

READINGS

First Reading: (Is 45:1)
Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus, whose right hand I grasp, subduing nations before him.
Psalm: (Ps 96)
Give the Lord glory and honor.
Second Reading: (1 Thes 1:2-3)
We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love.
Gospel: (Mt 22:21)
“Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Saturday, Oct. 17
4PM (C) Roy Turner
6PM (J) Kirk Mudd
Sunday, Oct 18
8:00AM (EG)
10:00AM (C) Steven Shemonic by Barb Otten & Rachel Juenger by Bob Juenger
5:00PM (C) Marsha Link by Mike Vasquez family
Monday, Oct 19
8:15AM (C) Sharon Misuracca by Laura Vasquez
Tuesday, Oct 20
8:30AM (J) Ed & Irma Braun
Wednesday, Oct 21
8:15AM (C) Jay Wittenborn by Brenda Juengewaelter
Thursday, Oct. 22
8:00AM (J) Pam Pautler & Danny Pautler
Friday, Oct. 23
NO Mass
Saturday, Oct 24
4:00PM (C) Joe & Shirley Cushman by Gina Cushman
6:00PM (J) Ally Melliore
Sunday, Oct 25
8:00AM (EG)
10:00AM (C) Richard Hanger by Deb Bauer & Carol Jeremiah by Mary Brown
5:00PM (C) Jay Wittenborn by Bob & Paula Platt

MASS SCHEDULE ~ October

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

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

The first reading (Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6) reflects on king Cyrus who was mighty in strength. His power was unrivaled amongst all nations. However, his power was nothing compared to God who called him and made him who he was.

The second reading (1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5b) shares the unity between Paul, Silvanus and Timothy in their missionary endeavors. God blessed what they offered and made their work a success.
In the Gospel (Matthew 22: 15-21) Jesus was asked to choose between the Temple tax versus Census tax to Caesar. Christ instructs us to be both great Christians and good citizens. One should not be opposed to the other. A valuable food for thought in our world of today. Amen.

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

OCIA ~ Becoming Catholic

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

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 1st 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) “Positive interactions with our brothers and sisters in need honor God, reflect love and foster a cycle of goodness which is so desperately needed in our world today. Join us in our mission to serve those in need here in our Belleville Diocese. Please consider making a gift to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. Thank you for your consideration and support.” - Most Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB



Anyone in grades 7-12 is welcome to sign up. We will begin meeting every second Sunday (Nov. 8) from 5-7pm at St. Joseph for a bonfire & hot dog roast. Try again.

We have a Facebook Page: If you or your family like to join, please let Jill Whelan (618-719-9344) or Dawn Walker (618-317-5104) know so we can send you an invite.
Fr. Sebastian Bible Study will conclude on Thursday, October 24th at 7pm at St. Mary Divine Maternity in Ellis Grove. Refreshments to follow.

October Count/Registration: During the month of October the Diocese asks each parish to count the number of folks attending mass. During this time there will be registration forms out for you to complete and update our records.
Please fill it out and return it either in the collection basket or in the Rectory or Parish Office. This will happen at both St. Joseph’s and St. Mary’s Chester. Thank you.

Rosary Rally: Thank you to all who led and attended the rally last Saturday. We had a wonder crowd.

Fundraiser Pop-Up BBQ - James Popejoy will be hosting a pop-up BBQ on Friday, October 30 from 5:30-7:30pm. Pork steaks, pulled chicken or (2) brats with (2) sides for \$14 Orders must be placed by October 25th. There is a Facebook post or a sign-up sheet in the back of St. Joseph. James is going on a Mission trip to the Jabali Center.

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 Monday 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).

FOOD PANTRY

[Chester] Items Needed: Size 3, 4 & 5 Diapers; Pull Ups – all sizes, Baby Wipes, Kids snack & drink items and egg cartons. Monetary donations are always welcome. Households/Persons served at the Pantry during September: 226 households, 638 individuals (including 227 children). Served at the Mobile Market: 108 households, 279 individuals (including 89 children) Next Mobile Market is October 28th. The **[PDR]** school pantry is accepting nonperishable food or monetary donations. Please leave in the back of church. Thank you for your continued support of the Pantry!

