

READINGS

**First Reading:** (Acts 9:27) Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him.

**Psalm:** (Ps 22) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

**Second Reading:** (1 Jn 3:23) And his commandment is this: vbgwe should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us.

**Gospel:** (Jn 15:5)

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing."

MASS INTENTIONS

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

**Saturday, Apr. 27**

4:00PM (C) Jo Anne Wingarter

6:00PM (J) Delores "Honey" Stefani

**Sunday, Apr. 28**

8:00AM (EG) Bob Nowak

10:00AM (C) David Otten

**Monday, Apr. 29 ~ Grades 5-8**

8:15AM (C) Lloyd Stern

**Tuesday, Apr. 30**

8:30AM (J) Linda Murray

**Wednesday, May 1 ~ All School Mass**

8:15AM (C) Terry Jungewaelter by the Parish

**7:00PM ~ Adoration (J)**

**Thursday, May 2**

8:00AM (J) Retired Priests

**Friday, May 3**

No MASS

**Saturday, May 4 ~ Mass of Healing**

4:00PM (C) Gordon "George" Holley; Sister Rita

6:00PM (EG) Barb Brown

**Sunday, May 5 ~ Mass of Healing**

8:00AM (J) Shelba Kempfer

10:00AM (C) Jim Shields & Leah Search

**First Communion (C)**

**MASSES:** If anyone would like to have a Mass for their family, living or deceased, please contact Jill or Tammy - \$10 per Mass.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR MAY

**Saturday:** 4pm: Chester    **Sunday:** 8am: Prairie du Rocher

6pm: Ellis Grove    10am: Chester

**Online Giving:** St. Joseph - [www.stjoespdr.org](http://www.stjoespdr.org) and

St. Mary's - [osvhub.com/maryhoc/funds](https://osvhub.com/maryhoc/funds)

**Join our Facebook Pages:** Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Chester, IL; St. Mary's Catholic School, Chester, Illinois; St. Joseph's Catholic Church Prairie du Rocher

FR. SEBASTIAN'S REFLECTIONS

In the first reading (Acts 9:26-31) Paul (formerly known as Saul) arrived Jerusalem after his encounter with God on his way to Damascus. Only Barnabas was courageous enough to introduce him to the early Christian community where he was later welcomed. His past record as a persecutor was eventually overcome by the fraternal love he was shown. The impact of Paul's conversion was felt across the early Christian community as the Church thrived in peace and the number of believers increased.

The second reading (1 John 3:18-24) reminds us of the impact of love. It is not a passive verb, but an active one. Our love for God and neighbor should not remain hidden in our hearts. It is one that drives us to action, prayer, good works, compassion and requires a response. God loved us first by reaching out to us. We cannot remain indifferent to that call from God. We should love back.

In the Gospel (John 15:1-8) Jesus calls us the "branches of the vine". God the father is the vine grower, and we require pruning. A branch can only remain relevant and green if it remains part of the vine. Once it is cut off, it shrinks and wilts. We are reminded that our ministry, family, faith and fruitfulness, is tied to remaining part of Christ, the true vine. God's glory will be made manifest when we bear fruit and become stronger members of the Apostolic family. Amen.

PRAYER REQUEST

*If you have a someone you would like add, please call the church office.*

The homebound, nursing home residents, cancer patients, our military, the lonely, the homeless, those incarcerated, Jan Crow, Jewell Cheslick, Bruce Kettmann, Father Gene, Marty Bert, Ryan Junger, Margaret Brown, Nicole (Dethrow) Doty, Marie Hess, Cathy Taylor, Evelyn Marquardt, Leila Keiser, Isabella DeSpain, Bill & Earlene Hanger, Tracey F., Susie Harms, Ina Doiron, Terry Laurent, Earlene Riechman, Lily & Lydia Smith, *Please notify us when we are able to remove your loved one(s) from our prayer list. We would greatly appreciate it.*

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

John Bohnert 4/27, Daniel Moeller 4/27, Lisa Cowell 4/28, Donna Eggemeyer 4/28, Donna Deterding 4/29, William Grau 4/29, Leta Heuman 4/29, Crystal Tindall 4/30, Patricia Pautler 4/30, Marlie Caby 4/30, Luke Miller 5/1, Grant Cowell 5/3, Rob Schuchert 5/3, Daniel Ohlau 5/3

