

READINGS**First Reading:** (Acts 10:40-41)

This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance.

Psalm: (Ps 118)

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Second Reading:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. (Col 3:1)

Or:

Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. (1 Cor 5:7)

Gospel: (Jn 20:9)

For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Saturday, Mar. 30 ~ Holy Saturday

7:00PM (C) Peggy Cull

7:00PM (J) Jackie Laurent

Sunday, Mar. 31 ~ EASTER

8:00AM (J) Rosie Mudd

8:00AM (EG) Tony Colvis

10:00AM (C) Richard Hanger

Monday, Apr. 1 ~ No School

8:15AM (C) David Otten

Tuesday, Apr. 2

8:30AM (J) Greg Harbaugh

Wednesday, Apr. 3 ~ All School Mass

8:15AM (C) Mark Shields

Thursday, Apr. 4

8:00AM (J) Our partnership homebound

Friday, Apr. 5

No MASS

Saturday, Apr. 6

4:00PM (C) Luanne Korando

6:00PM (J) Ed DuFrenne

Percy Reeves Baptism-St. Joseph

Sunday, Apr. 7 ~ 1st Communion (EG)

8:00AM (EG)

10:00AM (C) Brian Petrowske

MASSSES: 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 APRIL

Saturday: 4pm: Chester **Sunday:** 8am: Ellis Grove

6pm: Prairie du Rocher 10am: Chester

Online Giving: St. Joseph - www.stjoespdr.org and St. Mary's - 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

Easter is the greatest and most vital feast in the Church. There are many reasons why it is important to Christians. First of all, the Resurrection of Christ is the foundation of our Christian faith. Saint Paul echoes this in (1 Cor 15:14, 17, 20) "If Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion, and you are lost in your sins". The basic tenet of our Catholic faith is built around the Resurrection of Christ. In the Gospel of John 11:25-26, Jesus assured Martha that "I am the Resurrection and Life; whoever believes in me will live even though he dies". In Easter, we celebrate a life that never dies, a life that triumphs decay, a life that embodies immortality and a life that gives hope to all. Happy Easter to you all.

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, Ryan Junger, Mark Goetting, Nicole (Dethrow) Doty, Marie Hess, Cathy Taylor, Evelyn Marquardt, Leila Keiser, Keith Keim, Isabella DeSpain, Bill & Earlene Hanger, Tony Melliore, Tracey F., Susie Harms, Ina Doiron, Earlene Riechman, Carol Durbin, 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.

The Parish Offices will be closed on Holy Monday, April 1st.

The Parish Office in Chester will be closed on Monday, April 8th for the Eclipse. Father Sebastian will have Mass as usual on that Monday at 8:15a.m. in Chester.

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Trisha Jany 3/30, Mark Doiron 3/31, Brandy Maes 4/1, Jacqueline Bert 4/2, Emzie Sue Gaertner "Happy 1st Birthday!" 4/4, Roseann Glenn 4/4, Mark Laurent 4/5
David & Wilma Candler 3/30
Bernie & Veneta Kerkhover 4/4

God be with you as you celebrate your sixty years of love. May you enjoy wonderful memories of happiness you have shared. And may the years ahead increase the joy that's in your hearts today. Many Blessings on your 60th Anniversary Bernie & Veneta Kerkhover!

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS**CONFESSIONS**

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

St. Mary's: Sat. evenings before Mass from 3:15pm-3:45pm.
Any other confessions can be made by appointment.


Diocesan Spring Farm Blessing: All are invited to join Bishop McGovern on Friday, April 26th @ 1PM at Braeutigam Orchards located at 2795 Turkey Hill Lane, Belleville. Informational letter and directions are located at the church entrance.

Diocese New Facebook Page: We have a new, maintained Diocesan Facebook page. The link to the new page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557358381815>
Name: Catholic Diocese of Belleville

Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal: All parishes in the diocese are conducting the CSMA. If you did not receive a packet in the mail, there are envelope at the church entrance. Make checks payable to your parish. You may return your envelope in the collection basket.

St. Joseph: Current = \$10,206.00 Donors = 27

St. Mary's: Current = \$9720.50 Donors = 45

Attention Parish Partnership Youth
 If there is any interest in attending Steubenville summer youth conference let Jill know by April 15th.

