

# St. Mary Catholic Church

101 South Meyer Avenue, Valmeyer, IL 62295

Parish Office : 618- 935-2247

www.stmaryvalmeyer.org Email: smoffice@htc.net

Parish Ctr.: 618-935-2400

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. He called us into being, nurtures us in being, and sustains us in being. Without the Loving Divine Presence, all life would cease. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. In short, we will see our myopic short sightedness and figure out how we can better share the Divine Fire within with others. Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the "quality" of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God's unconditional love.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things and systems matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of "life in the good old days." Lent isn't about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It's about becoming something new. It's about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. The secret to Gospel living is not found in accumulating anything for ourselves, even merit points for heaven. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does.



## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

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**Most Rev. Michael McGovern**  
*Bishop of Belleville*

**Rev. Felix Chukwuma**  
*Administrator*  
Cell: (618) 671-0641

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Sat.:** 5 pm  
*(fulfills Sunday Obligation)*

**Sun.:** 9 am

**Tues. & Thurs.:** 7 pm

**Wed. & Fri.:** 8 am

**Holy Days of Obligation:**  
7 am & 7 pm

### SACRAMENT REQUIREMENTS

**Baptism:** One month  
notice & preparation

**Reconciliation:** One hour  
before Mass

**Matrimony:** Four months'  
notice & preparation

### PARISH PARTNERSHIPS Fr. John Kizhakedan

**Our Lady of Good Counsel, Renault**  
(618) 458-6875 / kpjohn58@msn.com  
olgcrenault@gmail.com  
Mass: Sunday, 10:30 am

**St. Patrick's, Tipton**  
(630) 544-1825 / stpatrickstipton@gmail.com  
Mass: Saturday, 5 pm  
Sunday, 8:30 am  
Tuesday, 7 pm

PLEASE BE SURE TO FOLLOW ALL SAFETY GUIDELINES  
AND THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE USHERS WHILE ATTENDING MASS IN PERSON

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, 2/20 - Todd or Maria Hildreth

Sunday, 2/21 - Mary Wuertz

Saturday, 2/27 - Todd or Maria Hildreth

Sunday, 2/28 - Donna Wierschem

Saturday, 3/6 - Todd or Maria Hildreth

Sunday, 3/7 - Jane McCarthy

Saturday, 3/13 - Todd or Maria Hildreth

Sunday, 3/14 - Mary Wuertz

Saturday, 3/20 - Todd or Maria Hildreth

Sunday, 3/21 - Donna Wierschem

Saturday, 3/27 - Mary Wuertz

Palm Sunday, 3/28 - Donna Wierschem

Each week, **Bi-County Backpack Program** sends food home for the weekend to families in need from schools in Prairie du Rocher, Red Bud, Valmeyer & Waterloo. The Program is located at St. John UCC Maeystown, with volunteers from Catholic, Lutheran and UCC churches in our community. A collection box is in the Gathering Area for donations of non-perishable food items (no glass). Monetary donations also accepted – please place in the collection basket marked “Backpack Program.” Thank you for your generosity.

**It's Okay to Be Tempted.** True. But it is not okay to give in. Just as Jesus spent his forty days in the desert protected by the Spirit, let us have the same trust that God guides us on this Lenten retreat to right Kingdom thinking, speaking, and behaving. Let us sing with the Psalmist that God's ways are love and truth, guiding the humble to justice.

- Since the Kingdom of God is at hand, how will I repent?
- What must I stop saying and doing to embrace more fully this Kingdom?
- How can I work for justice?

### THE LIGHTER SIDE:

Adam: What is a million years like to you?  
God: Like one second.  
Adam: What is a million dollars like to you?  
God: Like one penny.  
Adam: Can I have a penny?  
God: Sure, just a second.

