

**READINGS****First Reading:** (Acts 6:7)

The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly.

**Psalm: (Ps 33)**

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.)

**Second Reading:** (1 Pt 2:7)

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

**Gospel: (Jn 14:6)**

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

**MASS INTENTIONS**

C = CHESTER \* EG = ELLIS GROVE \*  
J = PR DU ROCHER

**Saturday, May 2**

4:00PM (C) Bruce Brown by Mary Brown

6:00PM (EG)

**Sunday, May 3**

8:00AM-(J) Jason Roscow

10:00AM (C) Terry Jungewaelter

5:00PM (C) Carol Jeremiah by Shirley & Dawn

**Monday, May 4**

8:15AM (C) Roger Holley by Holley Family

**Tuesday, May 5**

7:30AM (J) PSR Students & teachers

**Wednesday, May 6**

8:15AM (C) Rachel Juenger by Bob Juenger

**Thursday, May 7**

8AM (J) Jennifer (Mathews) Guilliams

**Friday, May 8**

NO Mass

**Saturday, May 9**

4PM (C) Roy Turner

6PM (EG)

**Sunday, May 10~Happy Mother's Day**

8:00AM- (J) For all Living & Deceased Mothers

10:00AM (C) For all Mothers

5:00PM (C) For all Mothers

**MASS SCHEDULE ~ May**

**Saturday: 4pm:** Chester      **6pm:** Ellis Grove

**Sunday: 8am:** Prairie du Rocher    **10am:** Chester

**GOSPEL REFLECTIONS**

In the first reading (Acts 6: 1-7) we see the Apostles setting up the office of Deacons to solve a problem among the early Christian community. One of those chosen was Stephen (who would end up becoming the first Martyr). They were a faith-filled group and the word of God continued to spread.

The second reading (1 Peter 2: 4-9) is a sobering reminder from the Apostle Peter, that Christ is the rejected stone that ended up becoming the cornerstone. Even more than that, he is now a "living stone".

The Gospel (John 14: 1-12) gives us hope of future glory amidst present questions. Jesus was teaching his disciples about the eternal dwellings, and it brought out the skepticism of Thomas and Philip. Amidst their doubts and objections, Christ led them to clarity and faith. We pray for such in our hearts and minds. Amen.

**PARTNERSHIP EVENTS**

**Miraculous Medal Bracelet Making** – Join us for a chance to create your own beautiful bracelet with a blessed Miraculous Medal, and an additional bracelet to give away! Tuesday, May 12, 6:30p-8:30p at St. Mary's School Cafeteria. Requested donation of \$20 for two bracelets. Light refreshments following the event. RSVP to Missy Biethman at (618) 615-1312.

**FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT**

Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Gateway Grizzlies baseball game. Tickets are \$16 a piece for anyone wanting to attend. Please contact Rose or Jill for registration. Tickets can be picked up at the ballpark. We have 20 tickets available.

**OCIA**

Interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Faith? St. Mary's in Chester offers O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults). Please call the parish office or contact Brad for more info: [bradcolvis@gmail.com](mailto:bradcolvis@gmail.com).

**CONFESSIONS**

**St. Joseph:** Tuesday & Thursday mornings & Sat. evenings after Mass or by appt.

**St. Mary's (C):** Saturday evenings before Mass 3:15pm-3:45pm

*Any other confessions can be made by appointment.*

**ADORATION**

\*\*\*All Are Welcome\*\*\*

**St. Joseph:** First Monday of every month @ 7PM

**St. Mary's (C):** First Tuesday of every month @ 7PM

**St. Mary's School:** The First Friday of every month at 8:30am

**MASS OF HEALING**

Will be the 1<sup>st</sup> full weekend of the month at all parishes

**2026-2027 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal:**

"Those who are kind to the needy honor Him" (Proverbs 14:31) Your contribution to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal enables the Office of Education to impact the lives of over 10,283 students at 25 Catholic grade schools, three Catholic high schools and in PSR (Parish School of Religion) classes throughout our Belleville Diocese. If you haven't already done so, we prayerfully ask you to consider making a gift to the 2026 Appeal today...no amount is too large or too small! Thank you.



You will be Feeding the hungry on Saturday, May 9 at 7:30am. Summer events are coming soon.

