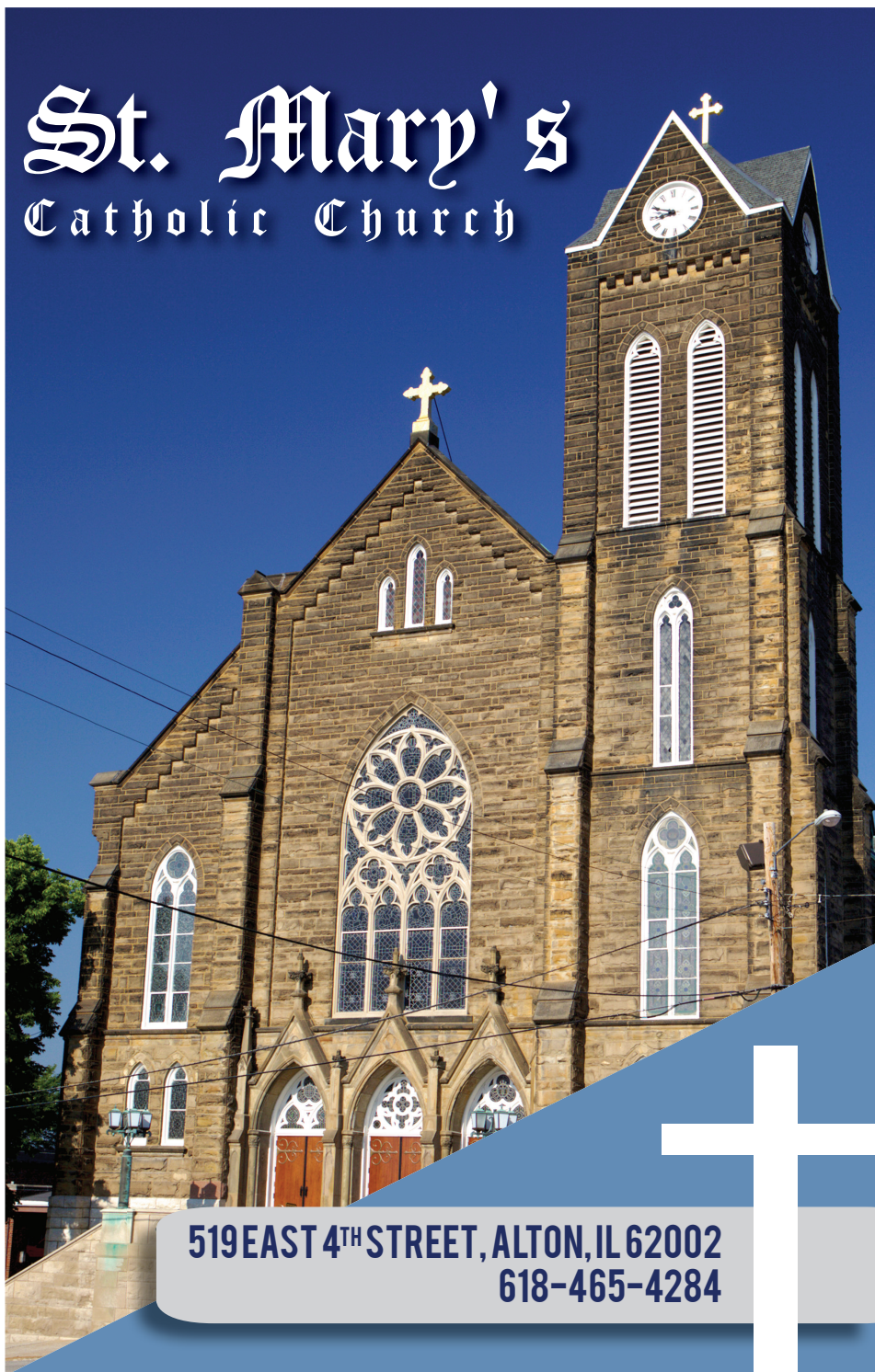


St. Mary's

Catholic Church



519 EAST 4TH STREET, ALTON, IL 62002
618-465-4284

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Immaculate Conception Church

519 E 4th Street, Alton, IL 62002

618-465-4284 (Office)

618-463-4637 (Fax)

www.stmarysalton.com

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary's,

Welcome to our Parish Guidebook and Directory! This little book will provide you with information about the many ministries and activities here at St. Mary's as well as other important information such as Mass and Confession times, Baptism and Wedding information and how to contact parish and school staff. Our Guide and Directory will be updated annually.

