

READINGS

First Reading ~ Numbers 21:4b-9 During their journey from Egypt, the Israelites complain against God and Moses and the travelers are plagued by deadly serpents.

Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 78:1-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38

Second Reading ~ Philippians 2:6-11 Paul uses a hymn of praise to tell the Christian community of Philippi about Christ's concealing his divinity and assuming the role of servant during his life.

Gospel ~ John 3:13-17 Jesus tells Nicodemus that God gave his Son that those who believe in him will not die but live eternally.

St. Mary's members go to osvhub.com/maryhoc/funds.

St. Mary's: Weekly Goal \$7000

Weekly Total: \$5305 = 65 Envelopes \$3482, Loose \$393, 25 Online Donors \$1430; Retired Diocesan Priests \$851; Assumption \$100; Improve \$846; Cemetery \$90; Sr Anne \$22; Donation \$100 **Week #11 ~ Budget Difference: (\$547.61) YTD (\$6023.75)**



By Fr. Sebastian

The first reading

(Sirach 27:30-28:7) takes us through the virtues embedded in the wisdom corpus of Sirach. Forgiveness and mercy are the foundations of human interaction and God-like behaviors. On the contrary, wrath and anger stifle, stunt and prevent us from experiencing or appreciating God's unbounded mercy. It doesn't make sense to expect from the Lord, what we have denied another, which is mercy. A reminder about the last days in addition to the futility of human existence, should call us to deeper contrition.

In the second reading (Romans 14:7-9) Saint Paul reminds us that life is not lived in isolation but in relation to others. Our life is a precious gift from God and should be lived in gratitude to our creator whom we accountable to. The fact that we are under God's guidance and love implies that our life is not to be lived in accordance with our personal dictates but in obedience to the will of our creator.

In the Gospel (Matthew 18: 21-35) Jesus teaches us through the parable of the king and his servants. A servant had his debt forgiven and written off, but he couldn't extend the same amnesty to others. He was eventually recalled and severely punished. A sobering reminder that we owed so much, and Christ wiped away our debt by dying on the cross to redeem us. Therefore, we are obliged to go outside and extend the same forgiveness to others. 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, Janice Crow, Mike Vasquez, Donald Wingerter Jr., Matthew White, Evelyn Wittenborn, Richard Bert, Leila Keiser, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Fleming,


Rick Dugan, Annie Korando, Janelle Dinan, Sr. Rose Anthony, Ann Kontz, Rick Reed, Marvin Westerman, Isabella DeSpain,

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS


Lisa Wittenborn 9/16, Amy Roider 9/17, Larry Surman 9/17, Joe Cushman 9/17, Olivia Carle 9/18, Mark Shields 9/18, Lisa Mueller 9/19, Norman Grau 9/19, Layla Kaspar 9/20, Gina Phegley 9/20, Ben Manning 9/20, Michelle Jany 9/21, Larry D Gross 9/21, Doris Heller 9/22 Gerald Whelan 9/22

Craig & Jill Whelan 9/17
Alfred & Charlotte Johnson 9/18
Paul & Emily Schroeder 9/18
Glenn & Mary Long 9/18
Dale & Cheryl Nanney 9/22
Steve & Bernice Niermann 9/22

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

 Each Parish will begin to have a monthly anointing of the sick. The anointing will take place after Mass. This will begin the weekend of Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st at the normal weekend Mass schedule. **Chester:** 4pm Saturday & 10am Sunday. **Ellis Grove:** 6pm Saturday, Sept. 30th **Prairie du Rocher:** 8am Sunday, Oct. 1st

Eucharistic Adoration: Tuesday, November 7th from 7:00-8:00 PM at **St. Mary's Chester**. We plan to have these on the first Tuesday of every month. We will begin with 1 hour and increase as needed. Anyone from any of the parishes is welcome to attend

 I have had an interest in a youth group member attending NCYC, there will be a informational meeting on Wednesday Sept. 20th at 5pm in the St. Joseph parish hall NCYC is a Catholic youth conference in Indianapolis the dates are Nov. 16-19. If you would like more information please call Jill at 618-719-9344



COMMUNION

If you are unable to attend Mass, whether homebound/hospital/assisted living, etc. and would like to receive communion, please call Diane Mudd at 618-284-7150 (Ruma), 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)

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).

Join our Facebook Pages: Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Chester, IL; St. Mary's Catholic School, Chester, Illinois; St. Joseph's Catholic Church Prairie du Rocher

ST. JOSEPH, PRAIRIE DU ROCHER EVENTS

Liturgical Ministers: Sunday, 17th
(S) Katie, Lily & Ally
(L) James **(B)** Leonard **(C)** Mary & Marie

Quilters: Come join our ladies on Wednesday at 9am for anyone who wishes to join us. All levels of quilters welcome.

Cards and Quilting: If there is any interest in an evening quilting night. We could possibly add a card game or two so the men have something to do. Let Jill know.



PSR parents please remember that classes start at 7:15am and doors open at 7am on Tuesdays. If you child needs a ride please call Jill 618-719-9344

Parish Council: Congratulations to Leonard DeRousse the new parish council president and Gail Roy the new vice president and Lisa Mueller for retaining secretary position.