Steve & Jody Springer 4/27

Ken & Marilyn Pelate 4/27

Kerry & Rhonda Hooten 4/28

John & Dainelle Powell 4/30

Mark & Evelyn Marquardt 5/2

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

CONFESSIONS

**St. Joseph:** Thurs. mornings & Sat. evenings after Mass

**St. Mary's (C):** Sat. evenings before Mass 3:15pm-3:45pm

*Any other confessions can be made by appointment.*

ADORATION

**St. Joseph:** (Beginning in May) ~ First Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM ~ **Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**

**St. Mary's (C):** First Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM ~ **Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**

MASS OF HEALING

**St. Joseph:** First weekend of the month immediately following either the 6PM or 8AM Mass.

**St. Mary's (C):** First weekend of the month immediately following the 4PM and 10AM Mass.

**St. Mary (EG):** First weekend of the month immediately following either the 8AM or the 6PM Mass.

**Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal:** Your contribution enables us to impact the lives of all Catholic students in our Diocese. We prayerfully ask you to consider making a gift to the 2024 Appeal ~ Bishop Michael McGovern.

**St. Joseph:** Current = \$11,253.00    Donors = 30

**St. Mary's:** Current = \$32,440.50    Donors = 49

**Special Collections:** **April 27/28** ~ Catholic Home Missions

**May 4/5** ~ Seminarian Education

**May 11/12** ~ Catholic Communication

**Liturgical Meeting:** Thursday, May 2 @ 6PM at Ellis Grove Parish Hall.

**The Messenger Memorial Day Issue:** If anyone has a story to tell about someone they knew or a relative who died in war, please send the information to [editor@bellevillemessenger.org](mailto:editor@bellevillemessenger.org). We will also print the names of military service members who were killed in action (WWII onward). Name, rank (if known), and the war in which they served and died. In addition, we would like to include a list of military service people who are presently serving in harm's way, asking for prayers for their safe return home. Please submit by May 1<sup>st</sup>.



**\*Attention Parish Partnership Youth\***

Next youth group meeting will be on Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm. Confirmation party, and movie review.

**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, whether homebound/hospital/assisted living, etc. and would like to receive communion, please call Diane Mudd #618-284-7150 (Ruma), Leonard DeRousse #618-284-6655 (day) or 618-284-2200 after 7pm (Prairie du Rocher), Rosemary Bert #618-615-6135, Rosemary Crain #618-615-5858, Paula Platt #618-615-5545, Martha McDonald #618-615-6624 or Barb Otten #618-615-2442 (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)

ST. JOSEPH, PRAIRIE DU ROCHER

EVENTS

Weekly Tithes & Offerings

**St. Joseph's: Weekly Goal: \$1700**

Envelopes (34): \$1064, Loose: \$67

Yearly total: \$27,200; Amount collected YTD: \$25,572

Liturgical Ministers:

**Apr. 27<sup>th</sup>** (S) Jack & Evan, (L) Katie, (B) Leonard, (C) Marie & Carol

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** (S) Katie & Lily, (L) Leonard, (B) Jill, (C) Nancy & Carol

**Quilting: Needed:**

The quilters need already made quilts tops, backing or batting. These items can be dropped off at the rectory during normal business hours.



**PSR registrations forms** for next year will be have gone home. Please complete them and send them back. If you didn't get one they also in the back of church.

**Honor the Graduates: May 19<sup>th</sup>. Letters have gone out.**

**Emmaus Days Tile Sculpture:** All diocesan school age children will receive a 5X5 wood tile that they will decorate and return to PSR class on May 14<sup>th</sup>. These tiles will be part of the upcoming National Eucharistic Pilgrimage event at the Shrine of Our Lady of Snows on July 7<sup>th</sup>. There are instructions with in the packet. Please take one and have your child participate.