Our Guidebook and Directory is offered at no cost to our parish because of our very generous advertisers and sponsors who are represented within it. Please support them whenever you are able and let them know you saw them in the guidebook!

This Guidebook and Directory is a wonderful means to continue to grow our Christian life here at St. Mary's. The Directory offers a simple way for us all to get to know each other a little better. Please also find within this book a listing of other means of communicating with the priests and staff, including our facebook page and how to get on our parish email list.

Please keep this booklet handy and use it throughout the year. Thank you for your love for Christ and His Church and for your dedication to St. Mary's!

Fr. Jeremy Paulin OMV
Pastor

Church Office Information

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Phone: 618-465-4284

Fax: 618-463-4637

Website: www.stmarysalton.com

Parish Staff

Fr. Jeremy Paulin, OMV: Pastor

Fr. David Beauregard, OMV: Retired Priest in Residence

Fr. Paul Nguyen, OMV

Br. Lou Falbo, OMV: Retired Brother in Residence

Deacon Jim Schwartzkopf

Laurie Horn: laurie@stmarysalton.com

Tricia Conrad: trish@stmarysalton.com

Amanda Dehner: amanda@stmarysalton.com

Schedule of Services

Regular Mass Times

Weekdays: 6:30 AM & 8:00 AM

Fridays: (During the School Year) 8:15 AM

First Fridays of the Month: 5:15 PM

All Fridays During Lent: 5:15 PM

Saturdays: 6:30 AM & 8:00 AM

Saturdays: 5:15 PM (Vigil)

Sundays: 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM

Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil: 5:15 PM

Holy Day: 6:30 AM & 8:00 AM (if announced: 12:00 PM & 5:15 PM)

Reconciliation Times

Saturdays: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

First Fridays of the Month: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Ministry Information

Ministries at a Glance

Call Parish Office for More Information (618) 465-4284

Organization	Chair's Name	Email
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist		
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist – Pastoral Care	Donna Schwartzkopf	
Gift Bearers	Sherri Haas	trish@stmarysalton.com
Lector	Mary Pat Venardos	mpvernardos@smsalton.com
	Tricia Conrad	trish@stmarysalton.com
	Larry Greenwell	
Parish School of Religion	Fr. Jeremy Paulin, OMV	jdpaulinomv@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Fr. Paul Nguyen, OMV	frpaul@stmarysalton.com
The God Squad (Youth Group)	Fr. Paul Nguyen, OMV	frpaul@stmarysalton.com
Church Cleaning and Sacristy Laundry	Mary Jo Keenan	keenanjmj@gmail.com
Church Decorating	Mary Jo Keenan	keenanjmj@gmail.com
Wedding Day		
Preparations	Mary Jo Keenan	keenanjmj@gmail.com
St. Vincent DePaul Society		
Vacation Bible School	Fr. Paul Nguyen, OMV	frpaul@stmarysalton.com
Ushers	Steve Menke	
Family and Life Society (FLS)	Mary Ann Morris	
Pro-Life Chair		
Family and Life Society (FLS)	Carolyn Simansky	fls@stmarysalton.com
Music Ministry	Dennis Keller	
RCIA	Deacon Jim Schwartzkopf	

Stewardship (Time & Talent) and Ministries

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Prayerfully serve the church by distributing the Body and Blood of Jesus during the Mass.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist for Pastoral Care

Deliver Holy Communion to our homebound parishioners and those living in nursing homes.

Donna Schwartzkopf (618) 465-4284

Gift Bearers

Representative of the church family who carries the wine and hosts to the priest for consecration.

Chair person: Sherri Haas

To volunteer please call parish office: (618) 465-4284 or
email: trish@stmarysalton.com

Guidelines for Gift Bearers:

Take a moment to clear your mind while the offertory song is being sung. Remember that you are representing the entire parish as we return to God a small part of the many blessings that He has given to us.