There is still a seat open on parish council. The seat is a 3 year term

ST. MARY'S CHESTER EVENTS

Servers Schedule

Sat. Sept. 16 ~ Ty Tindall & Nathan Jany
Sun. Sept. 17 ~ Eli Congiardo, Jackson Powell, Rhett Reiss
Sat. Sept. 23 ~ Kanon Jany & Natalie Shipley
Sun. Sept. 24 ~ Keegan Quandt, Brandon & Kevin Korando

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

Sat. Sept. 16 ~ L: Joanie Heffernan **Host:** Mike Heffernan

MASS SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

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

TITHE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 10

St. Joseph's: Weekly Goal: \$1700
Envelopes \$1310 Loose: \$106 Candles (Aug): \$73

Online Giving : St. Joseph members please go to our Parish Partnership Website at www.stjoespdr.org and

Chalice: Rob Wingerter, Marlene Verdun, Megan Berkbuegler, Larry Gross

Sun. Sept. 17 ~ L: Students **Host:** Bill Gross

Chalice: Sam Jany, Barb Otten, Dave Hustedde, Kevin Grau

Sat. Sept. 23 ~ L: Kelley Gardiner **Host:** Candy Caron

Chalice: Ron Caron, Paula Platt, Grant & Cindy Deterding

Sun. Sept. 24 ~ L: Amy Miller **Host:** Diana Miller

Chalice: Todd Moeller, Matt Grau, Greg Crain, Sue Crain

Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday, September 20th @ 6PM in the Parish House.

Women's Support Group: The next meeting will be Thursday, September 21st @ 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).

MUMS: For those of you who placed a mum order, they will be available for pick-up on Wednesday, September 27th from 3pm-5pm

Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive for the Mentally Impaired ~ Fri. Sept. 29th and Sat. Sept. 30th. Sign-up sheet is at the KC Hall. Members may also contact Mike Liefer 618-445-1019 or Danny Miller 618-615-8002. Thank you for generously donating your time! **There are still several spots that are needing filled**

Knights of Columbus Gun Raffle: CVA SCOUT 450 BUSHMASTER, burnt bronze x-scape, \$10 per ticket, only 300 will be sold, tickets available at the bar.

Insert: Please take the time to read the insert. One side is in regards to the *St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk* that will be held at the Shrine. You could make this a family outing and it would be for a good cause. The other side is "*From the Principal*". It is a good-read that is very touching and powerful. Thank you Principal Colvis!

St. Mary's School Gym Floor: Donations can be made to St. Mary's School or to Friends of St. Mary's. Please contact Aaron Petrowske for more info @ 573-768-6484. We truly appreciate any & all donations! Thank you!

Friends of Mary Help of Christians Raffle: Tickets are now on sale for this annual raffle which helps offset tuition costs for our families. Tickets are \$100 each ~ only 300 tickets sold. Drawing will be held on Sunday, October 15th @ the *St. Mary's Car Show at Fort Kaskaskia State Park*. **1st Prize: \$10,000!!!!** 2nd: \$3000, 3rd: \$1000, 4th: \$500, 5th & 6th: \$250. Contact the school for tickets @ 618-826-3120. Tickets also available at the Parish Office. *For more info about the Car Show contact Jennifer at 618-615-8898.*

Popeye 5K Race: The Fall Fest Race will be held October 21st @ 9am. Please contact Jackie @ 618-615-3362 for info.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. John's (Red Bud) Parish mission

September 24-28 to be held at St. John's in Red Bud. The parish mission is entitled "Living Our New Life". Mission begins at 6:30pm followed by a reception.

National Kidney Foundation: Free Kidney & Diabetes Screening, Tuesday, September 19th from 10am-2pm at the American Legion, 500 Opdyke St., Chester. Informational flyers are at the church entrance.

Illinois Respite Coalition Voucher Program: Eligible individuals are caregivers who live in Illinois who are caring for a loved one of any age with a disability and not receiving any other state or waiver funding. Informational flyers are located at the church entrance.

Diocesan Fall Blessing of the Harvest: All are invited to join Bishop McGovern on Tuesday, September 26th @ 1PM at the Lavern & Terry Thole Farm, 8606 Tank Road, New Baden, IL 62265. The "Farm Blessing" signs will guide you. Those attending are invited to bring harvested grain, fruit and vegetables and garden produce in sealed, marked containers along with animals and farm machinery to be blessed. You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the local food pantry. There will be food and fellowship following the blessing.

St. James' CCW Wine Tasting Experience: Saturday, September 30th @ 7PM. Doors open at 6:30PM. \$30 per person. To reserve a single seat or an entire table, please call Dawn Sheldon at 618-223-9605 or Michelle Hucke at 618-781-7665.

Belleville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women: The annual convention will be held on October 11th at St. James Parish, 423 West Madison, Millstadt. Join the ladies as they reflect on "Growing in Our Eucharist Faith." Bishop McGovern will celebrate Mass at 11am. Cost of the convention is \$20 if paid by September 27th or \$25 at the door. Cost of lunch is included. Contact Joan Derringer at 618-534-6697.



CHURCHES OF

ST. JOSEPH, ST. MARY OF DIVINE MATERNITY & ST. MARY HELP CHRISTIANS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." - Mt 18:21-22

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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PASTOR: FR. SEBASTIAN UKOH, CM

Mary Help of Christians

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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

Parish Partnership Website: www.stjoespdr.org