

⊕ 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.

First Sunday of Lent

MARCH 9, 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.

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PASTORAL MESSAGE

Lent: A Grace-Filled Invitation

Lent emerges not as a season of spiritual punishment, but as a profound invitation to grace—a sacred space of gentle transformation, healing, and renewed connection with the divine. Far from a mandatory spiritual exercise, it represents a compassionate pathway of self-discovery and spiritual restoration.

At its heart, Lent invites believers into a journey of vulnerability and authenticity. It is an intentional pause—a liturgical breath that creates space for honest reflection, acknowledging our human fragility while simultaneously embracing divine love. The traditional practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are not burdensome requirements, but tender opportunities for spiritual recalibration.

The invitation of Lent is deeply personal yet universally accessible. It whispers rather than shouts, understanding that spiritual growth cannot be forced but can be tenderly cultivated. Like a patient gardener, this season creates fertile ground for internal transformation, allowing God's grace to work in the quiet, often unseen spaces of the human heart.

Fasting becomes less about deprivation and more about making space. By releasing something—be it a habit, a comfort, or a distraction—individuals create room for deeper spiritual attentiveness. It's an invitation to recognize what truly sustains us beyond physical nourishment: the profound presence of divine love.

Prayer during Lent transforms from a transactional dialogue to a intimate conversation. It becomes an opportunity to listen more than speak, to be present more than perform. The invitation is to bring one's entire self—brokenness and hope, doubt and faith—into a space of radical acceptance.

Almsgiving extends beyond monetary contribution, becoming an invitation to radical empathy and connection. It challenges believers to see beyond personal boundaries, recognizing the divine image in every person. Generosity becomes a spiritual practice of seeing and responding to the interconnectedness of human experience.

This grace-filled invitation honors individual spiritual journeys. It understands that transformation is not uniform but deeply personal. Some may experience profound spiritual breakthroughs, while others might simply sit in quiet recognition of their own humanity. Both responses are valid, both are honored.

The culmination of Lent is not perfection, but resurrection—not just commemorating Christ's historical resurrection, but experiencing personal renewal. It's an invitation to die to restrictive patterns and rise into more expansive ways of being, loving, and connecting.

Ultimately, Lent whispers a profound truth: spiritual growth is not about achieving, but about allowing. It is an invitation to surrender, to be held, to be transformed by a love that sees beyond our limitations and invites us into deeper wholeness.

Dr. Angela Swain
Counselor, Old St. Mary's School

LENTEN Faith-Sharing Small Groups

This Lent, journey with fellow parishioners in a faith-sharing small group! These weekly gatherings offer a welcoming space to pray, reflect on Scripture, and share insights in a supportive community. Whether you're able to come for all sessions or just a few, or if you're new to small groups or have joined before, this is a wonderful way to deepen your faith and discover how God is at work in your life.

Groups begin next week and are open to all—invite a friend to come with you! **To help us prepare, please try to sign up by Monday, March 10, though drop-ins are always welcome.**

Tuesday Small Groups (start March 11)

9:30 AM | in-person | open to all
Leader: Aimee Tracy

7:00 PM | in-person | open to all
Leader: Sandy Shelley

7:00 PM | virtual | for young adults
Leader: Brent Zey & Fr. Dan

Wednesday Small Groups (start March 12)

9:30 AM | in-person | open to all
Leader: Dorothy O'Malley

7:00 PM | in-person | men's group
Leader: Jim Walz

Sign up at:
bit.ly/osm-lent-smallgroup-2025
Or scan the QR code!



Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper

Every Friday of Lent
6:00 – 7:00 PM

March 14, March 21, March 28
April 4*, April 11

Each Friday during Lent, we invite you to walk the Way of the Cross with us as we reflect on Christ's passion, love, and sacrifice. The Stations of the Cross will take place every Friday at 6:00 PM. A simple soup supper follows after the Stations of the Cross.

Lenten Fish Fry

April 4, after Stations of the Cross

Join us for our Lenten Fish Fry on **April 4** after the Stations of the Cross! Enjoy a delicious meal, connect with fellow parishioners, and support our parish community. Thank you to our Knights of Columbus for hosting this annual tradition! More details to follow.

Family Reconciliation Services

Saturday, March 15
10:00 AM & 12:30 PM

Tuesday, March 18
7:00 PM

This Lent, we invite families in our school and faith formation program to take part in our Family Reconciliation Services — a special opportunity to experience God's mercy together.

Taizé Prayer Service

Join us for a Taizé Prayer Service on **Thursday, March 20, from 6:00–7:00 PM** in the church.

Rooted in meditative song, scripture, and silent prayer, this beautiful service offers a peaceful space to reflect and draw closer to God during Lent. Come experience the stillness, simplicity, and prayerful atmosphere of Taizé.

