

READINGS

First Reading — As the prophet Samuel anointed David with oil, the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David (1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a).

Psalm — My shepherd is the Lord; I shall not want (Psalm 23).

Second Reading — You who were once darkness are now light in the Lord. Live as children of light (Ephesians 5:8-14).

Gospel — The man who was blind from birth proclaimed: The one called Jesus made clay with his saliva, anointed my eyes with it, and told me to wash. When I washed, I was able to see!

(John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38])

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Saturday, March 18

4:00PM (C) Teressa Helminski

6:00PM (EG) Debria Davitz

Sunday, Mar. 19 ~ Laetare Sunday; PSR Mass

8:00AM (J) Dave Braun

Mildred (Julia) Hunter

10:00AM (C) David Otten

Monday, Mar. 20 ~ WELCOME SPRING!!!

8:15AM (C) NO MASS

Tuesday, Mar. 21

8:30AM (J) Claudia Jurek

Wednesday, Mar. 22~ Stations of the Cross 7PM (C)

8:15AM (C) Ruth Petrowske

Thursday, Mar. 23

8:00AM (J) Greg Harbaugh

Friday, Mar. 24~ Stations of the Cross 7PM (J)

No Mass

Saturday, Mar. 25

4:00PM (C) Marcella Schmerbauch

6:00PM (EG) Tony Colvis

Sunday, Mar. 26

8:00AM (J) Bill Wiegard

10:00AM (C) Mary Bond

11:00AM ~ *Kylan Lee Kempfer Baptism*

MASS SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

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

ST. MARY'S CHESTER SERVERS SCHEDULE:

Sat. Mar. 18 ~ Logan & Cole McDonald

Sun. Mar. 19 ~ Parker Knott, Penelope Seymour, Keegan Quandt

Sat. Mar. 25 ~ Nathan Jany & Ty Tindall

Sun. Mar. 26 ~ Karim Landeros, Will & Jonathan Grau

LECTORS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Sat. Mar. 18 ~ L: Jack Heffernan EM: Martha McDonald

Sun. Mar. 19 ~ L: PSR Kids EM: Greg J. Crain

Sat. Mar. 25 ~ L: Grant Deterding EM: Marlene Verdun

Sun. Mar. 26 ~ L: Amy Miller EM: Jeannie Grau

TITHE FOR THE WEEK OF MAR. 12

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

Envelopes (37) \$1,237, Loose: \$65,

Easter Flowers (13) \$331

CSMA: 16 pledges totaling: \$8,647

St. Mary's: Weekly Goal \$7000

Weekly: \$6811.00; Improve \$445; Cemetery \$80; Sr Anne

\$113; Flowers \$103; Kid's \$5



By Fr. Sebastian

The first reading (1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a) recalls the search for a successor to king Saul. That quest took the prophet Samuel to the unlikely home of a man called Jesse in Bethlehem. Strangely, the choice did not rest with the seven adult sons of Jesse, but the youngest of them all, who could barely stand up to his brothers. David was to become the next king of Israel, upon whom the fortunes of his people will rest on.

In the second reading (Ephesians 5: 8-14) St Paul talks about darkness and light. He encouraged us to live in righteousness and truth, as children of light. On the contrary, the works of darkness are done in secret, are shameful, fruitless and fear exposure. We are then urged to awake from sleep and death, so that Christ will give us light.

The Gospel (John 9:1-41) takes us through the miracle of the restoration of sight to the man born blind. Christ gave him new vision, mission, identity and direction. This is what happens when we follow the footsteps of Jesus and are willing to walk as children of light. Amen

PRAYER REQUEST

If you have a family member that you would like added to our prayer request, please call the church office.

All homebound, nursing home residents, cancer patients, COVID-19 patients, our military & their families, the lonely, the homeless, those who are incarcerated, Randy Braun, Marie Hess, Cathy Taylor,

Paulette Deterding, Evelyn Marquardt, Nellie Mollet,

Father Gene, Brian Niermann, Janice Crow,

Mike Vasquez, Donald Wingerter, Jr.,

Kaylee Muertz, Grayson Herriman, Marty Bert

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Butch Jungewaelter 3/18, Vicki Hopkins 3/19, Annette Steibel 3/19, Bill Deterding 3/20, Matthew Grau 3/20, Charlene Imming 3/21, Amy Miller 3/21, Henry Candler 3/22, Stacy Melliere 3/24, Cody Henry 3/25, Elizabeth Arbeiter 3/26

PARTNERSHIP UPCOMING EVENTS

Lenten Penance Service:

Sunday March 26, 2:30pm, Chester

Monday March 27, 7pm, Red Bud

Tuesday March 28, 7pm Sparta

Women's Support Group: Next meeting will be

Thursday, April 20th @ 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).

