

READINGS**First Reading:** (Is 60:1)

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Psalm: (Ps 72)

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second Reading: (Eph 3:5-6)

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Gospel: (Mt 2:2)

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Saturday, Jan. 4

4:00PM (C) Jewell Cheslick by Nancy & Jeff Warhausen

6:00PM (EG) Tony Beussink

Sunday, Jan. 5~Epiphany Party

8:00AM (C) Harold & Rosalee Choate by J. Korando Family

10:00AM (J) Alvin Linnertz

5:00PM (C) Susan Blechle by Bernice Prather & Cindy Blackstad

Monday, Jan. 6

8:15AM (C) No Mass

Tuesday, Jan. 7

8:30AM (J) NO MASS

Wednesday, Jan. 8

8:15AM – No Mass

Thursday, Jan. 9

8:00AM No Mass

Friday, Jan. 10

NO MASS

Saturday, Jan. 11

4:00PM (C) Ron Fadler by Mike & Anita Bievenue

6:00PM (EG) Tony Beussink

Sunday, Jan. 12

8:00AM (J) Joe Steibel & Alouise Wiegard

10:00AM (C) Dorothy Korando by Mary Jones

5:00PM (C) Ruth Petrowske by Family

MASS SCHEDULE~ January

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

FR. SEBASTIAN'S REFLECTIONS

Have you ever wondered why the magi had gold, frankincense, and myrrh? Matthew's Gospel tells us, "Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matt. 2:11). Why are these things

their "treasures"? One possible answer is they were magicians and astrologers, and these three items were the tools of their questionable trade. In offering them to Christ, they demonstrate that they will cease using such items to predict or control life. They place this baby-king, the God of Israel, at the center of their lives, and not their own devices of control, manipulation and prediction.

Isn't that what we need to do, too? Consider, for example, the magical power of money, symbolized by the magi's gold. Seemingly whatever we ask of money, it does. It wields a god-like power over the world. It can predict the future by guaranteeing better outcomes for us — which is why it is such a tempting alternative to trusting in God. The problem is such absolute trust in money enslaves us to the economic forces that make money so powerful. In paying homage to Jesus with "gold" (i.e., tithing), we participate in his authority over (and therefore freedom from) the magical sway of money.

What things in your life do you use to predict or control your future? What in your life seems to give you power over the world? Those are your treasures. Are you tired of feeling enslaved to them? Find a way to open them and give them to Christ, and you will be freer.

— Father John Muir

©LPi

Welcome Fr. Daniel Friedman**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**No Adoration in January**

St. Joseph: First Monday of every month **Feb. 3rd** @ 7PM

St. Mary's (C): First Tuesday of every month **Feb. 4th** @ 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.

**January Schedule:**

19thadventure, pay close attention to bulletin for upcoming details

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.

YOU'RE INVITED!

The partnership **Epiphany party** will be once again at St. Joseph on Saturday, Feb. 8th after 6pm Mass. Nothing but the date changes and the parishes will provide meat and drinks, we ask that members bring side dishes. A-I desserts, J-R salad & S-Z vegetable.

The hall will be open prior to Mass for drop off.

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, Linda Roy,
Earlene Reichman, Albert Deterding, Fr. Carl Schrage,
Bill & Earlene Hanger

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY'S

Kevin Grau 1/3, Briahna Presley 1/4, Mike Ritter 1/4, Jody Springer 1/4, Jennifer Tijerina 1/4, Joyce Surman 1/5,
Bernard Kerkhover 1/6, Mark Marquardt 1/6,
Allen Menard 1/6, James Chandler 1/7, Robert Fleming 1/7,
Michael Robinson 1/7, Betty Gross 1/8, Bob Ellner 1/8,
Eric Caby 1/10, Renee Roider 1/10
Raymond & Millida Ellner 1/4

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

Online Giving ~ www.stjoespdr.org

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

Envelopes (Christmas) (37) \$2651 Loose: \$192 Needy: \$331

Envelopes: (33) \$2291, Loose: \$47, Christmas: \$570, Needy & Make up: \$182

YTD: goal: \$39,011 collected: \$35,611

Liturgical Calendar ~ St. Joseph

Jan. 5 (S) Alex & Mason (L) Jill (B) Nancy (C) Marie & Mary

Jan. 12 (S) Jack & Evan (L) Steve S. (B) Audrey, (C) Carla & Carol



Please call the rectory to register your child for PSR 618-284-3314. Parents please remember that Class starts at 7:15am.

