

**READINGS**

**First Reading:** (Gn 15:18)

It was on that occasion that the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I give the land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates.”

**Psalms:** (Ps 27)

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

**Second Reading:** (Phil 3:21)

He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

**Gospel:** (Lk 9:28b-29)

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

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

**Saturday, March 15**

4:00PM (C) Patrick Kickham by Kathy Albrecht

6:00PM (EG)

**Sunday, March 16**

8:00AM (J) For our new trustees

10:00AM (C) Donald Bova by Jeff Korando Family

5:00PM (C) Dorothy Korando by Joe & Diane Tindall

**Monday, March 17**

8:15AM (C) John & Jewel Cheslick by Ruby Stratmann & Randall Scheltgen

**Tuesday, March 18**

8:30AM (J) Jennifer (Mathews) Guilliams

**Wednesday, March 19~ Feast of St. Joseph**

8:15AM (C) For the Parish

7:00AM (J) Parishioners of St. Joseph

**Thursday, March 20**

8:00AM (J) Bob & Marylou Bielefeld

**Friday, March 21**

NO MASS

**Saturday, March 22**

4:00PM (C) Peggy Cull by Kathy Albrecht

6:00PM (EG)

**Sunday, March 23**

8:00AM (J) Steve Deterding

10:00AM (C) Roger Petrowske by the Family

5:00PM (C) Jewell Cheslick by Jeff & Nancy Warhausen

**MASS SCHEDULE~ March**

**Saturday:** 4pm: Chester **Sunday:** 8am Prairie du Rocher

6pm: Ellis Grove 10am: Chester

**REFLECTIONS**

In the first reading (Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18) God showed Abram how infinite his generation would be. God also reminded him about his call from his fatherland to God’s promise land. This was followed by a strange ritual called a covenant. God never fails in his promise to us.

The second reading (Philippians 3:17-4:1) recalls that our citizenship is in heaven. Saint Paul goes further to encourage us to fill our minds with proper conduct and virtue. We have to be vigilant as we await our union with God in heaven.

The Gospel (Luke 9:28b-36) takes us to the scene of the Transfiguration at Mount Tabor. Jesus took Peter, James and John on this occasion and they beheld the “Beatific Vision”. We pray that during our masses and prayerful encounters, that God will continue to fill our hearts with the eternal vision. May we also go out and spread the good news during this Lenten season. Amen.

**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 **Apr. 7 @ 7PM**

**St. Mary’s (C):** First Tuesday of every month **Apr. 8 @ 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 April 5 & 6



All members of the youth group are invited to participate in the live Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Practices will be April 14<sup>th</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup> and a meal will be provided on Good Friday. We will meet at 4:30pm in the parish hall.

**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).

**HOLY THURSDAY**

St. Mary’s Ellis Grove will have a soup supper from 5:30p – 6:30p with Mass following at 7:00p. 12 Volunteers are needed to get their feet washed during Mass. Please contact Ann Petrowske at 618-615-2413 or Maxine Mathis at 618-615-5529 to sign up. Volunteers are appreciated!

**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, Terry Moore, 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, Tiffany Surman

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY’S**

Debra Bauer 3/15, Bette Susan Goetting 3/15, Michael Bievenue 3/17, Hailey Clendenin 3/17, Cliff Jungewaelter 3/18, Vicki Hopkins, 3/19, Annette Steibel 3/19, Bill Deterding 3/20, Matthew Grau 3/20, Amy Miller 3/21, Henry Candler 3/22

**Tom & Cathy Sauer 3/15  
Ray & Audrey Wiegard 3/20**

**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:** (32) \$ 2339 **Loose:** \$39, Easter Flowers (4) \$100 **YTD:** goal: \$56,611 collected: \$53,477

**Liturgical Calendar ~ St. Joseph**

**March 16 (S)** Langston, Cort & Emmett, (L) Chad, (B) Jill, (C) Carol & Marie

**March 23 (S)** Jack & Evan (L) Jerzey, (B) Leonard, (C) Mary & Audrey



**Parents, please remember that Class starts at 7:15am.**

Please encourage your children to come to the Thursday morning Masses @ 8am.

**Stations of the Cross:** Every Friday night beginning at 7pm

**CEMETERY REMINDER**

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** is the last day for any Grave blankets, Christmas flower arrangements or any flowers not on the base or tombstone to be removed by families.

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>** there will be a work day beginning at 9am. At that time all remaining grave blankets Christmas flower arrangements or any flowers not on the base or top of the tombstone will be removed and thrown away.

If you want your arrangements please come get them prior to March 22<sup>nd</sup> as we prepare for the spring and summer mowing season.

**ST. MARY’S CHESTER  
EVENTS**

**Weekly Tithes & Offerings**

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

**Weekly Goal: \$8901 ~ Week #9:**

Weekly Total: \$4,376 (73); \$327 Loose; Holy Days \$10; Cemetery \$180 (13); Improve \$491 (37); ~YTD Actual Giving \$57,065, YTD Budget Diff (\$14,135);

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

**Servers Schedule**

**Sat. Mar 15** ~ Ty, Addie

**Sun. Mar 16** ~ Kevin, Ezra, Rhett

**Sat. Mar 22** ~ Ty, Gavin

**Sun. Mar 23** ~ Cole, Jonathan, Maren

**Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule**

**Sat. Mar 15** ~ L: Linda **Host:** Candy **Chalice:** Ron, Rob, Martha, Kathleen

**Sun. Mar 16** ~ L: Grant **Host:** Cindy **Chalice:** Diana, Barb, Dave, Sam

**Sat. Mar 22** ~ L: Kelley **Host:** Paula **Chalice:** Larry, Kathleen, Marlene, Martha

**Sun. Mar 23** ~ L: Danny **Host:** Madi **Chalice:** Kevin, Matt, Bill, Todd

**Stations of the Cross:** Stations of the Cross will be held before Saturday evening Mass beginning at 3:15pm during Lent. Volunteers are needed to lead. Please contact the Parish Office at 826-2444 if you can help.