**Please remember in your prayers members of our parish family and friends who are injured or sick, especially:**

*Diane Guttmann † Lee Guttmann † Ellen Heavner † Curtis Henke † Gene Henry † Bonnie Hoffman † Lillian Hohnbaum † Eleanor Mary Krebel † Allen Mattingly † Marge Unterseh McKenzie † David Mehrtens † Kaylee Muertz † Brian Schmitt † Judy Vogt † Donald Weber*

**And all Military Men and Women, especially:**

**Miranda Kaufmann, U.S. Air Force**, daughter of Don Kaufmann

### Mass Intentions

Sat., Feb. 20 - Mary White, offered by Jean Langsdorf

Sun., Feb. 21 - Harlan Wesbecher, offered by Randy & Donna Wierschem

Feb. 23-26 - Intentions of Catholic Extension Donors

Sat., Feb. 27 - Alberta Riechmann, offered by Rich & Patti Dependahl

Sun., Feb. 28 - Jean Ahne, offered by Jeanne Langsdorf

Sat., March 6 - Pat Sondag, offered by the family

Sun., March 7 - Mary Ann Schmidt, offered by the family

### WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15  
Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19  
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15  
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32  
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12  
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26  
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48

### SCHEDULE OF PSR CLASSES

Sun., Feb. 21: Grades 1-4, 10:00-11:00 am

Wed., Feb. 24: Grades 5-7, 7:00-8:15 pm

Sun., Feb. 28: Grades 1-4, 10:00-11:00 am

Wed., March 3: Grades 5-7, 7:00-8:15 pm

**If cancellation due to weather becomes necessary,  
a notice will be sent out**

### PARISH CONTACTS

#### Parish Council:

Mary Wuertz von Holt - Chair - 415-845-4144 / mary@vvh.com  
Carrie Gilbert - Vice Chair  
Angela Atkinson - Secretary  
Larry Chausse Nancy Gilbert  
Linda Sharp Joe Stonich

#### Parish Trustees:

Angie Crawford Kevin Lubbes

#### Parish Secretary:

Penny Heusohn - 618-935-2581

#### Knights of Columbus:

Todd Hildreth - 314-210-4111

#### Altar Sodality:

Karen Limestall - 618-939-4442  
karenli@budnick.com

#### PSR Coordinators:

Elissa Chausse & Pat Ellis  
psrstmary@gmail.com

#### Scrip Coordinator:

Penny Heusohn - 618-935-2581

#### Bulletin Editor:

Sharon May - 618-935-2611

#### Parish Center Reservations:

Jean Langsdorf - 618-935-2481  
jeanl@htc.net

**Abuse Hot Line -  
1-800-640-3044**

**Bulletin submission deadline is noon on Mondays. Send bulletin submissions to stmarybulletin7@gmail.com or call 935-2611**

# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE B)

Altar Sodality will be collecting donations for the **SPPS Food Pantry** during Lent. Accepted items: canned food, boxed food, hygiene products & cleaning products. Place donations on the table in the Gathering Area. People in need can contact the Food Pantry Hot Line at 618-792-4059. The pantry serves the needy in the surrounding area, not just within SPPS parish.

## K of C Fish Fries are back in 2021!

At this time, we will serve only to-go orders, limited to just fish and chips. The hall and the bar will remain closed, and all orders will be placed at an order tent by the fry shed. There is a possibility that some sides might be added as we go along, but count on that awesome fish and those world famous chips for sure! The dates are **March 5, March 12, March 19 and March 26**, serving starting at 4 pm. If you would like to help, please contact Todd Hildreth at [todkatknight@gmail.com](mailto:todkatknight@gmail.com).

**HUNGER IN OUR WORLD** - Jesus told us that whatever we did for one of the least brothers of his we did for him. Reflect on the challenge of global hunger—it is a reality for millions of our sisters and brothers. What will you do to support the hungry in our community and around the world? [crricebowl.org](http://crricebowl.org) to learn more.

Contribution envelopes for 2021 are in the Gathering Area and can be picked up at any time; please take yours and anyone else's you can deliver. If there is not a box for you, please take an unassigned box and put your name, address and the box number on the sheet provided.

