

READINGS**First Reading:** (Is 58:8)

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed.

Psalm: (Ps 112)

The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.

Second Reading: (1 Cor 2:1-2)

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, proclaiming the mystery of God, I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Gospel: (Mt 5:14-15)

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket."

MASS INTENTIONS

C = CHESTER * EG = ELLIS GROVE *

J = PR DU ROCHER

Saturday, Feb. 7

4:00PM (C) Michelle Guebert

6:00PM (J) Jason Roscow & Jackie Laurent

Sunday, Feb. 8

8:00AM-(EG)

10:00AM (C) Dorothy Korando by Susan Siegfried

5:00PM (C) Carol Jeremiah by Delbert Doeding

Monday, Feb. 9

8:15AM (C) Bernard Duchinsky

Tuesday, Feb. 10

8:30AM (J) Janie Mathews

Wednesday, Feb. 11

8:15AM (C) Norbert Stumpe

Thursday, Feb. 12

8:00AM (J) Bob Ellner

Friday, Feb. 13

NO MASS

Saturday, Feb. 14~Valentines Day

4:00PM (C) Roy Turner

4:00PM (EG)

6:00PM (J) Terry Laurent & Steve Deterding

Sunday, Feb. 15

8:00AM-(EG)- No Mass

10:00AM (C) Rachel Juenger by Bob & Tammy

5:00PM (C) Gary Casetta

MASS SCHEDULE ~ February**Saturday:** 4pm: Chester 6pm: Prairie du Rocher**Sunday:** 8am: Ellis Grove 10am: Chester**WELCOME BACK FR. SEBASTIAN****GOSPEL REFLECTIONS**

It seems like this week's readings are all about light. It's that light we need so badly just to know where we are and where we're supposed to be going. The Lord tells us that we are the light of the world, just as He is. In the first reading, Isaiah shows us exactly how to be that light: "Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the homeless poor, clothe the naked, and then your light will break forth like the dawn." He tells us that when we remove oppression, stop pointing fingers, and quit the mean-spirited talk, our light will shine like the midday sun.

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS**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.

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

Adoration for parishes begins 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****Feb. 7 & 8 after all Masses****WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**Lenten Bible study begins on Wednesday, Feb. 18th @2pm

In St. Joseph Hall.

"Lent is an invitation not an obligation!" We are inviting all women to uncover the deep love Jesus poured out for you.



Steubenville Youth Conference at Springfield Missouri this year will be July 17-19. If you want to attend, please let Jill know by March 1st.

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 Melliore, Eric Mathews, Bill & Erlene Hanger,

Savanna Zieger, Sharon Bryant, Huckson McGee,

Betty Bissel, Gary Sauerhage

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY'S

Curtis Thornton 2/7, Alyse Vasquez 2/8, Nadeen Reinhold 2/9, Brynn Berbuegler 2/11, Gavin Gross 2/12, William F. Sauer 2/12, Megan Berkbuegler 2/13, Margaret Vaughn 2/14

Raymond & Dorothy Reinhold 2/14**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 1/25/26 (12) \$385 Loose: \$0 1st Offering: \$20,

Envelopes 2/1/26 (27) \$1083, Loose: \$146

YTD: goal: \$51,000 collected: \$53,420**Financial statements:** Are ready!**Liturgical Calendar ~ St. Joseph****Feb. 7 (6PM) (S)** Evan & Luke, (L) Steve S, (B) Marie, (C) Mary & Leonard**Feb. 14 (S)** Cort & Emmett (L) Chad, (B) Carla, (C) Mary & Leonard**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 Feb 7 ~** Cody & Addie**Sun Feb 7 ~** Jackson, Ezra, Maren**Sat Feb 14 ~** Toby & Jase**Sun Feb 15 ~** Reed, Will & Blake**Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule****Sat Feb 7 ~** (L) Kelley (H) Ron (C) Candy, Sarah**Sun Feb 8 ~** (L) Dainelle (H) Todd (C) Greg, Norman, Jeannie, Kevin**Sat Feb 14 ~** (L) Linda (H) Kathleen (C) Martha, Marlene**Sun Feb 15~** (L) Grant (H) Aaron (C) Barb, Madi, Sam, Doris**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! **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.

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. All Names and Money Must be Turned in by February 8th.

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.

KC Hall Monday Lunches: Monday, 02.09.26 ~ Meatloaf plus sides. Served from 11 am – 1 pm \$12/person

KC Hall PTO Friday Dinners: The KC will host Friday dinners with help from SMS students. The School will receive a portion of the proceeds. Student volunteers are needed! Serving from 5:00 – 7:30 \$15. **Feb. 13** – Spaghetti, bread sticks, salad, vegetable. Beginning **Feb. 21st**, regular Lenten Fish Fries. Regular Fish, Cajun Fish, chicken strips, fries, Mac & Cheese, coleslaw and stewed tomatoes.

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. **The Food Pantry is in need of Egg Cartons.** They can be delivered to the Pantry any time. There is a plastic container in front of the pavilion at the Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support of the Pantry!

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Upcoming Events: – **First Reconciliation** ~ Sunday, February 8th ~ after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

KC Free-throw Championship – Now scheduled for February 15th.

Confirmation Date: April 16th

AROUND THE DIOCESE

The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal Hope in the Lord The Society of St. Vincent de Paul truly serves the poorest of the poor through its Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen, SVDP Thrift Store, Help Center and Night Drop-In Center. Men, women and children are provided the basic necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter – and the hope and the tools they need for a better tomorrow. Help St. Vincent de Paul serve those who have no place else to turn. Please make **your gift** to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal today.