The unleavened Bread and Wine that you carry will be consecrated to become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Treat it with reverence and respect.

Once all of the gifts have been presented to Father, he may say a few words of thanks to the Gift Bearers, then Father, the Deacon and the Altar Servers move to carry the gifts to the altar. The Three Gift Bearers, still standing in a line in front of the altar, bow together toward the altar, turn and return down the aisle to their seats.

Lector

Proclaim the Word to the people of God during Mass.

Weekend and Weekday Lectors: to volunteer please contact Mary Pat Venardos (618) 465-4284 mpvenardos@smsalton.com

Adult Weekday Mass Server

Assist the priest at the altar during the weekday morning Masses.

Weekdays 6:30 AM and 8:00 AM

Tricia Conrad (618) 465-4284

Larry Greenwell (618) 465-0586

Church Cleaning and Sacristy Laundry

To volunteer please contact Mary Jo Keenan at (618) 741-6956 or keenanjmj@gmail.com or contact the parish office (618) 465-4284 or trish@stmarysalton.com

Church Decorating

To volunteer please contact Mary Jo Keenan at 618-741-6956 or keenanjmj@gmail.com or contact the parish office (618) 465-4284 or trish@stmarysalton.com

Wedding Day Preparations

Helps provide assistance to the bride and groom, family, and priest on the day of the wedding.

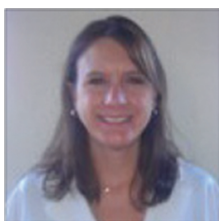
To volunteer please contact Mary Jo Keenan at 618-741-6956 or keenanjmj@gmail.com or contact the parish office 618-465-4284 or trish@stmarysalton.com

St. Vincent DePaul Society

Please support St. Vincent de Paul.

Poor Boxes are located at the rear of the church and at the 4th Street entrance.

We appreciate your generosity and support.



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Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Chairman: Fr. Paul Nguyen, OMV

The week following Fourth of July, we put on vacation bible school for children entering grades K-7. Grades K-5 stay at St. Mary's and enjoy a daily skit, crafts, games and understanding of the bible verse of the day. Grades 6 & 7 go off campus to hike, play games and learn about the world God created. Each day ends with all the classes coming together to celebrate Mass.

The God Squad (Youth Group)

Chairman: Fr. Paul Nguyen, OMV

God-squad@stmarysalton.com

The youth at St. Mary's can join our youth group called; The God Squad (TGS) the second half of 8th grade and continue until they graduate from high school. The motto of The God Squad is "Encourage one another and build one another up." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

The God Squad keeps a balance of fun and community service.

- Mission Work
 - Food Bank
 - Women's Shelters
 - Catholic Charities
- Volunteering in the Church
- Leading Mass Once a Month
- Fundraising for Activities
- Past Trips
 - California
 - Italy
 - Germany

Ushers

Serve the Church by providing a welcoming and friendly atmosphere and assuring the orderly progress of the liturgy.

Chairman: Steve Menke

To volunteer please call the parish office 618-465-4284 or e-mail trish@stmarysalton.com

Family and Life Society (FLS)

fls@stmarysalton.com

Carolyn Simansky, Secretary fls@stmarysalton.com

Mary Ann Morris, St. Mary's Pro-Life Chair

The Holy Rosary is prayed throughout the year after 8am Mass during the week and before 8:00 AM Mass on Saturdays.

Music Ministry

Dennis Keller

Altar Servers

Fr. Paul Nguyen, OMV

Students starting in 4th grade can sign up to become altar servers.

There is a training class once a year and a mass to welcome in the new servers. A letter will go home to parents or you can call the parish office for more information.

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

Chairman: Fr. Jeremy Paulin, OMV

Students that attend public schools in grades 1-8 should be enrolled in PSR. Classes are held Wednesday evening from 7:00 PM to 8:15 PM.

These classes start and end along with the school schedule.

