

St. Mary Catholic Church

101 South Meyer Avenue, Valmeyer, IL 62295

Parish Office : 618- 935-2247

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

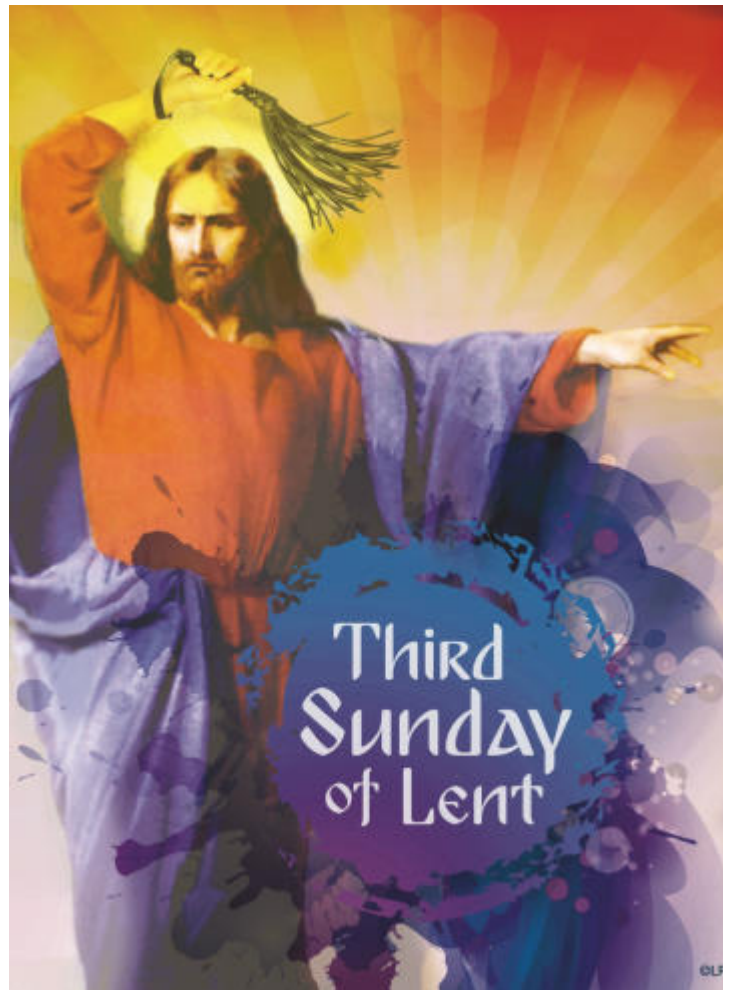
Parish Ctr.: 618-935-2400

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Many prefer a “create as you go” approach to life where laws and protocols primarily exist to secure and protect liberties rather than dictate and outline proper and right behavior. There are no real benchmarks for acceptable ethical and moral behavior, with a “you can’t tell me what to do” attitude prevailing. Parents are even limited in what they can request of their children, and dealing with threatening behaviors, especially from adults, are a challenge as well. Acceptable and expected conduct seems to amount to safeguarding each other’s space rather than increasing awareness of necessary relationships that require a more refined and higher response.

We have lost our axis to the world of “anything goes” and no longer see the Ten Commandments as practical and wise guideposts to effective living. We live on “relativism island” where only a possible suggestion to “love and do not harm” may be the only standard able to be preached. While Jesus most certainly emphasized love above anything else, it was never about warm fuzzy feelings or halfhearted humanitarian efforts. The love of which Jesus spoke establishes an intimate connection with God, neighbor, self, and creation. Because this love, who is God Himself, is at the foundational core of our lives, it demands actions and attitudes that serve to build up, increase, and free up those relationships. Love requires proper conduct. Preserving and enhancing these love centered relationships is at the heart of the Ten Commandments (and the Beatitudes) and the reason for Jesus’ display of anger in the temple.

The Ten Commandments can save the world from turmoil and conflict by instilling basic moral and relational principles within us. They also hold a healthy sense of sin in balance and always remind us of our relationship with God and the freedom God offers. Our faith preserves these jewels of truth that we often look beyond, dismiss altogether, or seek to remove from public view. Human beings can be so arrogant at times. Our Lenten journey, especially when embarked upon with sincerity and resolve, can restore all of our essential relationships. When we get absorbed in life’s preoccupations and demands, things can quickly get distorted and we can find ourselves way off track. In short, we find ourselves in sin. Humanity is losing a sense of both grace and sin. We need both to understand what is real and true. Until we do, the oppressive systems and ideologies that hurt so many will never change. We will never change. We are grateful for those courageous souls who willingly embrace the conversion and hard work Lent demands and stand against antiquated systems and ideologies. They give us hope that all is not lost.



