

READINGS

First Reading: (Is 9:1)

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light

Psalm: (Ps 27)

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading: (1 Cor 1:10)

I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose.

Gospel: (Mt 4:13-14)

He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Saturday, Jan 24

4:00PM (C) NO MASS due to inclement weather

6:00PM (EG) NO MASS due to inclement weather

Sunday, Jan 25

8:00AM-(J) NO MASS due to inclement weather

10:00AM (C) NO MASS due to inclement weather

5:00PM (C) NO MASS due to inclement weather

Monday, Jan 26

8:15AM (C) NO MASS

Tuesday, Jan 27

8:00AM (J) NO MASS

Wednesday, Jan 28

8:15AM (C) NO MASS

Thursday, Jan. 29

NO MASS

Friday, Jan. 30

NO MASS

Saturday, Jan 31

4:00PM (C) Brian Petrowske by Family

6:00PM (EG)

Sunday, Feb. 1

8:00AM-(J) Rosie Mudd

10:00AM (C) Daniel Surman by Donna Schweizer &
Larry Surman

5:00PM (C) Gary Casetta

MASS SCHEDULE ~ January

Saturday: 4pm: Chester 6pm: Ellis Grove

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

NO WEEKDAY MASSES WHILE FR. SEBASTIAN IS GONE

WELCOME AND THANK YOU FR. DENNIS FOR
CELEBRATING MASS WITH US!

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

Today’s Gospel describes the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke (called the Synoptic Gospels), Jesus’ public ministry begins after his baptism by John the Baptist and after his retreat to the desert where he was tempted by the devil. When Jesus returns from the desert, he hears that John has been arrested.

The first part of today’s Gospel places Jesus’ ministry in the context of the writings of the prophet, Isaiah. Matthew wants to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies given to the people of Israel, and he refers to Isaiah to do so. Isaiah says that the Messiah will begin his ministry in Galilee, the land of the Gentiles. When Jesus begins to preach in Galilee, Matthew points to his ministry as a fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy, proof that Jesus is the Messiah.

When Jesus called his first disciples, the Gospel tells us that the fishermen (Peter and Andrew, James and John) dropped everything to follow Jesus immediately. Yet this Gospel tells us little about the prior experience that the fishermen had of Jesus. Did they know him? Had they heard him preach? What kind of person must Jesus have been to invoke such a response? We can imagine that Jesus was a powerful presence to elicit a response as immediate and complete as these first disciples gave.

The Gospel concludes with a description of the ministry that Jesus begins in Galilee. Jesus inaugurates the Kingdom of God with his work. He teaches in the synagogue and preaches the kingdom. His ability to cure people’s diseases and illness is a sign of the kingdom. In Jesus’ ministry, we already begin to see the Kingdom of God among us.

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

OCIA

Interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Faith? St. Mary’s in Chester is planning to offer O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) starting this September. Please call the parish office or contact Brad for more info: 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

No Adoration until Feb. 9th

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

There will be no Mass of Healing until Fr. Sebastian returns



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), Leonard DeRousse 284-6655 before 7pm (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).

WOMEN’S SUPPORT GROUP

Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at 10am at Linda Stern’s home, 106 Hillcrest Dr., Chester. Come and connect with others who are making their way since losing their spouses. If you have any questions, call Linda (618-201-2957) or Martha McDonald (618-615-6624).

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,
Jaci Bert, Amanda Loudenback, Sonny & Roseann Glenn,
Earlene Riechman, Judy Kempfer, Peggy Helmers,
Evelyn Marquardt, Roger Knott, Albert Deterding, Raymond Ellner, Tony Melliery, Eric Mathews,
Bill & Erlene Hanger, Savanna Zieger,
Sharon Bryant, Huckson McGee, Betty Bissel,
Gary Sauerhage

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY’S

Jan Smith 1/24, Evan Mudd 1/25, Richard Holley 1/26,
Delores Steibel 1/27, Cort Deterding 1/27, Patrick Mueller 1/27, Royce Hoops 1/28, Ryan Candler 1/29, David Grau 1/29, David Grau 1/29, Brynlee Roy 1/30, Cameron Roy 2/1

Jay & Carol Allison 1/25

Albert & Carla Deterding 1/31

Larry & Joyce Surman 1/31

PRAYER CANDLES

Due to a faulty batch of large Candles, we will not put any out while Fr. Sebastian is gone and until these are replaced

with the proper candles. Also please light all candles with the clickers, there will no longer be any matches near the candles.