Bible Study-Prairie du Rocher

The Gospel of John will be the topic of discussion on Mondays at 7pm in St. Joseph parish hall.

Spiritual Enrichment for Lent: St. Mary's Chester

Sunday Faith & Fellowship from 8:45am – 9:50am in the school cafeteria ~ No Greater Love - A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion.

Catholic Relief Services: This week we take up this collection to reveal Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection.

Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal: On behalf of Bishop Michael McGovern and diocesan ministries and programs, a most heartfelt thanks to all those who have already responded with a gift to the 2023 CSMA. If you have not done so as yet, there's still plenty of time. One-time donations or pledges – in any amount – are needed and can be made through your parish. Your generosity supports 17 agencies and programs that daily serve thousands of people. Please consider making your gift today or at any time you are able in the coming months. We also ask for your prayers for the success of this year's appeal and all those we serve. Thank you and may God bless you always. *The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord ~ Psalm 15*

KC/St. Mary's PTO Fish Frys: Buffet Style served every Friday night from 5pm-8pm. Carry outs available.

Communion



If you are unable to attend Mass, whether homebound/hospital/assistance living, etc. and would like to receive communion, please call Diane Mudd at 618-284-7150 (Ruma) or Leonard DeRousse 618-284-2200 (Prairie du Rocher), Rosemary Bert #618-615-6135 Rosemary Crain #618-615-5858 Paula Platt #618-615-5545 Martha McDonald #618-615-6624 (Chester)

CARE MINISTRY

Care Ministry is a ministry of compassion provided by volunteers who deliver small care packages to those in need and may bring communion if they're homebound or just a friendly face to talk with, you are not alone. God is with you. If you or a fellow parishioner have lost a loved one, are ill, or are recovering from surgery, please contact Lynne Gonzalez at 618-284-7702. If you are interested in joining our Care Ministry please contact Lynne.



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 PSR: Schedule: March 21ST Confession for grades 2, 3, 4, 7&8



Will begin practicing for the living stations for Good Friday on Apr. 3 & 5 7pm. All are welcome!

DONUT SUNDAY

In honor of St. Joseph feast day on Monday March 20th parish council will be hosting donuts and coffee after church on Sunday March 19th

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Patrick~ Ruma

Meat Raffle March 19th at the Bale Out @ 2pm Baldwin, IL

PDR American Legion

Fish Fry March 31st
Serving Fish, Fries and fixins' 4:30pm -8pm

St. John Catholic School Spring Rummage Sale: 519 Hazel St., Red Bud, March 31, 4-10pm ~ everything as priced; April 1, 8am-2pm ~ \$4 bag; April 2, 8am-1pm ~ \$3 bag. Everything organized by category – lots to choose from ... great prices!!!

Lenten Relic Display: You are invited to attend a special Lenten experience at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville. Fragments from the True Cross and the Last Supper Table, Saint Paul of the Cross, and particles from Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, and Calvary. On display March 25 following 12:10pm Mass to 4pm, March 26 following 11am Mass to 4pm, April 1 following 12:10pm Mass to 4pm, and April 2 from 2-5pm. Join us for a presentation by Michael O'Neill, "The Miracle Hunter" on April 2 from 1-2pm. Call 1-800-264-6279 for more information or go to www.amm.org.

St. Boniface~ Evansville: Euchre Tournament
Sat. March 25th at Evansville KC Hall
Sign up @ 6pm. Play begins @ 7pm
\$10 per person, no partner needed.

St. James' Spring Quilt/Cash Bingo: Sunday, March 26th in the Parish Center, 423 W. Madison Street, Millstadt. Doors open at 10:30am; Bingo starts at 1pm. Beautiful Quilts, Basket Boutique, Fried Chicken Dinner and Refreshments.

Chester United Methodist Men

All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast: Saturday, March 25, 6:30am-11am; Adults \$10 * Children 5-12 \$5 * Under 5 Eat Free. (871 State Street)

Chester Area Christian Food Pantry: The regular Mobile Market will be Wednesday, March 22 @ 8:00am. Volunteers are always needed: Call Bob @ 618-826-2646. Items Needed: Canned meat, tuna, and fruit.

Sr. Anne Cradle of Hope: Join us for a Prayer Service and Dedication led by Bishop Michael McGovern at our new mother's care center on Saturday, March 25, 9:00am, 2015 West Main Street, Carbondale. Open House with refreshments to follow.

