



## PASTOR'S CORNER

### Our Last Chance?

If you watched the movie *Seabiscuit*, you probably remember a scene at the campfire. Charles, played by Jeff Bridges, decides that he wants to get involved in horse racing and begins looking for a trainer. When he spots Tom Smith (a washed-up cowboy and trainer, played by Chris Cooper) healing a "good-for-nothing" white horse (who had a broken leg he had earlier saved from being "put down"), Charles is intrigued. Coming upon Tom at his campfire one evening, he asks him why he is wasting time on a horse that will never race again. Tom replies: "'Cause I can. Every horse is good for something. He could be a cart horse or a lead pony. And he's still nice to look at. You don't throw a whole life away just 'cause he's banged up a little."

God's forgiveness is the most excellent proof of His almightiness. It is easier to create something new than to fix a broken thing. God doesn't want to destroy what He has made just because it is broken, so He offers all of His almightiness to correct what a man has broken. Forgiveness is a sign of mercy. God forgives because He can. He forgives because that's the only way He can love us when we are sinners and have betrayed Him. God still wants to love, and mercy is the only option. Mercy is God's free choice to love us even though we don't deserve it. So, when He decides to love, His mercy comes as the way of loving.

God didn't give up on us even though it was our fault that our nature was broken and our ways of life were crooked. We misused God's gifts, and we lost lots of them. But because God still loves us, He doesn't give up. He is ready with His mercy to help and save us if we regret our faults and repent and want to change. God is Mercy itself, and He loves even those who turn away from Him. That's why God's mercy is our hope.

What about how Jesus showed the mystery of His mercy to St. Faustina? In her Diary, we read this. In 1933, God gave Sister Faustina a striking vision of His Mercy. Sister tells us: "I saw a great light, with God the Father in the midst of it. I saw Jesus nailed to the cross between this light and the earth so that God, wanting to look upon the earth, had to look through Our Lord's wounds. And I understood that God blessed the earth for the sake of Jesus."

Jesus said to Sister Faustina: "Say unceasingly this chaplet that I have taught you. Anyone who says it will receive great Mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as the last hope. **EVEN THE MOST HARDENED SINNER, IF HE RECITES THIS CHAPLET EVEN ONCE, WILL RECEIVE GRACE FROM MY INFINITE MERCY.**"

I want the whole world to know My Infinite Mercy. I want to give unimaginable graces to those who trust in My Mercy ..."

That means God wants us to understand that He CAN SAVE US, but it is up to us. We must want it! Even the most hardened sinner can be saved IF (!) he recites this prayer not because it has some magical words but because by reciting it, that sinner will admit that Jesus is the only hope. He will admit that he needs salvation and mercy, and Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the only One through whom he can be saved. That's the proclamation of faith. That's what Jesus requires; that's what God the Father requires because none of us can do more. We all can only admit that Jesus is our salvation. Whatever we do in our religious and spiritual life, we do it as acceptance of God's plan of salvation. That's it. God's mercy is our last chance.

Peace and Goodness,  
Fr. Witold Adamczyk, OFM Conv.

### Thank you for the Easter Wishes

Dear brothers and sisters, on behalf of all Franciscan Friars here in Rock Island, I want to express our deepest gratitude for your Easter wishes, kind words and gifts. We pray for you every day and we thank God for all good people of Rock Island parishes. God bless you, protect you and grant you all graces.

Peace and Goodness,  
Fr. Witold Adamczyk, OFM Conv.

### MASS SCHEDULE & MORE!

- April 9** 12:10 p.m. Mass - *William Liam Bunce*  
ST. MARY'S
- April 10** 11:00 a.m. Adoration & Confessions ST. MARY'S  
12:10 p.m. Mass - *Joe and Giulia Conicella*  
ST. MARY'S
- April 11** 12:10 p.m. Mass - *Special Intention* SACRED HEART
- April 12** 12:10 p.m. Mass - *Amanda McLaughlin*  
SACRED HEART
- April 13** 3:00 p.m. Confessions ST. MARY'S  
4:00 p.m. Mass - *For the People of the Rock Island Parishes* ST. MARY'S  
5:15 p.m. Mass - *Anna Oanh Nguyen*  
SACRED HEART
- April 14** 8:30 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. Confessions SACRED HEART  
9:00 a.m. Mass - *In honor of Breanna Marsho's birthday* SACRED HEART  
10:30 a.m. Mass - *Therese Lootens* ST. MARY'S

## SACRED HEART PARISH NEWS

### Stewardship of Treasure: March 30/31

Offerory Envelopes	\$3,668.00
Loose Money	\$1,235.82
Online Giving	\$777.00
Property Improvement Fund	\$335.00
Envelopes Used	89

### Sacred Heart Easter Egg Hunt Today (Sunday) after Mass!

Children of all ages are invited to join us after our 9 a.m. Mass for our Easter Egg Hunt! The hunt will be located on the greenspace behind the church. We also have donuts and drinks, cookie decorating, crafts, and more!

