

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 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

BULLETIN FOR THE WEEKEND
OF FEBRUARY 14 - 15



**INCLUDES SCHEDULE FOR
ASH WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 18)
AND THE SEASON OF LENT**

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

Ashes, Open Doors, and the Courage to Love

As was the first greeting of the Risen Christ, Peace be with you all.

Once again, we are invited into the solemn and grace-filled season of Lent. Whether you are a lifelong Catholic or walking through these doors for the first time, you are welcome to walk this journey of faith with us. As the cross of ash is traced upon our foreheads this week, we engage in an act that speaks directly to the truth of our earthly humanity.

The words we hear — *“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”; “Repent and believe in the Gospel”* — are not meant to instill fear, but to ground us in honesty. They remind us that life is fragile, we are imperfect, and we all need a love greater than ourselves.

Lent is a season of self-examination and profound mercy. Like many, I carry moments of doubt, unanswered questions, and confusion in my faith. This very uncertainty is essential, for our faith is rooted in the glorious, profound mystery of God. For if we were certain, we would have no need for the gift of his Son's body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lenten journey doesn't demand perfection; it simply asks for honesty and trust that no one is beyond the reach of God's love revealed in Christ.

To walk this journey of honesty and trust, we must look to Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. Even here — a person both divine and human — in His agony and uncertainty, prayed: *“Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will”* (Matthew 26:39). This teaches us that even when we do not fully understand why things are happening — even when the lantern of faith only lights the single step in front of us — we are called as a Christian family to strengthen that light together this Lent.

The ultimate goal of this 40-day journey is to strive for the faith, love, and forgiveness that Christ demonstrated. After His tribulation, Christ chose neither pettiness nor revenge. He pleaded, *“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do”* (Luke 23:34).

This is the most difficult and beautiful part of our faith: the call to lead with love and forgiveness for all — and for ourselves. It is the refusal to let the chaos of the world turn our hearts to stone.

If you feel "shut out," navigating your own season of uncertainty, or wrestling with the reality of sin, know that Old St. Mary's is your home. This is the ultimate truth: God's unconditional love does not wait for us to be perfect. The cross is the definitive statement that Christ perfectly loves the imperfect. And earthly-bound, our parish offers a rich soil of grace that welcomes and accompanies anyone, wherever they may be on their journey. Your doubt, your struggles, and any need for a fresh start are not obstacles — these are the very reasons you are welcome here with us.

Please note that every activity, service, and ministry listed in this bulletin is an open door to this grace. Come as you are, for Christ came to call not the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

May this Lent be a time of renewal for us all. Let us turn away from what hardens our hearts and turn toward the liberating truth of the Gospel. By extending patience, kindness, and mercy to one another, we embody the forgiveness we seek from God. May this season be a true genesis where we grow stronger and more compassionate together.

With prayers and blessings for a Holy Lent,

Brent Zey

Parish Pastoral Council Member, Sacristan & Eucharistic Minister,
and a member of Lifelong Faith Formation ministries

Ash

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18

MASS WITH ASHES

8:30 AM & 6:30 PM

ASHES DISTRIBUTED IN THE COMMONS

7:30 – 10:00 AM
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
4:00 – 7:30 PM

Ashes will also be available from our receptionist

1:00 – 4:00 PM

(Please enter through door
with blue awning on S. Michigan)

The Lenten Disciples of Fasting and Abstinence

Catholics in good health, ages 18 to 59, are required to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting means eating only one full meal, with the option of two smaller snacks that together do not equal a full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are required to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

Exceptions to fasting and abstinence include those outside the age limits, individuals with health conditions that prevent fasting, and pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail—those who are ill should not jeopardize their health by fasting.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH

**Q: Why do we place
ashes on our forehead
each Ash Wednesday?**

Ashes are rich in spiritual symbolism. We recall in the second chapter of Genesis, when the human person is fashioned “out of the dust of the ground” and receives the breath of life (Genesis 2:7). In death, a person returns to the ground from which we came. The ancient Hebrews used ashes as a sign of repentance, reminding themselves that God is God and we are not.

As the minister places ashes on our forehead, we hear either “remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return” or “turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.” When we receive ashes, we remember our own mortality. We’re reminded that we have limited time on this earth and we ought to make the best use of it that we can! People are in need of love, care, and compassion. We all need to continually rediscover the love of God. The Gospel invites every person in every stage of life to encounter and imitate Jesus here and now. The forty days of Lent are the perfect time to assess our own awareness of these realities. ©LPI

THE SEASON OF LENT: GROWING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

2026 PARISH LENTEN MISSION:

Hope

God's Mission Given to All

by Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP

February 23 - 25

Monday, February 23 | Mission Day 1
9:15 AM & 6:30 PM - "We Cannot Live Without Hope"

