ST. JOSEPH, MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS & ST. MARY OF DIVINE MATERNITY

All Are Welcome!

AUGUST 02, 2026 | 18TH LITURGICAL SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OUR STAFF

PARISH COMMUNITY CLERGY

Pastor
Fr. Sebastian Ukoh, C.M.

Deacon
Al Dubois
St. Mary of Divine Maternity

PARISH COMMUNITY STAFF

Secretary, Mary Help of Christians
Rose Dethrow
618-826-2444

Secretary, St. Mary of Divine Maternity
Gerry Valleroy
618-859-3541

Secretary, St. Joseph
Jill Whelan
618-284-3314

ST. JOSEPH
CATHOLIC CHURCH

802 Middle Street
Prairie Du Rocher, IL 62277
618-284-3314
sjospdr@htc.net
www.stjoespdr.org

ST. MARY DIVINE MATERNITY
CATHOLIC CHURCH

7362 Shawneetown Trail
Ellis Grove, IL 62241
618-859-3541

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
CATHOLIC CHURCH

911 Swanwick Street
Chester, IL 62233
618-826-2444
stmaryschurch@stjmm.org
www.stmaryscatholicchesteril.org

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND, NURSING HOME RESIDENTS, CANCER PATIENTS, OUR MILITARY, THE LONELY, THE HOMELESS AND THOSE INCARCERATED

Donna Schweizer
Terry Moore
Mike Vasquez
Tom Sauer
Mary Beck
Bruce Kettmann
Sonny & Roseann Glenn
Diane Averbeck
Debbie Brown
Earlene Riechman
Judy Kempfer
Peggy Helmers
Evelyn Marquardt
Roger Knott
Albert Deterding
David Dohack
Geralyn Lanham
Randy Valleroy
Raymond Ellner
Eric Matthews
Bill & Earlene Hanger
Huckson McGee
Betty Bissel
Joe Fahey
Shirley Dreczka
Matt Vallett
Bud Stumpe
Paul Meyer
Amber Cushman
Carolyn Loesing
Linda Butler
Tracy Colvis
Marla Cowell
Kenny Diercks
Alli Petrowske
Glenda York
Jeffrey Davis
Melissa Doss
Gale Frazer
Sharon Misuraca
Mark Drake
Robin Waltemate
Ryan Juenger
Ronda Heck
Kevin Petrowske
Jeff Faverty
Gary Sauerhage
Michelle Daschka

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please submit any information that you would like added to the weekly bulletin by: Wednesday @ 12:00pm

Submissions can be made to Rose Dethrow 618-826-2444 or Jill Whelan 618-284-3314 Thank you!

OCIA

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

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

READINGS

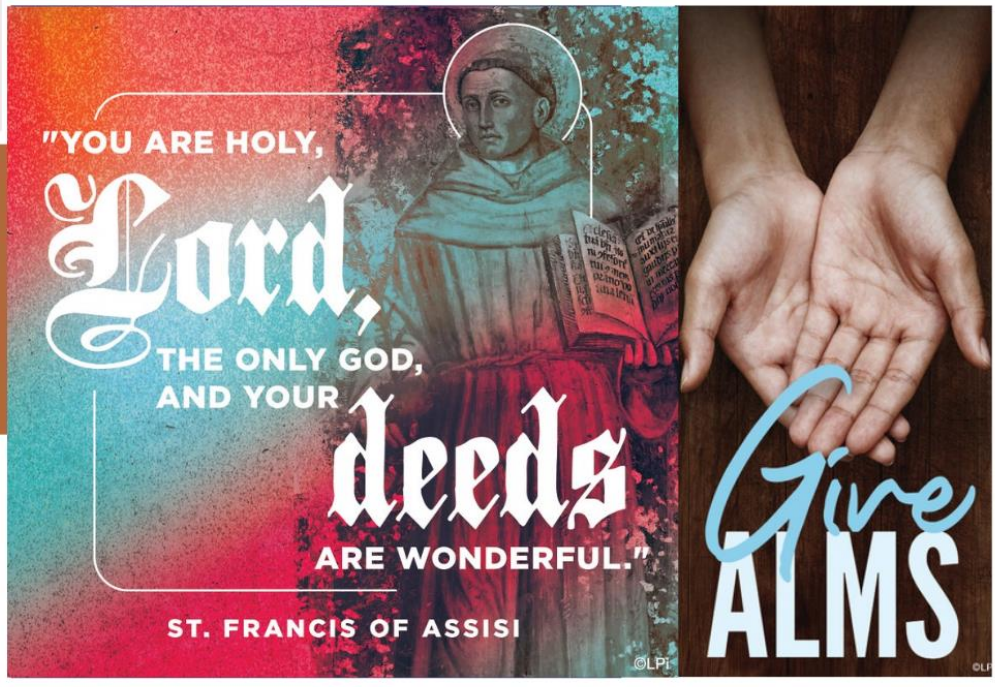
First Reading:
Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! (Is 55:1)
Psalm:
The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs. (Ps 145)
Second Reading:
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:38-39)
Gospel:
Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. (Mt 14:19)

