

**Events for St. Mary**

March 10, 2026, Holy Name Mtg. 7:00pm  
March 4, 2026, PSR class 6:00pm to 7:30pm  
PSR class will do the stations of the Cross  
March 15, 2026, Food Pantry collection  
March 18, 2026, PSR class 6:00 to 7:30pm  
PSR Class will do the Stations of the Cross  
March 28, 2026, Palm Sunday, 6:00pm

*Please remember those of our families and friends who have asked for our prayers.*

Diane Averbeck, Debbie Brown, David Dohack  
Geraldyn Lanham, Randy Valleroy, Glenda York,  
Donna Schwizer, Jeffery Davis, Mark Drake,  
Robin Waltemate, Ryan Junger, Ronda Heck,  
Kevin Petrowske, Jeff Faverty Shirley Dreczka  
Matt Vallett, Bud Stumpe, Paul Meyer, Amber  
Cushman, Carolyn Loesing, Linda Butler  
Allison Petrowske

*Our Parish Members in Care centers*  
Wilma Junger, Bud Stumpe

**Religious Education:**

Tammy Bert, A. Antonacci – Brenda Gross  
Maxine Mathis

**Ladies Altar Sodality:** Joan Derringer  
**Holy Name Society:** Tony Meyer

To Rent Sense Hall: please contact Tammy Bert  
**618-774-2415**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**

If any members of our parish family are feeling the (so-called financial pinch) and are having difficulty paying for their prescriptions please let Fr. Sabastian or Deacon Al, know that we will be able to help. This will be (TOTALLY CONFIDENTIAL) if you know of any members who are unable to attend Mass, we would also like to be informed so we can send them our weekly bulletin. And please remember to mail in your weekly contributions, it is much appreciated.

**March 8, 2026**  
**Third Sunday of Lent A**



St. Mary Divine Maternity  
7362 Shawneetown Trail  
Ellis Grove, IL 62241

Pastor  
Rev. Sebastian Ukoh C.M

**Weekend Mass Schedule**

St. Mary Chester  
Saturday, Vigil 4:00 pm  
Sunday, 10:00am

St. Mary's Ellis Grove  
Saturday 6:00pm Odd Month's  
Sunday 8:00 am Even Month's

St. Joseph Rocher  
Saturday, 6:00pm Even Months  
Sunday 8:00am Odd Month's

Reconciliation: 15 min. prior  
For all Masses

Trustees: Bernard Colvis & Ann Petrowske

Parish Council: Pres. Tammy Bert,  
Sec. Joyce Hrabusicky, Chris Gross  
Maxine Mathis, Scott Gross, Shane Quandt  
Larry Mitchell, Jeremy Blechle

**Sacrament Preparation Contact:**

**St. Mary's Ellis Grove – 618-859-3541**  
**St. Mary's Chester, 618-826-2444**  
**St. Joseph Rocher 618-284-3314**

**For the Following**

**For Baptism: For the Sacrament of Marriage: Please contact the parish office at least 6 Months prior to the intended date so that the required preparations can be completed. And for the Sacrament of the sick, whenever necessary. We welcome all guests and those wishing to become a member of our Parish Family, Please contact St. Mary Ellis Grove – St. Joseph Rocher – St. Mary's Chester, Also, you may contact the Parish Office's for information on The Rite of Christian Initiation**



*The water that I shall give will become a spring of eternal life.*

**St. Mary Divine Maternity**  
**Holy Mass Schedule and Intentions**

Saturday March 7, 2026, 6:00pm  
+ Clyde & Ann Hasameyer

Saturday March 14, 2026, 6:00pm  
+ Harlen & Rose Wesbecher

**Liturgical Ministers for next week**

**March 14, 2026, 6:00pm**

Altar Server Adalyn  
Lector A. Antonacci  
Gifts: Volunteers  
E. Minister: G. Bleem & J. Hrabusicky  
Usher: M. Valleroy & S. Quandt

**St. Mary's Offering**

**Thank you for your support.**

**This Week**

Exodus 17: 3-7  
Psalm 95: 1-2, 6-7, 8-9  
Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8  
John 4: -5-42 [or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]

**Next Week**

1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a  
Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
Ephesians 5: 8-14  
John 9: 1-41 [or 9: 1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

Please submit items for the bulletin by Tuesday at 5:00pm my phone number is 618-920-7324. If there is no answer, please leave a message.  
Thank you, Deacon Al

Neighboring Churches Mass Times

St. Mary's, Chester 4:00 pm Saturday am  
Sunday 10:00am  
St. John's, Red Bud 4:00 pm. Saturday  
10:00 am Sunday  
Lady of Lourdes, Sparta 5:30pm Sat.  
8:00 am Sunday  
St. Patrick's, Ruma 8:00 a.m. Sunday  
St. Pius V, Walsh, 4:00 pm Saturday  
St. Boniface, Evansville, 10:00am Sunday

