

⊕ Old St. Mary's
Catholic Church

Old St. Mary's welcomes and accompanies everyone on their faith journey. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, our diverse community encourages people to grow their relationship with Jesus Christ and one another through Eucharist, worship, prayer, education, and service.

The heart of Christ is 'ecstasy,' openness, gift, and encounter. In that heart, we learn to relate to one another in wholesome and happy ways, and to build up in this world God's kingdom of love and justice.

Dilexit Nos, Pope Francis

7TH SUNDAY IN

ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Established as Chicago's first Catholic parish in 1833. Old St. Mary's Catholic School established in 2004. Served by the Paulist Fathers since 1903.

1500 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60605 | 312-922-3444 | www.oldstmarys.com

PASTORAL MESSAGE

This week's Gospel is a classic look into many of the things we struggle most with in our human relationships. Jesus tells us to love our enemies, turn the other cheek when struck, never deny anyone, and, lastly, presents us with the almighty "Golden Rule." I will never forget teaching a class on the incarnation of scripture and going through this passage and someone got up, gathered their things, and went to walk out. I asked them if everything was okay and they replied, "I can't do it."

Let's break this down in three major ways:

Loving our enemies is not an easy task. Even the word "enemy," at least for me, implies a deeper hurt towards someone than just not liking them. How, then, do we love someone who has hurt us so profoundly? What circumstances can we turn to that would allow for us to begin the path towards healing, not just for ourselves, but for the other person and the very broken bond you share with them? As a faith formation director, the first thing that comes to mind is the sacrament of Reconciliation. Starting in a place where you can pour out your negative emotions to God and receive forgiveness and the ability and perhaps even strength to approach a person with whom you have a broken relationship is truly a powerful gift. Perhaps, this is where we start—with ourselves. We might not think we are the first that needs to make the move towards Reconciliation, but it is God who invites us to. Making that move, still recognizing you are broken, is love.

Turning the other cheek demands great patience, restraint, and wisdom. "An eye for an eye makes everyone blind" is the more correct version of what happens when one tries to justify retaliation of equal or more severe action when struck. Jesus asks us to offer a space where we can meet someone where they are in turning the other cheek. Again, we see an opportunity to offer healing and a chance for Reconciliation when we are struck physically, mentally, and even spiritually.

The Golden Rule is often "justifiably" violated when we self-righteously mask our action towards another based on a reason rooted in faith, morals, or ethics. Jesus asks us to take a step back and zoom out. Often, if we use a model of see, judge, act rooted in human dignity when making decisions before treating someone opposite of how we would want to be treated, we would find ourselves not treating anyone less than how we would treat ourselves or even those we love most.

My sisters and brothers, it is simple. Jesus instructs us to love. Let us pour out our hearts to one another and learn to better love our neighbor even and especially when it's toughest. For the past year, you have poured out your hearts to me in the best and most challenging moments. I will hold it forever and I offer you my profound gratitude and continued prayers for the ministry we shared this past year.

Your brother in Christ,

Oblate James Holzhauer-Chuckas, ObSB

Oblate James Holzhauer-Chuckas, ObSB
Outgoing Director of Lifelong Faith Formation

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Together we bring hope

2025 Annual Catholic Appeal

Please consider supporting this year's Appeal.

Your generous contribution will be a source of blessing for many people, for yourself and for your loved ones.

To make a gift by phone: 312.534.7959

To mail:
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611

To give online:
annualcatholicappeal.com



Today is Commitment Weekend for the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal, Together We Bring Hope

Join us in answering the call to bring hope to those in need through the Annual Catholic Appeal! Your generosity directly supports vital parish ministries, including food pantries and soup kitchens, and provides Catholic education opportunities for students seeking a faith-filled learning experience.

This year, **our parish goal is \$56,275** — and we need your help to get there! The best part? Every dollar raised beyond our goal comes back to Old St. Mary's as a rebate to support our own parish community.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Envelopes are available in the pews to support the Annual Appeal. You can contribute online at www.annualcatholicappeal.com or drop your Appeal envelope in the collection basket.

Please credit your gift to Old St. Mary's Parish.

Thank you for your generosity and for being part of this mission of hope!

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, February 23

8 AM Basilio Manuel (+)
11 AM Kevin Dcienha
4 PM Dennis Molitor (+)

Monday, February 24

8:30 AM Pete Bueza (+)

Tuesday, February 26

8:30 AM Marllon Lucero

Wednesday, February 26

8:30 AM Robert Donatich (+)

Thursday, February 27

8:30 AM Jovita Montille (+)

Friday, February 28

8:30 AM Eunice & Barb Slaughter

Saturday, March 1

5:00 PM Barb Duffy

Lent 2025 at Old St. Mary's

Lent is fast approaching — mark your calendars for **March 5, Ash Wednesday!** A full listing of all our programming this Lent can be found at: www.oldstmarys.com/lent

This year, we are excited to offer **faith-sharing small groups** throughout Lent! Our small groups offer a meaningful way to walk this season together. In these gatherings, you'll have the chance to pray, reflect on Scripture, and share insights with fellow parishioners in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Whether you're new to small groups or have participated before, these gatherings provide a space to deepen your faith, form connections, and discover how God is working in your life this Lent. **Groups will meet weekly and are open to all — so invite a friend to join you!**

Learn more and sign up at:
bit.ly/osm-lent-smallgroup-2025
Or scan the QR code!



