

READINGS

First Reading: (Jer 33:15)
 “In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land.”
Psalm: (Ps 25)
 To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.
Second Reading: (1 Thes 3:12-13)
 May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones.
Gospel: (Lk 21:28)
 “But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”

MASS INTENTIONS

C = CHESTER * EG = ELLIS GROVE * J = PR DU ROCHER
Saturday, Nov. 30
 4:00PM (C) Dorothy Korando by Mike & Marilyn Todaro
 6:00PM (EG) Paul Colvis

Sunday, Dec. 1
 8:00AM (J) Alouise Wiegard
 10:00AM (C) Fr. Gene by Danny & Rhonda Beck
 5:00PM (C) Ruth Petrowske by The Family

Monday, Dec. 2
 8:15AM (C) NO MASS

Tuesday, Dec. 3
 8:30AM (J) Steve Deterding

Wednesday, Dec. 4
 8:15AM (C) John & Jewell Cheslick by Ruby & Randy

Thursday, Dec. 5
 8:00AM (J) Bob & Mary Lou Bielefeld

Friday, Dec. 6
 NO MASS

Saturday, Dec. 7 ~ Mass of Healing
 4:00PM (C) Pat Kickham by Kathy Albrecht
 6:00PM (J)

Sunday, Dec. 8 ~ Mass of Healing
 8:00AM (EG) Carol DuFrenne
 10:00AM (C) Kristy Fleming by The Parish
 5:00PM (C) Brian Petrowske by The Family

MASS SCHEDULE

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

FR. SEBASTIAN’S REFLECTIONS

We see the optimism and hope in the first reading (Jeremiah 33: 14-16), where God promises to raise a new branch from David. This will signal a renewal of the ancient covenants and the hope of a better relationship between God and his people. This Messiah will signal the "Justice of God".
 In the second reading (1 Thessalonians 3: 12-4:2) Saint

Paul admonishes us to increase our love for God and neighbors. This will purify us and make us worthy to assemble with all the holy ones. Also, the right conduct before God and everyone should be encouraged. This indicates that something is about to happen.

In the Gospel (Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36) we are faced with an eschatology or the end. In the midst of upheavals, turnarounds, phasing out and so on, God encourages us to stand firm. We are also to remain vigilant because our salvation is near, Advent is here and a new anticipation for the coming of our Messiah is close. Have a Blessed Advent Season.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 -- A HOLY DAY OF

OBLIGATION: In 2024, December 8 is the Second Sunday of Advent, so the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9. FROM THE USCCB: the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Monday, December 9, 2024 is to be observed as a holy day of obligation.

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

CONFESSIONS

St. Joseph: Tuesday & Thursday mornings & Sat. evenings after Mass or by appt.
St. Mary’s (C): Sat. evenings before Mass 3:15pm-3:45pm
Any other confessions can be made by appointment.


ADORATION

St. Joseph: First Monday of every month **Dec 2 @ 7PM**
St. Mary’s (C): First Tuesday of every month **Dec. 3 @ 7PM**
St. Mary’s School: First Friday of every month at 8:30 AM
 All Are Welcome

MASS OF HEALING

First weekend of the month after Mass at all three parishes Saturday evening & Sunday morning.

December Schedule:

 Next Meeting & Christmas party **Dec. 8th** 6-8pm
 Stations of the Crib: **Dec. 14,** 6pm @ PDR & Sunday, **Dec. 15 @ 10am** Chester

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), Leonard DeRousse 284-6655 before 7pm (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) or Rosemary Bert 618-615-6135 or Martha McDonald 618-615-6624 (Chester).

WOMEN’S SUPPORT GROUP

Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at 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).

PRAYER REQUEST

The homebound, nursing home residents, cancer patients, our military, the lonely, the homeless, those incarcerated
 Cathy Shemonic, Fr. Alan Maes, Cathy Sauer, Mike Vasquez, Don Wingerter Jr, Tom Sauer, Jan Crow, Bruce Kettmann, Rick Grah, Joe & Bev O’Toole, Mary Beck, Lily & Lydia Smith, Linda Roy, Terry Laurent, Earlene Reichman, Albert Deterding

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY’S

Adam Walker 11/30, Rhonda Wingerter 11/30,
 Ryan Reiss 12/1, Sharon Howie 12/2, Lilian Drury 12/4,
 Ezra Gaertner 12/4, Ray Wiegard 12/7
Pete & Trisha Jany 11/30
Chad & Kim Deterding 12/1

ST. JOSEPH, PRAIRIE DU ROCHER EVENTS

Weekly Tithes & Offerings

Online Giving ~ www.stjoespdr.org

St. Joseph’s: Weekly Goal: \$1700
 Envelopes (35): \$1,120, Loose: \$59, CCHD \$20,
 Flowers: \$385, World Mission:\$10
 YTD: goal: \$32, 211 collected: \$31,251