Mother's Day Flowers

Real & silk roses and carnations will be available for purchase after Mass on Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup>. \$3 for real \$2 for silk.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

St. Joseph's Spring BBQ, Sunday, **April 28<sup>th</sup>** at Red Bud IGA Serving at 10:30am until sold out Brats, Pork Steaks, & Homemade Sides

**We need a few helpers!** If you would like to volunteer to help out, please contact Roger @ 618-967-6348 or Lisa @ 618-521-0266

**Volunteers:**

Anyone interested in mowing the church yard and sometimes Fr. Sebastian's yard please let either Jill or Marvin Roy know. Mowing season is from April –October. Mowing is for one month and we provide mower and gas.

**ST. MARY'S CHESTER  
EVENTS**

Weekly Tithes & Offerings

**St. Mary's Weekly Goal: \$8,901**

Weekly Total: \$5,536 (77); \$329 Loose;

Donations/Memorials \$3,325;

Cemetery \$378 (32); Improve \$100 (4);

YTD Actual Giving \$140,270, YTD Budget Diff (\$2,146);

*For days with no ushers or if you sit upstairs, you may drop your envelope(s) in the basket by the baptismal font. Thanks!*

*We ask for your cooperation in making sure that your cell phones are silenced before entering church for Mass (emergency personnel excluded). Cell phone usage during Mass distracts from the prayer environment for worship. Thank you so much!*

**Servers Schedule**

**Sat. April 27** ~ Natalie Shipley, Eli Congiaro

**Sun. April 28** ~ Jonathan Grau, Parker Knott, Rhett Reiss

**Sat. May 4** ~ Natalie Shipley, Lucas Maes

**Sun. May 5** ~ Ty Tindall, Penelope Seymour, Brandon & Kevin Korando

**Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule**

**Sat. April 27 ~ L:** Kelley Gardiner **Host:** Sharon Shields

**Chalice:** Kathy Albrecht, Larry Gross, Paula Platt, Marlene Verdun

**Sun. April 28 ~ L:** Grant Deterding **Host:** Norman Grau

**Chalice:** Jeannie Grau, Diana Miller, Sue/Greg J Crain

**Sat. May 4 ~ L:** Candy Caron **Host:** Ron Caron

**Chalice:** Candy Caron, Rob Wingerter, Martha McDonald, Kathy Albrecht

**Sun. May 5 ~ L:** Dainelle Powell **Host:** Greg Crain

**Chalice:** Kevin Grau, Sam Jany, Barb Otten, Todd Moeller

**Honoring the Graduates:** We will be honoring our parish graduates (8<sup>th</sup> grade and 12<sup>th</sup> grade) on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 10am Mass. Letters have been sent out to RSVP. Please make sure to do so if you are planning to attend. Thank you!

**Easter Lilies:** Our Easter lilies have lost their fresh look and have been moved from the church to in front of the parish

house (Church Office). They are free for the taking for anyone who wishes to take one or more home.

**KC Mother's Day Chicken Fry:** We will be taking preorders for whole fried chickens at \$14 each. Orders **must be placed** by May 7<sup>th</sup>. Pickup on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> between 11am & 2pm. Call 618-826-3316 to order.

**Registration Forms:** If you are new to our parish (or a parishioner who hasn't previously filled out a form) there are forms located at the church entrance. If you would like to receive collection envelopes, we can begin sending them once we have your address. We also offer Online Giving. The link is listed above. Your gifts are tax deductible. We thank you!

**KC Hall Monday Lunches:** \$11 per plate; serving from 11am to 1pm.

**Knights of Columbus Meetings:** Third Thursday of every month @ 6pm.

**Women's Support Group:** The next meeting will be Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 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).

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Prairie du Rocher American Legion Fish Fry:** May 17 Serving from 4:30-8pm; Fish and all the fixins'.