Tuesday, February 24 | Mission Day 2
9:15 AM & 6:30 PM - "Hope is the Power of Easter"

CHILD CARE WILL BE
PROVIDED DURING
EVENING SESSIONS

Wednesday, February 25 | Mission Day 3
8:30 AM & 6:30 PM - "Hope is God's Transformation of Our Lives"
* 8:30 AM in the context of Mass

* **Please note:** The AM and PM sessions will feature the same presentation.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

For Young Adults

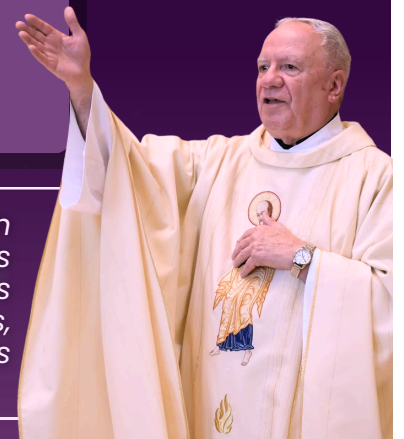
Sunday, February 22, after the 4:00 PM Mass

For School Parents

Monday, February 23, at 1:30 PM

"What do I want for my child? Developing values for life."

Fr. Frank DeSiano is a Paulist priest, author, and national leader in evangelization. A former President of the Paulist Fathers, he has served parishes in New York and Chicago and has spent decades helping communities grow as disciples through parish missions, retreats, and formation. Fr. Frank was former pastor of Old St. Mary's from 2002-2006, and instrumental in the founding of OSM School.



THE SEASON OF LENT: GROWING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

LENTEN SMALL GROUPS

This Lent, we invite you to slow down and walk the season together through our faith-sharing small groups. These gatherings offer a simple but meaningful way to pray, reflect on Scripture, and share life with others in our parish community.

Small groups are welcoming spaces where real conversations happen, about faith, hope, questions, and where God may be stirring in our lives during this holy season. Whether this is your first time joining a group or you've participated before, you'll find a place to belong, to listen, and to be heard.

Groups meet weekly starting February 23 throughout Lent and are open to all. Come as you are, and feel free to invite a friend to join you along the way.

Mondays at 6:30 PM via Zoom
Led by Brent Zey | for young adults

Tuesdays at 9:15 AM in person
Led by Aimee Tracy | open to all

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM in person
Led by Dorothy O'Malley | open to all

Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in person
Led by Elise Flick | open to all

Thursdays at 5:30 PM in person
Led by Sandy Shelley & Rafael Espinoza

Sign up in the commons
or by scanning the QR code



STATIONS OF THE CROSS & SOUP SUPPERS

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.

2026 Dates:

February 20 (Fish Fry), February 27, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27.



Please note that on April 3, Good Friday, Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at noon.

Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry



SAVE
the DATE

Friday, February 20
after 6:00 PM
Stations of the Cross

\$20 per person
Fish & Chips
Coleslaw
Mac & Cheese

Scan to Pre-Register



THE SEASON OF LENT: FAITH THAT SHOWS UP

Greater Chicago Food Depository

February 28 & March 28 | 9:00 - 11:30 AM
Ages 11+ (must be accompanied by an adult)

Join fellow parishioners in serving our neighbors at the Greater Chicago Food Depository (4100 W. Ann Lurie Place). Volunteers help repackage food for distribution to families across the city. Parking is free and plentiful, the facility is ADA accessible, and all activities take place on the ground level. Please arrive 15-30 minutes early; long pants, shoulder-covered shirts, and closed-toe shoes are required. Service event counts for Confirmation volunteer hours!

Scan the QR code to register
(10 slots available)



Feb. 28 Signup



Mar. 28 Signup



Lector Training Workshop

Have you ever felt called to proclaim the Word at Mass, or wondered how to do it with more confidence and clarity? Join us for a Lector Training Workshop this Lent!

We'll cover the "why" and the "how" of lector ministry, with time for reflection, tips, and practice.

Saturday, February 28 at 3:00 PM
Come for chili, stay for training! (see p.9)

Sunday, March 1 at 12:15 PM
Immediately following the 11:00 AM Mass

All are welcome.
No prior experience required!

Youth Group for Teens!



Open House and Future Charting!
Sunday, February 22
after the 4:00 PM Mass

Join us for an evening of food and fellowship for teens! While we gather, we want to hear YOUR ideas for our 2026 calendar - fun social activities, faith-related programs, and service projects are all fair game. Now is the time to weigh in - bring your friends!



The 48th Annual African American Heritage Prayer Service



Date: Friday, February 20, 2026
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Holy Name Cathedral
(735 N. State Street)
Presider: Father Steven Bell, CSP

All are invited to attend this sacred event centered on the richness of diversity, the beauty of unity, and the power of storytelling. Several of our students will have liturgical roles at the service, and this year's presider is Paulist Father Steve Bell.