Annual/Recurring Events Calendar

Event Name	Date	Chair's Name	Email
Oktoberfest	First weekend October	Erin Ventimiglia	erin@stmarysalton.com
Fireworks Fest	Same day as Alton Fireworks	Amanda Dehner	amanda@stmarysalton.com
Easter Egg Hunt	Easter Sunday After 11:00 AM mass	Fr. Paul Nguyen, OMV	God-squad@stmarysalton.com
Golf Tournament	First Saturday in September	Bob Kane	BobKane@RollingHillsgc.com
VBS	week following 4th of July	Fr. Paul Nguyen, OMV	frpaul@stmarysalton.org

What to do if: Q & A Sacramental Information Baptism

Congratulations! We believe that every child is a precious gift of God. It is truly wonderful that you wish to share your faith with your child, for Jesus Himself said: "Let the children come to me." As you begin the difficult task of bringing up your child in the Catholic Church, you undoubtedly have many questions and concerns. We would like to share with you the rich depth and beauty of what it means to be a Catholic parent. Below are a few steps to help you begin planning your child's Baptism.

We invite you to read carefully the following information which describes in part the perspective and teaching of the Catholic Church in regard to the celebration of Baptism. After having read and reflected upon this information, if you have any questions, or if you are prepared to formally inquire about the possibility of celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism here, please contact the Parish office at 618-465-4284.

What Do We Do Now?

If you are a registered and practicing member of St. Mary's, please call to schedule your baptismal preparation class.

If you are a registered and practicing member of another parish, contact your pastor first. It may be possible, with proper delegation and preparation, to have your child baptized here at St. Mary's.

If you have not been a part of a parish and are not registered anywhere, please feel free to contact us. Even if it's best to delay your child's baptism for a time, we would like to share with you our Faith!

We want our child baptized. What do we do next?

Begin by contacting the parish church where you are a registered member. For a just cause, the priest may give permission for your child to be baptized here at St. Mary's. We cannot baptize your child without written delegation from him.

What if we're not registered?

Every Catholic is called upon to assume an active and supportive role in a specific parish community. If you worship with us regularly, but have not yet registered, please contact the parish office.

What is a practicing Catholic?

A practicing Catholic is someone who accepts and strives to live the teaching and Commandments of Jesus Christ as handed on to us by the Catholic Church, and who regularly participates in the worship of the Church. A practicing Catholic receives the Sacraments regularly, and supports the Church financially.

What if we're not practicing?

NOW, is the time to begin. Register at a parish and start attending Mass. Seeking Baptism for your child presumes that you are striving to live your faith.

What if one of us is not Catholic?

At least one parent of the child must be willing to guarantee that the child will be brought up in the practice of the Catholic Faith. A grandparent or legal guardian may also make this guarantee, provided that the parent is not opposed to the Baptism.

What if I'm single, divorced, or remarried?

Jesus says: "If you love me, keep my commandments." We urge parents, as the first teachers of their children, to live holy lives. If your current situation prevents you from participating fully in the life of the Church, we want to help you to return to full communion. Your situation, however, will not prevent your child from being baptized, as long as you guarantee that you will do all in your power to properly form your child in the Faith.



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What if my child is over 7 years old?

If your child has already reached the age of reason, it is important that he/she know what Baptism is, and consent to it. Such a child should participate in R.C.I.C. classes. Please contact the Parish Office.

Do you offer private baptisms?

Baptism is NOT a private event, but the welcoming of a new member into the family of the Church. We celebrate Infant Baptism every Sunday after the 11:00 AM Mass.

Can a non-Catholic be a godparent?

A Non-Catholic can be an official witness to your child's Baptism, but there must be at least one godparent who is a fully-initiated and practicing Catholic in good standing.

How many godparents can I have for my child?

There may be two; one man and one woman.

Is there anything else I need to do?

You and the godparents will need to attend a baptismal preparation class, after which you may schedule the date of your child's baptism. The Class is held every 1st Sunday in the Parish office, at Noon, (after the 11:00 AM Mass).

Confession

Saturdays: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

First Fridays of the Month: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

How to Go to Confession

Prepare to go to confession by thinking about your sins by making a good an Examination of Conscience and making a firm commitment, asking God's help, not to sin again.

