

**READINGS****First Reading:** (Mal 3:1)

Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; and suddenly there will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek.

**Psalm:** (Ps 24)

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

**Second Reading:** (Heb 2:17)

Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God.

**Gospel:** (Lk 2:29-30)

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation.”

**MASS INTENTIONS**

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

**Saturday, Feb. 1**

4:00PM (C) Evelyn Wittenborn by the Family

6:00PM (J) Ernie Stefani

**Sunday, Feb. 2**

8:00AM (EG) Rose & Harlan Wesbecher

10:00AM (C) Bernard & Helen Korando by Jeff Korando Family

5:00PM (C) Roy Turner by Terry Riebeling

**Monday, Feb. 3**

8:15AM (C) No Mass

**Tuesday, Feb. 4**

8:30AM (J) NO MASS

**Wednesday, Feb. 5**

8:15AM (C) No Mass

**Thursday, Feb. 6**

8:00AM No Mass

**Friday, Feb. 7**

NO MASS

**Saturday, Feb. 8 ~ Welcome Back Fr. Sebastian**

4:00PM (C) Dorothy Korando by Connie Holley & Family

6:00PM (J) Jackie Laurent

**Sunday, Feb. 9**

8:00AM (EG) Barb Brown

10:00AM (C) Edwin Pautler by the Parish

5:00PM (C) John Cheslick by Ruby Stratmann & Randall Scheltgen

**MASS SCHEDULE~ February**

**Saturday:** 4pm: Chester

6pm: Prairie du Rocher

**Sunday:** 8am Ellis Grove

10am: Chester

**REFLECTIONS**

What is the secret to sharing in God's power to overcome our difficulties? Mary teaches us this in the prophecy of her pierced heart. This Sunday, the old man Simeon prophecies that when her son faces opposition, Mary's soul will be

pierced by a sword. The seemingly pointless agony of a mother helplessly watching her son be mocked, tortured, killed and then cruelly desecrated in death by a spear — somehow this piercing of her heart releases a power by which “the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Luke 2:35). What to make of this?

Whatever problems we currently face, the deepest threat is finally that evil thoughts are hidden in the human heart: hatred, envy, pride, lust, greed and so on. Behind every tyrant's injustice, for example, is a heart unpierced by love. Evil hides in our hearts. Mary's pierced heart, and its suffering love for her son, reveals and scatters these evil thoughts, and replaces them with love, forgiveness, generosity and peace.

This week, I invite us to ponder Mary's pierced heart. Her heart is quietly at work for us in the Church and world, exposing our evil thoughts and making a path for her son's divine love. This is how she gently cooperates in our salvation. Closed hearts are our biggest problem; love-pierced hearts are the ultimate power to overcome every difficulty. — Father John Muir

**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 **Feb. 10 @ 7PM**

**St. Mary's (C):** First Tuesday of every month **Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM**

**St. Mary's School:** First Friday of every month at 8:30 AM  
\*\*\*All Are Welcome\*\*\*

**MASS OF HEALING**

Will be after Mass at all three parishes Saturday evening & Sunday morning the weekend of Feb. 8&9

**February Schedule:**

Next Meeting is Monday Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> 10am at St. Mary's Chester.

Feeding the hungry in Belleville will be Saturday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> anyone is welcome!

**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.

**CANCELLED**

The partnership **Epiphany party** has been officially **CANCELLED**, due to many scheduling conflicts.

**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  
Donna Schweizer, Cathy Shemonic, Fr. Allen Maes, Terry Moore, Cathy Sauer, Mike Vasquez, Don Wingerter Jr, Tom Sauer, Jan Crow, Bruce Kettmann, Joe & Bev O'Toole, Mary Beck, Lily & Lydia Smith, Earlene Reichman, Albert Deterding, Fr. Carl Schrage, Bill & Earlene Hanger

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY'S**

Aiden Jany 2/1, Janelle Robinson 2/1, Cameron Roy 2/1, Curtis Siegfried 2/1, Kenneth Eggemeyer 2/3, Robert Juenger 2/3, Mary Long 2/3, Robert Wetzler 2/3, Stephen Gonzalez 2/3, Alan Congiardo 2/5, Brenden Malley 2/6, Ivan Mollet 2/6, Curtis Thornton 2/7

**Don & Mary Ellner 2/4**

**ST. JOSEPH, PRAIRIE DU ROCHER EVENTS****Weekly Tithes & Offerings**

**Online Giving ~ [www.stjoespdr.org](http://www.stjoespdr.org)**

**St. Joseph's: Weekly Goal: \$1700 Beginning 7/1/2024**

Envelopes: (25) \$1499, Loose\$ 370

YTD: goal: \$49,811 collected: \$47,610

**Liturgical Calendar ~ St. Joseph**

**Feb. 1** (S) Cort & Emmett (L) Langston (B) Audrey (C)

Nancy & Carol

**Feb. 8** (S) Mackenzie & Madison (L) Steve S. (B) Carla (C)

Leonard & Marie

**Annual Parish Report:** St. Joseph parish report is available in the back of church at on the website.

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



**Quilting:** Quilting is on Wednesdays from 9am -3pm in the hall. Our ladies would love to have more helpers, any level. All are welcome!

