

READINGS

**First Reading:** (Isa 2:5)  
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!  
**Psalm:** (Ps 122)  
Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.  
**Second Reading:** (Rom 13:11)  
You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.  
**Gospel:** (Mt 24:44)  
“So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

MASS INTENTIONS

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

**Saturday, Nov.29**  
**4:00PM (C)** Andrew Sroka by Linda Stern  
**6:00PM (EG)**  
**Sunday, Nov. 30**  
**8:00AM-(J)** Alouise Wiegard  
**10:00AM (C)** Fr. Dan Jurek  
**5:00PM (C)** Brian Petrowske by Family  
**Monday, Dec. 1**  
**8:15AM (C)** Paul Herzog by Mike & Anita Bievenue  
**Tuesday, Dec. 2**  
**NO MASS**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 3**  
**8:15AM (C)** Jim Sroka by Linda Stern  
**Thursday, Dec. 4**  
**8:00AM (C)** For the Parish  
**Friday, Dec. 5**  
**NO MASS**  
**Saturday, Dec. 6**  
**4:00PM (C)** Pat Kickham by Kathy Albrecht  
**6:00PM (J)** Carol Dufrenne & Clara Stefani  
**Sunday, Dec. 7**  
**8:00AM-(EG)**  
**10:00AM (C)** Roy Turner by Terry Riebeling  
**5:00PM (C)** Ruth Petrowske by Family

MASS SCHEDULE ~ December

**Saturday:** 4pm: Chester 6pm: Prairie du Rocher  
**Sunday:** 8am: Ellis Grove 10am: Chester

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

The first reading (Isaiah 2:1-5) reflects on the hope of a new nation. This nation will be established on the mountain of the Lord. All people will flow to it. There will be peace and love among this new breed of followers.

In the second reading (Romans 13:11-14) Saint Paul wakes us from our slumber. We have to throw away the works of darkness, vice and sin. Something new is about to happen and we can't afford to be left out.

The Gospel (Matthew 24: 37-44) cautions us against getting carried away by the demands of this season. This may eventually make us unprepared for the precious gift of the incarnation which Advent disposes our hearts for. We are told to be prepared because the Messiah is nearer than we anticipate. Amen.

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

**Volunteer Opportunity:** We are looking for someone who is interested in promoting pro-life values, raising awareness and the issues of families and mothers in need. If you are interested in becoming a Pro-Life Coordinator for the Parish Partnership, please contact your parish office.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE

Monday December 8<sup>th</sup>  
8:15AM~ Chester 7PM ~Prairie du Rocher

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](mailto:bradcolvis@gmail.com).

CONFESSIONS

**St. Joseph:** Tuesday & Thursday mornings & Sat. evenings after Mass or by appt.  
**St. Mary’s (C):** Sat. 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

First weekend of the month following each Mass.



POINSETTIA PICK UP

**Sat. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>** 4pm- Chester  
**Sun. 7<sup>th</sup>** 8am- Ellis Grove

6pm- PDR 10am- Chester  
*Thank you to all who helped us reach our goal!*

Youth group members who traveled to NCYC will be at Mass on December 6 & 7 to speak about their experiences. Please come and listen to their excitement about their faith and listening to Pope Leo.

Youth group Christmas Party will be on Sunday Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm

**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) or Rosemary Bert 618-615-6135 or Martha McDonald 618-615-6624 (Chester).

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, Judy Kempfer, Peggy Helmers, Mary Moeller, Evelyn Marquardt, Roger Knott, Albert Deterding, Raymond Ellner, Tony Mellierra, Craig Purcell, Bill & Erlene Hanger, Julia Hartman, Savanna Zieger, Sharon Bryant

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY’S

Rhonda Wingerter 11/30, Adam Walker 11/30, Rhonda Wingerter 11/30, Ryan Reiss 12/1, Sharon Howie 12/2, Ezra Gaertner 12/4  
**Kenneth & Vickie Eggemeyer 11/30**  
**Pete & Trisha Jany 11/30**  
**Chad & Kim Deterding 12/1**