**Our next Sacred Heart Dinner** will be Thursday, April 25th from 6-8 pm. More details coming soon!

**Seeking choir members:** You are invited to join our choir here at Sacred Heart! If you are interested in singing at our Saturday and/or Sunday Masses, or if you have a secret musical talent please contact Trevor at (414) 217-0354. We would love to have many voices join us!

**Legacy gifts to Sacred Heart:** Legacy gifts to the parish help to ensure the future of our beloved Sacred Heart. When planning your estate, please consider including Sacred Heart in your will. Estate gifts, trusts, stocks, properties, and more are all ways to make a future investment in Sacred Heart.

### Please consider helping the Sacred Heart Food Pantry!

Our food pantry serves dozens of people each weekday as a part of our parish's outreach ministry. This is where your donations of food go on that second weekend of each month. Feeding those in need, however, requires volunteers and we are in need of members of our parish to join this ministry. While the pantry is open Monday through Friday, you could schedule your volunteer time in support of this ministry in a manner that best suits you. Please, consider feeding the poor as part of your works to support Christ's ministry in our parish. Contact Mike Clark at 309-786-6940 if you wish to support this ministry.

**"The devil tempts that he may ruin;  
God tests that he may crown."**

— Saint Ambrose

## ST. MARY'S PARISH NEWS

### Stewardship of Treasure: March 30/31

Offerory Envelopes	\$7,169.00
Loose Money	\$926.01
Online Giving	\$572.00
Building Improvement Fund	\$4,765.00
Envelopes Used	81

**Lectors for April** are Colleen Goebel at 4 p.m. Mass and Scott Anderson at 10:30 a.m. Mass.

**Come join us for St. Mary's Spring Salad Luncheon** and enjoy our famous chicken casserole and salad lunch! Tickets will be sold at Masses the weekends of April 13-14 and April 20-21. Cost is \$10 per ticket. The Spring Salad Luncheon is Wednesday, April 24, with serving from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Schroeder Hall. Tickets will not be sold at the door, and a limited number of tickets are available. To reserve your ticket(s) ahead of time, please call Ann at 309-788-1269. Come and enjoy the company of friends while having a delicious lunch!

### Salads needed for Spring Salad Luncheon:

Salad donation sign-up sheets are available in the glass house. Salads may be dropped off the morning of Ap (the day of the Salad Luncheon) between 7:30 and 9 a.m. Thank you for your support!

**Save the date!** Immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, April 28, there will be an unveiling/blessing ceremony of the new QC PastPort historical interactive sign noting the significance of St. Mary's as the first and oldest Catholic church in Rock Island County. All are invited to attend! The sign will be located on Fourth Avenue, in front of the church. St. Mary's will celebrate its 175th anniversary in 2026.

**175th Anniversary Planning:** St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish will celebrate its 175th anniversary in August 2026. A planning committee has started meeting to plan for this auspicious celebration. Volunteers are needed for help with a ministry fair, buildings and grounds improvements, parade participation, fundraising, other events, and a video project. Please share your talents, time and energy and/or donations in assisting with the preparation work! You may contact the parish office or Chair Judith Gilbert at 309-749-5719 or Co-Chair Fred Attwood at 309-798-4356. Also, save the date of Sunday, August 30, 2026, for St. Mary's 175th Anniversary Mass and Dinner!



## FLOCKNOTE FOR SACRED HEART AND ST. MARY'S PARISHIONERS!

Get the latest news from Sacred Heart & St. Mary's with Flocknote! To sign up for FlockNote notifications of Mass times and interesting parish information:

Text to the number: 84576  
With the message: 123sh (for Sacred Heart)  
With the message: 123stm (for St. Mary's)

## LOCAL CATHOLIC NEWS & EVENTS

Get the latest news from our local Catholic parishes and groups at [www.catholicqc.com](http://www.catholicqc.com)

### MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Ministry schedules including altar servers, EMHC's, lectors are now available to members of that ministry via Flocknote and/or email correspondence, and to Sacred Heart parishioners on our website.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR OUR PARISHES

Financial support for both Sacred Heart and St. Mary's parishes can be accomplished several ways. If you wish to receive contribution envelopes are not currently doing so, please contact our parish office immediately.