1st Class in 2025 is Jan. 7th Please encourage your children to come to the Thursday morning Masses @ 8am.

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

Online Giving ~ osvhub.com/maryhoc/funds

Weekly Goal: \$8901 ~ Week #52:

Weekly Total: \$6,058 (89); \$261 Loose; Holy Days \$110; Donations/Memorials \$100; Cemetery \$60 (3); Improve \$503 (49); ~YTD Actual Giving \$434,436, YTD Budget Diff (\$19,515)

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

Servers Schedule

Sat. Jan. 4 ~ Lucas, Gavin

Sun. Jan. 5 ~ Jonathan, Penelope & Piper

Sat. Jan. 11 ~ Ty, Brynn

Sun. Jan. 12 ~ Jackson, Pedro Maren

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

Sat. Jan. 4: ~ **L:** Rob **Host:** Larry **Chalice:** Marlene, Ron, Candy, Rob

Sun. Jan. 5: ~ **L:** Madi **Host:** Diana **Chalice:** Sue, Greg, Matt, Bill

Sat. Jan. 11 ~ **L:** Jack **Host:** Martha **Chalice:** Kathleen, Meghan, Paula, Rob

Sun. Jan. 12 ~ **L:** Jocelyn **Host:** Sam **Chalice:** Sue, Greg, Matt, Bill

Christmas Decorations: We will be taking the Christmas decorations down on Sunday, January 12th after the 10:00 a.m. mass. All available help will be much appreciated.

St. Mary's Gala Dinner Auction 2025 ~ Plans are underway for our 2025 Gala Auction which will be held on Saturday,

March 1st in our newly renovated gymnasium with *air-conditioning!* Start shopping now and send your items straight to the school! Informational flyers are located at the church entrance. 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.**

KC Hall Monday Lunches: Monday, January 6th ~ Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Spinach Salad, Peas & Carrots (choice of two sides) \$11 per plate; 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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

Chester Christian Food Pantry: 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!

Annual Fried Chicken Scholarship Fundraiser: Chester High School & Valle Catholic High School annual fried chicken scholarship fundraiser in memory of Leah Search will be Saturday, January 11, 2025, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Chester KC. \$25 per couple or \$15 per plate, children 7 thru 10 years old \$8, below 7 years old \$5. Two and three piece to go orders available. Live music from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. provided by Holly Benton and The Synergy Band.

Defibrillator Demonstration: St. Mary Divine Maternity, Ellis Grove is having a demonstration on how to use a defibrillator on Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 9 am to noon in Sense Hall. There will be a light lunch served after class. All are welcome to attend. Contact Joan Derringer 618-534-6697 for more information.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Jukebox Bingo SJB School presents Jukebox Bingo on January 18th in our parish center. Doors open at 6 p.m.; bingo begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the door. Cash bar available; bring your own snacks. Basket Raffle, Lotto Ticket Raffle, 50/50. Info: Angela at 618-340-0863; Sherry at 618-534-1141; Janet at 618-531-3773.

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.

17th Annual Euchre Tournament

17th Annual Euchre Tournament, January 31st, Ss. Peter & Paul, Waterloo. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; tournament starts at 7 p.m. Prizes awarded for top 3 places in 2 flights at a minimum. Tickets are \$25 and include 7 rounds of Euchre (12 hands per round), beverages (soda, water, beer), all you can eat fried chicken (at the end of the last round). Info or questions: Tim at 618-406-6399 or Josh at 618-9784048.

