

**READINGS**

**First Reading:** (Ex 17:6)

“Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink.”

**Psalm:** (Ps 95)

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

**Second Reading:** (Rom 5:5)

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**Gospel:** (Jn 4:13-14)

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

**MASS INTENTIONS**

C = CHESTER \* EG = ELLIS GROVE \*

J = PR DU ROCHER

**Saturday, Mar. 7**

4:00PM (C) Roy Turner

6:00PM (EG)

**Sunday, Mar. 8**

8:00AM-(J) Louise Wiegard & Lyle Mathews

10:00AM (C) Barb Hanger by Deb Bauer

5:00PM (C) Ruth Petrowske by Family

**Monday, Mar. 9**

8:15AM (C) Mike & Anita Bievenue Family

**Tuesday, Mar. 10**

8:30AM (J) Greg Harbaugh

**Wednesday, Mar. 11**

8:15AM (C) Carol Jeremiah by Shirley & Dawn

**Thursday, Mar. 12**

8:00AM (J) Irene “Janie” Mathews

**Friday, Mar. 13**

NO MASS

**Saturday, Mar. 14**

4:00PM (C) Patrick Kickham by Kathy Albrecht

6:00PM (EG)

**Sunday, Mar. 15**

8:00AM-(J) Maxine Linnertz

10:00AM (C) Almasy Family

5:00PM (C) Michelle Guebert by the Parish

**MASS SCHEDULE ~ February**

**Saturday:** 4pm: Chester 6pm: Prairie du Rocher

**Sunday:** 8am: Ellis Grove 10am: Chester

**GOSPEL REFLECTIONS**

The first reading (Exodus 17: 3-7) takes us to the arid desert where the Israelites were stranded and thirsty. The Lord then directed Moses to get water from a rock, and this place was called Meribah. It reminded them that in the midst of their

complaint and disunity, the "Miracle of the Rock" brought them together.

The second reading (Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8) reaffirms the Christian belief around hope, faith and sacrifice. The hope we have in God enables us to overcome the storms of this world. Our faith is the anchor upon which these things happen. Finally, the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross, is the ultimate sign of Love for all humanity.

In the Gospel (John 4: 5-42) Jesus encounters the woman of Samaria at the well. It was a meeting that was non-judgmental, pastoral and amiable. Christ is the only one who can satiate us and curb our thirst, addictions and earthly cravings. In this season of Lent, may we come to the spring of living water and never thirst. Amen.

**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](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

**WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY**

Lenten Bible study begins on Tuesday Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 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.



**Stuebenville Youth Conference at Springfield Missouri this year will be July 17-19. If you want to attend, please let Jill know by March 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Next Meeting: March 15<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm. Escape Room project. Open to all grades 7-12.**

**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).

**FOOD PANTRY**

Items needed: [Chester] Boxed Potato items, canned meat and canned fish. Monetary donations are always welcome. **The Food Pantry needs Egg Cartons.** They can be delivered to the Pantry at any time. There is a plastic container in front of the pavilion at the Food Pantry. The [PDR] school pantry needs personal hygiene items as well as box meals and canned goods. Please no mac n cheese, they have plenty. Thank you for your continued support of the Pantry!

