

**READINGS****First Reading:** (Gn 12:2)

I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

**Psalm:** . (Ps 33)

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you

**Second Reading:** (2 Tm 1:8-9)

Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. He saved us and called us to a holy life.

**Gospel:** (Mt 17:1-2)

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother,  
and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

And he was transfigured before them.

His face shone like the sun.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

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

**Saturday, Feb. 28**

**4:00PM (C)** JoAnn Kettmann by Laura Howie

**6:00PM (J)** Laverne Proctor

**Sunday, Mar. 1**

**8:00AM-(EG)**

**10:00AM (C)** Dorothy Renner by the Parish

**5:00PM (C)** Ron Kumke by the Parish

**Monday, Mar. 2**

**8:15AM (C)** Carol Jeremiah by Mr. & Mrs. Terry Hirte & Scotty Maes

**Tuesday, Mar. 3**

**8:30AM (J)** Greg Harbaugh

**Wednesday, Mar. 4**

**8:15AM (C)** Dorothy Renner by Pat Bohnert

**Thursday, Mar. 5**

**8:00AM (J)** Irene "Janie" Mathews

**Friday, Mar. 6**

NO MASS

**Saturday, Mar. 7**

**4:00PM (C)** Roy Turner

**6:00PM (EG)**

**Sunday, Mar. 8**

**8:00AM-(J)** Alouise Wiegard & Lyle Mathews

**10:00AM (C)** Barb Hanger by Deb Bauer

**5:00PM (C)** Ruth Petrowske by Family

**MASS SCHEDULE ~ February**

**Saturday:** 4pm: Chester 6pm: Prairie du Rocher

**Sunday:** 8am: Ellis Grove 10am: Chester

**GOSPEL REFLECTIONS**

The first reading (Genesis 12: 1-4a) tells us the story of Abram and his interaction with God. Abram was to leave his family and comfort zone for a place that God would show him. He obeyed and found great reward by journeying with the Lord.

In the second reading (2 Timothy 1: 8b-10) Saint Paul reminds us that God has called us to a life of sacrifice and sanctity. Christ has destroyed death and brought immortality through the Gospel.

The Gospel (Matthew 17: 1-9) presents the Transfiguration on mount Tabor. It was an assemblance of Moses, Elijah, Peter, James and John. Christ was at the center of this gathering. What a sight to behold! The Apostles were charmed by what they saw that they wanted to remain there forever. During this Holy Season of Lent, may we discover the beauty of spending close moments with God in prayer. Amen.

**PARTNERSHIP EVENTS****OCIA**

Interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Faith? St. Mary's in Chester offers O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults). Please call the parish office or contact Brad for more info: [bradcolvis@gmail.com](mailto:bradcolvis@gmail.com).

**CONFESSIONS**

**St. Joseph:** Sun. 7:30am -7:45am, Tuesday & Thursday & Sunday mornings & Sat. evenings after Mass or by appt.

**St. Mary's (C):** Saturday evenings before Mass 3:15pm-3:45pm

*Any other confessions can be made by appointment.*

**ADORATION**

\*\*\*All Are Welcome\*\*\*

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

**St. Mary's (C):** First Tuesday of every month @ 7PM

**St. Mary's School:** The First Friday of every month at 8:30am

**MASS OF HEALING**

Will be the 1<sup>st</sup> full weekend of the month at all parishes

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Lenten Bible study begins on Tuesday Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm In St. Joseph Hall.

"Lent is an invitation not an obligation!" We are inviting all women to uncover the deep love Jesus poured out for you.



**Stuebenville Youth Conference at Springfield Missouri this year will be July 17-19. If you want to attend, please let Jill know by March 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Next Meeting: March 15<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm. Escape Room project. Open to all grades 7-12.**

**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).

**FOOD PANTRY**

Items needed: [**Chester**] Boxed Potato items, canned meat and canned fish. Monetary donations are always welcome. **The Food Pantry needs Egg Cartons.** They can be delivered to the Pantry at any time. There is a plastic container in front of the pavilion at the Food Pantry. PDR school pantry needs personal hygiene items as well as box meals and canned goods. Please no mac n cheese, they have plenty. Thank you for your continued support of the Pantry!

**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).

**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, Terry Moore, Mike Vasquez,  
Tom Sauer, Mary Beck, Bruce Kettmann,

Jaci Bert, Amanda Loudonback, Sonny & Roseann Glenn,  
Earlene Riechman, Judy Kempfer, Peggy Helmers,  
Evelyn Marquardt, Roger Knott, Albert Deterding, Raymond Ellner, Tony Melliore, Eric Mathews, Bill & Erlene Hanger,  
Savanna Zieger, Huckson McGee, Betty Bissel, Gary Sauerhage, Mary Verseman, Randy Stoffel, Alli Petrowske

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY'S**

David Candler 2/28, Zachary Grau 2/28, Denice Atchison 3/1, Adrienne Caby 3/1, Madison Laurent 3/1, David Korando 3/2, Linda Mudd 3/2, Amanda Manning 3/2, Michael Riebeling 3/2, Mary Verseman 3/3, Paulette R. Deterding 3/4,

**Tom & Betty Bievenue 3/4**

**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 7/1/2025**

**Envelopes (40):** \$2122 **Loose:** \$62, **Messenger (3)** \$120, **Black & Indian:** \$220, **Newman Ctr:** \$25

**YTD:** goal: \$56,400 collected: \$59,096

**Liturgical Calendar ~ St. Joseph**

**Feb. 28 (S)** Lilly, Jack & Lexie (L) Mary Braun, (B) Audrey  
**March. 1 (S)** Madison & Mackenzie (L) Steve, (B) Mary, (C) Leonard & Marie

**IN NEED-** We need volunteers for servers, special ministers & lectors. If you are interested, please call Jill at the office.