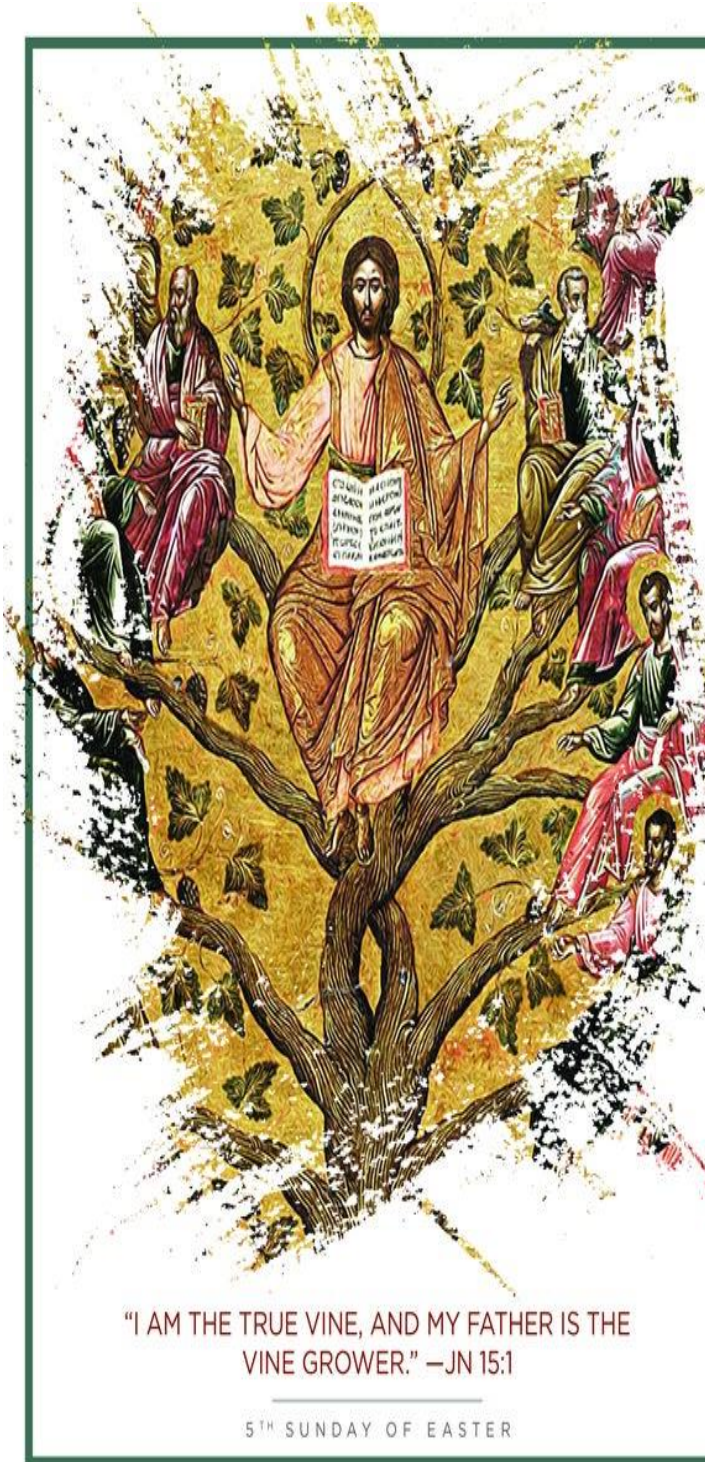
**Gibault Catholic High School Summer Camps:** Gibault has asked us to make this information available to our students. If interested, please grab a flyer from the church entrance. Several camps to choose from! All are welcome!

**Association of the Miraculous Medal Annual May Procession:** Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1PM. We invite you to join us as we prayerfully process from the historic Shrine Church along the Rosary Walk to Our Lady's grotto. Special events can be found at [www.amm.org](http://www.amm.org). We hope you join us!

**Newman Catholic Student Center Quilt & Cash Bingo:** Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Saint John the Baptist Parish Center in Red Bud. Lunch begins at 11am and Bingo at 1pm. Gift baskets, raffle prizes and more! Proceeds support the Newman Center at SIU-Carbondale.

**Chester Senior Center:** The May Menu/Activity Calendar is located at the church entrance. Please help yourself!

**Rally On The River:** You are invited to join the Evansville Knights of Columbus and Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Rally on the River. Flyer with informational letter located at the church entrance.



All are welcome!

**PASTOR: FR. SEBASTIAN UKOH, CM**  
**Parish Partnership Website:** [www.stjoespdr.org](http://www.stjoespdr.org)

**Mary Help of Christians**

911 Swanwick St, Chester, IL 62233

Parish Secretary: Tammy Kribs

Parish Phone: 618-826-2444

School Phone: 618-826-3120

Email: [stmaryschester@yahoo.com](mailto:stmaryschester@yahoo.com)

**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.*