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

In the first reading (Isaiah 55: 1-3) there is an invitation for everyone to come for solace. The Lord calls all to eat, drink and receive nourishment at no cost. This invitation is not limited to only food, but for us to have life in abundance. We will be renewed with an everlasting covenant as God has promised us.

The second reading (Romans 8: 35, 37-39) questions our choice for God. Saint Paul asks us if "Anguish, Hunger, Pain, Loss," can ever separate us from the love of Christ. If the death of Christ on the cross could not keep us away from our Redeemer, then, nothing else will.

In the Gospel (Matthew 14: 13-21) Christ barely had time to grieve the martyrdom of John the Baptist. He converted the pain of loss into the life-giving "Miracle of the loaves". With just five loaves and two fish, he fed more than five thousand people. And there were even twelve baskets left over! Jesus continues to nourish and feed the entire world with the Most Holy Eucharist. And together with Christ, we can turn our pains into spiritual gains, for the kingdom of heaven. Amen.



Thank you for your generous support of our Parish Community!

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
3:15pm-3:45pm Confession **4:00pm - Chester** **(L)** Nicole **(H)** Candy **(C)** Ron & Marlene **(S)** Brynn & Bryce -Jack Link **4:00am - St. Joseph** **(L)** Leonard **(B)** Jill **(C)** Leonard & Nancy **(S)** Jake & Lexie ***-Jackie Laurent & for a successful picnic*** **St. Joseph Picnic**	**8:00am - St. Joseph** Picnic Cleanup **10:00am - Chester** **(L)** Amy **(H)** Madi **(C)** Greg, Sue, Matt & Sam **(S)** Penelope, Piper & Pru *-Norman Cushman by Gina Cushman* **5:00pm - Chester** En Espanol *-Carol Jeremiah by Shirley & Dawn*	**8:15am - Chester** *-Mike & Anita Bievenue Family by Mike & Anita Bievenue* **11:00am-1:00pm** KC Hall Lunch **7:00pm - St. Joseph** Adoration	**NO MASS** **10:00am - R&R** Marie **7:00pm - Chester** Adoration	**8:15am - Chester** *-Gene Korando by Susan Siegfried* **1:00pm -** High Point Communion	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
08	09	1.0	11	12	13	14
3:15pm-3:45pm Confession **4:00pm - Chester** **Ma**ss of Healing (L) Nicole (H) Martha (C) Kathleen & Sarah (S) Cody & Addie ***-Patrick Kickham by Kathy Albrecht & Roger Holley by Family*** **6:00pm - St. Joseph** **(L)** Steve **(B)** Mary **(C)** Carla & Leonard **(S)** Mason & Alex *-Jackie Laurent & for a successful picnic*	**8:00am -** Ellis Grove **10:00am - Chester** **Mass of Healing** **(L)** Grant **(H)** Norman **(C)** Jeannie, Greg, Todd & Dave **(S)** Jon, Maren & Ezra *-Dorothy Korando by Susan Siegfried* **5:00pm - Chester** En Espanol -Ruth Petrowske by Family	**8:15am - Chester** **11:00am-1:00pm** KC Hall Lunch	**8:00am - St. Joseph** **10:00am - R&R** Diane	**8:15am - Chester** **1:00pm -** High Point Communion	**8:00am - St. Joseph**	**NO MASS**

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

RICHARD HEUMAN 8/1, MARVIN ROY 8/1, SADIE GREGSON 8/2, JOYCE FAVERTY 8/3, JANELLE GRAU 8/3, CHARITY KORANDO 8/3, ALEXANDRA TODD 8/3, ROBERT TODD 8/3, MILDRED GREGORY 8/4, DENISE REISS 8/5, RHONDA ROY 8/5, LANDON FAUSZ 8/5, FERN DETERDING 8/6, ROBERT JUNKIN 8/6, MARTHA MCDONALD 8/6, AIDEN COLVIS 8/7, TONY STEIBEL 8/8

DARYL & RHONDA ROY 8/2
DENNIS & PAULETTE GROSS 8/5

THE HEART OF STEWARDSHIP

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

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

Meets every third Monday of the month at 10:00am 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).