---

---

**A Prayer for Peace**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You are the true King of peace.  
In You alone is found freedom.  
Please free our world from conflict  
Bring unity to troubled nations.  
Let Your glorious peace reign in every  
heart. Dispel all darkness and evil.  
Protect the dignity of every human life.  
Replace hatred with Your love.  
Give wisdom to world leaders.  
Free them from selfish ambition.  
Eliminate all violence and war.  
Glorious Virgin Mary,  
Saint Michael the Archangel,  
Every angel and saint:  
Please pray for peace.  
Pray for unity amongst nations.  
Pray for unity amongst all people.  
Pray for the most vulnerable.  
Pray for those suffering.  
Pray for the fearful.  
Pray for those most in need.  
Pray for us all.  
Jesus, Son of the Living God.  
Have mercy on us.  
Jesus, hear our prayers.  
Jesus, I trust in You Amen



30th Annual Health Fair: Friday, March 13th  
from 7:30 11:30 am at Buena Vista National  
Bank, 1309 Swanwick, Chester. \$2 per person.  
For more accurate readings, fasting is  
encouraged. Results will be mailed. \$10 PSA  
screening with blood sample. The Lions Club  
mobile screening unit will be on site for free  
hearing loss and retinal eye disease screening.

---

---

**ILLINOIS PRO LIFE MARCH**  
Diocese of Belleville  
Values ALL Life  
JOIN US AT THE ILLINOIS PRO-LIFE MARCH  
MARCH 19, 2026 | SPRINGFIELD, IL

10:00 AM – Holy Mass – Exposition Hall, State Fairgrounds  
1:00 PM – Rally – State Capitol Building  
2:00 PM – March Around the Capitol

A FREE TICKET IS REQUIRED FOR MASS  
Contact Molly King to reserve your  
tickets: mking@diobelle.org  
For information on bus transportation,  
T-Shirts, and parking visit [www.diobelle.org/respectlife](http://www.diobelle.org/respectlife)



Chester Christian Food Pantry: Items needed:  
Pasta dinners, canned fish, cheese. Monetary  
donations are always welcome.  
We are also in need of egg cartons, if you have  
any please bring them to church and put them  
on the table in the entranceway.

---

---

Sunday, March 8th, 2026, Respect Life Corner

The Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary, is celebrated on March  
19th. This special day offers an opportunity to  
reflect on the beautiful gift of adoption and to  
seek St. Joseph's intercession for all those whose  
lives are touched by it. As we prepare for the  
Solemnity, we invite you to join us in praying the  
St. Joseph Adoption Novena, asking the Lord to  
bless and guide all who walk the path of  
adoption. Visit [respectlife.org/adoption-novena](http://respectlife.org/adoption-novena)  
for the novena, which begins March 10th.

---

---

Vocations

March 8: Sr. Maris Stella once served her  
country. Her military career began at the U.S.  
Naval Academy in Annapolis. Her initial  
assignment was as gunnery officer on a destroyer  
off the coast of South America in pursuit of drug  
traffickers. "I served in the Navy, and I tasted  
many of the good things that this world has to  
offer, but I knew my heart was made for  
something more." When I met the Sisters of Life,  
it was everything in my heart being lived out in a  
joyful way...offering support and resources to  
pregnant women and mothers and helping  
women who suffer after abortion. She entered  
the Sisters of Life in 2006, and in 2015, she  
moved to Denver to start a new convent  
"because women in college are very  
vulnerable..." Sr. Maris Stella; Denver Sisters of  
Life Catholic War Veterans Magazine; March  
2024

---

---

CHESTER UNITED METHODIST MEN



Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 7am – 11am

All You can eat

Pancakes – Sausage & Coffee –  
Orange Juice & Milk  
Adults \$12-Children \$6  
Under 5 Free

2026 Lenten Calendar

Penance Services

St. Mary's Chester: Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30pm  
St. John's Red Bud: Thursday March 19 @ 7:00pm  
Our Lady of Lourdes Sparta: Friday, March 20 @  
7:00pm

Stations of the Cross:

St. Mary Ellis Grove: March 4, March 18, April 1 @  
6:00pm PSR class will do the Stations  
St. Joseph Rocher: Every Friday @ 7:00pm  
St. Mary Chester: Every Saturday @ 3:15pm & Every  
Sunday @ 4:15pm

Palm Sunday

St. Mary Chester: Saturday, March 28 4:00pm &  
Sunday March 29 @ 10:00am  
St. Mary Ellis Grove: Saturday March 28 6:00pm  
St. Joseph Rocher: Sunday, March 29 @ 8:00am

Holy Week

Chrism Mass Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 am at the  
Cathedral PSR Rocher, Ellis Grove, Chester 7 & 8  
grade to attend

Holy Thursday

April 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Mary Ellis Grove: Soup Supper from  
5:00-6:30pm in Sense Hall, Mass @ 7:00pm  
(Confirmandi to participate in washing of feet.)

Good Friday

St. Joseph Rocher, 7:00pm Living Stations by PSR  
students

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil April 4<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm @ St. Mary's Chester

Easter Sunday

April 5<sup>th</sup> Mass @ St. Mary Ellis Grove 8:00am,  
St. Mary Chester, Mass 10:00am, St. Joseph Rocher  
Mass 8:00am (visiting Priest)

Confirmation – Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>

(Practice) Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm Rocher  
Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> Confirmation 7:00pm Rocher

First Communion

Ellis Grove (no time given as of now)  
St. Joseph Rocher: Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 8:00am  
St. Mary's Chester: May 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:00am