Please also consider giving online. This allows you to keep track of your giving for the year (tax statements) and makes bookkeeping easier for the parishes. If you're interested in this route, please contact the parish offices for more information!

### REMEMBER US

Both Sacred Heart and St. Mary's Parishes have always been very appreciative of the generosity of their parishioners. We're often asked how you can remember Sacred Heart in your wills, trusts, or via other gifts. It's important that you reference the parish as Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Congregation of Rock Island, Illinois or St. Mary's Roman Catholic Congregation of Rock Island, Illinois.

### SACRED HEART FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry Weekend is always the 2nd weekend of the month at both Sacred Heart and St. Mary's. We appreciate your support of this vital ministry!

### DID YOUR CONTACT INFO CHANGE?

Please let the church office know your new information as soon as possible so that we may update our records.

### WHEELCHAIR AVAILABLE

A wheelchair is available for any parishioner who needs a pick up or drop off at the parking lot. It's in Good Shepherd Vestibule at Sacred Heart and the vestibule at St. Mary's.

### SACRED HEART & ST. MARY'S CONTACTS

**Sacred Heart** 794-0660  
2810 5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL.  
shrec@sacredheartri.com [www.sacredheartri.com](http://www.sacredheartri.com)

**Saint Mary's** 788-3322  
2208 4th Avenue, Rock Island, IL.  
stmarysrockisland@gmail.com [www.stmaryri.com](http://www.stmaryri.com)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Office Address for Both Parishes: at Sacred Heart:  
2810 5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL.  
Christine Coleman, *Office Manager*

**Fr. Witold Adamczyk, OFM Conv., Pastor**  
FrWitold@rock-island-catholic.com

**Fr. Peter Sarnicki, OFM Conv., Assistant Pastor**  
frpeters@stpiousri.org

**Fr. Mietek Wit, OFM Conv., Assistant Pastor**  
frmietek@rock-island-catholic.com

**Catholic Cemetery**  
Calvary Cemetery is our local Catholic Cemetery - 2901 12th St., Rock Island, IL 61201-5335. Please call them when making arrangements for loved one by contacting them at

### SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

**BAPTISM:** Parents must be registered and doing what is within their means to support the parish and be faithful in sharing the Sunday Eucharist. A baptismal class is required. Godparents must be Confirmed and be practicing Catholics and if married, that their marriage is validly recognized by the Catholic Church. If you are a Sacred Heart parishioner, contact Chris Mandle. For St. Mary's parishioners please contact Christine in the parish office.

**MARRIAGE:** Diocesan Policy - Please notify the office at least 8 months prior to setting the date for your marriage. Requires completion of the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:** Whenever needed, please call the parish office. Please advise us of persons in the hospital, nursing facilities, or homebound.

**RECONCILIATION:** Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - 11:55 a.m. and Saturday: 3 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. at St. Mary's. Friday: 11:00 a.m. - 11:55 a.m. and Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. at Sacred Heart. Also, by appointment.

### Thinking of joining the Catholic Church?

#### RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Persons wishing to learn more about the Catholic faith, or to join our Catholic community, please contact Christine in our parish office at (309) 794-0660 or (309) 788-3322 to set up a time with Fr. Witold.

APRIL 7, 2024

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Jesus,  
I trust  
in You

**SACRED HEART**  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

**ST. MARY**  
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

FR. WITOLD ADAMCZYK, OFM CONV., PASTOR  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA



## ADDITIONAL PARISH NEWS AND MORE!

### **A Walk Through the Mass with Fr. Witold:**

Want to get more from the Mass? Learn from Fr. Witold, as he will give talks in April that will help your understanding by walking through each part of the Mass and discussing its form and meaning. The talks will be every Tuesday in April, beginning April 2, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Schroeder Hall. Refreshments will be provided, plus babysitting will be available. To help plan for refreshments and babysitting, please contact Christine if you plan to attend at [ricatholicoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ricatholicoffice@gmail.com) or 309-794-0660.

### **Keep these parishioners, family members, and friends in your prayers:**

Joe Cervantes • Mike Clark • Stephanie Smith • Judy Clark • Deb Drish • Rosa Steinbaugh • Lois Evans • Angie Conicella • Ron Boland • Dean Christiansen • Jean Paggen • Rebecca Becker • Mary Kay Orth • Jay Eng • Carol Houglund • Faythe Elsbury • Jack Murtha • John Gross • Randy Burke • Don Barry • Pat Coleman • Robert Slater • Salvatrice Leone • Renee Bleuer • Elaine Jawoisz • Dick and Diane Sabbe • Mary Lou Baumgartner

If you would like to have prayers offered for parishioners, family or friends, please contact Christine in the office at (309) 794-0660 or (309) 788-3322 or [ricatholicoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ricatholicoffice@gmail.com). We will publish these names from time to time as space allows. It'll also be important to alert Christine in the office if someone's name should later be removed from the list. Thank you in advance to all who will be praying for those in need!