**Donation Tax reports**

If you would like a year-end report of your donation to St. Joseph please let Jill or Marvin K. know and they will be ready February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ST. MARY'S CHESTER EVENTS****Weekly Tithes & Offerings**

**Online Giving ~ [osvhub.com/marvhoc/funds](http://osvhub.com/marvhoc/funds)**

**Weekly Goal: \$8901 ~ Week #4:**

Weekly Total: \$4,329 (71); \$592 Loose; Cemetery \$75 (8);

Improve \$654 (51); ~YTD Actual Giving \$24,759, YTD

Budget Diff (\$10,841);

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

**Servers Schedule**

**Sat. Feb. 1** ~ Ty, Gavin

**Sun. Feb. 2** ~ Kevin, Ezra, Rhett

**Sat. Feb. 8** ~ Lucas, Addie

**Sun. Feb. 9** ~ Reed, Blake, Will

**Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule**

**Sat. Feb. 1 ~ L:** Candy **Host:** Larry **Chalice:** Ron, Candy, Megan, Rob

**Sun. Feb. 2 ~ L:** Dainelle **Host:** Sam **Chalice:** Greg, Dave, Barb, Bill

**Sat. Feb. 8 ~ L:** Paula **Host:** Marlene **Chalice:** Kathleen, Paula, Rob, Larry

**Sun. Feb. 9 ~ L:** Madi **Host:** Diana **Chalice:** Norman, Jeannie, Todd, Kevin

**St. Mary's Gala Dinner Auction 2025** ~ Our 2025 Gala Auction will be held on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Not sure what to donate? Scan the QR code on the Informational flyers located at the church entrance. Items can be sent straight to the school! **For Tickets to the Gala:** Contact Paula Platt at 618-615-5545. The cost of \$50 per person includes dinner and drinks. Payment and the names of those attending can be placed in the church collection basket or sent to the church office. **All Names and Money Must be Turned in by February 10, 2025.** Thank you for your continued support for our biggest fundraiser for our school

**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**. Bill Crawford from Arkansas was the first winner of a quilt.

**KC Hall Monday Lunches:** Monday, February 3rd ~ Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Spinach Salad, Peas & Carrots. Lunch is served from 11AM – 1PM; \$11 per plate; choice of two sides.

**KC Monthly Meeting:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. of every month at 6PM.

**Fish Fry:** The KC and St. Mary's school will be hosting Fish Frys beginning on Friday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, from 5pm until 7:30pm. \$15.00 for buffet or carry out (618) 826-3316 with regular or Cajun fish and cod squares plus sides.

**Annual Fried Chicken Scholarship Fundraiser:** The Chester High School & Valle Catholic High School Annual Fried Chicken Scholarship Fundraiser in Memory of Leah Search will be held on **Saturday Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>** from 4pm to 7pm at the KC. \$25 per couple or \$15 per plate. To go orders available. \*\*\*Live Music\*\*\* Holly Benton & The Synergy Band from 7p.m. to 10p.m.

**Chester Christian Food Pantry:** The Food Pantry gladly accepts monetary donations. You can put your donation in the collection marked for the pantry (make checks payable to the Chester Christian Food Pantry). Your generosity is most appreciated!

**2024 Tax Statements:** If you would like your tax statement, please put a self-addressed, stamped envelope in the collection basket.

#### AROUND THE DIOCESE

**St. Vincent de Paul Needs Coats!** Cold winter weather has definitely arrived and the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council** desperately needs coats to distribute to those in need. **Gently-used or new coats of all types in all sizes for all ages – toddlers, children, teens and adults (men and women) are being requested.** Items can be dropped off at the St. Vincent de Paul office located at 8800 West Main Street, Belleville, across from Blessed Sacrament Church, or call Joe Hubbard or Pat Hogrebe at 618-394-0126 for additional information. Warm your heart by keeping someone warm and donate a coat today! Thank you very much

**The Messenger Newspaper Subscription Renewal Weekend is Feb. 1-2-2025.** Please stay connected with your Diocese through a subscription to *The Messenger* Catholic Newspaper. Payments can be made via your Messenger envelope or by credit card at [www.bellevillemessenger.org](http://www.bellevillemessenger.org) and click **SUBSCRIBE**. The cost for a 1-year subscription is \$40 for printed, home-delivery, \$35 for digital access and \$45 for both. **Please make checks payable to The Messenger and make sure to include your e-mail address if digital subscription is selected.**

**The 2024 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal** - Serve the Lord with gladness -Psalm 100. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul truly serves the poorest of the poor through its Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen, SVDP Thrift Store, Help Center and Night Drop-In Center. Men, women and children are provided the basic necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter – and the hope and the tools they need for a better tomorrow. Help St. Vincent de Paul serve those who have no place else to turn. Please make your gift to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal today.

