READINGS

First Reading: (Ex 22:21-23)
"You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans."

Psalm: (Ps 18)
I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading: (1 Thes 1:9-10)
For they themselves openly declare about us what sort of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God
and to await his Son from heaven.

Gospel: (Mt 22:37)
"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

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

Saturday, Oct. 24
4PM (C) Joe & Shirley Cushman by Gina Cushman
6PM (J) Ally Melliere
Sunday, Oct 25
8:00AM (EG)
10:00AM (C) Richard Hanger by Deb Bauer & Carol Jeremiah by Mary Brown
5:00PM (C) Jay Wittenborn by Bob & Paula Platt
Monday, Oct 26
8:15AM (C) Dale Grott by Bud Stumpe
Tuesday, Oct 27
8:30AM (J) Fr. Leo Hayes
Wednesday, Oct 28
8:15AM (C) Jeana Kothe by Parish
Thursday, Oct. 29
8:00AM (J) Eddie Melliere
Friday, Oct. 30
NO Mass
Saturday, Oct 31
4:00PM (C) Jay Wittenborn by Bethany Berner
6:00PM (J) Larry Deterding
Sunday, Nov. 1
8:00AM (EG)
10:00AM (C) Gordon & Rose Holley Deceased Family Members by family
5:00PM (C) Steven Shemonic by Parish

MASS SCHEDULE ~ November

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

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

The first reading (Exodus 22: 20-26) takes us to the Biblical injunction on being hospitable and kind. The experience of the people of God during their days of servitude in Egypt should be a lesson to all. God reminds them and us, to lift people up rather than exploiting their needy situation for our personal benefits.

In the second reading (1 Thessalonians 1: 5c-10) Saint Paul echoes those words of comfort and hope that God's faith and love goes before us in every way. Following the Lord is never easy but with patient endurance, the fullness of the Holy Spirit and God's grace, we will be delivered. Jesus will definitely lead us in the right path.

The Gospel (Matthew 22: 34-40) reminds us that love for God and our neighbor, is supreme. We cannot love both and do otherwise. Jesus calls it the first and greatest commandment of God. This is because the entire law and prophets depend on it. May God give us the grace to live out these commandments. Amen.

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

OCIA ~ Becoming Catholic

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.

CONFESSIONS

St. Joseph: Tuesday & Thursday 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 1st full weekend of the month at all parishes

2026-2027 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal: "*Those who are kind to the needy honor Him" (Proverbs 14:31)* "Positive interactions with our brothers and sisters in need honor God, reflect love and foster a cycle of goodness which is so desperately needed in our world today. Join us in our mission to serve those in need here in our Belleville Diocese. Please consider making a gift to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. Thank you for your consideration and support." - Most Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB

YOUTH GROUP

Anyone in grades 7-12 is welcome to sign up. We will begin meeting every second Sunday ***(Nov. 8) from 5-7pm at St. Joseph for a bonfire & hot dog roast.*** Try again.

We have a Facebook Page: If you or your family like to join, please let Jill Whelan (618-719-9344) or Dawn Walker (618-317-5104) know so we can send you an invite.

October Count/Registration: During the month of October the Diocese asks each parish to count the number of folks attending mass. During this time there will be registration forms out for you to complete and update our records. ***Please fill it out and return it either in the collection basket or in the Rectory or Parish Office.*** This will happen at both St. Joseph's and St. Mary's Chester. Thank you.

Fundraiser Pop-Up BBQ - James Popejoy will be hosting a pop-up BBQ on Friday, October 30 from 5:30-7:30pm. Pork steaks, pulled chicken or (2) brats with (2) sides for $14 Orders must be placed by October 25th. There is a Facebook post or a sign-up sheet in the back of St. Joseph. James is going on a Mission trip to the Jabali Center.

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

COMMUNION

If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive communion, contact: Diane Mudd 284-7150 (Ruma), Marie Henry 282-2897 (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).

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Meeting every third Monday of the month at 10am at Linda Stern's home, 106 Hillcrest Dr., Chester. Everyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one is welcome. If you have any questions, call Linda (618-201-2957).

FOOD PANTRY

[**Chester]** Items Needed: Size 3, 4 & 5 Diapers; Pull Ups – all sizes, Baby Wipes, Kids snack & drink items and egg cartons. Monetary donations are always welcome. Households/ Persons served at the Pantry during September: 226 households, 638 individuals (including 227 children). Served at the Mobile Market: 108 households, 279 individuals (including 89 children). Next Mobile Market is October 28th. The **[PDR]** school pantry is accepting nonperishable food or monetary donations. Please leave in the back of church. Thank you for your continued support of the Pantry!