**We have a Facebook Page:** If you or your family would like to join, please let Jill Whelan (618-719-9344) or Dawn Walker (618-317-5104) know so we can send you an invite.

**STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION****COMMUNION**

If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive communion, contact: Diane Mudd 284-7150 (Ruma), Marie Henry 282-2897 (Prairie du Rocher), Rosemary Bert 615-6135, Paula Platt 615-5545, Martha McDonald 615-6624 or Barb Otten 615-2442 (Chester).

**PRAYER CHAIN**

If you need the emergency power of prayer or want to belong to the prayer chain, please call Marie Henry 618-282-2876 or 618-559-6511 (Prairie du Rocher).

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

Meeting every third Thursday of the month at 10am at Linda Stern's home, 106 Hillcrest Dr., Chester. Everyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one is welcome. If you have any questions, call Linda (618-201-2957).

**PRAYER REQUEST**

The homebound, nursing home residents, cancer patients, our military, the lonely, the homeless, those incarcerated. Donna Schweizer, Terry Moore, Mike Vasquez, Tom Sauer, Mary Beck, Bruce Kettmann, Amanda Loudenback, Sonny & Roseann Glenn, Earlene Riechman, Judy Kempfer, Peggy Helmers, Evelyn Marquardt, Roger Knott, Albert Deterding, Raymond Ellner, Tony Melliore, Eric Mathews, Bill & Erlene Hanger, Huckson McGee, Betty Bissel, Gary Sauerhage, Mary Verseman, Randy Stoffel, Alli Petrowske, Melissa Doss, Kenny Pelate, Gale Frazer, Sharon Misuraca

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY'S**

Daniel Ohlau 5/3, Rob Schuchert 5/3, Jason Roy 5/4, Rose Jany 5/5, Alex Suhre 5/6, Ben Sauer 5/6, Cathy Sauer 5/6, Barbara Junkin 5/7, Susan Colonel 5/7, Carolyn Schneider 5/7, Mary Brown 5/8, Lilian Popejoy 5/8, Rhett Reiss 5/8, Katie Mudd 5/9, Tammy Kribs 5/10, Steve Bicket 5/10  
Jeffrey & Sherry Bohnert 5/4  
Jason & Heather Korando 5/5  
Danny & Bonnie Smith 5/6

**ST. JOSEPH, PRAIRIE DU ROCHER EVENTS****Weekly Tithes & Offerings**

**Online Giving** ~ [www.stjoespdr.org](http://www.stjoespdr.org)

**St. Joseph's: Weekly Goal: \$1700 Beginning 7/1/2025**

Envelopes (30): \$923 Loose: \$80, CSMA Goal: \$6,288

Collected to date: \$3,437

**YTD:** goal: \$71,700 collected: \$76,232

**Liturgical Calendar ~ St. Joseph**

**May 3 (S)** Lilly, Jack & Lexie (L) James (B) Carla, (C) Nancy & Carol

**May 9 (S)** Cort & Emmett (L) Chad (B) Leonard Mary & Jill

**Mother's Day Flowers:** Will be for sale again after Mass. Real Roses \$2 Artificial \$1. All proceeds will go to St. Ann's Cradle of Hope in Carbondale.



On **May 5<sup>th</sup>** will be PSR Mass. The Last day of PSR is Tuesday **May 12<sup>th</sup>** Certificates & Awards. Please. Parents, please complete the registrations forms that have been sent home and return them by May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Servers needed:** Any student who has received their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion is welcome begin serving. Please talk to Jill if you want to begin serving.

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL:** We are looking for those interested in volunteering to become a member of Parish Council. The Parish Council is meeting to discuss and recommend decisions in matters which affect the good of the total Church. If this is something you are interested in being a part of, contact the Parish Office or place your name in the collection basket indicating your interest. Applications/nominations will take place until May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY-** Since the mowing season has begun, we ask that no flowers or trinkets be placed in the grassy areas around the tombstone. Also, St. Joseph cemetery is not responsible for damages, broken or lost items within the cemetery.