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, 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

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 † Santos Pallares † Brian Schmitt † Judy Vogt † Donald Weber
And all Military Men and Women, especially:
Miranda Kaufmann, U.S. Air Force, daughter of Don Kaufmann

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 Maestown, 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.

Mass Intentions

Sat., March 6 - Pat Sondag, offered by the family
 Sun., March 7 - Mary Ann Schmidt, offered by the family
 March 9-12 - Intentions of Catholic Extension Donors
 Sat., March 13 - Mary White, offered by Jeanne Langsdorf
 Sun., March 14 - Dale Mehrtens, offered by Audrey Roever
 Sat., March 20 - Alex & Mary Mitani, offered by Janet Zimmermann
 Sun., March 21 - Allan McCarthy, offered by Bob & Gertie Eshom

ELECTION FOR CHURCH COUNCIL

Candidate Bios

David Carr - My name is David Carr. I have been an attendee of St. Mary's off and on since 1998, and have been a steady parishioner since 2007. Starting in the 2010's, I have been growing more active in the church community serving as a member of the choir since 2010, serving as lector, joining the Knights of Columbus in 2011 and volunteering in various Knights sponsored activities such as the Tootsie Roll Drives, Fish Fries and Picnic. If elected, I would like to focus on getting the Parish community back to normal since the breakout of COVID

Donna Wierschem - My name is Donna Wierschem and I am a fairly new member to St. Mary's. Our family previously belonged to Immaculate Conception, Madonnville. When the parish closed we were looking for a smaller size parish to call home, and found that family feeling at St. Mary's. Within the last year, I have volunteered to usher and lector. Through offering to serve in these capacities, it has deepened my connection with the parish, but more importantly with the wonderful people that I have met each Sunday and continue to meet. I have been an elementary teacher for 32 years. I began my teaching career at SPPS in Waterloo, where I taught for 10 years. For the last 22 years I have been in the Columbia school district where I currently teach first grade. When I am not in my classroom, I enjoy helping my husband on our farm and spending time with our 3 grown children & their spouses, and soon to be 6 grandchildren!

(Cut along line & drop Ballot in box in Gathering Area anytime before noon on Sunday, March 14)

BALLOT (vote for one)

_____ David Carr

_____ Donna Wierschem

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE B)

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

K of C Fish Fries are back in 2021!

March 12, March 19 and March 26, serving starting at 4 pm. To-go orders only, 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! If you would like to help, please contact Todd Hildreth at todkatknight@gmail.com.

HUNGER IN OUR WORLD - SUSTAINABILITY IN EL SALVADOR

Drought has become a big problem across El Salvador, making it difficult for farmers to produce enough crops to support their families. But new farming techniques—and a new generation of young farmers—are making a difference. What would you do if your livelihood was threatened? How can you support young people in your community and around the world?

Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.



St. Mary Parishioner Alex Mitán Sr. passed away on February 22, 2021. A funeral Mass was held for him February 26, 2021. Please remember Alex and his family in your prayers.

St. Mary Parishioner Joe Sondag passed away on March 1, 2021. A funeral Mass was held for him at St. Mary on March 4, 2021. Please remember Joe and his family in your prayers.

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.

Parish Council Election to be held on Sunday, March 14.

Information on our two candidates and a Ballot are included in this bulletin. Place completed Ballots in the box in Gathering Area by noon on March 14.

The 2021 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal - Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do... (John 14:12)

This weekend our parish, along with all other parishes in the diocese, will conduct our Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. The CSMA provides a convenient way for all of us, no matter what our time limitations, to take an active role in the mission of our diocesan Church. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail or forgot to bring it, please use one of the reply envelopes that are available at church. If you are unable to attend Mass in person, please return your pledge card to the parish office. No gift is

Registration for the Gibault Class of 2025 is scheduled for Monday, March 22, and Wednesday, March 24, from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. in the Gibault cafeteria. Sign up for your appointment at <http://bit.ly/GCHSRegistration>.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	Feb. 21	Feb. 28
Envelopes	\$1,916	\$2,227
Loose	\$85	\$8
Ash Wednesday	\$145	\$10
Candles	---	\$74
TOTAL	\$2,146	\$2,318
Weekly Budget	\$3,145	\$3,145
Fiscal YTD Total	\$70,510	\$72,828
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$106,930	\$110,075
BUDGET DEFICIT	(\$36,420)	(\$37,247)
Building Fund	\$30	\$50
Fiscal YTD Bldg. Fund Total	\$1,841	\$1,891
Black & Indian Missions	\$35	\$10
Mass Intentions	---	\$80
For On-Line Giving: https://together.igivecatholic.org/info/belleville or click on the Online Giving menu in the upper left of our parish website, www.stmaryvalmeyer.org .		

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.

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.

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.

"Love is never defeated."
— St. John Paul II —

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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Founder, Terry Andres, Native of Valmeyer

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