Liturgical Calendar ~ St. Joseph

Dec. 1 (S) Evan & Jack (L) Jerzey, (B) Mary (C) Audrey & Marie
Dec. 7 (S) Alex & Mason (L) James (B) Carol (C) Carla & Nancy



Please call the rectory to register your child for PSR 618-284-3314. Parents please remember that Class starts at 7:15am.
 Parents, thank you for bringing your students to the Thanksgiving Mass.
 Please encourage your children to come to the Thursday morning Masses @ 8am.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

St. Joseph will host a daytime bible study on Tuesdays of Advent beginning Dec. 3rd after the 8:30am Mass.
 There will be cookies, coffee & discussion.

Building & Maitenance Updates: Upcoming projects... scrape and repair the rose window and the two side windows of church, and clean the carpet in church. Recently we had a signifigant leak in the bell tower leaving a lot of damage to the ceiling and other areas Taylor roofing has repaired it temporaly but will be assessing the whole roof at a later date.

ST. MARY’S CHESTER EVENTS

Weekly Tithes & Offerings

Online Giving ~ osvhub.com/maryhoc/funds

Weekly Goal: \$8901 ~ Week #46:
 Weekly Total: \$9,381 (72); \$412 Loose; Holy Days \$30; Cemetery \$60 (3); Improve \$652 (42) ~ YTD Actual Giving \$395,151; YTD Budget Diff (\$23,196)

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

Servers Schedule

Sat. Nov. 30 ~ Lucas, Volunteer Needed
Sun. Dec. 1 ~ Rhett, Penelope, Piper
Sat. Dec. 7 ~ Brynn, Lucas
Sun. Dec. 8 ~ Cole, Kevin, Maren

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

Sat. Nov. 30 ~ L: Joanie **Host:** Larry **Chalice:** Paula, Kathy, Ron, Candy
Sun. Dec. 1 ~ L: Jocelyn **Host:** Sue **Chalice:** Greg J, Diana, Matt, Bill
Sat. Dec. 7 ~ L: Jack **Host:** Meghan **Chalice:** Paula, Kathy, Ron, Candy
Sun. Dec. 8 ~ L: Amy **Host:** Matt **Chalice:** Madi, Greg, Todd, Barb

Blest Art: Please welcome Blest Art with their hand-carved nativity sets, statues, crosses, rosaries, and many other pieces of beautiful olive wood art. Our support helps families in the Holy Land.

PTO “Show Me Dough” Fundraiser: Now is your opportunity to order butter braid pastries, cookie dough and pizzas! Stock up your freezer before Christmas break. Orders due by Dec 4th and delivery date is Dec 16th. Contact the school if interested.

Women’s ACTS Retreat: Save the date ~ February 6-9, 2025. Accept a chance to strengthen your faith and a great way to prepare for Lent. Information folders are in the back of church.

Men's ACTS Retreat: Save the date ~ January 23-26, 2025. Join in the opportunity to renew your spirituality, strengthen your faith and its application to your daily life, and build lasting friendships in your parish community. Informational flyers are located at the church entrance.

St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women Quilt of the Month – 2025: Tickets \$20; drawing begins in January; winning names go back into drawing for another chance to win (may take \$100 in place of quilt). Proceeds will benefit St. Mary's School.

KC Hall Monday Lunches: Monday, December 2nd ~ Meatloaf, Baked Beans, Mac 'n Cheese, Spinach Salad (choice of 2 sides) \$11 per plate; serving 11am-1pm.

KC Monthly Meeting: 3rd Thurs. of every month @ 6PM

A Note from the KC's: Josh Berry will be available at the KC Hall on Sunday, Nov. 24th from noon until 2pm for members to stop by and pay their dues and get their card.

Chester Christian Food Pantry: As you are making your plans for the Christmas holidays, please also keep in mind those who are in need. The Food Pantry gladly accepts monetary donations. You can put your donation in the collection marked for the pantry (checks can be made payable to the Chester Christian Food Pantry). Your generosity is most appreciated!

In Deepest Sympathy

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Kristy Fleming. May the Lord give you comfort during this most difficult time. May she rest in peace.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Chester Senior Center: The December Menu and Activity Calendar is located at the church entrance.

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows: From November 22 through December 31, 5:00-9:00PM. The Way of Lights Display using over 1.5 million beautiful lights, depicts the journey of Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem. With new and beautiful colored lights, we celebrate the birth of Jesus and continue to offer activities for all to enjoy! No charge for display but donations are accepted. Additional charges for some activities. The indoor activities will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. For more info, call 618-397-6700 or visit our website at <https://snows.org/wayoflights>.