YOUTH GROUP

Anyone in grades 7-12 is welcome to sign up

We will begin meeting every second Sunday from 5-7pm at St. Mary's EG starting Aug. 9th If any current youth group member is interested in going to the beatification of Bishop Sheen, please let me know ASAP

If you or your family would like to join our facebook page, please let Jill Whelan (618-719-9344) or Dawn Walker (618-317-5104) know so we can send you an invite.

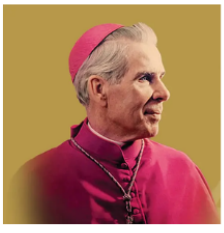
CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

""Those who are kind to the needy honor Him" (Proverbs 14:31) The homebound, sick and seniors living in the southernmost part of the state are assured they will have food to eat thanks to Daystar Community Program's mobile food pantry, which delivers groceries on a regular basis to those not able to visit Daystar's on-site food pantry. YOUR GIFT to the Catholic service and Ministry Appeal makes Daystar's truly life saving ministry possible. If you haven't already done so, please donate today and help Daystar to serve truly the poorest of the poor, they are counting on YOU!

CHESTER AREA CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY, INC.

Items needed: Peanut butter, cereal, children's snack items and Lunchables. Monetary donations are always welcome. 290 households/560 individuals, which includes 187 children served at the Pantry in June. 111 households/280 individuals, which includes 87 children served at the Mobile Market in June. Volunteers are always needed to speed up the distribution! Please call Bob at 618.615.2646 to help with the distribution of food. Thank you for your continued support of the Pantry!

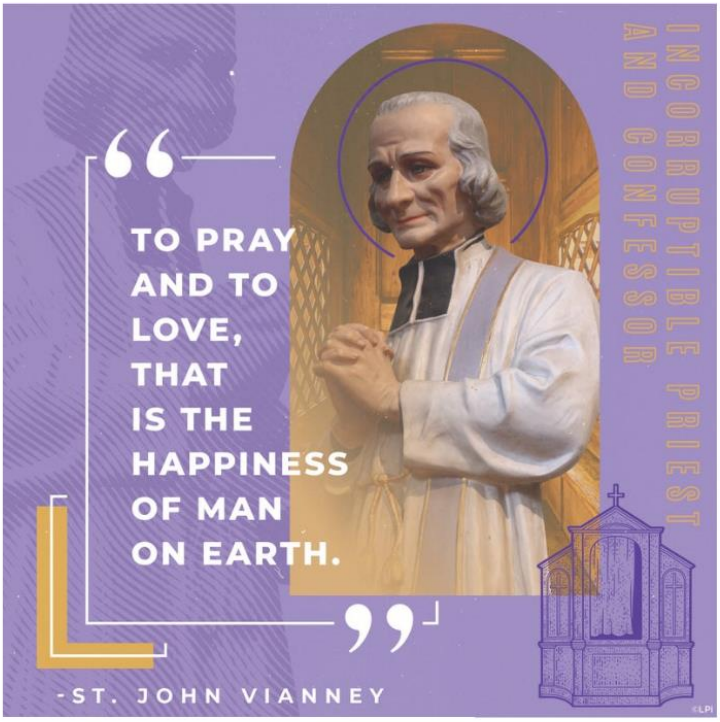
FAITHFUL TRAVELERS



Tickets are limited to **10 spots per parish** for the beatification celebration so please register early. **Deadline is Sept. 1st** or until all spots are filled.

ACTS®

Register Online
Using the QR Code Below



THE Transfiguration OF Jesus

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You can now access our online store using the link on our Facebook page, website, or by scanning the QR Code below. A large selection of T-shirts and sweatshirts is available.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY THURSDAY, AUGUST 27th.

Merchandise will be sent to SMS and distributed in mid-September. Thank you for showing your HAWK pride and supporting the SMS Athletic Fund.