**In Deepest Sympathy**

*We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Everett Beck. May he rest in peace.*

*We also extend our condolences to the family and friends of Jimmie Niemeyer. May he rest in peace.*

*May the Lord grant you comfort during this most difficult time.*

**St. Mary’s School Accreditation**

An Accreditation Team from the Diocese Regional Office of Education and three Principals recently examined the school’s files and policies and observed teachers and classrooms. St. Mary’s was highly commended as one of the best accreditations the team had done. We congratulate all

who work so hard for the School's success and for the future of our students.

### **How to Lent**

You are invited to a series of sessions on how to do more for Lent aiming to equip us with the tools to understand and practice the pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Sessions will be held on March 16, 23, 30, and April 6 before the 10am Mass on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:00am in the School Cafeteria. Refreshments will be provided starting 8:45am. Enter through the Library door of the School by the playground on Swanwick Street.

**St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women Quilt of the Month – 2025:** We still have tickets available for purchase while still having 9 chances to win in 2025. If you would like to donate a new, hand-quilted quilt for this project, we would very much appreciate it. Thank You! St. Mary's CCW

### **Corned Beef & Cabbage**

The KC Hall will be serving Corned Beef & Cabbage on Sunday, March 16 beginning at 5:00 pm. If anyone can donate a dessert it would be appreciated!

**KC Hall Monday Lunches:** Monday, March 17 – Corned Beef, Cabbage, Taters, Carrots. Served from 11 am - 1 pm. \$11 per plate.

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

**Fish Fry:** The KC and St. Mary's school is hosting Fish Fry's on Friday evenings from 5pm until 7:30pm. \$15.00 for buffet or carry out (618) 826-3316 with cod squares, regular or Cajun fish plus choice of sides. Volunteers are always needed to help out.

**Tables/Chairs for Sale:** There are still some tables available for \$10 each and wooden folding chairs for \$1 each. Contact the school office at (618) 826-3120 if you are interested.

**Chester Christian Food Pantry:** The next Mobile Market will be held on March 26 at 8:30am. There is currently a need for paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, and feminine products. In addition, items such as cereal, canned meats, tuna, canned fruits, canned vegetables, and box dinners are always welcomed. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated and can be placed in the collection marked for the pantry (make checks payable to the Chester Christian Food Pantry). Your gifts directly assist the local community in times of need. Thank you for your continued support!

**Daddy – Daughter Dance:** The PTO is sponsoring a Daddy – Daughter dance on Saturday, March 29, 2025 from 6:30pm – 8:00 pm. Check flyer for more details.

**Weekend Get Away to Paducah KY:** Buena Vista National Bank in conjunction with USA Tours is taking reservations for a bus trip to Paducah KY with stops at Kentucky Oaks Mall, The Shed, and Clemens Fine Arts Center for a comedy

show on July 12 & 13, 2025. Contact Amber Cushman at (618) 826-2331, ext. 108 for more information.

### **St. Mary's Sports Fest**

Friday, March 21 St. Mary's will host the Sports Fest. Flyers contain additional information.

### **AROUND THE DIOCESE**

#### **Suffered Under Pontius Pilate: Lenten Reflections on the Gospel Accounts of the Passion and Death of Jesus**

**Christ:** *His Excellency, The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton, Ph.D., S.T.D. Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 2:00 PM, The Cathedral of St. Peter (In the Blessed Sacrament Chapel)* Bishop Braxton's lecture will examine the very different accounts of the suffering and death of Jesus as found in the Gospel according to Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John. He will examine the similarities and the differences between these Gospel texts and provide explanations for the reasons why they are different. He will discuss: "Was it necessary for Jesus to die?" "In what way does meditation on the suffering of Jesus help Christians accept pain, sickness, and suffering in their personal lives?" "Were the Jewish people responsible for the death of Jesus?" "Has the Gospel of John been used to defend antisemitism?" "Why was Jesus's death necessary for the forgiveness of sins?" **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

**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.

**Covenant Network Catholic Radio:** Covenant Network Catholic Radio offers an opportunity to shut off the noise and listen to Catholic teaching, prayers and call-in programs. It's a great way to make this Lenten season even more meaningful. Tune in to 90.3 FM, online at OurCatholicRadio.org, or download the Covenant Network app.

#### **American Legion Prairie du Rocher Fish Fry's:**

March 21, 28 & Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>  
Serving Fish & Fixins from 4:30-8  
Dine in or Carry out.

#### **Spring Video Study**

King's House at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows is offering a 5-week Spring Video Study on Creating Sabbath Space in Our Lives. It will be held on Tuesdays from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon on April 8, 15, 22, 29, and May 6. Cost is \$25 for the series or \$5 per sessions. For more information call (618) 397-0584 or register online at <https://kh/snows.org/events/deanvideospring2025/>.



**PASTOR: FR. SEBASTIAN**  
**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.*