## ***ST. MARY'S CHESTER EVENTS***

### **Weekly Tithes & Offerings**

**Online Giving ~ [osvhub.com/maryhoc/funds](https://osvhub.com/maryhoc/funds)**

**Weekly Goal: \$8901**

Weekly Total: \$8,036 (86); Loose \$546; Donations /Memorials \$80; Cemetery \$15 (2); Improve \$365 (41); ~ YTD Actual Giving \$150,794, YTD Budget Diff (\$524)

**Mass Streaming:** Search *Mary Help of Christians Chester* on YouTube to find streamed Masses.

### **Servers Schedule**

**Sat May 2 ~ Gavin, ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

**Sun May 3 ~ Jon, Penelope & Piper**

**Sat May 9 ~ Addie, TWO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Sun May 10 ~ Jackson, Ezra, Maren**

### **Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule**

**Sat May 2 ~ (L) Paula (H) Larry (C) Kathleen & Paula**

**Sun May 3 ~ (L) Grant (H) Jeannie (C) Norman, Sue, Greg J, Doris**

**Sat May 9 ~ (L) Rob (H) Marlene (C) Kathleen & Rob**

**Sun May 10 ~ (L) Jocelyn (H) Matt (C) Diana, Todd, Barb, Aaron**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Carter Belton, Miriam Hernandez, Santos Hernandez, Clara Hesse, Huntley Louveau, Alan Roman, Kasen Ruch, and Prudence Seymour on receiving their First Holy Communion on May 3, 2026. May you always feel the warmth of God's love in your heart.

**Rosary Prayed:** During the month of May, the rosary will be prayed with the congregation beginning at 3:15 pm prior to the 4:00 pm mass giving special honor to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the greatest of all mothers and our Heavenly Mother.

**Dedication of Fr. Gene's Memorial:** A dedication ceremony will be held on Memorial Day, 5/25/26 at 1:00 pm at the cemetery for Father Gene's memorial plaque. Please join us to celebrate and remember our beloved Priest!

**Votive Candles** – Due to rising costs, the price of votive candles is now \$5.00 each. There is a place to deposit the money near the candles.

**Parish Council** – We are looking for those interested in volunteering to become a member of Parish Council. The Parish Council meets to discuss and recommend decisions in matters which affect the good of the total Church. If this is something you are interested in being a part of, contact the Parish Office or place your name in the collection basket indicating your interest.

**St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women Quilt of the Month:** If you would like to donate a new, hand-quilted quilt for this project, we would very much appreciate it.

The 2026 Quilt of the Month tickets are currently being sold.

**Chicken Fry for Mother's Day:** Let the K of C fry your chicken for Mother's Day dinner. \$15 per chicken. Call Bob Jueger (618.615.5242) or the club (618.826.3316) during business hours. Please indicate pick-up between 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. Orders must be placed by May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**KC Hall Monday Lunches:** Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – Fried Pork Chops, mashed potatoes & gravy, Corn or Creamy Cole Slaw. Served from 11am – 1pm. \$12/person.

**KC Monthly Meeting:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 6pm.

## **ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

### **Upcoming Events:**

5/3/26 – 1<sup>st</sup> Communion

5/6/25 – Honor's Night

5/9/26 – Kindergarten Graduation

5/14/26 – Last Day of School

5/16/26 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation

**St. Mary's Alumni T-Shirts:** We have several St. Mary's Alumni T-Shirts available. The cost is \$10 each which will benefit St. Mary's Athletics. The shirts will be available for sale at the Parish Office.