ST. JOSEPH, PRAIRIE DU ROCHER EVENTS

Weekly Tithes & Offerings

Online Giving ~ www.stjoespdr.org

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

Envelopes () \$1262 Loose: \$168, First Offering: \$25,

YTD: goal: \$49,300 collected: \$51,806

Financial statements: If you need one for tax purposes, please let Marvin K. know. They will be ready by Jan. 30th

Liturgical Calendar ~ St. Joseph

Jan 25 (S) Cort & Emmett(L) Kim (B) Audrey

(C) Carol & Nancy

Feb. 1 (8AM) (S) Lilly, Jack, Lexi (L) Mary B (B) Jill

(C) Carla & Audrey



Parents, PSR starts promptly at 7:15am

Jill will arrive at 7am to open. Wednesday Feb.

18th is Ash Wednesday, and we will have class

that day. Mass will begin at 7:30am. Please make

the appropriate changes in your calendar. No class on

Tuesday Feb. 17th. Remember if there is no school there is

no PSR.

Confirmation retreat will be on Sunday March 22nd at St. Boniface for the candidates and their sponsors from 9am - 2pm lunch and snacks are provided. This is a mandatory retreat for our candidates and their sponsors.

ST. MARY’S CHESTER EVENTS

Weekly Tithes & Offerings

Online Giving ~ osvhub.com/maryhoc/funds

Weekly Goal: \$8901 ~

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

Servers Schedule

Sat Jan 31 ~ Brynn & Bryce

Sun Feb 1 ~ Reed, Will & Blake

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

Sat Jan 31 ~ (L) Paula (H) Larry (C) Megan & Paula

Sun Feb 1 ~ (L) Grant (H) Matt (C) Bill, Dave, Sam & Diana

2025 Tax Statement: If you would like your tax statement for 2025, please put a self-addressed, stamped envelope in the collection basket.

St. Mary’s 2026 Gala Dinner Auction:

The 2026 Gala Dinner Auction will be held on March 7th. Shopping for donations is easy from the Amazon Wish List using this QR code.



Informational flyers are in the church entrance. Start shopping now and send your items directly to the school!

Dinner Tickets for the Gala: Contact Paula Platt at (618) 615-5545. The cost of \$50 per person includes dinner, drinks, an evening spent with friends, and the chance to bid on some awesome items all while helping support our school. Payment and the names of those attending can be placed in the church collection basket or sent to the church office.

Gala Raffle Tickets: Raffle tickets and donation forms are available at the entrance to the church. Please return the raffle tickets or donation forms to the church or school.

Volunteers Needed! Help is needed for food prep the week before the dinner auction and kitchen help on the night of March 7th. Call Jenny at (618) 615-1452 if you can help.

Thank you for your continued support of our biggest fundraiser for our school!!!

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. You can place \$20 marked *Quilt Raffle* with your name and phone number in the collection basket.

KC Hall Monday Lunches: Monday, January 26th – CANCELLED due to expected inclement weather.

KC Hall PTO Friday Dinners: The KC’s will host Friday dinners from 5p–7p. Cost is \$15. The School will receive a portion of the proceeds. Student volunteers are needed!

KC Monthly Meeting: 3rd Thursday of every month at 6pm.

Chester Christian Food Pantry: Items needed: Pasta dinners, canned fish, cheese. Monetary donations are always welcome. Next mobile market: January 28, 2026. Volunteers always needed to help with distribution. Thank you for your continued support of the Pantry!

First Reconciliation: Sunday, February 8th after 10:00 am Mass for students preparing for 1st Communion.

Confirmation Date: Thursday, April 16th

ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL



is January 26th thru 31st; opening Mass on Sunday, January 25th.

Bus not available on January 23rd 2:50 pm dismissal.

Stonie’s Snack Sticks & Summer Sausage Orders:

The 7th & 8th grade classes are selling flavored pork/beef summer sausage and snack sticks. Proceeds will go toward their Class Trip. Contact Dawn at (618) 521-1066 to place an order no later than January 30th.

Pulled Pork Fundraiser: Smoked pulled pork for \$12 per pound is being sold by the PTO for pick up on Saturday, February 7th between 10a-12p in the School Library. Great idea for Super Bowl! Orders and payment due by February 4th. Order forms available in the back of church or contact any SMS student.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Hearts Aflame: Couples Married 10 Years or Less are invited to register for an evening to celebrate and deepen their love on March 7th. Tickets are \$50/couple which includes dinner, drinks, dance lesson and babysitting. RSVP by February 27th by emailing mking@diobelle.org.