THE SEASON OF LENT: FAITH THAT SHOWS UP

Help Support St. James Food Pantry

Our friends at **St. James Food Pantry** continues to see a steady increase in individuals and families seeking essentials, not only food but also basic hygiene items and cold-weather necessities. Please continue to help support the pantry with much-needed supplies.

There is an urgent need for:

Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Mouthwash
Soap (lots of it!)
Shampoo
Shower gel
Body lotion
Warm gloves or mittens
Socks



Please drop off donations in baskets found in the commons. We also encourage people to bring additional toiletries to the Holy Thursday Mass, 6:30 PM on April 2.

Free Legal Clinic by Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS)

Next Clinics:

February 21 & March 21
9:30 AM | Church Lobby

Free legal services are available for individuals who meet CVLS's income eligibility requirements. Common legal matters include wills, powers of attorney, small estate affidavits, adult guardianship, and consumer issues.

Attorney Volunteers Needed!

CVLS is seeking Illinois-licensed attorneys to take on cases in the areas listed above or to staff a morning at the Clinic with onsite legal services. New volunteers attend a brief orientation and are covered by CVLS malpractice insurance.

To volunteer or learn more:

contact Kathy Koester
(312) 332-7521 | kkoester@cvls.org

All Are Welcome to Serve



Help children, youth, and adults grow in faith. No expertise needed, just a welcoming presence. All roles count for school volunteer hours.

Lenten Small Groups

Facilitate discussion using prepared questions. Times vary.

Mission Childcare (Feb 23-25)

Help with stories and crafts during mission evenings.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Assist at the 11:00 AM Mass once every 1-2 months with ages 3-7.

Baptism Prep for Parents

Help host conversation using a provided guide, one evening every 1-2 months.

Youth Ministry

Support middle school youth every other Sunday at 5:00 PM.

Office Support

Simple weekday admin help as needed.

Confirmation Retreat (Apr 11, 12-5 PM)

Help lead small-group discussion; materials provided.

Ready to volunteer?

Contact Elise Flick at elise@oldstmarys.com



Chicago Shares

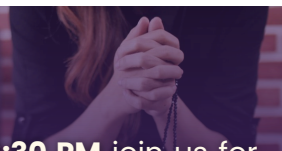
Chicago Shares will be available for purchase on **February 21 & 22 and March 21 & 22**. Chicago Shares function like cash and can be used at Jewel-Osco stores throughout Chicago, allowing our neighbors to purchase food and essentials with dignity and choice.

CRS RICE BOWL

This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl invites us to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world. Rather than collecting change, we encourage parishioners to support Catholic Relief Services directly at <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>.

THE SEASON OF LENT: CREATING SPACE FOR GOD

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE



On **Monday, March 30 at 6:30 PM** join us for Taizé Prayer, a simple and meditative service of candlelight, silence, scripture, and repetitive sung prayer drawn from the Taizé community in France. As we begin Holy Week, this gentle, contemplative experience will offer a quiet space to slow down, rest in God's presence, and prepare your heart for the sacred days ahead.

THE PATH OF DISCERNMENT

Book Author Talk with Matt Kresich

Sunday, March 22 at 9:45 AM

No matter where we are in life, discernment is an everyday reality. Join us as we dive into Matt Kresich's debut book which provides a practical approach to hearing God's call and reflect on how Lent is a perfect time to hear the Lord's voice anew. **Matt Kresich** is an international speaker, author, and retreat leader. In addition to his role within the Archdiocese of Chicago, he is an adjunct faculty member at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, and along with his wife Carissa, just welcomed their first child.

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE



This Lent, we are invited to return to God with honest and open hearts, trusting in God's mercy and love. Our Parish Reconciliation Service will take place on **Monday, March 23 at 6:30 PM**, beginning with a communal prayer service and followed by opportunities for individual confession with several priests available.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 2

Thursday of the Lord's Supper

Mass at 6:30 PM.

Adoration follows until 9 PM.

April 3

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

Stations of the Cross at 12:00 PM.

Confessions from 12:30 - 3:00 PM.

Liturgies at 3:00 PM and 6:30 PM.

April 4

The Easter Vigil

Vigil starts at 7:30 PM. Reception for those welcomed into the Church at ~10:30 PM.

April 5

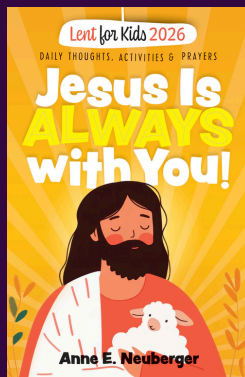
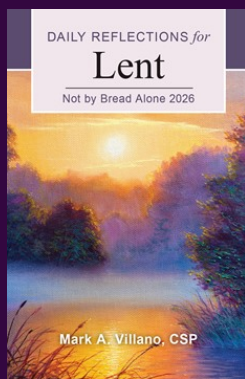
Easter Sunday

Masses at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12:00 PM.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

Lenten devotionals are available in the Commons for both adults and children. For adults, *Not By Bread Alone* is written by Mark Villano, CSP, a Paulist priest, and offers daily reflections for the Lenten season. For children, *Jesus Is Always With You* is an engaging activity book designed to help young hearts enter into Lent.