PRAYER REQUEST

It is time to update our prayer list please review and let us know if it is ok to take your name off the prayer list. Keeping your name on is fine, we just need to clarify.
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, Sonny & Roseann Glenn, Earlene Riechman, Judy Kempfer, Evelyn Marquardt, Roger Knott, Albert Deterding, Raymond Ellner, Eric Mathews, Bill & Erlene Hanger, Huckson McGee, Betty Bissel, Gary Sauerhage, Alli Petrowske, Melissa Doss, Gale Frazer, Earlene Clements, Doc Ludwig, Savannah Goodman, Margaret Vaughn, Nicole Doty

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY’S

Mike Dethrow 10/17, Jeffrey Bohnert 10/17, Christine Barthol 10/18, Lois Naeger 10/20, Ryan Wlaker 10/20, Brooke Schilling 10/20, Ina Doiron 10/21, Tom Heine 10/21, Jeremy Jany 10/21, David Verseman 10/22, Ron Shemonic 10/22, Joe Cowan 10/23, James Reinhold 10/23, Brian Nierman 10/23, Philip Wingerter 10/23
Jon & Sarah Pollard 10/17,
Bob & Doris Heller 10/18,
Michael & Lynn Riebeling 10/19
Mike & Denice Atchison 10/20
Tim & Jane Lochhead 10/20
Patrick & Amy Miller 10/20 ~ Happy 25th
Bill & Jeannie Sauer 10/20,
Joshua & Jennifer Surman 10/20
Austin & Briahna Presley 10/21
Jeff & Elisha Gaertner 10/22



ST. JOSEPH, PRAIRIE DU ROCHER EVENTS

Weekly Tithes & Offerings

St. Joseph’s: Weekly Goal: \$1700 Beginning 7/1/2026
Envelopes: Thank you for your continued support

Liturgical Calendar ~ St. Joseph

Oct. 17 (S)Madison & Mackenzie (L) Mary B (B) Nancy (C) Carla & Audrey
Oct. 24 (S) Evan & Luke (L)Kim, (B) Marie (C) Mary & Carol

PSR Schedule- If your child would like to attend church during the week, please contact Jill if they need a ride. Mass is at 8am and will be over before breakfast at school.

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

Special Ministers & Lectors – We are still looking for volunteers to help during Mass.
Calling All Quilters: Quilting will continue Wednesdays, 9:00am. Come for an hour or stay for the day. All levels welcome.

Fall Bingo – On November 1st we will be hosting our annual fall bingo at the Prairie du Rocher American Legion. If you would like to please help talk to Ann, Jill or Lisa.

God’s Blessings to Anna Marie Yarber on her recent Baptism. “May this holy day be the first step in a life filled with God’s love, guidance, and joy. We pray that you will always walk in the light of His grace, and that your family will be a beacon of His love.”

Mass of Remembrance: St. Joseph Parish will celebrate a special Mass of Remembrance on Sunday, November 8, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. This Mass will be offered in memory of those loved ones who have passed away since our last All Souls Day.

Letter writing campaign: The parish and finance councils have begun a letter writing campaign to businesses and current and former parishioners. All monies collected will be used to repair the damage to the steeple. If you have not received a letter and want to donate, please make checks payable to St. Joseph steeple repair fund. If you donate with cash, place it in an envelope and mark it appropriately.

ST. MARY’S CHESTER EVENTS
Weekly Tithes & Offerings
Online Giving ~ osvhub.com/maryhoc/funds
Thank you for your continued support.

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

Servers Schedule
Sat Oct 17 ~ Cody & Caroline
Sun Oct 18 ~ Jon, Parker & Ezra
Sat Oct 24 ~ ***Two Volunteers Needed***
Sun Oct 25 ~ Reed, Blake & Will

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule
Sat Oct 17 ~ (L) Candy (H) Ron (C) Sarah, Candy
Sun Oct 18 ~ (L) Jocelyn (H) Kevin (C) Sam, Doris, Madi, Diana
Sat Oct 24 ~ (L) Candy (H) Martha (C) Kathleen, Paula
Sun Oct 25 ~ (L) Grant (H) Barb (C) Greg, Todd, Matt, Dave

Rosary: The month of October is dedicated to Blessed Virgin Mary. We will be praying the rosary with the congregation at 3:30 pm before the 4:00 pm Mass each Saturday in October beginning October 3rd.

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. 2027 Quilt of the Month Tickets are available in the Parish Office. Tickets are \$20 each. The October Quilt of the Month winner was Tom O’Connor. Congratulations Tom! **St Mary’s CCW is also having a quilt raffle for Seminarian Grant Fender. Tickets are \$5 each and are available in the Parish Office. Drawing will be held when all tickets are sold.**

KC Hall Monday Lunches: Monday, Oct 19th ~ Chicken & Dumplings, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans or Corn.

KC Monthly Meeting: 3rd Thursday of every month.