ACTS RETREAT

An ACTS (Adoration, Community, Theology, Service) retreat is a three-day, three-night Catholic lay retreat designed to foster a deeper relationship with God and fellow parishioners through prayer, community building, theological reflection, and service.
Next Retreat: September 9/24-9/27, 2026 @ Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows

ST PATRICK CHURCH CHICKEN DINNER

37TH ANNUAL AUCTION CHICKEN PLATE DINNER

5675 LL Road, Waterloo. Sunday, August 2nd, 2026.
Mass celebrated at 10:00am. Dinner 11:00am - 3:30 pm.
Auction begins at 12:00 pm. Air-conditioned hall, lots of shade trees and carry out available. Silent auction, Country Store and Quilt Raffle - 2:30pm.

BOOKS FOR ALL OPEN HOUSE

RUMA RETREAT CENTER

We invite neighbors, public officials & community leaders to come meet Books For All at the Ruma Retreat Center.
2 Pioneer Lane, Ruma IL. Tuesday, August 4, 2026 from 4:00pm - 6:00pm. Tours of the space, light refreshments, meet & greet
RSVP: tinyurl.com/bfaruma26
contact @books for all info: 618-282-8700

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER, BELLEVILLE

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser - Sunday, August 16. 11:15am - 6:30pm
Notre Dame Cafe, 200 South 2nd Street, Belleville
Carry out only - $10 per meal. Proceeds to benefit St. Vincent de Paul Cathedral Council, Knights of Columbus Council #15746 and the Cathedral Building and Roof Campaign.
Questions: Contact Ron Lassman at 618-550-3883

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Renew your Sacrament, deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, and rekindle your romance by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience! Perhaps consider a weekend away as a present for your spouse. For more information or to apply, go to wwme.org, or call Terry and Eric Engholm, 314-649-7317. The following upcoming weekend experiences are available.
10/9/2026 - 10/11/2026, Springfield, IL
12/4/2026 - 12/6/2026, St. Peters, MO

MONDAY LUNCHES

KC HALL

Monday, August 3rd
BBQ Pork Steaks, Baked Beans, AuGratin Potatoes, Cucumber Salad.

Served from 11AM ~ 1PM
$12/person

Thank you to all our visitors for coming to celebrate our annual church picnic. God bless each one of you and may you have fun and safe travels.

ST. MARY'S - CHESTER EVENTS

PSR

2026 – 2027 Registration forms are available at the back of church or in the Parish Office. The first PSR class will be on August 23rd at 9:00am. The cost is $85 per family. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office.

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. **The winner of the July Quilt of the Month was Marie Henry from Prairie du Rocher.Congratulations Marie!**

KC MONTHLY MEETING

Third Thursday of every month at 6PM

MASS STREAMING

Search Mary Help of Christians Chester on YouTube to find streamed Masses.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

HELP KEEP OUR SCHOOL COOL

We are seeking cash donations to help purchase new room air conditioners for our school building. Many of the current units are old, noisy, and no longer cool the classrooms effectively. Replacing them will provide a more comfortable environment for our students, parish programs, meetings, and the many activities held in the school throughout the year. Every gift, no matter the size, will help us reach our goal and make a lasting improvement to our facilities. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in a marked envelope labeled "School Air Conditioner Fund" or contact the parish office.
Thank you for your generosity and for helping us keep our school comfortable for everyone who uses it. Your support is sincerely appreciated. Thank you to all who have contributed.

ST MARY'S GEAR

You can now access our online store using the link on our Facebook page, website, or by scanning the QR Code below. A large selection of T-shirts and sweatshirts are available. **ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY THURSDAY, AUGUST 27th.** Merchandise will be sent to SMS and distributed in mid-September. Thank you for showing your HAWK pride and supporting the SMS Athletic Fund.

ST. JOSEPH EVENTS

PSR

Remember parents we need your child's 2026-2027 PSR registrations.
This year our Catechists will be Pre- K & K- Ann Laurent, 1st Grade- Audrey Wiegard, 2nd Grade- Jill Whelan, grades 3-8 James Popejoy. We are blessed that these folks are willing to volunteer their time to share and teach our Catholic Faith with them.
1st Class will begin **Tuesday Aug. 25th @ 7:15am**

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Ads can be purchased by contacting either Rose Dethrow or Jill Whelan at one of the parish offices. Thank you for your continued contributions!

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS!

PRICES	1" X 2"	1" X 4"	2" X 3"	2" X 2"	2" X 4"
WEEKLY	$10.00	$20.00	$30.00	$20.00	$40.00
MONTHLY	$20.00	$40.00	$60.00	$40.00	$80.00
QUARTERLY	$50.00	$100.00	$150.00	$100.00	$200.00
YEARLY	$175.00	$350.00	$500.00	$350.00	$700.00