

READINGS

First Reading: (Acts 2:46-47)
They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people.

Psalm: (Ps 118)
Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Second Reading: (1 Pt 1:8-9)
Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel: (Jn 20:29)
Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Saturday, Apr. 11~
4:00PM (C) Roy Turner
6:00PM (J) Jackie Laurent, Clara Stefani & Ed DuFrenne

Sunday, Apr. 12~
8:00AM-(EG)
10:00AM (C) Sister Rita

5:00PM (C) Jay Wittenborn by Dale & Cheryl Nanney
Monday, Apr. 13
8:15AM (C) Carol Jeremiah by Mr. & Mrs. Terry Hirte & Scott Maes

Tuesday, Apr. 14
8:30AM (J) For an increase to vocations

Wednesday, Apr. 15
8:15AM (C) Charles & Margaret Fadler by Mike & Anita Bievenue

Thursday, Apr. 16
8AM (J) NO Mass~ Confessions Only 8-8:30am
7PM (J) Confirmation: Confirmation Class

Friday, Apr. 17
NO Mass

Saturday, Apr. 18
4PM (C) Fr. Alan Maes by Mary Brown
6PM (J) Jim Sirtak

Sunday, April 19
8:00AM- (EG)
10:00AM (C) Vallie & Dorothy Renner by Pat Bohnert
5:00PM (C) Jeanne McLean Eastridge by the Parish

MASS SCHEDULE ~ April

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

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

The first reading (Acts 2: 42-47) takes us to the communal life of the early Christian community. They looked out for everyone. They prayed, gave alms, lived with joy and attracted more and more people by their infectious charity.

The second reading (1 Peter 1: 3-9) is a hymn of praise to God. The resurrection of Christ and the salvation it brought, gives us every reason to be grateful to God.

In the Gospel (John 20: 19-31) the Risen Christ appeared to the Apostles and strengthened their faith. The skepticism of Thomas could not keep Jesus away. Same way our weaknesses cannot. May the new life of Easter remain with us and never leave. Amen.

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

Rummage & Bake Sale: Friday, April 24th from 7am – 2pm and Saturday, April 25th from 7am – 12pm inside St. Mary's Church Hall, 7362 Shawneetown Trail, Ellis Grove. 30 tables of miscellaneous items (no clothing).

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.

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

HOLY LAND COLLECTION:

Envelopes: \$456, Loose: \$375

2026-2027 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal: "Those who are kind to the needy honor Him" (Proverbs 14:31) A most heartfelt thanks to all those who have already responded with a gift. One-time donations or pledges, in any

amount, are needed and can be made through parish or at www.diobelle.org and click Giving to the Diocese. Thank you and God Bless You!

Confirmation: Thursday Apr. 16th at 7pm at St. Joseph Practice will be on Tuesday, Apr. 14th 7pm



You will be Feeding the hungry on Saturday, May 9 at 7:30am. Summer events are coming soon.

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), 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).

FOOD PANTRY

Items needed: [Chester] Canned meat, canned fish, canned fruit, canned vegetables, children's snack items & Lunchables. Monetary donations are always welcome. **The Food Pantry needs 12 pack 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).

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Meeting every third Thursday 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).

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 Melliore, Eric Mathews, Bill & Erlene Hanger, Huckson McGee, Betty Bissel, Gary Sauerhage, Mary Verseman, Randy Stoffel, Alli Petrowske, Melissa Doss, Kenny Pelate, Gale Frazer, Nicole Doty

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY'S

Alaina Tretter 4/11, Oliver Schroeder 4/11, Doris Hatridge 4/12, Kathy Hustedde 4/12, Cruz Chambers 4/17, Joan Jany 4/17, Adam Gibbs 4/18, Rylan Reiss 4/18, Trevar Vasquez 4/18

Mike & Rose Dethrow 4/12
Rob & Pam Schuchert 4/16
Phil & Jenny Wingerter 4/16
Brad & Natalie Colvis 4/18
Grant & Cindy Deterding 4/18