Prayer Before Confession

Come Holy Spirit into my soul. Enlighten my mind that I may know the sins I ought to confess, and grant me your grace to confess them fully, humbly, and with a contrite heart. Help me to firmly resolve not to commit them again.

O Blessed Virgin Mother of my Redeemer, intercede for me through the passion of Your Son, that I may obtain the grace to make a good confession. All you blessed Angels and Saints of God, pray for me, a sinner, that I may repent from my sins, and that my heart may be forever united with yours in eternal love. Amen

Rite of Reconciliation

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Penitent: Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been (how long?)
since my last confession, and these are my sins: (confess your sins).

Priest: (gives you a penance)

Penitent: (Pray the Act of Contrition):

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with the help of your grace, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.

Or the Short form:

"Lord have mercy on me a sinner".

Priest: (Gives you absolution)

(Recite or do your penance as soon as possible).

Holy Communion

USCCB Guidelines for the Reception of Communion

On November 14, 1996, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the following guidelines on the reception of communion. These guidelines replace the guidelines approved by the Administrative Committee of the NCCB in November 1986. The guidelines, which are to be included in missalettes and other participation aids published in the United States, seek to remind all those who may attend Catholic liturgies of the present discipline of the Church with regard to the sharing of eucharistic communion.

For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For our fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 § 4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 § 3).

For those not receiving Holy Communion

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For non-Christians

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

Confirmation

Confirmation is a two year process that was designed for children, in 3rd grade or higher, who have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

During this process, the students are required to complete Community Service Hours.

For Further information please contact the Parish Office 618-465-4284

Holy Matrimony

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on your engagement! As you look forward to sharing your life together as husband and wife, you undoubtedly have many questions and concerns. We would like to share with you the rich depth and beauty of what it means to be married in the Catholic Church. Here are some steps to help you begin planning your wedding. After having read and reflected upon this information, if you have any questions, or if you are prepared to formally inquire about the possibility of celebrating your wedding at St. Mary's, please contact Parish Office

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Step 1: Reflect together on the importance of faith in your life.

Before making any concrete plans for your marriage celebration, you should ask yourselves some questions: *“What place does God have in our lives?” “What place does the Church have in our lives?” “Are we striving to practice our faith?” “What sort of faith do we want for our children?”*

Your answers to these questions should directly affect where and how you choose to celebrate your wedding and live your marriage. For a Catholic, a desire to be married in the Catholic Church should indicate an acceptance of the teaching of Jesus Christ as handed on to us by the Church.

Jesus, in response to very specific questions about how we are to live, gave very concrete answers. He summarized his teaching in the twofold Commandment of love of God and love of neighbor. He gave further concrete expression to his teaching by reaffirming the ten Commandments. From the beginning, the Church has proclaimed and defended these truths taught by Jesus, and urges couples to live in true love according to God's plan for marriage.

Step 2: Make a decision about where you are in your faith, and where you want to be... and ACT on that decision.

Marriage in the Catholic Church is a sacred covenant freely accepted by a man and a woman that is ordered to the good of the spouses and to the procreation and education of children. It is by its very nature a bond that cannot be broken. It is a life-long commitment to another person that promises exclusive fidelity.

Marriage requires incredible unselfishness and hard work, but promises God's help. For those who accept God's invitation, it promises eternal life. During the wedding ceremony, the couple is asked to affirm this faith. The desire of a couple to marry gives witness to their love. The desire to be married in the Church should also give witness to their acceptance and living of the teaching of Jesus Christ as handed on to us by the Church.

Step 3: Contact the Church

Having reflected together upon their faith, couples who wish to profess their love for each other and affirm their faith in God and the Church should contact the parish in which the Catholic party is a registered and practicing member.

What Do We Do Now?

If you are a registered and practicing member of St. Mary's, we invite you to contact us before you make any other plans in regards to your wedding.

If the Catholic Church has not been a significant part of your life, please contact us! Even if a wedding in the Church is not appropriate or possible at this time, we would like to share with you our Faith!

Common Questions

We're engaged! What next?

Begin by contacting the parish church at which the bride or groom is a registered and practicing member. Contact your parish first, before making any other arrangements (reception, attendants, etc.).

What if we're not registered?