A **suggested donation of \$5 per book** is appreciated and can be made by tapping on our giving kiosk.



THE SEASON OF LENT: BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY



Saturday, February 28
12:00 – 2:00 PM | Donovan Hall

Whether you're simmering a secret chili recipe or baking a crowd-pleasing dessert, we want you in! Enter your best chili or your favorite brownies and see how they stack up.

Sign up in the commons or email chili@oldstmarys.com

JOIN US FOR HOSPITALITY!

After Weekday Morning Masses and Sunday Morning Masses

One of the simple but beautiful ways we build community at Old St. Mary's is by gathering after Mass. Hospitality is offered after every weekday morning Mass, as well as after our Sunday morning Masses. Sharing coffee, catching up with a familiar face, or introducing yourself to someone new helps us remember that we do not walk Lent alone. We hope you'll join us!

(after 8:30 AM Daily Mass, 8:30 AM Sunday Mass, and 11:00 AM Sunday Mass)

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, February 15

8:30 AM Rosita Navarro (+)
11 AM Colin McKenna (+)
4 PM People of the Parish

Monday, February 16

8:30 AM Margarita Manuel (+)

Tuesday, February 17

8:30 AM Napoleon Batease (+)

Wednesday, February 18

8:30 AM Virginia & Oscar Sanchez (+)

Thursday, February 19

8:30 AM Napoleon Cababa (+)

Friday, February 20

8:30 AM Nora Posa (+)

Saturday, February 21

5 PM Chester J. Pieczonka (+)

NOW ENROLLING
FOR THE 26-27
SCHOOL YEAR



PRE-K 3 THROUGH 8TH

SCHEDULE YOUR TOUR TODAY AT
osmschool.com

Or email enrollment@osmschool.com for more information

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are deeply grateful for everyone who has contributed to shoring up the long-term financial stability of Old St. Mary's this fall! A more detailed brief on our stewardship efforts can be found on oldstmarys.com.

Parish Offertory:

Our most urgent need. While increased giving in recent months will probably meet our projected operations expenses for FY 2026, additional income may allow us to increase our pastoral ministries. If you are able, please consider increasing your recurring gift at oldstmarys.com/donate.

Annual Catholic Appeal:

This annual collection helps fund the day-to-day operations of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Our goal for 2026 is \$60,090. We will roll out this year's ACA over the first three weekends of February, with Cardinal Cupich making his appeal to us on February 14 - 15. Make a contribution at <https://bit.ly/aca-2026> (please indicate Old St. Mary's Parish)

Annual Paulist Appeal:

The APA funds many essential operations of the Paulist Fathers, including the recruitment of candidates, the formation of students, and the care of retired priests. Our goal in 2026 is to increase our participation rate, as we are still under the average rate of other Paulist foundations. Donations — including recurring donations — can be made anytime at paulist.org/apa. We will be preaching the APA on April 18-19.



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



THE CLARET CENTER

PSYCHOTHERAPY & RESOURCES
FOR THE HUMAN JOURNEY

Struggling with life challenges, transitions or simply want to talk to someone who will listen? **Therapy can help support you.**

Reach out to learn more:

Sara Quoss Martin at (773) 831-8940
smartin@claretcenter.org

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Rich Andre, CSP
Pastor
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Vanesa Jackson
Mamie Smith
Receptionists

Lorena Villegas
Maintenance

Fr. Bob Cary, CSP
Priest-in-Residence

SACRAMENTS

MASS TIMES

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM

Saturday 5:00 PM Vigil

Sunday 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 4:00 PM

Holy Days *contact parish office*

BAPTISM

<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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Friday after the 8:30 AM Mass

Paulist Friends Visiting Us This Lent!

While Fr. Bob Cary is in southern California for the remainder of winter, four other Paulist Fathers who previously served at Old St. Mary's will be visiting and celebrating Masses with us. We can't wait to see them!

Fr. Steven Bell, CSP : February 17-21
Student at OSM (2004 - 2005)

Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP : February 21 - March 3
Pastor at OSM (2002 - 2006)

Fr. Steve Petroff, CSP : March 9 - 15
Associate Pastor at OSM (2017 - 2019)

Fr. René Constanza, CSP : March 29 - April 6
Novice at OSM (2007)



OLD ST. MARY'S SCHOOL
Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8
A National Blue Ribbon School

www.osmschool.com
312-386-1560
1474 S. Michigan Ave.