The 2024 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal *Serve the Lord with gladness* *-Psalm 100*

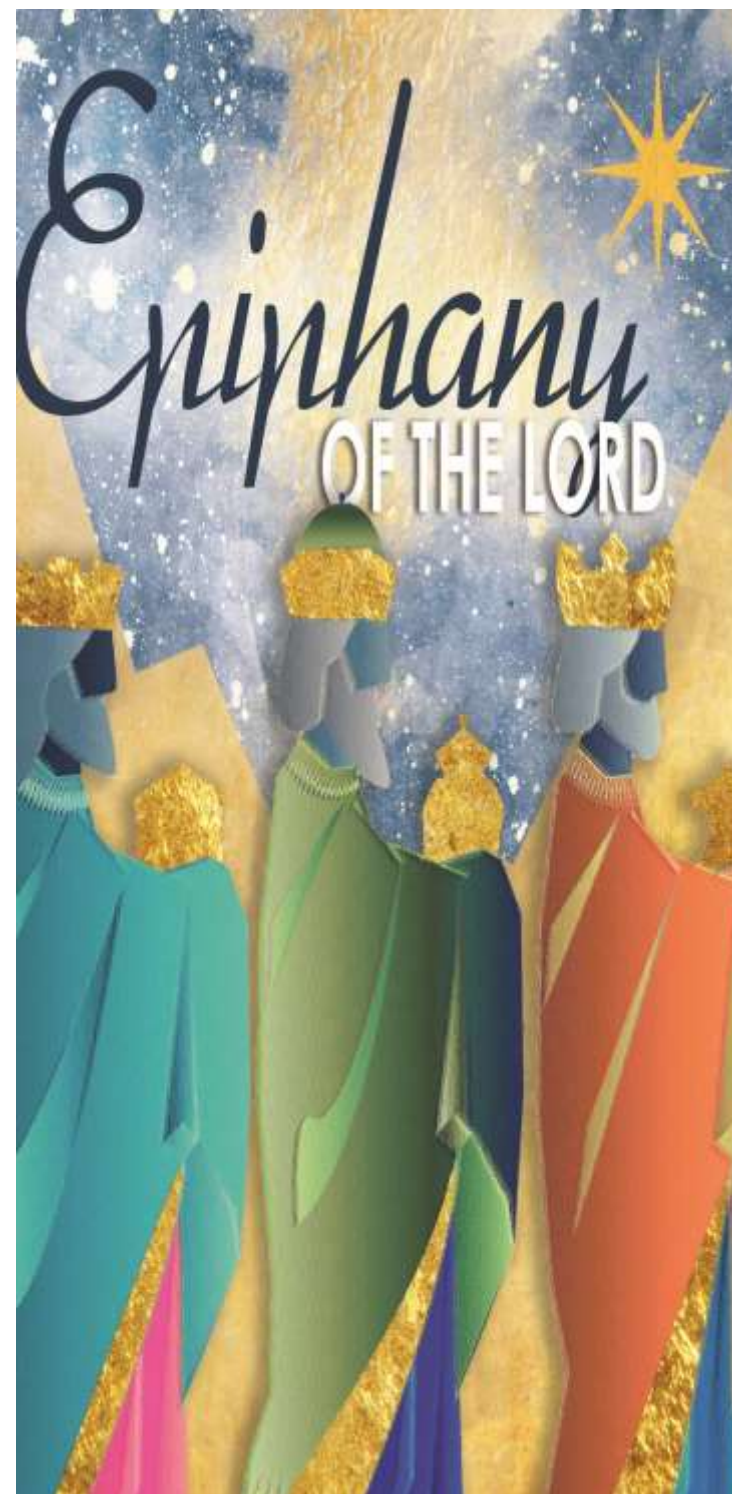
“May God’s blessings pour upon you and grant you and your loved ones a healthy, prosperous and joyful new year. I send heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support of The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and our Belleville Diocese in the past year. You are remembered always in my prayers.”
-Bishop Michael McGovern

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. Please contact Angie Griffin for more info 618-719-8012.

Epiphany Blessing

The Epiphany household blessing is an ancient practice in the Church. This tradition is a beautiful way to observe the coming of the magi while invoking God’s blessing on your home and all who enter it. All that is needed is chalk and a prayerful heart!

The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year. The initials C, M and B represent the names of the magi — Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar — and also signify the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*: “May Christ bless the house.”



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

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.