Every Catholic is called upon to assume an active and supportive role in a specific parish community. If you are a practicing member of another parish, please contact your pastor first. If you wish to become a member of St. Mary's, we invite you to register and come to Mass for three months before inquiring formally about a wedding.

What is a practicing Catholic?

A practicing Catholic is someone who accepts and strives to live the teaching and Commandments of Jesus Christ and His Church and who regularly participates in the worship of the Church. This means receiving the Sacraments regularly, and supporting the Church financially.

What if we're not practicing?

Now is the time to begin. Seeking a Catholic wedding presumes that a Catholic is striving to live his or her faith.

What if one of us is not Catholic?

The bishop can grant permission for a wedding ceremony between a Catholic and non-Catholic. He may even grant permission for the ceremony to take place in a non-Catholic church. It is presumed by the Church, however, that the faith of the Catholic party is of such importance that he/she will strive to live that faith and pass on that faith to any children the couple may have.

What if we're already living together?

Choosing to live together before receiving God's blessing is a public statement that is inconsistent with the teaching of Jesus and the Church. Living together is not a good preparation for the life-long commitment of marriage. Secular studies, confirming the wisdom of the teaching of Jesus, show that cohabitation before marriage drastically increases instances of infidelity and divorce. We urge couples to publicly affirm their faith by separating until after they have publicly committed themselves to each other before God and the Church.

I'm divorced. Can we get married?

Following the teaching of Jesus, the Catholic Church considers any previous marriage(s) of the bride or groom, whether contracted in a religious or civil ceremony, binding unless shown to be invalid. We are unable to set a date for a wedding until all previous marriages have been declared null by the authority of the Church. This is true even for parties who are not Catholic. The time and effort needed to acquire an annulment varies depending upon the circumstances. For further assistance and information on annulments, please contact the parish office.

HELP FOR TROUBLED MARRIAGES

Want to rebuild your marriage into the warm and welcoming place it was on your wedding day? Learn how at the next Retrouvaille Weekend for couples with troubled marriages (Don't let financial difficulty stand in your way. Retrouvaille can work with you.)
www.retrouvaille.org.

Holy Orders

Do you feel God is calling you to the Priesthood or Religious Life as a Brother or Sister? or perhaps as a permanent Deacon?

Fr. John Luong, OMV Vocation Director
Archdiocese of Springfield
<http://www.dio.org/vocations>

Oblates of the Virgin Mary

<http://www.omvusa.org/vocation/vocation-director/>

FSGM

<http://kckvocations.com/sister-m-mercedes-diaz-fsgm>

Resources:

<http://www.religiouslife.com/mpd2.html>

Anointing of the Sick

Hospital Visit

Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist visit Catholics at local hospitals. They pray and share the Eucharist. Let us know if you or a loved one will be hospitalized.

Contact the Parish Office at 618-465-4284

Home Visit

Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are available to bring you the healing power of Christ in the Eucharist. Contact the Parish Office if you, or one of your loved ones, would like to receive Communion at home.

Nursing Homes

Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist visit the nursing homes in the area and bring you the healing power of Christ in the Eucharist. Contact the Parish office at 618-465-4284 for more details.

History of St. Mary's Church

St. Mary's Church was founded in 1858, to serve the Catholic, German-speaking immigrants who had come to this area. The Church has grown from 25 families at its founding to approximately 1,714 families in 2008.

The first church was begun at the corner of Third and Henry Streets in November 1858, and was completed in May 1859. It was destroyed by a tornado in June, 1860.

The second church was begun in July 1861, and completed in December 1862.

The current church was begun in 1891, and completed in the summer of 1895. The old church was remodeled into a schoolhouse, which was replaced by the current school in 1930.

A complete renovation of the interior of the church was done in 1989 – 1993.

Suddes Hall was completed as an addition to the school in 2001. The school was expanded to include the old St. Matthew's School on Milton Road as a middle school in 2006.

The parish has been staffed and served by the Oblates of the Virgin Mary since 1987.

Many current members of the parish are the sixth generation of the original members of the parish.