ADVENT DAY OF PREPARATION

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at St. Mary’s Ellis Grove will be hosting

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 (33) \$1543 Loose: \$33

**YTD:** goal: \$35,700 collected: \$36,196

Liturgical Calendar ~ St. Joseph

**Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> (S)** PSR (L) PSR (B) Leonard, (C) Mary & Jill  
**Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> (S)** Evan & Luke, (L) Steve, (B) Nancy, (C) Audrey & Marie  
**Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> (S)** Confirmation Class (L) Confirmation Class (B) Audrey, (C) Carol & Mary



**Parents,** PSR starts promptly at 7:15am  
Jill will arrive at 7pm to open.  
PSR confessions for grades 2-8 will be on Tuesday Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Last day of PSR for the year will be Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup> we end with a Mass

ST. MARY’S CHESTER EVENTS

Weekly Tithes & Offerings

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

**Weekly Goal: \$8901 ~ Thank You!**

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

Servers Schedule

**Sat. Nov 29 ~** Brynn & Bryce  
**Sun. Nov 30 ~** Maren, Penelope & Piper  
**Sat. Dec 6 ~** Addie & Gavin  
**Sun. Dec 7 ~** Kevin, Parker & Ezra

**Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedul**  
**Sat. Nov. 29 ~** (L) Paula (H) Ron (C) Candy, Paula  
**Sun. Nov. 30 ~** (L) Dainelle (H) Todd (C) Greg, Kevin, Barb, Grant  
**Sat. Dec. 6 ~** (L) Rob (H) Larry (C) Kathleen, Rob  
**Sun. Dec 7 ~** (L) Amy (H) Greg (C) Sue, Aaron, Matt, Dave

**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 being sold at this time.

**KC Hall Monday Lunches:** Monday, 12/1/25 ~ Smash burgers, homemade chips, mac & cheese, creamy slaw. Served from 11 am – 1 pm. \$12/person.

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

**Angel Tree:** It’s time to purchase your *angels*. Each beautifully crocheted angel is \$10. If you are renewing an angel(s) from previous years, the cost is \$5 per angel. Angel forms are located at the church entrance. You can return them to the collection basket or give them to Donna Ritter. All proceeds go back to the church. Last year we collected \$894!!! Thank you, Donna, for your continued dedication of creating these beautiful pieces of art that adorn our parish at Christmas. Non-payment will result in your angel(s) being removed.

**Giving Tree:** This weekend the giving tree will be up with the names of 7 parishioners at High Point (formerly Craig Manor) and 9 at Three Springs Rehab. Center. There will also be ornaments for food or baby items for the food pantry. Food Pantry items can be taken there on Wed. from 9 – 2 pm. (618.826.3141). Please bring your gifts back to church by Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>.

**St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery:** We are looking for someone who is interested in the grass mowing and upkeep of the cemetery. The position will be available starting January 1<sup>st</sup>. Anyone interested should contact the Church Office.

**Mass Intentions:** Mass intentions are \$10 each. Effort is made to accommodate specific date requests, but all cannot always be accommodated. Requests and payment can be placed in the collection basket or mailed to the Church Office.

**Chester Christian Food Pantry:** Holiday Gift Bags will be distributed throughout the month in addition to regular staples. Monetary donations are much appreciated to make this season bright for those in need!

***ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL***

**Show Me the Dough Fundraiser:** Order forms available at church entrance. Delivery planned for Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>.

***AROUND THE DIOCESE***

**Action Alert:** Please contact Governor Pritzker to VETO SB1950 which legalizes assisted suicide. Call (312) 814-2121 or go to [www.ilcatholic.org](http://www.ilcatholic.org) for email links.

**The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal** *Hope in the Lord* Your contribution to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal enables the Office of Education to impact the lives of over 9,140 students at 23 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 2025 Appeal today. No amount is too large or too small! Thank you.