ST. JOSEPH, PRAIRIE DU ROCHER EVENTS

Weekly Tithes & Offerings

Online Giving ~ www.stjoespdr.org

St. Joseph's: Weekly Goal: \$1700 Beginning 7/1/2025
Envelopes (49): \$3,335 Loose: \$184, CSMA Goal: \$ 6,288
Collected to date: \$3,437
YTD: goal: \$66,600 collected: \$72,242

Liturgical Calendar ~ St. Joseph

Apr. 11 (S) Alex & Mason, (L) Mary B, (B) Marie, (C) Mary S. & Jill
Apr. 18 (S) Madison & Mackenzie (L) Steve, (B) Audrey, (C) Carol & Carla

Office Closed: April 24



Thanks to the Confirmation class attending so many weekday & weekend we have made the pizza party! I will be Tuesday May 5th.

SPRING BINGO FUNDRAISER: APRIL 19TH

Prizes include handmade quilts/ cash/ meat bundles
Early bird game begins at 12:30pm. Regular bingo begins at 1pm We are accepting food pantry donations. If you donate you will be entered for a special drawing. Lunch Stand opens at 11am. **What we need from you are monetary donations, desserts for the lunch stand, quilts, workers a to advertise our event.**

Please contact Lisa, Mary, Gail, Ann & Jill if you can help in any way.

ST. JOSEPH 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. Applications/ nominations will take place until May 17th.

St. Joseph Cemetery- Since the mowing season has begun, we ask that no flowers or trinkets be placed in the grassy areas around the tombstone. Also, St. Joseph cemetery is not responsible for damages, broken or lost items within the cemetery.

ST. MARY'S CHESTER EVENTS

Weekly Tithes & Offerings
Online Giving ~ osvhub.com/maryhoc/funds

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

Servers Schedule

Sat Apr 11 ~ Addie & Cody
Sun Apr 12 ~ Reed, Blake & Will
Sat Apr 18 ~ Addie & Gavin
Sun Apr 19 ~ Reed, Blake & Will

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

Sat Apr 11 ~ (L) Linda (H) Marlene (C) Larry & Sarah
Sun Apr 12 ~ (L) Amy (H) Norman (C) Jeannie, Greg, Sam & Doris
Sat Apr 18 ~ (L) Nicole (H) Kathleen (C) Larry & Martha
Sun Apr 19 ~ (L) Madi (H) Aaron (C) Todd, Barb, Matt & Diana

Feast of Divine Mercy – Chaplet will be prayed before the 10 am Mass on Sunday, April 12 in honor of the Feast of Divine Mercy.

Votive Candles – Due to rising costs, the price of votive candles is now \$5.00 each. There is a place to deposit the money near the candles.

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.

Miraculous Medal Bracelet Making – Join us for a chance to create your own beautiful bracelet with a blessed Miraculous Medal, and an additional bracelet to give away! Tuesday, May 12, 6:30p-8:30p at St. Mary's School Cafeteria. Requested donation of \$20 for two

bracelets. Light refreshments following the event. RSVP to Missy Biethman at (618) 615-1312.

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, April 13th – BBQ pork steaks, baked beans, tater salad, creamy slaw. Served from 11am – 1pm. \$12/person.

KC Monthly Meeting: 3rd Thursday of every month at 6pm.

Cemetery: No items should remain on graves or near headstones that will interfere with mowing. Any items that are left will be disposed of.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