PRAYER REQUEST

It is time to update our prayer list please review and let us know if it is ok to take your name off the prayer list. Keeping your name on is fine, we just need to clarify.

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, Sonny & Roseann Glenn, Earlene Riechman, Judy Kempfer, Evelyn Marquardt, Roger Knott, Albert Deterding, Raymond Ellner, Eric Mathews, Bill & Erlene Hanger, Huckson McGee, Betty Bissel, Gary Sauerhage, Alli Petrowske, Melissa Doss, Gale Frazer, Earlene Clements, Doc Ludwig, Savannah Goodman, Margaret Vaughn, Nicole Doty

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY'S

Billy Berkbuegler 10/24, Vicki Eggemeyer 10/24, Cohen Gibbs 10/25, Philip Grau 10/25, Mark Riester 10/25, Candy Caron 10/26, Kerry Hooten 10/26, Bonnie Todd 10/27, Alan Uchtman 10/28, Danny Cowell 10/29, Rosemary Crain 10/30, Darryl Roy 10/30, Gary Sauerhage 10/30
Greg & Sue Crain 10/24
Mike & Anita Bievenue 10/28
Richard & Leta Heuman 10/30
Doris & Michael Hatridge 10/31

ST. JOSEPH, PRAIRIE DU ROCHER EVENTS

Weekly Tithes & Offerings

St. Joseph's: Weekly Goal: $1700 Beginning 7/1/2026
Envelopes (31): $910 Loose: $53,
YTD: goal: $25,500 collected: $29,378

Liturgical Calendar ~ St. Joseph
Oct. 24 (S) Evan & Luke (L)Kim, (B) Marie (C) Mary & Carol
Oct. 31 (S) Cort & Emmett (L) Langston (B) Carla (C) Nancy & Jill

PSR Schedule- If your child would like to attend church during the week, please contact Jill if they need a ride. Mass is at 8am and will be over before breakfast at school.

Servers needed: Any student who has received their 1st Communion is welcome begin serving. Please talk to Jill if you want to begin serving

Special Ministers & Lectors – We are still looking for volunteers to help during Mass.

Calling All Quilters: Quilting will continue Wednesdays, 9:00am. Come for an hour or stay for the day. All levels welcome.

Mass of Remembrance: St. Joseph Parish will celebrate a special Mass of Remembrance on Sunday, November 8, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. This Mass will be offered in memory of those loved ones who have passed away since our last All Souls Day.

Letter writing campaign: The parish and finance councils have begun a letter writing campaign to businesses and current and former parishioners. All monies collected will be used to repair the damage to the steeple. If you have not received a letter and want to donate, please make checks payable to St. Joseph steeple repair fund. If you donate with cash, place it in an envelope and mark it appropriately.

Book of Life: For the month of November this book will contain the names of those who died over the last year. Please feel free to add any names of deceased family or friends that you wish prayers for. Please remember that it is our obligation and responsibility to pray for all the dead.

ST. MARY'S CHESTER EVENTS

Weekly Tithes & Offerings

Online Giving ~ osvhub.com/maryhoc/funds
Weekly Total: $6,085 (76); $366 Loose; Cemetery $246 (13); Improve $655 (10); ~YTD Actual Giving $325,867, YTD Budget Diff ($47,975); Hispanic $122

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

Servers Schedule
Sat Oct 24 ~ ***Two Volunteers Needed***
Sun Oct 25 ~ Reed, Blake & Will
Sat Oct 31 ~ Addie & Gavin
Sun Nov 1 ~ Parker, Maren & Ezra

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule
Sat Oct 24 ~ (L) Linda (H) Martha (C) Kathleen, Paula
Sun Oct 25 ~ (L) Grant (H) Barb (C) Greg, Todd, Matt, Dave
Sat Oct 31 ~ (L) Rob (H) Larry (C) Rob, Marlene
Sun Nov 1 ~ (L) Madi (H) Greg J (C) Sue, Aaron, Diana, Kevin

In Deepest Sympathy

We offer our sincere condolences to the family of Christy Wood. May the Lord grant you comfort during this most difficult time. May she rest in peace.

Toys for Tots: Help bring the joy of Christmas to a child. This may be the only gift they receive at Christmas. A box will be placed in the entrance (closest to the Parish House) from Oct 26th through Nov 9th for new, unwrapped toys. Monetary donations will also be accepted through the collection basket. All donations must be received by Dec 7th.