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

The readings for the week can be found on the US Catholic Bishops Conference website.

Scan the QR code or head to
<https://bible.usccb.org/>

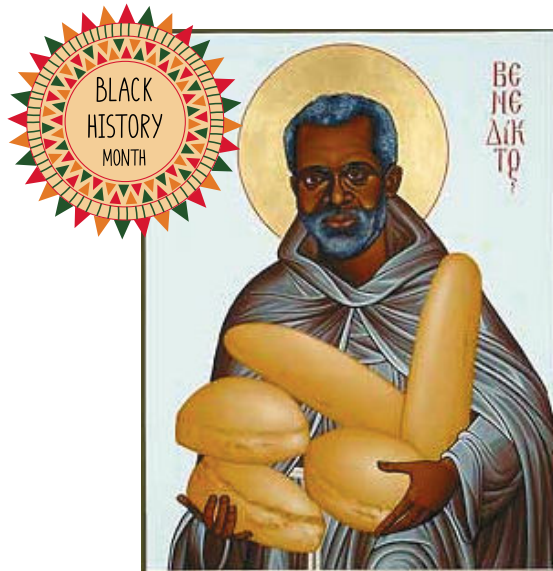


LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE

St. Austin Catholic Church, with Fr. Rich, has created an online guide to explore Bible readings from Mass.

Visit staustin.org/lectionary-guide.

For weeks 7 and 8 in Ordinary Time, we hear from the Book of Sirach. It's the only book of the Old Testament in which we have absolute confidence in the identity of the author: Jeshua ben Sira, who wrote this between 196 and 171 BC. Fearing the collapse of Jewish society during the Seleucid persecution, ben Sira compiled a lifetime of knowledge to be passed on to future generations. Learn more about this lengthy book at staustin.org/sirach.



Saint Benedict the African

Saint Benedict the African, also known as Saint Benedict the Moor and Saint Benedict the Black, was born a slave near Messina, Italy. He was freed by his master and eventually became superior of a community of hermits at Monte Pellegrino. He was widely respected for his deep, intuitive understanding of theology and Scripture, and was often sought for counseling. He is honored as a patron saint of African-Americans.

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Rich Andre, CSP

Pastor
fr.rich@oldstmarys.com | ext. 29

Fr. Dan Macalinao, CSP

Associate Pastor
fr.dan@oldstmarys.com | ext. 20

Obl. James Holzhauer-Chuckas, ODSB

Director of Lifelong Faith Formation
james@oldstmarys.com | ext. 26

Ace Gangoso

Director of Liturgy and Music
ace@oldstmarys.com | ext. 14

Dawn Burns

Business Manager
dawn@oldstmarys.com | ext. 23

April Greer

Old St. Mary's School Principal
agreer@osmschool.com | 312-386-1560

Patti Murphy

Facility & Events Coordinator
patti@oldstmarys.com

Lauren Huelster

Executive Assistant to the Pastor
lauren@oldstmarys.com

Barbara Escobar

Senior LFF Administrator
barbara@oldstmarys.com

Vanessa Jackson

Mamie Smith
Mattie Young
Receptionists

Lorena Villegas
Maintenance

Fr. Bob Cary, CSP
Priest-in-Residence

SACRAMENTS

MASS TIMES

Monday – Friday 8:30 AM
Wednesday School Mass during School Year

Saturday 5:00 PM Vigil

Sunday 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM
4:00 PM

Holy Days *contact parish office*

BAPTISM

Register at <http://oldstmarys.com/baptism/>

- To request a copy of your baptismal certificate, email baptisms@oldstmarys.com

MATRIMONY

<https://oldstmarys.com/weddings/>
Please contact Fr. Rich or Fr. Dan

RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday from 4:00 – 4:30 PM,
or contact Fr. Rich or Fr. Dan

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Every First Friday during the 8:30 AM Mass,
or contact Fr. Rich or Fr. Dan

CONFIRMATION

Inquire at
<https://oldstmarys.com/confirmation/>

FUNERAL

Please contact Fr. Rich or Fr. Dan

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Friday after the 8:30 AM Mass
(9:00 AM – 11:30 AM)

Low Gluten Hosts at Mass

Low Gluten Hosts are available at mass for those with a gluten sensitivity. For a low-gluten host, arrive at least 5 minutes before Mass, visit the sacristy to request one, and receive it from the presider during Communion.