Parish Council has one vacancy to fill. If interested in this position, please contact one of the members of the nominating committee: Nancy Gilbert, Larry Chausse, Karen Limestall, Jane McCarthy or Ed VanZandt. Please consider serving our Parish in this capacity.

**St. John UCC Valmeyer Fish Fries** - Ash Wednesday, February 17 and Friday, February 26, 4:00 – 7:30 pm. This year's fish fries are carryout only with orders being placed at the shed. Cod cut-ups, plates, and sides will be available.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The Knights of Columbus would like to wish a Happy Birthday to the following members:

**Alex Riechmann, Feb. 16**  
**Joe Andres, Feb. 25**

**Henry Marquardt, Feb. 23**  
**Joe Marquardt, Feb. 25**



We remember and pray for parish & family members who passed away in the month of February:

Dorothy Kolmer / Tom Tucker / Theresa Weber  
Dorothy Williamson / Joe Muertz / Alberta Riechmann

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	Feb. 7	Feb. 14
Envelopes	\$1,407	\$1,760
Loose	---	\$75
Reimbursement from Gibault	---	\$110
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,407</b>	<b>\$1,945</b>
Weekly Budget	\$3,145	\$31,45
<b>Fiscal YTD Total</b>	<b>\$66,418</b>	<b>\$68,364</b>
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$100,640	\$103,785
<b>BUDGET DEFICIT</b>	<b>(\$34,222)</b>	<b>(\$35,421)</b>
Building Fund	---	---
<b>Fiscal YTD Bldg. Fund Total</b>	<b>\$1,811</b>	<b>\$1,811</b>
Mass Intentions	\$20	\$160
For On-Line Giving: <a href="https://together.igivecatholic.org/info/belleville">https://together.igivecatholic.org/info/belleville</a> or click on the Online Giving menu in the upper left of our parish website, <a href="http://www.stmaryvalmeyer.org">www.stmaryvalmeyer.org</a> .		

The next **Altar Sodality Meeting** will be **Sunday, March 7**, immediately after 9 am Mass in the Parish Center.

## 40 Days for Life, Spring 2021

**Feb. 17 thru March 28 - 7 AM - 7 PM**

Prayer Vigil at Planned Parenthood Fairview Heights  
317 Salem Place, Fairview Heights, IL 62208  
Contact (314) 827-4039 to get involved.

St. Liborius Council of Catholic Women Quilt-a-rama starts March 28, 2021. Twelve monthly drawings for a beautiful, handmade quilt. Tickets are \$40. each and available now by contacting Vicki Knepper, SLCCW President, 618-960-8420.

If you would like to receive a statement of your 2020 contributions to St. Mary, please contact Penny Heusohn. By phone (618-935-2581); by mail (St. Mary, 101 S. Meyer, Valmeyer, IL 62295; or by placing a request in the collection basket.

## Pre-Registration for SPPCS is NOW OPEN!

You can now register for the 2021 - 2022 School Year. The links to registration for both our Early Learning Center and Kindergarten - 8th grade are on our website under Admission. Current Families can log into Option C and go through the re-enrollment process in the family portal.

**Shadow Visits – Now Open to 7th Graders at Gibault.** We invite 7th - 8th graders and students from other high schools to spend a day on our campus! Shadow Visits are the perfect way to spend a day in the life of a Hawk. Shadow students and their student ambassador attend classes, eat lunch in our cafeteria, enjoy off mods, and meet teachers and coaches!

We also offer Private Tours for the entire family. Tours allow the whole family to see our campus and ask our Director of Enrollment any questions you may have.

To schedule a Shadow Visit or Private Tour, contact our Director of Enrollment, Kelly Day, at [kday@gibaulthawks.com](mailto:kday@gibaulthawks.com), or 939-3883.

**We always are in need of Mass Intentions.** Please note that Mass Intentions need not be only for deceased loved ones and friends. They can be in thanksgiving for something special, like a birth, wedding or anniversary or perhaps recovery from an illness. Mass Intentions also can be a "special intention" -- there's no need to indicate what the Mass is for. \$20 for weekend Masses; \$10 for weekday Masses. Thank you!



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