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. 2027 Quilt of the Month Tickets are available in the Parish Office. Tickets are $20 each. The October Quilt of the Month winner was Tom O'Connor. Congratulations Tom! **St Mary's CCW is also having a quilt raffle for Seminarian Grant Fender. Tickets are $5 each and are available in the Parish Office. Drawing will be held when all tickets are sold.**

KC Hall Monday Lunches: Monday, Oct 26th ~ Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans or Corn.

KC Monthly Meeting: 3rd Thursday of every month.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

Oct 26 – 30 ~ Red Ribbon Week

AROUND THE DIOCESE

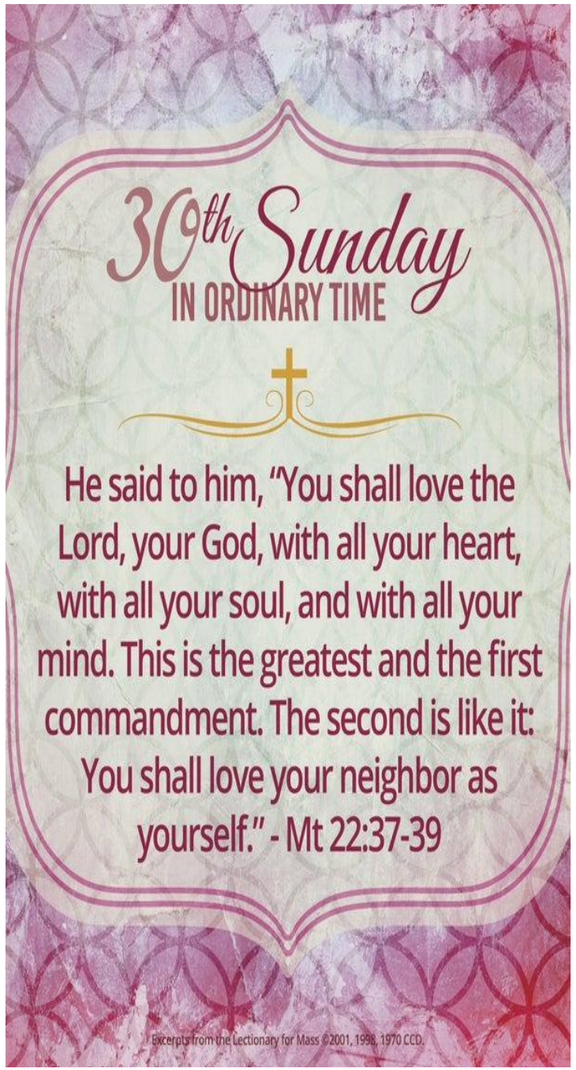
Eternal Light Concert – Music of Remembrance & Hope
Featuring the Requiem of Gabriel Faure. Sunday, Nov 1 at 2:00 pm at Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville. Free admission.

Zion Lutheran Church Holiday Bazaar: Nov 8 from 11 am – 2 pm; Chicken Noodle, Chili, Vegetable Soups, Brats, Hot Dogs & Chicken Salad Sandwiches, Homemade Pies & Cakes; Quilt Raffle, Rada Cutlery, Advent Calendars, Bake Sale, many craft items. 5802 Zion Church Road, Walsh

Methodist Men's Annual Ham 'n Bean Dinner: Friday, Nov 13th from 4-7pm. First United Methodist Church, Chester; All You Can Eat! Ham 'n Beans, Vegetable Soup, Slaw, Corn Bread, Homemade Pies & Cakes. Adults $12, Children $7, Under 5 Free

St Boniface Catholic Church Fall Bingo: Sunday, Nov 22; Food at 11am ~ Bingo at 1pm; 24 games, 50/50 Game, Pot of Gold, Raffles, Attendance Prizes. $3/Bingo Card. Bring your own covers. No paper bingo sheets

Praying for Seminarians
Please pray for our Diocesan Seminarians. Each week, we will feature one of our **11** seminarians. Please consider dropping them a note of support. At the very least, a simple prayer would be helpful. *Saint John Vianney, pray for us*.
For this week: **Mateo Leonelli, Conception Seminary College, 37174 State Hwy VV, P.O. Box 502, Conception, MO 64433**



All are welcome!

PASTOR: FR. SEBASTIAN UKOH, C.M.
Website: 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
Email: 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
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.