

READINGS

Gospel at the Procession with Palms — Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11).

First Reading — In spite of my sufferings I am not disgraced. I am not put to shame (Isaiah 50:4-7).

Psalm — O my God, why have you cast me off? (Psalm 22)

Second Reading — Christ emptied himself, and God filled this emptiness with exaltation (Philippians 2:6-11).

Gospel — The account of Christ's passion according to Matthew (Matthew 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]).

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Saturday, April 1

4:00PM (C) Rudell Figiel

6:00PM (J) Bob Hooten

Sunday, April 2

8:00AM (EG) Gus Stallman

10:00AM (C) David Otten

Monday, April 3

8:15AM (C) Nashville, TN School Shooting Victims & Families

Tuesday, April 4

8:30AM (J) No Mass

Wednesday, April 5 ~ Stations of the Cross 7PM (C)

8:15AM (C) All Parishioners in Need of Prayers

Thursday, April 6 ~ Holy Thursday

8:00AM (J) No Mass

7PM (C) Peggy Cull

Friday, April 7 ~ Good Friday

5PM (C) Celebration of the Lord's Passion

7PM (J) Living Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 8 ~ Holy Saturday

7:00PM (C) RCIA Candidates

7:00PM (J) Anna Mollet (Fr. Andrew)

Sunday, April 9 ~ Easter Sunday

8:00AM (EG) Our Parish Family

8:00AM (J) Ed DuFrenne (Fr. Andrew)

10:00AM (C) Our Parish Partnership

MASS SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

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

ST. MARY'S CHESTER SERVERS SCHEDULE:

SEE BACK PAGE OF BULLETIN

LECTORS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

SEE BACK PAGE OF BULLETIN

TITHE FOR THE WEEK OF MAR. 26

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

Envelopes (43) \$2,110, Loose: \$553,

Messenger: \$30

Easter Flowers (2) \$110

CSMA: 19 pledges totaling: \$9,137

St. Mary's: Weekly Goal \$7000

Weekly: \$7100; Improve \$490; Cemetery \$80; Holy Thurs

\$165; Good Fri \$50; Easter \$165; Flowers \$10

CSMA: 52 Donors Totaling \$31,444.00



By Fr. Sebastian

At the start of this Holy Week, the first reading (Isaiah 50: 4-7) takes us to the suffering servant who is resolute in the midst of humiliations. He was defenseless against the bodily attacks on him and left his frame to be used as a punching bag. But God kept him incorrupt and determined, all through the dark moments.

The second reading (Philippians 2: 6-11) takes us through the humility of Christ. Saint Paul reminds us that Christ did not step back from the cross and was obedient until death. Due to his dedication, sacrifice and unwavering trust, God has exalted him above every other name.

In the Gospel (Matthew 26: 14-27:66) we reflect on the last supper, betrayal, passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. This reading sets the tone for personal reflection during this Holy Week. May we draw grace from these sanctified days and continue to live out our Christian faith, identity and mission. Amen.

Have a blessed Holy Week.

Please join me in remembering our Holy Father, Pope Francis in prayer. Let us ask the Lord Jesus to restore him to full health so that he can be discharged from the hospital and resume his duties.

There will NO change in Mass locations on April 22nd. Fr. Raul Salas will be celebrating Mass at 4pm at Chester, while Fr. Sebastian will celebrate First Holy Communion in Prairie du Rocher.

PRAYER REQUEST

If you have a family member that you would like added to our prayer request, please call the church office.

All homebound, nursing home residents, cancer patients, COVID-19 patients, our military & their families, the lonely, the homeless, those who are incarcerated, Randy Braun, Marie Hess, Cathy Taylor,

Paulette Deterding, Evelyn Marquardt, Nellie Mollet, Father Gene, Brian Niermann, Janice Crow, Mike Vasquez, Donald Wingerter, Jr., Kaylee Muertz, Grayson Herriman, Marty Bert, Matthew White, Vernon Junger

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Brandy Maes 4/1, Jacqueline Bert 4/2,

Rose Ann Glenn 4/4, Mark Laurent 4/5

Bernie & Veneta Kerkhover 4/4

Rick & Lisa Cowell 4/6

Bill & Joan Gross 4/7

PARTNERSHIP UPCOMING EVENTS

Pontifical Good Friday Collection: Pope Francis has asked our parish to support this collection which helps Christians in the Holy Land. You stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as a witness of peace, supporting Catholics there in parishes and schools, maintaining Christian shrines and caring for refugees in the Holy Land. Please be generous!

St. Joseph Easter Egg Hunt: will be following Easter Sunday 8am Mass with Fr. Andrew

Blessing of the Easter Baskets: (St. Joseph) Easter Sunday at the end of Mass Fr. Andrew will bless the little ones' baskets before the youth group egg hunt on the front and side yard of church.

Women's Support Group: Next meeting will be Thursday, April 20th @ 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).

We Need Your Help! We will be decorating the church after the 5pm Mass in Chester on Good Friday. The more help we have the quicker it will go. Thank you for your assistance!