The Messenger: Renewal weekend is February 7-8. One year is \$40 for printed home delivery copy and \$35 for digital. www.bellevillemessenger.org or call (618) 722-5045.

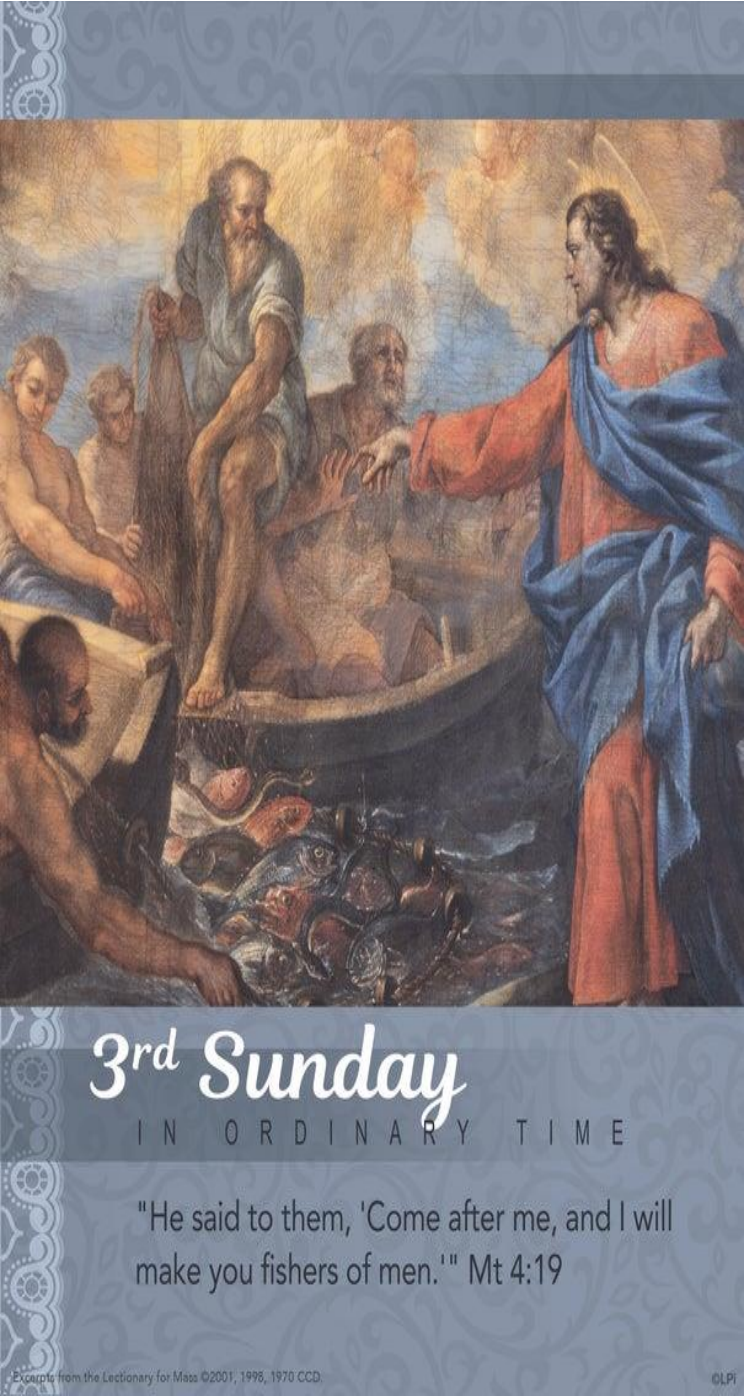
St. Augustine ~ Hecker: The Quilt/Cash Bingo is Sunday, February 8th, 2026, at the Hecker Community Center. We will be serving Fried Chicken and Pork Sausage Plates, serving from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. Bingo begins at 1:30. Please plan to come for an enjoyable time.

Prairie du Rocher PTO

Soup supper- Sunday February 1,
Prairie du Rocher American Legion
11am -4pm All You Can Eat!
Adults - \$14 Kids (12 & under) - \$7
Carry out - \$14 (3 Soups of your choice)

**Live The Liturgy
Inspiration of the Week**

Peter and Andrew, James and John — they were not expecting God that day. But there he was, right in front of them, beckoning. God stands before us today, and like the Apostles, we often don't see him coming. But still, he beckons. Will we follow?



PASTOR: FR. SEBASTIAN

Website: 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

Email: 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

Website : 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.*