The Messenger: The Messenger Newspaper Subscription Renewal Weekend is Feb. 7-8. Please stay connected with your Diocese through a subscription to *The Messenger* Catholic Newspaper. Payments can be made via your Messenger envelope or by credit card at: www.bellevillemessenger.org and click SUBSCRIBE or call (618) 722.5045 during business hours for phone payment. The cost for a 1-year subscription is \$40 for printed, home-delivery, \$35 for digital access and \$45 for both. **Please make checks payable to The Messenger and make sure to include your e-mail address if digital subscription is selected.**

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.

Euchre Tournament: St Michael's Men's Club of Paderborn is sponsoring a Euchre Tournament on Saturday, February 28 at 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:00 PM. All-you can drink beer and soda and all-you can eat fried chicken at the end of the last round. Text Rich Kreher 314-341-4904 with any questions.

SPPS Annual Wurstmarkt & Quilt & Cash Bingo Sunday, February 22nd Dine/Carryout! Serving from 11am – 3pm in the cafeteria, Pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans drink & dessert. **Quilt & Cash bingo** will begin in the gym at 1pm. Paper cards will be used. Cost \$1 per card.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

BE SALTY

I want you to close your eyes. Are they closed? (I'm serious.) Okay. Now think of the greatest saint in history.

I don't care who you're thinking of. It's going to be different for everyone. Just think of that person. Think of his or her life. And answer the question: Why is he or she a great saint?

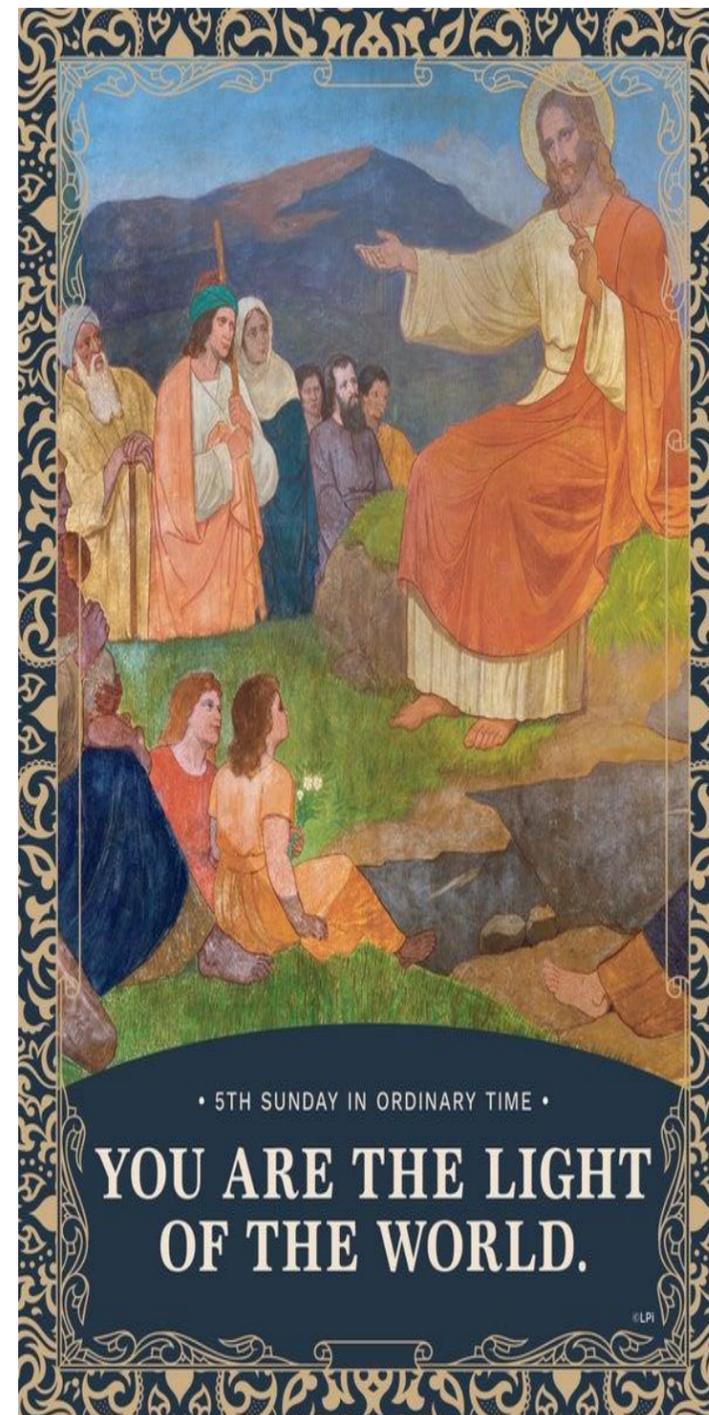
You're all thinking of different people, but the answer is the same for everyone. And it's not "Because he did great things for God" or "Because she sacrificed everything she had for the poor." Those answers show evidence of the reason. But the reason is something more.

The greatest saints in history were not great at holiness. God brought holiness about within them because (ding ding ding! Here's the answer!) the greatest saints in history were great at being who they were meant to be.

Not who they wanted to be. Not who they thought they should be. Who were they meant to be. Simply put, they gave themselves to God. All of them. Flaws and all. And God took them, in their totality, and said: "Now watch this."

Just imagine if salt was ashamed of being salty. Imagine if it looked at the sodium content on its nutrition label and thought, "That's embarrassing," and decided it was going to stop being salt. Well, great. Now it's just a box of tiny rocks.

Wouldn't it have been better for the salt to trust the baker using it.



PASTOR: FR. SEBASTIAN

Website: www.stjmm.org

Mary Help of Christians

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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.