**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 Loudonback, Sonny & Roseann Glenn,

Earlene Riechman, Judy Kempfer, Peggy Helmers,

Evelyn Marquardt, Roger Knott, Albert Deterding, Raymond

Ellner, Tony Meliere, Eric Mathews, Bill & Erlene Hanger,

Savanna Zieger, Huckson McGee, Betty Bissel, Gary

Sauerhage, Mary Verseman, Randy Stoffel, Alli Petrowske

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY’S**

Alfred Johnson 37, James Bohnert 3/8, Yvonne Tretter 3/8,

Lisa Durbin-Leonard 3/8, Mallary Vasquez 3/8,

Shirley Straight 3/9, Claire Schilling 3/9, Lane Fausz 3/9,

Morris Jany 3/10, Marlene Jany 3/10, Isaac Jany 3/11, Todd

Moeller 3/11, Lauryn Vasquez 3/11

**Rob & Rhonda Wingerter 3/7**

**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 (35): \$1284 Loose: \$136, Candles (Feb.) \$30,

Easter Flowers: \$215

**YTD:** goal: \$58,100 collected: \$60,516

**Liturgical Calendar ~ St. Joseph**

**March. 8 (S)** Madison & Mackenzie (L) Steve, (B) Mary, (C) Leonard & Marie

**March 15 (S)** Lilly, Jack, Lexie, (L) James, (B) Carol (C) Audrey & Carla

**IN NEED-** We need volunteers for servers, special ministers & lectors. If you are interested, please call Jill at the office.

**Feast of St. Joseph** In honor of The Feast of St. Joseph, we will be hosting a pastry potluck on Sunday, March 22 after 8am Mass. There will be eggs, bacon/sausage & potatoes provided by the parish, but we are asking that each family bring a breakfast pastry to share.

**Reminder:** Stations of the Cross are every Friday Night from 7-8pm



**Parents,** PSR students have been given a challenge! We encouraged each grade to attend Mass regularly during Lent. If at least 50% attend every week there will be a Breakfast

Pizza party on the Tuesday after Easter.

**Update:** We are just under the needed 50% weekly for the pizza party.

**Palm Sunday:** A letter was sent out to each PSR family to attend Palm Sunday and the palm procession. Please consider attending Mass with your child.

**Confirmation retreat** will be on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. Boniface for the candidates and their sponsors from 9am - 2pm. Mass at 2pm following the retreat. Lunch and snacks are provided. This is a mandatory retreat for our candidates and their sponsors.

**SPRING FUNDRAISER**

On April 19<sup>th</sup> St. Joseph will be hosting another quilt and cash bingo at the PDR American Legion. We are looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen, the hall, cash donations to offset some of the cost and if you have a finished quilt we would appreciate it as a donation as well. We also ask that you pass the word since that is our biggest advertisement.

**CEMETERY REMINDER:** March 15<sup>th</sup> is the final date to remove all grave blankets, and any fall or Christmas decorations as we prepare the grounds for the upcoming

mowing season. As per the cemetery rules and regulations, the cemetery management has the right to remove decorations that have been broken, or unsightly and are in violation.

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

### **Weekly Tithes & Offerings**

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

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

### **Servers Schedule**

**Sat Mar 7 ~ Gavin & ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

**Sun Mar 8 ~ Jackson, Parker, Maren**

**Sat Mar 14 ~ Toby & Jase**

**Sun Mar 15 ~ Jon, Penelope & Piper**

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

**Sat Mar 7 ~** (S) Pat (L) Nicole (H) Martha (C) Kathleen, Marlene

**Sun Mar 8 ~** (L) Amy (H) Sue (C) Greg J, Barb, Doris, Aaron

**Sat Mar 14 ~** (S) Linda (L) Linda (H) Kathleen (C) Larry, Paula

**Sun Mar 15 ~** (L) Danny (H) Madi (C) Greg, Matt, Bill, Dave

**Stations of the Cross:** Stations of the Cross will be held before Saturday evening Mass beginning at 3:15pm during Lent.

**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.

**KC Hall Monday Lunches:** Monday, 03/09/26 – BBQ Chicken, green beans, au gratin potatoes, broccoli salad Served from 11am – 1pm. \$12/person

**KC Hall PTO Friday Dinners:** The KC will host Friday Fish Frys 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. Regular Fish, Cajun Fish, chicken strips, fries, mac & cheese, coleslaw and stewed tomatoes. **This Friday the KC is adding scored buffalo and catfish to the menu again!**

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

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

**Open Gym** – For information for 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students, text Aaron Petrowske at (573) 768-6484.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Confirmation Retreat:** March 22