History of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary (OMV)

The history of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary began in the middle of the 18th century. Two centuries ago, Venerable Pio Bruno Lanteri (1759-1830) served the Church in the Piedmont region of Northern Italy. It was a turbulent era both in secular society and in the Church. In the secular sphere, the anti-Christian spirit of the French Revolution was running rampant. Among those who continued to practice religion, the Jansenist heresy obscured the truth of God's love, while other ideologies undermined the authority of the Pope.

It was in this context that the young Lanteri met the Jesuit priest, Father Nikolaus von Diessbach. Under Diessbach, Lanteri made the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and had a profound experience of the infinite mercy of God. He became an ardent witness to God's mercy through intense and varied apostolates as a diocesan priest in Turin. He preached the Spiritual Exercises and popular missions, offered spiritual direction and confession, circulated Catholic books, supported lay and priestly associations, and provided real care for the needy. In all this, he was always careful to guide people "to the truth in love," showing the utmost goodness to all and trying to help everyone to seek genuine holiness. Lanteri always pointed to fidelity to the Church and fidelity to Mary as the certain guiding lights along the path of the Christian life.

Central to the apostolate of Father Lanteri was his collaboration with certain groups called the Amicizie Cristiane (Christian Friendships) and the Amicizie Sacerdotale (Priestly Friendships) founded by Father von Diessbach. The Amicizie were something new to the times. They were groups of lay people and priests committed to a serious spiritual life, and to making an impact on the culture by circulating Catholic books. Father Lanteri guided and accompanied these groups for no less than thirty years. In 1814, three zealous priests came to Father Lanteri for guidance in forming a fraternity dedicated to preaching retreats and reviving the Church in the wake of the spiritual ravages of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic era. Father Lanteri entrusted the group to the Virgin Mary, whom he always called their Foundress and teacher. Despite some initial setbacks, the Oblates of the Virgin Mary were approved by Pope Leo XII on September 1, 1826. Fr. Lanteri died four years later on August 5, 1830. The Oblates of the Virgin Mary quickly expanded throughout Italy and into France and Austria. Following the missionary spirit of the Founder, the Oblates eventually established foreign missions in Brazil and Argentina, and recently in Nigeria and the Philippines. After a surge in the number of vocations from North America in the 1970's, the Oblates came to the United States and Canada. They established the community in Boston on September 12, 1976, and opened the doors to Our Lady of Grace Seminary two years later. The U.S. Province has foundations today in Massachusetts, Illinois, California, Colorado and Florida.

School Information

St. Mary's Catholic School exists to support the life of the Catholic Church by serving families who desire a Catholic education for their children. In collaboration with parents, parishioners, and community, our pledge is to provide an education that forms Christian leaders spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically, and culturally. Guided by the Gospel, students are challenged to fulfill their potential as life-long learners committed to following Jesus' example through worship, service, and love.

Why do so many families choose St. Mary's School?

We would love to show you!

Call or e-mail today for more information or to schedule a tour.
(618) 465-8523 or apulido@smsalton.com

St. Mary's School Registration

Please direct your questions about registration to the school office at
(618) 465-8523 or by email to kschwegel@smsalton.com

St. Mary's Catholic School operates two campuses in Alton.

The **Pre-Kindergarten through Grade Five** facilities are located on the original parish grounds, conveniently located just a few blocks from Marquette Catholic High School near the Mississippi riverfront in downtown Alton.

Since 2006, the **Middle School** facility serves Grade Six through Grade Eight on the site of the former St. Matthew's School in the eastern corridor of Alton.

Elementary School

536 East Third Street, Alton, IL 62002
(618) 465-8523

Middle School

1015 Milton Road, Alton, IL 62002
(618) 465-9719

Background

Founded in 1858
Directed by the Oblates of the Virgin Mary
State Recognized
Student Body
49 preschool students
312 Kindergarten - 8th grade
Over 220 families in the school

Class Size

- 2 classrooms per grade level
- Maximum class size is 25 students
- Pre-school classes have aides/support teachers
- Middle school classes are separated by gender

Religious Programs

- All students have regular Religion class
- K-8 students attend Mass together every Friday and Holy Days
- Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated regularly
- Sacramental preparation offered for First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation

New Members

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