Upcoming Events: Confirmation Date: April 16th

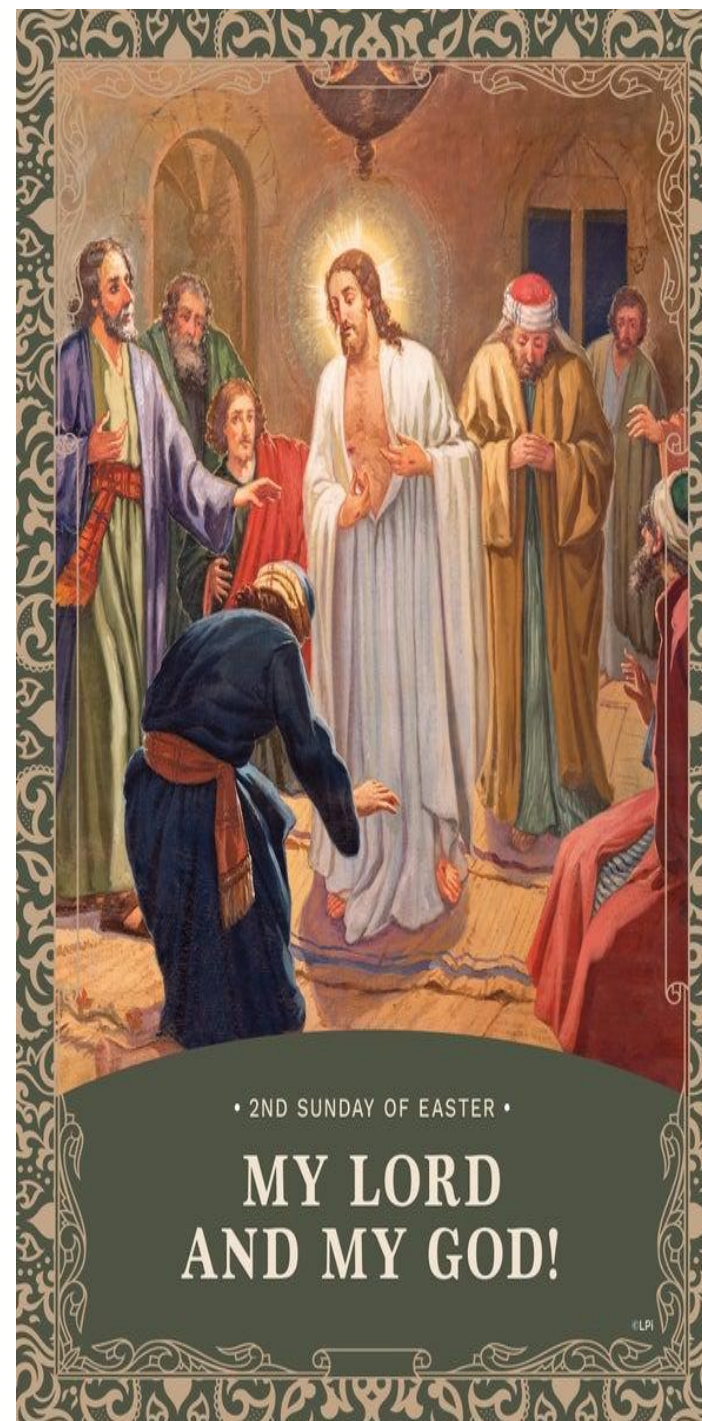
AROUND THE DIOCESE

Farm Blessing – All are invited to join Father Godfrey for the Spring Farm Blessing which will be held on Tuesday, April 28th at 1:00 pm at the Ryan Peter Family Farm, 7755 Highway 15, Mt. Carmel, IL. You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the local food pantry.

Catholic Youth Read Sacred Texts – Catholic youth across the world are invited in reading their own faith's sacred texts. Together we can recognize our Duty to God, participating as a group or on your own. To register: YouthReadSacredTextsWorldwide.org

Totus Tuus: Belleville Diocese is sponsoring a fun and faith filled Catholic Summer Program for students in grades 1-12. More information is available on the Diocese's website.

Young Adult Group: Anyone between the ages of 18-39 is invited to join the Diocese of Belleville Young Adult Group. It is an opportunity to meet and hang out with other Catholic young adults in our area. Programming includes a monthly speaker series, men's and women's groups, retreats, vocation discernment opportunities, service events, and other recreational events. Go to: youngadults@diobelle.org



PASTOR: FR. SEBASTIAN

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: 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

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.