**Daddy Daughter Dance:** March 28<sup>th</sup>

**Confirmation Date:** April 16<sup>th</sup>

## **AROUND THE DIOCESE**

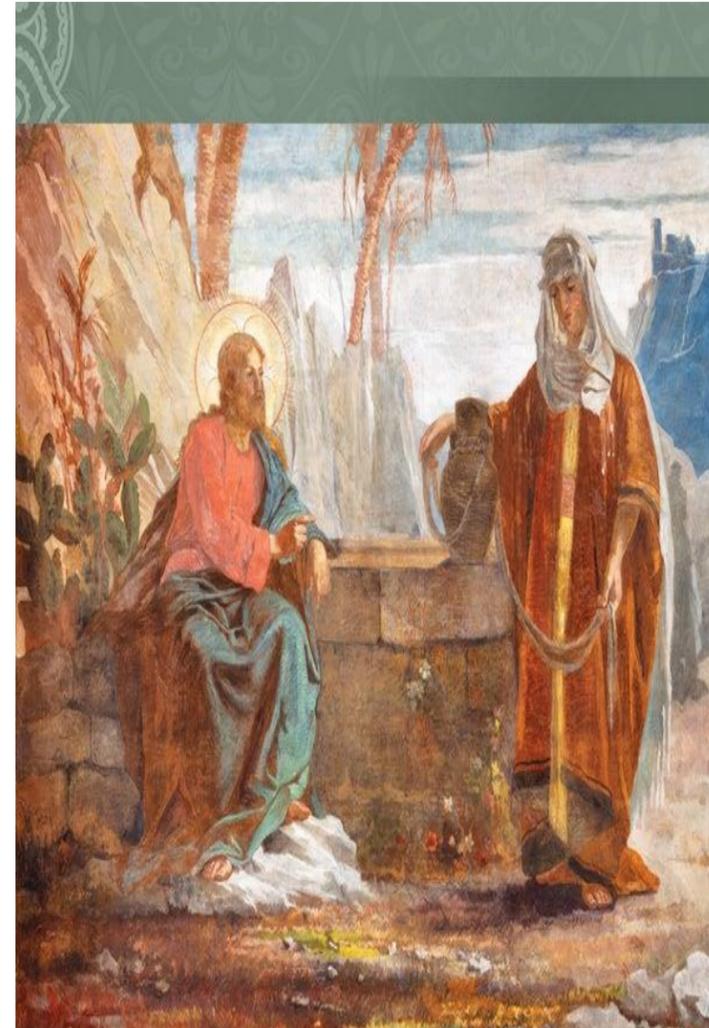
**2026-2027 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal:** *“Those who are kind to the needy honor Him” (Proverbs 14:31)* This weekend our parish has an opportunity to support the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. Each year, through our prayers and gifts to the Appeal, diocesan ministries continue to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, care for the sick and elderly, educate children, reach out to youth, train lay ministers and catechists and so much more. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail or forgot to bring it, please use one of the envelopes available in your pew or bring your card next week. Your contribution will touch the lives of thousands of people throughout southern Illinois; on behalf of each of them, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Fair:** Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Easter Tributes:** Honor your Loved Ones on Easter with a Personalized Tribute in *The Messenger*. Deadline is March 20<sup>th</sup>. Tributes will appear in the April 10<sup>th</sup> publication. Contact the Parish Office for forms.

**Gaudeamus** – Let Us Rejoice! Seminarian Gala. Answering the Call. Supporting the Journey. Saturday, April 11; Holy Trinity Church, Fairview Heights, IL. 4pm Mass, 5pm Cocktail Hour, 6pm Dinner & Auction. To Register visit – <https://www.diobelle.org/> For more information, contact Mary Fleming [mfleming@diobelle.org](mailto:mfleming@diobelle.org) or 618.722.5031

**Totus Tuus** will be offered at five locations across the Belleville Diocese this summer and is open to all students in Grades 1–12 (elementary daytime program; middle/high school evening program). Many parishes cannot host their own summer program each year, so these locations are intentionally open to all families across the diocese. Registration details will be released soon.



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday**  
OF LENT

"A woman of Samaria came to draw water.  
Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.'"

Jn 4:7-8

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

OLPI



**PASTOR: FR. SEBASTIAN**

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.*