### **The Annual Diocesan Appeal is now underway in our parishes!**

Thank you to all who have already pledged to the appeal. Every dollar raised over our goal will be returned to our parish to help us with parish projects. The goal for Sacred Heart is \$30,818 and \$16,825 has been pledged. The goal for St. Mary's is \$34,782 and \$20,876 has been pledged.

### **The Christ Child Society of the Quad Cities is hosting an appreciation event**

for parishioners and friends who are interested in or have supported our cause of serving infants and children in need. Join us on Tuesday, April 16th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Butterworth Center, 1105 8th St. Moline, IL. We will have a guest speaker who will guide us through "creating a spring bouquet". Materials will be provided. The event is free. Light refreshments will be provided. One basket with two tickets to see Charlotte's Web at PlayCrafters Barn Theater on July 25, 2024, at 7:30 pm. will be given as a door prize. RSVP by April 9th to [christchildssocietyqca@gmail.com](mailto:christchildssocietyqca@gmail.com)

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### **Healing Our Throwaway Culture: A Focus on Plastics:**

In recognition of Earth Day, you are invited to attend this educational and prayer program. Learn how plastic production, consumption, and disposal impacts human and planetary health, and share strategies for personal, community, and systemic actions.

- Wednesday, April 24, 2024
- Time: 1:30-3 pm
- Location: Benet House Retreat Center 2200 88th Avenue West, Rock Island, IL
- Facilitators: St. Mary Monastery Creation Care Team
- Fee: No cost. All are welcome!

For more information contact Gina Howell at (309) 781-9473.

**Mass at Trinity Hospital:** On the third Thursday of each month, Mass will be held in the chapel at Trinity Hospital, Rock Island, at 10 a.m. Following Mass, the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed for all the patients in the hospital.

## Authentic Italian Dinner

(Knights of Columbus Serving + Italians in the Kitchen = Authentic!)

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024 / ST. PIUS X FARRELL HALL



**SEATING FROM:**

**4:00 - 7:00 (Carry Out Orders Available)**

**COSTS AT THE DOOR:**

**ADULTS \$20.00\* / CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER \$10.00**

**\*Pay By April 8th for a \$2.00 Discount on Each Adult Dinner!**



Scan the QR Code to pay with:  
Credit and Debit Cards, Apple Pay, and Google Pay  
Or visit: <https://allouez-council-658.square.site/>

Cash Accepted at the Door

#### **Dinner Includes:**

Mostaccioli Pasta  
Meatballs  
Garlic Bread  
Salad



#### **Beverages:**

Wine (Adults)  
Coffee  
Iced Tea  
Bottled Water

*All proceeds donated to charities supported by the Knights of Columbus and Italian-American Society. For additional information, contact Godfather Louie Alongi: (309) 235-6796 / [alongilouie@gmail.com](mailto:alongilouie@gmail.com)  
Society President - Kathy Larson: (309) 235-1731 / [mamamia20@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mamamia20@sbcglobal.net)*



### Thank you, Sacred Heart & St. Mary's Parishioners,

for supporting Alleman's Dance Marathon 11! This Dance Marathon wouldn't be a success without your generous donations. As a result of your generosity this year, we were able to raise \$32,755.67, and our

11-year grand total is \$309,058.47! These donations help the children and their families who spend weeks or months in the University of Iowa Children's Hospital. Thank you for your continued support in helping Alleman students make a difference!

Sincerely,  
Mackenzie Burkett and the  
Dance Marathon 11 Team

## SUPPORT THE JORDAN JAGWIRES

We placed 3rd at the Iowa State Championship  
We need donations so we can attend  
WPI WAFFLE FLL Open Event

Date of competition: June 7-9

Where: Worcester, MA

What are we doing:  
Attending a international FIRST  
competition that inspires young minds  
to become involved in STEM



### HOW YOU CAN HELP

JACKIE GRAY 309-236-1149

JNORMAN7997@YAHOO.COM



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 "The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever swims the paths of the seas, O Lord, our Lord how awesome is Your name through all the earth!"  
 - Psalm 8:9-10

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