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: \$1,194, Loose: \$50,

Easter Flowers: \$60,

Yearly total: \$20,400 Amount collected YTD: \$18,143

Liturgical Ministers:

Holy Saturday—(L) Steve S, (B) Mary (C) Marie & Nancy (S) Madison, McKenzie, Caleb, Langston, Cort, Emmett
Easter Sunday—(L) James, (B) Leonard, (C) Carla & Carol (S) Katy, Lily, Evan & Jack
Apr. 6th – (S) Madison, McKenzie, (L) Steve G., (B) Lynne, (C) Leonard & Mary

Blessing of the Baskets: On Easter Sunday the children's baskets, following that children 10 & under will receive a chocolate surprise.

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.



Confirmation parents: Quick reminder that it is important that your child attends Mass either on weekend or Thurs@ 8am at least once a month.

All projects and dual poster boards are due Tuesday April 2nd.

Confirmation practice will be Tuesday April 9th at 7pm in Chester, please have your child and sponsor present for this practice

First Communion Practice: Wednesday, April 10th at 7pm

LENTEN PROJECT: Baby bottle project that will support Life Network. Bottles returned April 2nd.

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: \$5,738 (96); \$373 Loose; Holy Thurs \$50; Donations \$100; Cemetery \$70 (5); Improve \$609 (56); YTD Actual Giving \$86,624, YTD Budget Diff (\$20,188)

Servers Schedule

Easter Vigil Sat. Mar. 30 ~ Ty Tindall, Eli Congiardo, Will & Jonathan Grau, Parker Knott

Easter - Sun. Mar. 31 ~ Jackson Powell, Reed & Blake Petrowske

Sat. April 6 ~ Natalie Shipley, Brynn Berkbuegler

Sun. April 7 ~ Parker Knott, Brandon & Kevin Korando

The new servers schedule for April ~ June is located at the church entrance.

NEED ALTAR SERVERS! All who are parishioners aged 3rd grade through high school are encouraged to serve. Those who make their First Communion in May can serve after that. Those currently not serving, please come and join us in this important ministry. High schoolers, would you consider coming out of “retirement” and helping us on occasion? Parents would you consider being a server with your child on occasion? We are trying all we can to lessen the burden on everyone! If you can help us, please contact the parish office or contact Brian Niermann at 618-708-1381 by call or text. Thank you so much!

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

Easter Vigil Sat. Mar. 30 ~ L: Candy Caron, Kelley Gardiner, Joan & Jack Heffernan **Host:** Mike Heffernan **Chalice:** Larry Gross, Kathy Albrecht, Marlene Verdun, Rob Wingerter

Easter Sunday Mar. 31 ~ L: Dainelle Powell **Host:** Madi Kribs **Chalice:** Greg Crain, Sue Crain, Bill Gross, Dave Hustedde

Sat. April 6 ~ L: Kelley Gardiner **Host:** Megan Berkbuegler **Chalice:** Sharon Shields, Martha McDonald, Ron & Candy Caron

Sun. April 7 ~ L: Amy Miller **Host:** Kevin Grau **Chalice:** Todd Moeller, Diana Miller, Norman & Jeannie Grau

The new Lector/Eucharistic Minister schedule is located at the church entrance for April through May.

Easter Décor: *We will be decorating the church for Easter after the Holy Saturday Mass. Any and all help we can get will be most appreciated! Thanks so much!*

Divine Mercy Novena: Jesus asked St. Faustina that the Feast of the Divine Mercy be preceded by a nine day Novena to the Divine Mercy which would begin on Good Friday, March 29th and end on Saturday, April 6th. The chaplet of Divine Mercy should be offered on each of these days. *We will celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy on Sunday, April 7th. We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, which includes the Rosary, prior to the 10AM Mass.*

Graduates: Please contact the Parish Office at your earliest convenience if you have a student who will be graduating this year. Thank you!

Nothing Bundt Cakes: St. Mary’s School is once again hosting this delicious fundraiser. They come in four flavors in either bundtlet or 8” cakes. Orders due by May 1st and picked up on May 9th. Order forms are located at church entrance.

Knights of Columbus: The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly #1287 is offering three one-time \$500 scholarships for youths to attend a Catholic High School. Eligible students are 8th grade graduates and a member of one of the five parishes that the Assembly serves. Applications are located at the church entrance.

St. Mary’s School Gym Project: The Hawks thank you so much for the generous donations! We are over halfway to our goal! Contact Aaron Petrowske if you have any questions.

***DATE CHANGE* Chicken Fry:** The KC Hall and St. Mary’s School will be hosting a Chicken Fry on **Friday, April 12th** from 5:00PM -7:30PM. Dine-In or Carry-Out; Call 618-826-3316.

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

Women’s Support Group: The next meeting will be Thursday, April 18th @ 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).