Memorial Mass for Archbishop Keleher

The Diocese of Belleville will host a Memorial Mass for Archbishop Emeritus James P. Keleher who died on November 9. Archbishop Keleher served as the sixth Bishop of Belleville (1984-1993). Bishop McGovern will offer Mass at 12:10 PM on Wednesday, December 11, in the Cathedral of St. Peter, 200 W. Harrison Street, Belleville, IL. Everyone is invited to pray together for the repose of Archbishop Keleher's soul.

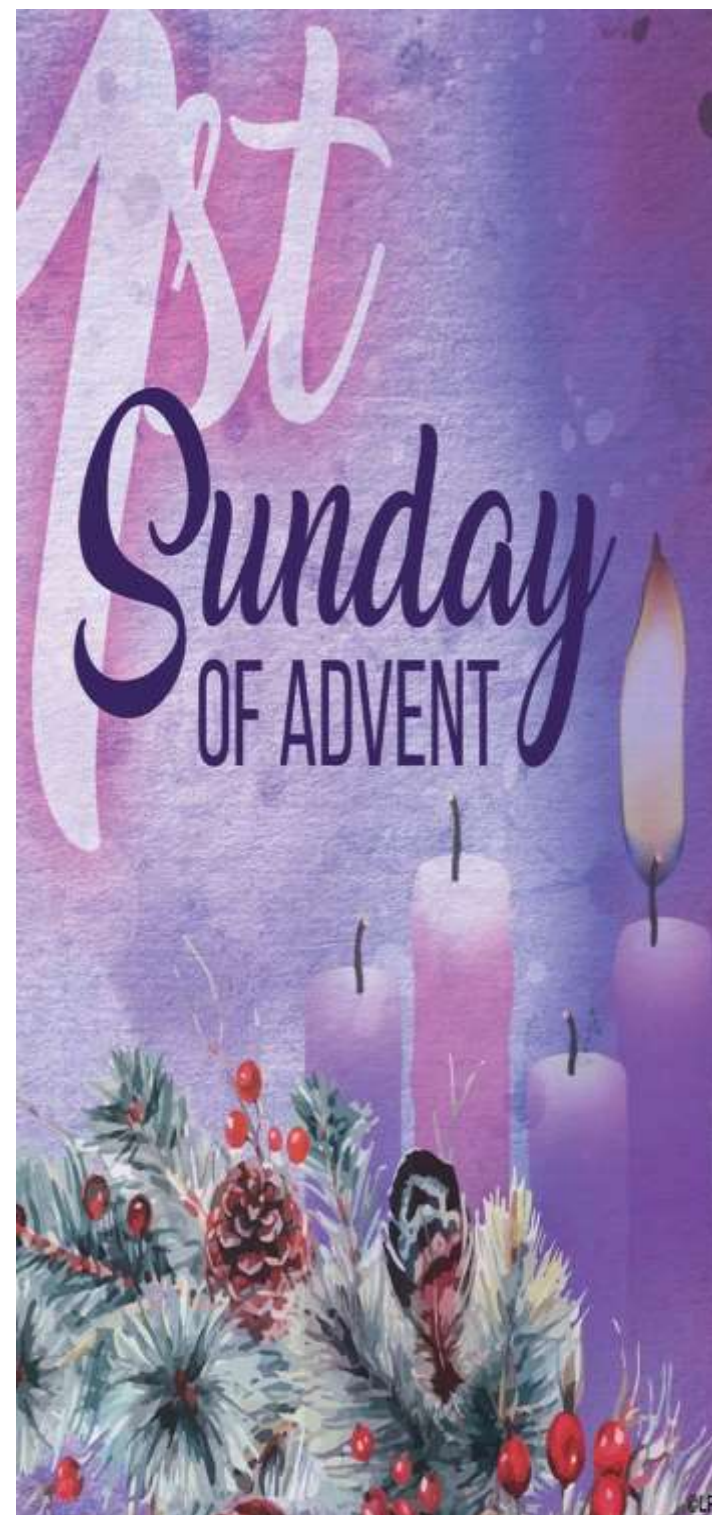
Christmas Country Church Tour: The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Saint Mary's of the Barrens Church) will once again be participating in the Christmas Country Church Tour along with 38 others churches and chapels. Dec. 19th-20th, from 2:00-9:00pm. Come view their Christmas decorations and spend a few minutes in silent prayer during the Advent season.

ADVENT QUESTIONS: WEEK ONE!

What's the story behind the Advent wreath?

Answer: Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreaths adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.



PASTOR: FR. SEBASTIAN UKOH, CM
Parish Partnership Website: 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

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.