USING OUR MINDS TO REACH OUR HEARTS

A WORKSHOP ON IGNATIAN PRAYER TECHNIQUES

Fr. Rich Andre, CSP

THURSDAY, MARCH 13
7:00 – 8:00 PM

OR

SUNDAY, MARCH 16
9:30 – 10:30 AM

Do you approach faith merely as an intellectual exercise? Do you find it tough to pray with your emotions? Are you looking for ways to "switch up" your prayer life? St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556) was skilled at helping people take that difficult 18-inch journey from the mind to the heart. Join Fr. Rich in the Van Buren Room for a workshop in which we'll explore the Conscious Examen (invented by Ignatius) and Simple Contemplation (popularized by Ignatius). We'll explain each prayer form, try it out as a group, and discuss our experience afterwards. The March 13 session will also be offered online; the March 16 session is in-person only.

NAVIGATING POLARIZATION, GAINING INSIGHT: RESOURCES FROM OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION

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

"So long for a while" from one of our receptionists

Dear friends and family of Old St. Mary's,

With a general parting of "good bye", I choose to say "So long for a while." As one of the receptionists in the church office for the last three years and a dedicated member of the parish, I am sure we have exchanged pleasantries along the way. I have respectfully rendered service to you via the office and have appreciated the respect that was returned.

As I transition in and out of the city to and from Atlanta, my intention is to remain a member of the parish and I ask for prayers of traveling grace and inspiration of the Holy Spirit as I encounter this change in my life. Thank you for your prayers.

Mattie Young

OSM Young Adults

for those in their 20s and 30s

Eucharistic Adoration & Guided Meditation

Young adults are invited to a special evening of Eucharistic Adoration & Guided Meditation on **Wednesday, March 19**, from **7:00–8:00 PM** in the church.

Come rest in God's presence through quiet prayer, reflective meditation, and the peace of Adoration. Whether you're seeking stillness, renewal, or simply a moment to pause, this is a space to encounter Christ in a deeper way.

A Conversation with Dr. Craig Ford

Join us for a conversation about Lent with Dr. Craig Ford on **Friday, March 21**, from 7:00 - 8:00 PM in the small chapel. This will take place after Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper.



Scan the QR code to sign up for
our young adult mailing list!

Questions? Contact
frdan@oldstmarys.com

PIZZA & A PEEK

Wednesday, March 12th
5:30-7:00pm

Join us for an informational preview of our Pre-K and Kindergarten programs! Bring the whole family for pizza, games, and a tour!

Space is limited!
[Click here to RSVP!](#)



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 9

8 AM Victor Christine Edward
11 AM Christopher & Patricia Marsh (+)
4 PM People of the Parish

Monday, March 10

8:30 AM Liberata Caseria Valdez (+)

Tuesday, March 11

8:30 AM Judge Jovan Sheerin

Wednesday, March 12

8:30 AM Reveles Benicdito Cadimas (+)

Thursday, March 13

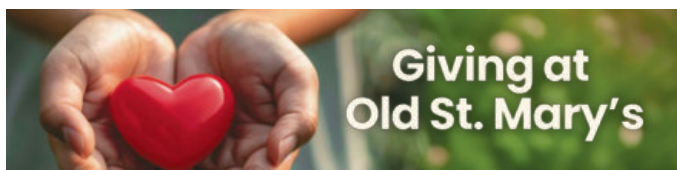
8:30 AM Diane Dyner (+)

Friday, March 14

8:30 AM Mary Jane Oleszkiewicz (+)

Saturday, March 15

5:00 PM Intercession for Help in 2025



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/>

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



Bulletin Submissions

Looking to put something in the bulletin? Email bulletin@oldstmarys.com

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/>



St. Austin Catholic Church, with Fr. Rich, has created an online guide to explore Bible readings from Mass. Visit staustin.org/lectionary-guide.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH

The Season of Lent

Lent is a sacred season—a forty-day opportunity for reflection, renewal, and growth as we prepare to celebrate the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. At its heart, Lent invites us to deepen our relationship with God through prayer. Setting aside extra time each day helps us become more aware of God's presence in our lives. Prayer can take many forms, whether through daily Mass, the Stations of the Cross, communal penance services, or quiet moments of reflection and conversation with God.

Lent also encourages us to realign our hearts with God through acts of penance—not as a burden, but as a way to let go of distractions and refocus on what truly matters. Penance might include small sacrifices, fasting, almsgiving, or acts of kindness and service. These practices help us find balance and renew our sense of purpose.

Above all, Lent is a time to grow in faith, drawing closer to Jesus in ways that shape how we live and love each day. It is not about perfection, but about making space for God's grace to work within us, guiding us to follow Christ with greater trust and compassion.

© LPI

PARISH STAFF

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Mattie Young
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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)



Welcome!

Scan the QR code
or register at

bit.ly/osm-registration



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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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- 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

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