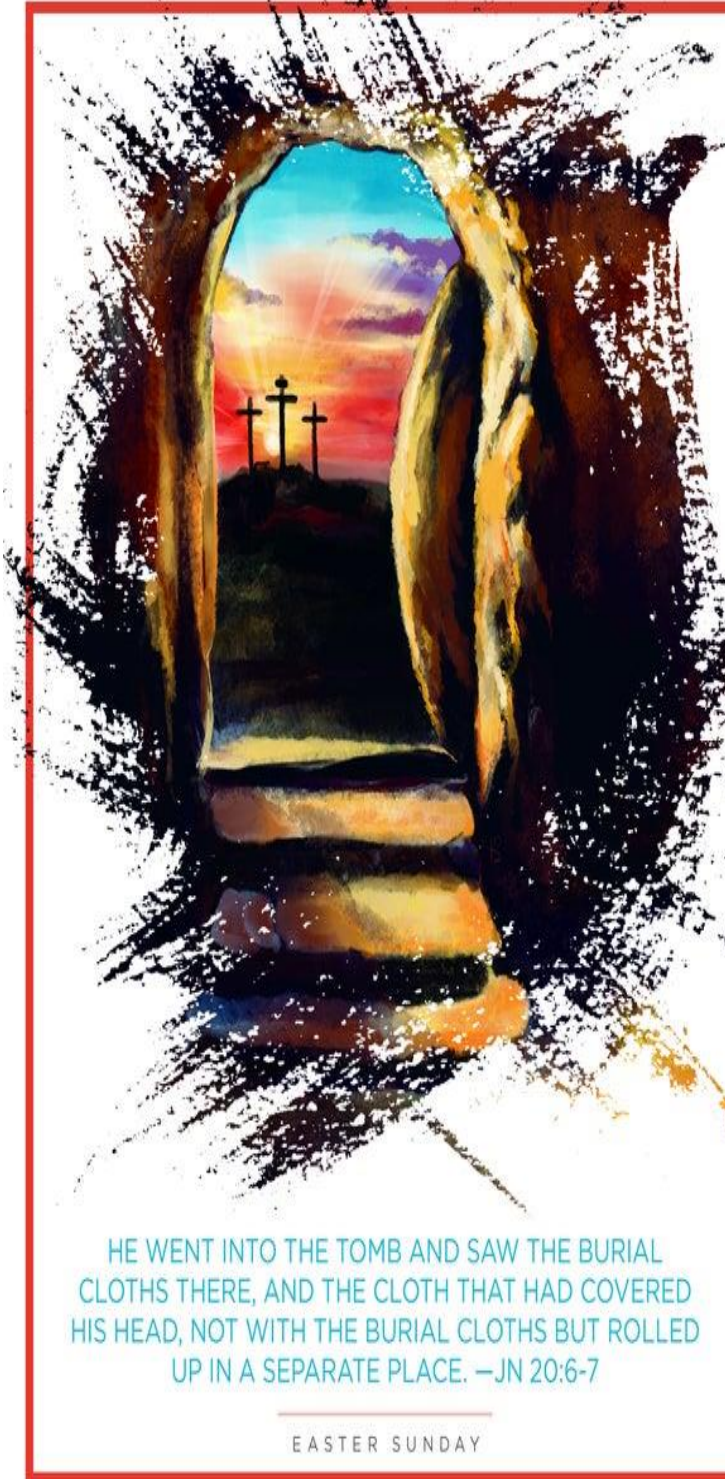
Old Blessed Palms: The weekend of April 13/14 there will be a basket in the back of church in which parishioners can place their old blessed palms. They will be burned for use on Ash Wed next year.

Easter Cards for Father Gene: If anyone would like to send Father a card, his address is: Ascension Living/Sherbrooke Village, 4005 Ripa Ave., Room #333, St. Louis, MO 63125

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Chester Senior Center: *A Matter of Balance* ~ Tuesdays, April 9-May 28 from 1:30-3:30PM. Take steps to reduce your fear of falling. Admission is free for the 8 classes. Call 618-826-5108. *The April Menu & Activity Calendar is located at the church entrance.*

St. James CCW: Born in the USA (A Noon Luncheon Experience) Thursday, April 11, 405 W. Madison, Millstadt. \$15 per person; 12-2:30PM; doors open at 10AM; pulled pork, sides & desserts; quilt/cash raffle, bingo, attendance prizes and more. Paid RSVP’s are required in advance. Call Jane Kuester at 618-476-1395.



All are welcome!

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.