be on Saturday, March 2, 2024, 6:00 p.m. Please join us at Suddes Hall for a corned beef, cabbage, ham, potatoes dinner and traditional Irish music by Celtica. Reservations are required. This year, tickets are \$30 per person, checks payable to L.A.O.H. Mail checks to Martha Maloy, 4625 Valleydale Rd., Godfrey. For more information, email Martha at maloy47@gmail.com.



PRAYER CORNER

A Prayer for Renewal

Lord, we are your people, the sheep of your flock.
Heal the sheep who are wounded, Touch the sheep
who are in pain, Clean the sheep who are soiled,
Warm the lambs who are cold.

Help us to know the Father's love through Jesus the
shepherd and through the Spirit. Help us to lift up
that love, and show it all over this land. Help us to
build love on justice and justice on love. Help us to
believe mightily, hope joyfully. love divinely.

Renew us that we may help renew the face of the
earth. Amen.

JASON EVERT IS RETURNING TO ST. MARY'S!

DOUBLE FEATURE WITH JASON EVERT



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A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT FOR FAMILIES (AGES 13+)

MONDAY
March 4, 2024

6:00 - 7:30 PM

The innocence of the family is under attack like
never before. Come and discover how to protect
and heal yours. This chastity presentation is for
teens, parents and adults.

GENDER & THE THEOLOGY OF YOUR BODY (AGES 13+)

MONDAY
March 4, 2024

7:45 - 8:45 PM

What's the meaning of sex, gender, and the human
body? The truth of masculinity and femininity are
being questioned like never before. Discover how
your body as a man or woman reveals your
identity and calling.

Break 7:30-7:45 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation & Eucharistic Adoration 8:45-9:15 PM

Tickets: chastity.com/purified

Info: bananie3@yahoo.com or 618.581.7055

Purchase Tickets with QR Code:



Register now by using the QR Code above, or
by going to <http://tinyurl.com/mtdmw7ak>

Save the Date!

On the morning of March 17, we will have a Parish Breakfast
sponsored by the Knights of Columbus along with a Ministry
Fair in Suddes Hall. We hope to see you all there!

THE OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY
ANNOUNCE THE ORDINATION
TO THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD OF



DCN. JORGE SANCHEZ, OMV



DCN. JONATHON HANK, OMV

JULY 27, 2024
ST. PETER CHANEL
HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA



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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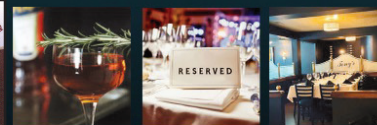
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