OLD ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8
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www.osmschool.com
312-386-1560
1474 S. Michigan Ave.

New to the Parish?

Welcome! Scan the QR
code or register at
bit.ly/osm-registration



Little Sisters of the Poor

Next weekend, March 1 - 2, the Little Sisters of the Poor will be with us to take up a collection for St. Mary's Home. These religious sisters do incredible work caring for the elderly poor with dignity and love, providing them with a welcoming home and compassionate support. Your generosity will help them continue their mission of serving those in need. Thank you for your support!

Hygiene Supplies Needed

Each month, the youth of Old St. Mary's host a hygiene kit packing event to support our brothers and sisters in need. Please consider donating essential items such as travel-sized shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, razors, and deodorant—these small items make a big difference! Donations can be dropped off in the commons or at the parish office. Thank you for your generosity!

Our next youth hygiene kit packing service opportunity will likely be in mid-March.

NAVIGATING POLARIZATION, GAINING INSIGHT: RESOURCES FROM OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION

Rescheduled

SUNDAY, MARCH 23
9:30 AM | VAN BUREN ROOM



A talk by
Dr. Craig Ford
Assistant Professor, St. Norbert's
College

For more information, contact:
parishoffice@oldstmarys.com

OLD ST. MARY'S SCHOOL PRESENTS

THE 2025 SIGNATURE EVENT

MARDI GRAS

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

7:00 - 10:00 PM
The Chicago Firehouse Restaurant



Learn more at
[www.osmschool.com/
signature-event](http://www.osmschool.com/signature-event)

Signup for Our Email Newsletter!

We publish an email newsletter every Thursday that covers events going on for the weekend and following week at Old St. Mary's.

Scan the QR code, or signup
at [bit.ly/osm-newsletter-
signup](https://bit.ly/osm-newsletter-signup)



Giving at Old St. Mary's

Every contribution at Old St. Mary's nurtures our faith community and supports those in need. Your generosity: through donations, volunteering, or outreach, makes a difference.



Scan the QR code, or give online at
<https://oldstmarys.com/donate/>

Ministry of Care Training

After five years, Old St. Mary's is re-launching its Ministry of Care! Ministers bring Communion to the sick and homebound, keeping them connected to our faith community.

Training Session:
Saturday, March 8 | 2:30–4:30 PM

Walk-ins welcome, but RSVP if possible:
careministry@oldstmarys.com

VIRTUS Training Required – Need to start or check your status? Contact Patti Murphy at patti@oldstmarys.com.

The Old St. Mary's Choir

We're excited to bring the Old St. Mary's Choir back to life! If you've sung with us before or want to try something new, all are welcome – no experience needed!

Every Sunday
Rehearsal: 9:20 AM
Mass: 11:00 AM

*Come lift your voice
in worship and community!*

For details, contact **Ace Gangoso**,
Director of Liturgy & Music at
ace@oldstmarys.com.



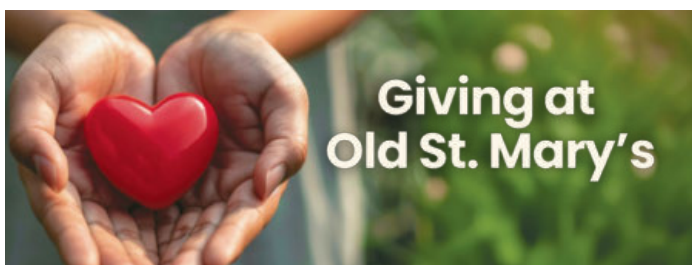
The 6th Annual
Old St. Mary's
CHILI COOK OFF

SHOW OFF YOUR CULINARY SKILLS IN THE CHILI CONTEST OR BROWNIE BAKE OFF, OR SIMPLY ENJOY FUN AND GAMES IN THE OPEN GYM!

SATURDAY MARCH 01
12:00 - 3:00 PM

SIGN UP YOUR CHILI OR BROWNIES:
<https://bit.ly/osm-chili-cookoff-2025>

QUESTIONS? chili@oldstmarys.com FIND FULL EVENT DETAILS AT:
www.oldstmarys.com/chilicookoff



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Audrey McFarlin, Agent
audrey@audreymcfarlin.com
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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Multiple Sclerosis Diagnosis
- Major Depressive Disorder
- Internet and e-mail access
- Physically Inactive
- Able to walk
- 18-64 years old
- English as primary language
- Live within 200 miles of Chicago

EMAIL ADDRESS
METSforMS@uic.edu

PHONE NUMBER
(312) 355-1790

WEBSITE
Metsforms.ahs.uic.edu

RESEARCH COORDINATOR
Alison Wathen

Principal Investigator: Dr. Rob Mott,
Kinesiology and Nutrition
UIC STUDY2022-1354

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