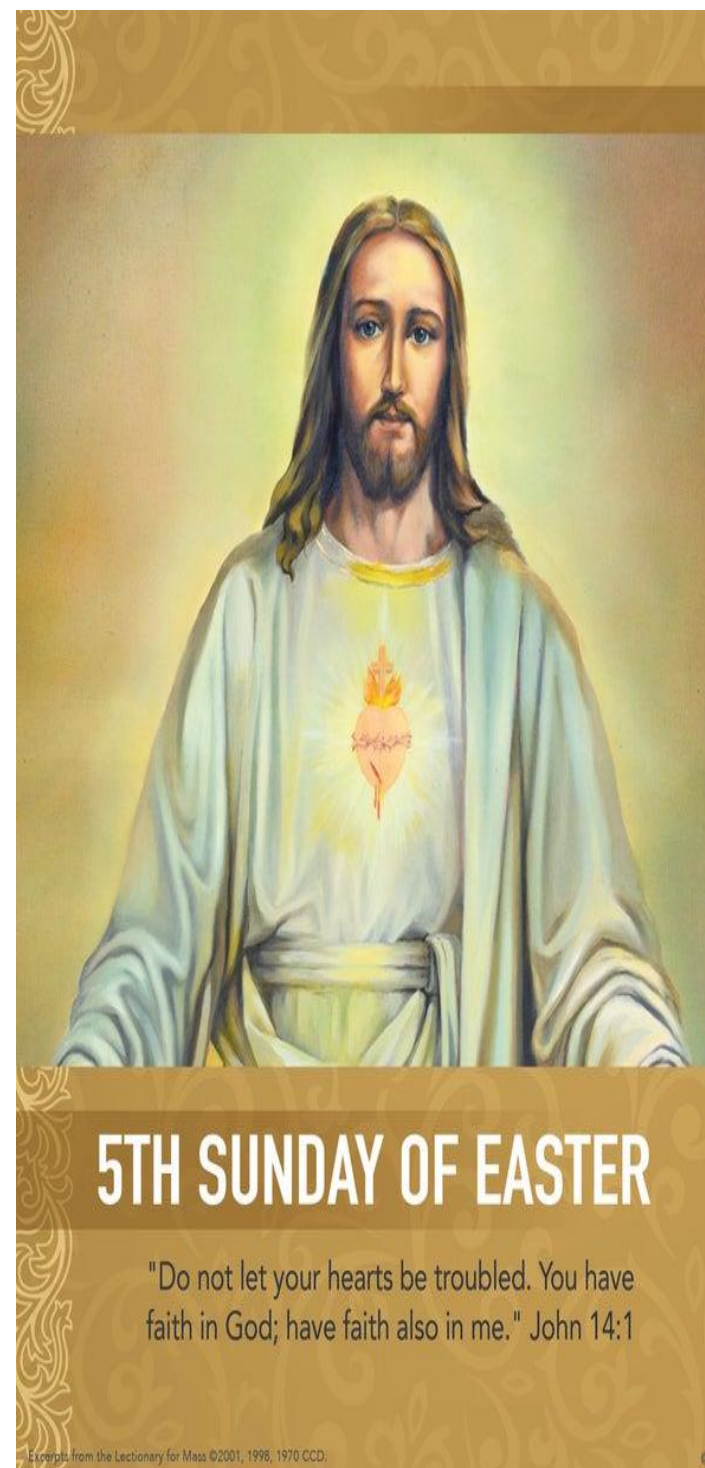
### ***In Deepest Sympathy***

*We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Paul Stumpe. May the Lord grant you comfort during this most difficult time. May he rest in peace.*

## **AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Catholic Youth Read Sacred Texts** – Catholic youth across the world are invited in reading their own faith's sacred texts. Together we can recognize our Duty to God, participating as a group or on your own. To register: YouthReadSacredTextsWorldwide.org

**Totus Tuus:** Belleville Diocese is sponsoring a fun and faith filled Catholic Summer Program for students in grades 1-12. More information is available on the Diocese's website.



**PASTOR: FR. SEBASTIAN UKOH, C.M.**

Website: [www.stjmm.org](http://www.stjmm.org)

### **Mary Help of Christians**

911 Swanwick St, Chester, IL 62233

Parish Secretary: Rose Dethrow

Parish Phone: 618-826-2444

School Phone: 618-826-3120

School Website: [www.stmaryscatholicchesteril.org](http://www.stmaryscatholicchesteril.org)

Email: [Stmaryschurch@stjmm.org](mailto:Stmaryschurch@stjmm.org)

### **St. Mary of Divine Maternity**

7362 Shawneetown Trail, Ellis Grove, IL 62241

Parish Secretary: Gerry Valleroy

Deacon Al Dubois

Parish Phone: 618-859-3541

### **St. Joseph**

802 Middle St, Prairie du Rocher, IL 62277

Parish Secretary: Jill Whelan

Parish Phone: 618-284-3314

Email: [sjospdr@htc.net](mailto:sjospdr@htc.net)

Website: [www.stjoespdr.org](http://www.stjoespdr.org)

*We extend a very warm welcome to all those who are new to our parishes. We would love for you to become permanent members of our Parish Partnership Family! Please contact the Parish Secretary at the office number listed above.*