Adult Faith Formation Study: You are invited to a three session study that will begin on Sunday, April 23rd in the St. Mary's School cafeteria; 8:45am to 9:50am; *Is Going to Confession really important? Is it taught in the Bible?*

FORGIVEN: The Transforming Power of Confession explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this Sacrament of Mercy, entrusted by Our Lord to the Church, reveals the depths and bounty of God's love available to us! PLEASE JOIN US! Sign up sheet located at the church entrance.



If you are unable to attend Mass, whether

homebound/hospital/assistance living, etc. and would like to receive communion, please call Diane Mudd at 618-284-7150 (Ruma) or Leonard DeRousse 618-284-2200 (Prairie du Rocher), Rosemary Bert #618-615-6135 Rosemary Crain #618-615-5858 Paula Platt #618-615-5545 Martha McDonald #618-615-6624 (Chester)

CARE MINISTRY

Care Ministry is a ministry of compassion provided by volunteers who deliver small care packages to those in need and may bring communion if they're homebound or just a friendly face to talk with, you are not alone. God is with you. If you or a fellow parishioner have lost a loved one, are ill, or are recovering from surgery, please contact Lynne Gonzalez at 618-284-7702. If you are interested in joining our Care Ministry please contact Lynne.



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 PSR: Schedule: Class for all on the 28th The Lenten eggs that were sent home with your child are due back March 28th but no later than April 4th because the students will be shopping for the poor on April 11th Practice for living stations will begin April 3rd & 5th at 7pm and April 4th during class. Anyone is welcome to participate.



All the members of the three parish youth group are welcome to participate in the living stations.

We will begin practicing for the living stations for Good Friday on Apr. 3 & 5 @ 7pm. All are welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Knights of Columbus Career Opportunity: We are seeking an intelligent, financially motivated entrepreneurial, and professional Catholic man to represent our financial program in the area. We offer a complete benefits package, expense allowance and professional training with this full-time position. In order to qualify, you must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information please contact Jeff Niemeyer at 618-526-7991 ext. 301 or email Jeff.Niemeyer@kofc.org.

Egg Hunt:

Easter egg Hunt at First Baptist Church in Prairie du Rocher will be on April 2nd at 1:00 for ages 10 and under. Lots of eggs, treats for all, and chances to win big baskets.

Marian Apparitions: The Association of the Miraculous Medal invites you and your loved ones to attend a special presentation on "Marian Apparitions" by Relevant Radio host, and creator of the website MiracleHunter.com, Michael O'Neill. This program will be held on Sunday, April 2, at 1:00 p.m. in the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, MO. This event is free. For more information call 1-800-264-6279.

Divine Mercy Sunday: April 16, Old St. Vincent Church, Corner of William & Main, Cape Girardeau; 2:00PM Confessions & Eucharistic Adoration; 3:00PM – 4:00 PM Divine Mercy Holy Hour. *I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it.*

Chester Senior Center: The April menu and activity calendar are available at the church entrance. Please help yourself!

Journey to Justice Retreat: Catholic Reflections on Our Call to Address Racial Inequity, Saturday, April 22, 9am-2:30pm, Cabrini Hall, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 104 N. 17th St., Herrin; Cost \$15 (includes lunch and continental breakfast available at 8:30am). This retreat will prayerfully reflect on what led us to where we are today and our Catholic teaching on social sin. More importantly, we will consider the call of the Gospel, how the Church is responding and what we might further do to repair past harms. For info email cchddiobelle@gmail.com.

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. April 1 ~ Kanon Jany, Natalie Shipley

Sun. April 2 ~ Parker Knott, Jackson Powell, Keegan Quandt

Thurs. April 6 ~ Brandon & Kevin Korando, Reed & Blake Petrowske

Fri. April 7 ~ Nathan Jany, Brandon & Kevin Korando, Karim Landeros

Sat. April 8 ~ Ty Tindall, Natalie Shipley, Nathan Jany (one more server needed)

Sun. April 9 ~ Brandon & Kevin Korando, Kanon Jany, Keegan Quandt

LECTORS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. April 1 ~ L: Paula Platt & Candy Caron

EM: Kathy Albrecht

Sun. April 2 ~ L: Madi Kribs & Danny Miller

EM: Dave Hustedde

Thurs. April 6 ~ L: Madi Kribs EM: Marlene Verdun

Fri. April 7 ~ L: Students EM: Paula Platt

Sat. April 8 ~ L: Kelley Gardiner, Joanie Heffernan, Grant

Deterding EM: Candy Caron

Sun. April 9 ~ L: Danny Miller EM: Diana Miller

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY & HOLY MONDAY

Kudos

- Craig Whelan & Carla Deterding for covering the statues
- Dave Hustedde & Mike Dethrow for covering the statues and crosses
- The Church Cleaning Crew for their hard work in getting the church ready for Holy Week
- James Popejoy and Matt Sabo for cleaning up the gumballs in front of St. Joseph church
- Those who attended both parishes Lenten bible studies

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We would like to offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of Peggy Cull, sister of Kathy Albrecht. May God grant you peace and comfort during this most difficult time.

Merciful God, as we enter Holy Week, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, and to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Stir up within us the gift of faith that we may not only praise him with our lips, but may follow him in the way of the cross.



FR. SEBASTIAN UKOH, CM, PASTOR



C. J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



Mary Help of Christians

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Parish Phone: 618-826-2444

School Phone: 618-826-3120

Email: 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

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