Kudos

- To Rodney Kribs for installing the Church Office sign in front of the Parish House.
- To those who take communion to the shut ins and nursing homes.
- To our St. Mary's Volleyball Team ~ Regional Champs! These ladies are State bound!!!
- To Reed Petrowske who won the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest in Breese. Reed will continue on to State on April 16th!!!

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH MARCH 20TH

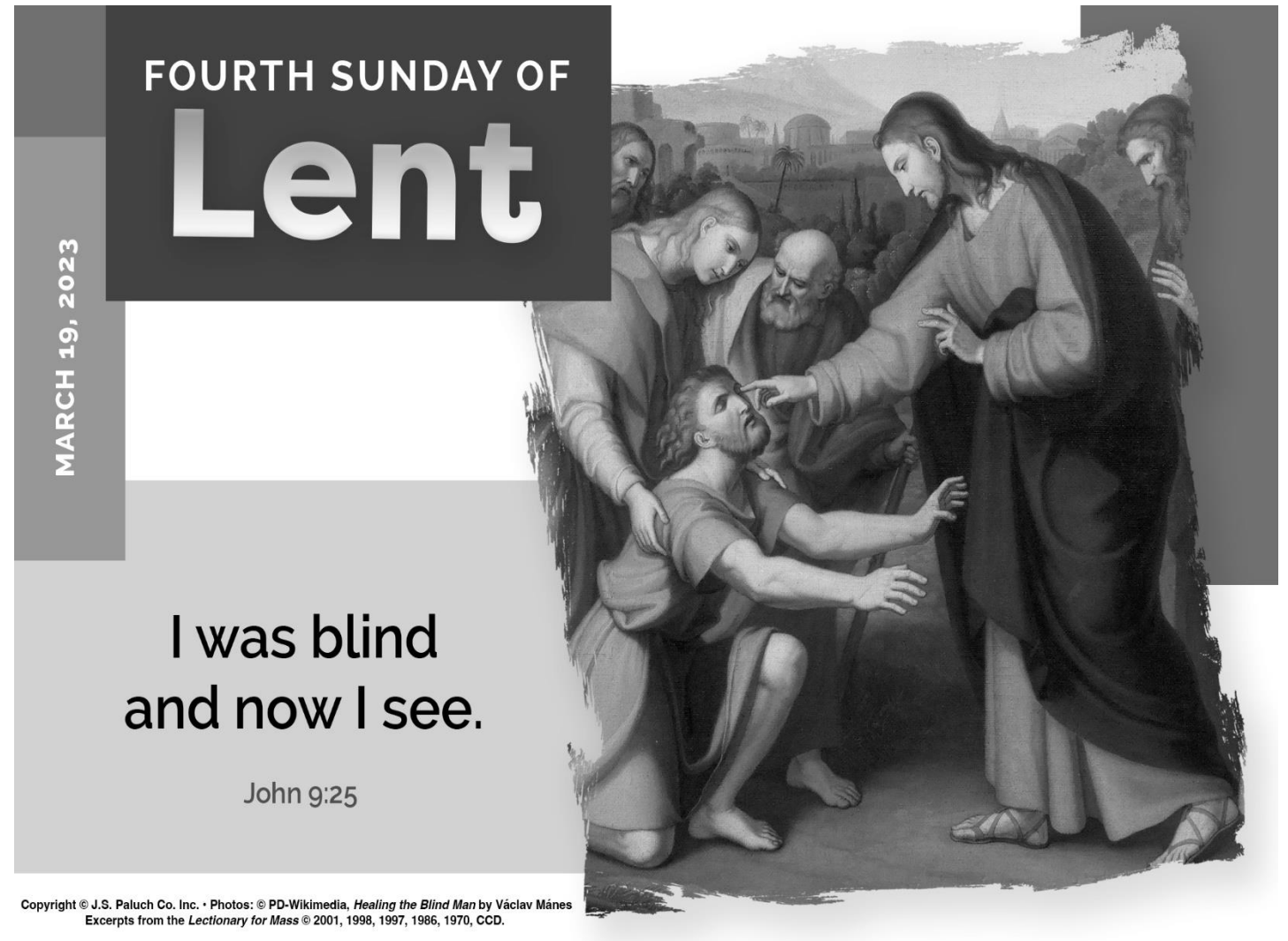
PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.



FR.SEBASTIAN UKOH, CM, PASTOR

Mary Help of Christians

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School Phone: 618-826-3120
Email: stmaryschester@yahoo.com

St. Mary of Divine Maternity

7362 Shawneetown Trail, Ellis Grove, IL 62241
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Deacon Al Dubois
Parish Phone: 618-859-3541

St. Joseph

802 Middle St, Prairie du Rocher, IL 62277
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