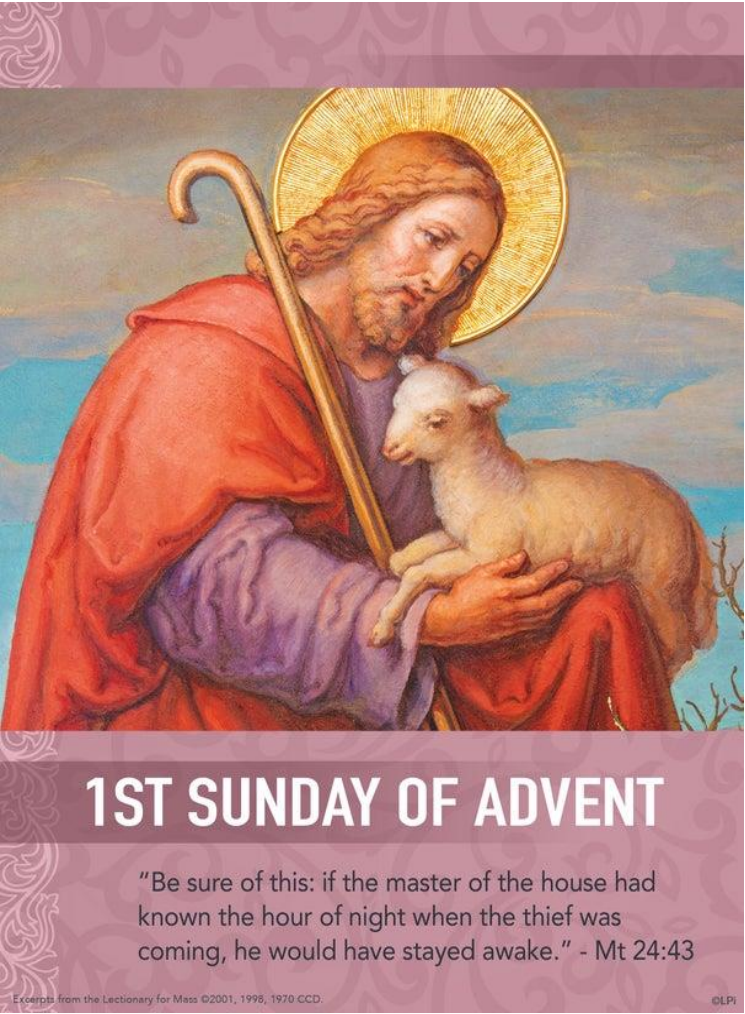
**Gibault Winter Baseball Camp** Dec. 29-31 in Fr. Edwin Hustedee Gym 9:30-11:30am. Please complete registration by Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> to assure your child’s t-shirt order! (late entries are still accepted) To register text 41444 to Gibault Baseball.

**The Messenger** Give the gift that keeps on giving! The Messenger! To subscribe online for Family or Friends, go to: [www.bellevilemessenger.org](http://www.bellevilemessenger.org) or call (618) 233-8670.

**THE ADVENT WREATH**

The Advent Wreath as we know today is a modern spin on an ancient practice — or rather, several of them. Christians have always utilized candles to illustrate the metaphor of Christ as the “great light” shining on a people waiting in darkness (Isaiah 9:2). Depending on which country you live in or the denomination you belong to, you may see several different versions of the advent wreath. The simplest and most common advent wreath contains five candles, each with a special meaning:

- **Candle 1 (“The Prophet’s Candle”)** is purple, lit during the first week of Advent, and symbolizes hope.
- **Candle 2 (“The Bethlehem Candle”)** is purple, lit during the second week of Advent, and symbolizes peace.
- **Candle 3 (“The Shepherd’s Candle”)** is pink or rose-colored, lit during the third week of Advent, and represents joy.
- **Candle 4 (“the Angle’s Candle”)** is purple, lit during the fourth week of Advent, and represents love.
- **Candle 5 (“Christ’s candle”)** is white, lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, and represents the Advent child, Jesus.



**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: [Stmarychurch@stjmm.org](mailto:Stmarychurch@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.*