In honor of The Feast of St. Joseph, we will be hosting a pastry potluck on Sunday, March 22 after 8am Mass. There will be eggs, bacon/sausage & potatoes provided by the parish, but we are asking that each family bring a breakfast pastry

to share.



**Parents,** PSR students have been given a challenge! We encouraged each grade to attend Mass regularly during Lent. If at least 50% attend every week there will be a Breakfast Pizza party the Tuesday after Easter.

**Confirmation retreat** will be on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. Boniface for the candidates and their sponsors from 9am - 2pm. Mass at 2pm following the retreat. Lunch and snacks are provided. This is a mandatory retreat for our candidates and their sponsors.

**SPRING FUNDRAISER**

On April 19<sup>th</sup> St. Joseph will be hosting another quilt and cash bingo at the PDR American Legion. We are looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen, the hall, cash donations to offset some of the cost and if you have a finished quilt we would appreciate it as a donation as well. We also ask that you pass the word since that is our biggest advertisement.

**CEMETERY REMINDER:** March 15<sup>th</sup> is the final date to remove all grave blankets, and any fall or Christmas decorations as we prepare the grounds for the upcoming mowing season. As per the cemetery rules and regulations, the cemetery management has the right to remove decorations that have been broken, or unsightly and are in violation.

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

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

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

**Servers Schedule**

**Sat Feb 28 ~** Gavin & Cody

**Sun Mar 1 ~** Jackson, Maren, Parker

Sat Mar 7 ~  
Sun Mar 8 ~  
**Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule**

**Sat Feb 28** ~ (S) Grant (L) Grant (H) Megan (C) Kathleen, Sarah

**Sun Mar 1** ~ (L) Dainelle (H) Greg (C) Todd, Norman, Jeannie, Sam

**Sat Mar 7** ~ (S) Pat (L) Nicole (H) Martha (C) Kathleen, Marlene

**Sun Mar 8** ~ (L) Amy (H) Sue (C) Greg J, Barb, Doris, Aaron

**St. Mary's 2026 Gala Dinner Auction:** The 2026 Gala Dinner Auction will be held next Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. If you are not attending, cash donations are still being accepted.

**Gala Raffle Tickets:** Raffle tickets are available at the entrance to the church. Please return the raffle tickets to the church or school.

**Dinner Tickets for the Gala:** Payment for those attending should have already been turned in. **Payment will not be accepted at the door.** If you have questions, contact Paula Platt at (618) 615-5545. We are looking forward to a fun-filled, wonderful evening! **Thank you for your continued support of our biggest fundraiser for our school!!!**

**Stations of the Cross:** Stations of the Cross will be held before Saturday evening Mass beginning at 3:15pm during Lent.

**St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women Quilt of the Month:** If you would like to donate a new, hand-quilted quilt for this project, we would very much appreciate it. The 2026 Quilt of the Month tickets are currently being sold.

**KC Hall Monday Lunches:** Monday, 03/02/26 – Fried Chicken and sides. Served from 11am – 1pm. \$12/person

**KC Hall PTO Friday Dinners:** The KC will host Friday Fish Frys with help from SMS students. The School will receive a portion of the proceeds. Student volunteers are needed! Serving from 5:00 – 7:30 \$15. Regular Fish, Cajun Fish, chicken strips, fries, mac & cheese, coleslaw and stewed tomatoes. **This Friday the KC is adding scored buffalo and catfish to the menu!**

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

#### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**Open Gym** – For information for 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students, text Aaron Petrowske at (573) 768-6484.

#### Upcoming Events:

**Confirmation Retreat:** March 22

**Daddy Daughter Dance:** March 28<sup>th</sup>

**Confirmation Date:** April 16<sup>th</sup>

#### AROUND THE DIOCESE

**2026-2027 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal:** "Those who are kind to the needy honor Him" (Proverbs 14:31) Next weekend our parish and others throughout the diocese will have an opportunity to support the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. Each year, through our prayers and gifts to the Appeal, diocesan ministries continue to serve thousands of people in need. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the Appeal at Mass next weekend; **every contribution – large or small – is truly needed and appreciated.** If you do not receive a pledge card in the mail, please use the in-pew envelopes that will be available. Thank you so much for your consideration.