ST. MARY’S SCHOOL
Oct 19 ~ Eat at Dairy Queen from 4 to 10 pm. This benefits SMS.
Oct 20 ~ K – 8 Field Trip
Oct 22 ~ Parent/Teacher Conferences. Dismissal at 1:30.
Oct 23 ~ No School for K – 8th grade
Oct 26 – 30 ~ Red Ribbon Week

AROUND THE DIOCESE
St. Patrick’s, Ruma QUILT – CASH – HAM BINGO
1 Pioneer Lane, Sunday, October 18, 2026 in our parish hall
Serving Lunch. Doors open at 11. Bingo starts at 1. Using BINGO cards...bring your own covers. 25 Games – 50/50

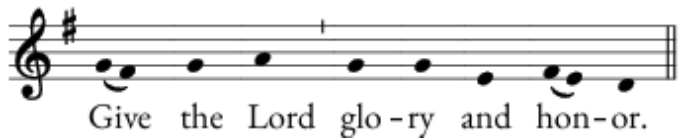
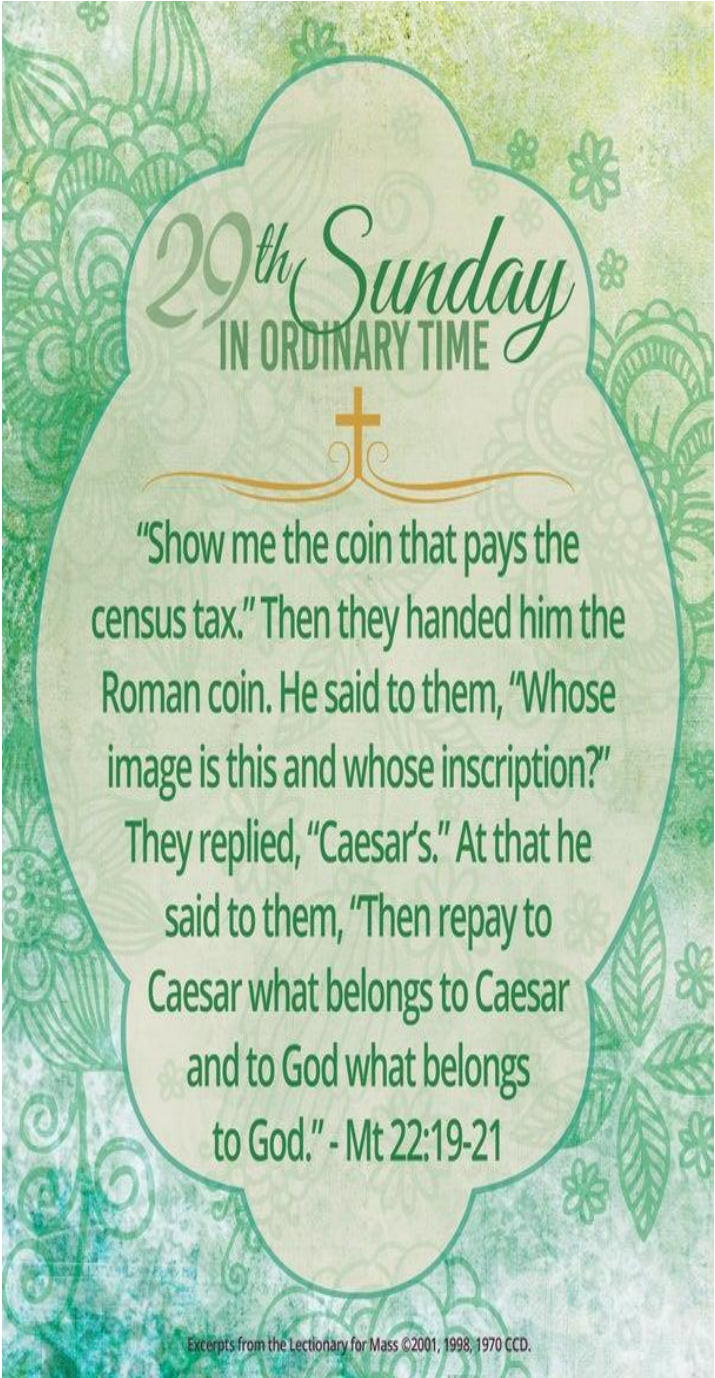
Chicken & Pork Sausage Dinner: Sunday, Oct 18th 11am – 2 pm. St. Pius V Catholic Church, Walsh.

St. Marcus-Biehle
Breakfast and Fall Festival, Sunday Oct. 18th 7:30am- 5pm

Eternal Light Concert – Music of Remembrance & Hope
Featuring the Requiem of Gabriel Faure. Sunday, Nov 1 at 2:00 pm at Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville. Free admission.

Praying for Seminarians
Please pray for our Diocesan Seminarians. Each week, we will feature one of our **11** seminarians. Please consider dropping them a note of support. At the very least, a simple prayer would be helpful. *Saint John Vianney, pray for us.* For this week: **Grant Fender, (Linda Stern’s Grandson)** Glennon College Seminary, 5200 Glennon Dr., St. Louis, MO 63119

 **Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary**
Bob and Paula Platt
Congratulations on 60 beautiful years of love and commitment! May God continue to bless you with many more happy years together.
Congratulations on your Diamond Anniversary!



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