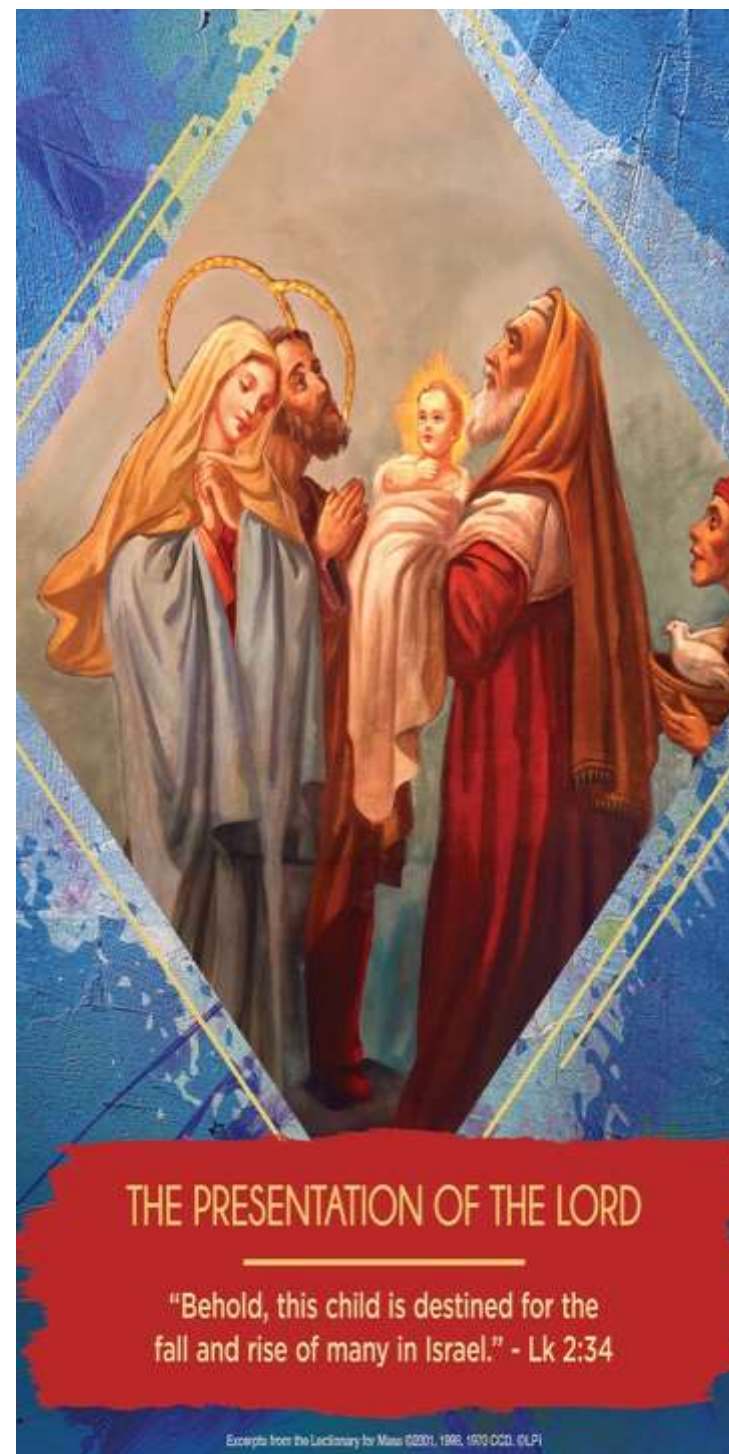
**Quilt/Cash Bingo** Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 9th, Hecker Community Center. Fried chicken & pork sausage plates from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo at 1:30 p.m. (Lightning Round prior). Attendance prizes, Raffle, Pot of Gold.

**Bibles & Brews:** Young adults presents Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30- 8:30pm Bennies Pizza Pub 113 E. Main St. Belleville Speaker: Fr. Michael Caruso, SJ ( Pray like a Pro)

**St. Michael's Church (Paderborn) Euchre Tournament:** Saturday February 22 at 7:00 (Doors open at 6:00) Sponsored by St. Michael's Men's Club

- Partners randomly rotated each round
- 6 Rounds of Euchre; 12 hands per round
- Team Points follow player for all rounds
- All you can drink beer and soda
- All you can eat fried chicken (at end of last round)
- Prizes awarded for top 3 places
- Tickets = \$25 per person

Location: Parish Hall  
4576 Buss Branch Road, Waterloo, IL 62298  
Contact for reservations: email Rich Kreher at [slark4@yahoo.com](mailto:slark4@yahoo.com) or call/text 314-341-4904



**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: Rose Dethrow  
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.*