**The Messenger:** Payments can be made via your Messenger envelope or by credit card at: [www.bellevillemessenger.org](http://www.bellevillemessenger.org) and click SUBSCRIBE or call (618) 722.5045 during business hours for phone payment. 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.**

**West Vicariate Spring Gathering:** Thursday March 5 at St. Pius V Church in Walsh. Registration at 9am. Morning speaker, Mass, and afternoon presentation on the Importance of Wellness Physicals. Everyone is welcome!

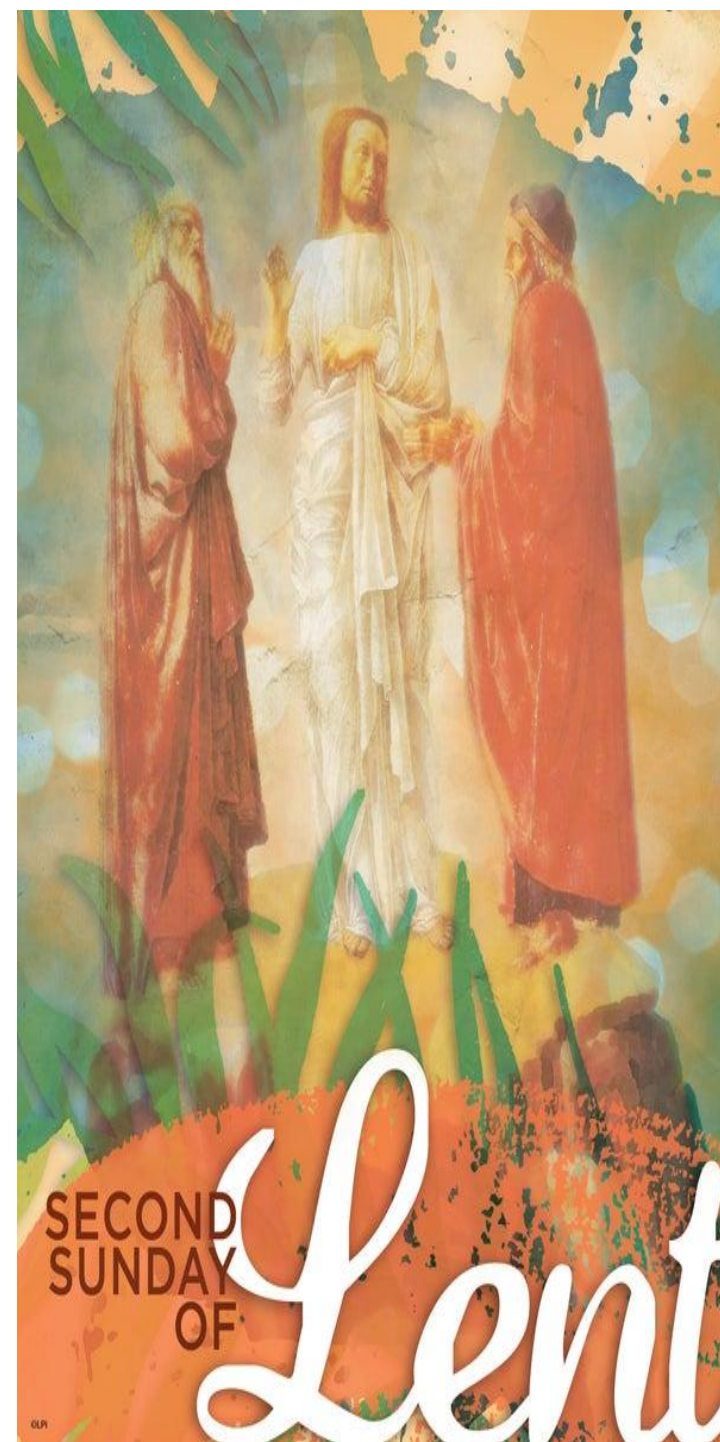
**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Fair:** Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 11:30 am at Buena Vista National Bank, 1309 Swanwick, Chester. \$2 per person. For more accurate readings, fasting is encouraged. Results will be mailed. \$10 PSA screening with blood sample. The Lions Club mobile screening unit will be on site for free hearing loss and retinal eye disease screening.

**Retreat Day** for Young Women: March 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 2:30pm at St. Nicholas Parish, O'Fallon, IL. High school and young adult women are invited to a Diocesan day to discover what it means to be beloved daughters of God. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

**Easter Tributes:** Honor your Loved Ones on Easter with a Personalized Tribute in *The Messenger*. Deadline is March 20<sup>th</sup>. Tributes will appear in the April 10<sup>th</sup> publication. Contact the Parish Office for forms.

**Totus Tuus** will be offered at five locations across the Belleville Diocese this summer and is open to all students in Grades 1–12 (elementary daytime program; middle/high school evening program). Many parishes cannot host their own summer program each year, so these locations are intentionally open to all families across the diocese. Registration details will be released soon.

HOW'S YOUR LENT GOING?



**PASTOR: FR. SEBASTIAN**

Website: [www.stjmm.org](http://www.stjmm.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

School Website: [www.stmaryscatholicchesteril.org](http://www.stmaryscatholicchesteril.org)

Email: [Stmaryschurch@stjmm.org](mailto:Stmaryschurch@stjmm.org)

#### 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.*