

St. Mary Catholic Church

101 South Meyer Avenue, Valmeyer, IL 62295

Parish Office : 618- 935-2247

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

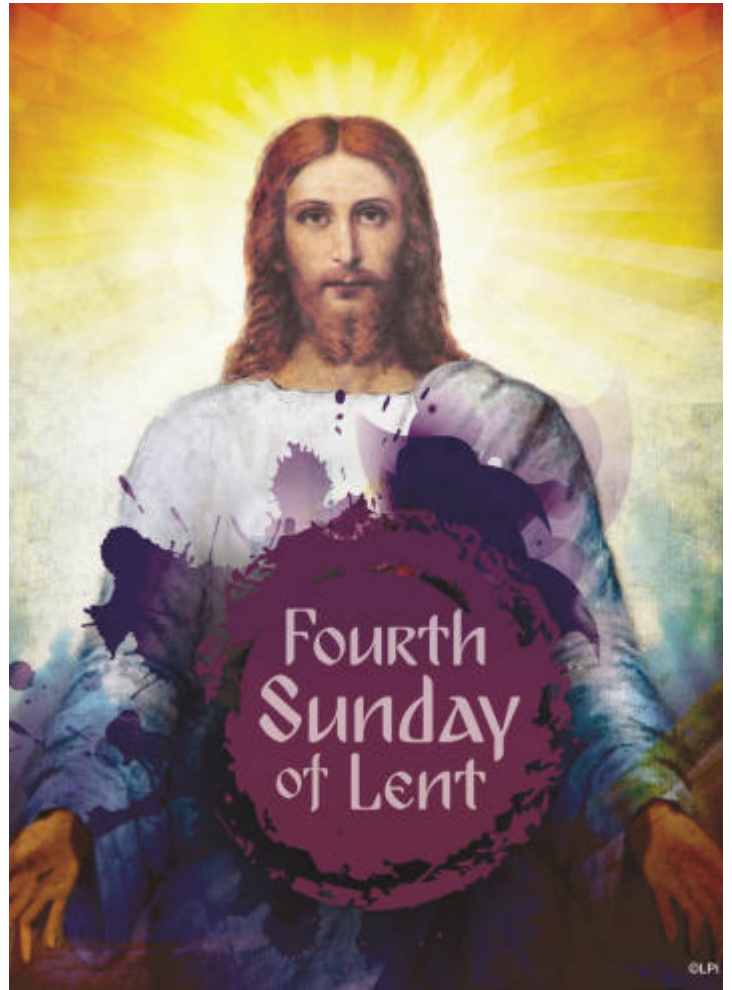
Parish Ctr.: 618-935-2400

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Is there something to Lent that goes beyond our own spiritual house cleaning and spiritual refinement? Yes, there is! It has to do with listening and learning so that we can take up the task of the Gospel with greater clarity and fortitude. While the spiritual refocusing of Lent is necessary, the fruit of this Lenten conversion has much more to do with learning how we can be a better Church than it does about our eternal salvation. Salvation is a gift that flows out of God's unconditional Mercy and cannot be merited. The spiritual maturity we can experience as a result of our Lenten disciplines serves to reduce the anxiety and apprehension we may experience as messengers of good, but very challenging, and unsettling, news.

St. Oscar Romero said that, "a church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that?" When we listen to those descriptive and provocative words, do they resonate with anything in our experience? As messengers of the Gospel, we are called to bring an unsettling message to the world. If our main concern is protecting our self-interests, then we are missing something huge! Many really struggle with being rejected, dismissed, or perceived as someone who is speaking out of turn. There is a counter cultural message that must be preached that clearly sides with the poor, marginalized, victimized, oppressed, neglected, disregarded, and lost souls throughout the world. There is a widespread misery among the peoples that is all too often allowed to fester with no one coming forward to offer a change or resolution.

The Church can speak to the needed structural changes that will allow people to earn just wages, feed their families and share abundantly and equally in the gifts of God's good earth. Such a vision is not some optimistic fairy tale, but the vision of the Creator himself. Lent reminds us, as St. Oscar Romero also states, that, "we are workers, not master builder, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own." We are not called to labor simply for the benefit of the here and now but of the "what is to come." Our myopic vision can be replaced by a more far reaching Lenten vision that is much greater and deeper in scope. As long as we are carrying the right blueprints with us and our thoughts extend beyond ourselves, then even the little things we do and the simplest prayer we utter go a long way. They give witness to our preference for the light of Christ and not the darkness of error and sin.



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, 3/13 - 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

Mass Intentions

Sat., March 13 - Mary White, offered by Jeanne Langsdorf

Sun., March 14 - Dale Mehrtens, offered by Audrey Roeber

Tues., March 16 - Stanley Kohnz

Wed., March 17 - Robert Schmidt

Thurs., March 18 - Peter Gartzke

Fri., March 19 - Weldon Kohnz

Sat., March 20 - Alex & Mary Mitani, offered by Janet Zimmermann

Sun., March 21 - Allan McCarthy, offered by Bob & Gertie Eshom

Sat., March 27 - Dale Mehrtens, offered by Joe Sondag

Sun., March 28 - Harlan Wesbecher, offered by Randy & Donna Wierschem

This Is the Verdict. The gospel declares the Light of Christ came into the world. The choice is either to prefer darkness or live by the truth revealed by that Light. The Letter to the Ephesians declares that we are saved not by our own works (though good works we still need to do), but by God's gift and grace.

- What darkness will I move out of so I may stand in the Light?
- What good works will I continue doing to acknowledge God's gift and grace to me and to all?
- How can I live this truth: we are saved as a people by God's grace?



St. Mary Parishioner Alex Mitani 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.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/
Jn 3:14-21
Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47
Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [37]/Rom 4:13,
16-18, 22/ Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53



Palm Sunday Vigil: Saturday, March 27, 5:00 PM
Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 28, 9:00 AM
Mass of the Lord's Supper: Thursday, April 1, 7:00 PM
(Due to Covid, we will not be able to have the Washing of the Feet)
Good Friday with Stations of the Cross: Friday, April 2, 7:00 PM
Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 3, 8:00 PM
Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 4, 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE B)

Parish Council Election Sunday, March 14

Bishop McGovern to Visit St. Mary on Sun., March 21, 9 am – Join us to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Bishop Michael McGovern. He will preside at Mass, concelebrated with Fr. Felix. After Mass, please introduce yourself to the Bishop. The receiving line will be outside by the front doors (weather permitting), otherwise in the Gathering Area.

Be sure to register to attend Mass by visiting stmaryvalmeyer.org and clicking the link at the top of the homepage. Additional seating will be provided in the Cry room as needed in an attempt to accommodate everyone,

K of C Fish Fries are back in 2021!

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.

Be sure to shop at Rural King between March 14-27. St Mary will receive 10% of all purchases you make. Just go to www.ruralking.com/churchweek, select St. Mary and submit your receipts by April 1. What a simple fundraiser! Last year St. Mary received \$185. Thank you!

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.

Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal. Thank you to all who have pledged to support the mission of the Church to teach, preach, minister and serve in the name of Jesus through their financial support of The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. If you have not yet responded, please make every effort to do so.

TRYING NEW FOODS IN TIMOR-LESTE

Timor-Leste has the highest rate of child malnutrition in Asia, and many children suffer from stunting, which makes a big impact on a child's growth and future. Home gardens and fishponds are helping families provide better nutrition for their children. What do you eat to stay healthy? What can you do to ensure children have enough food to thrive?

Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.



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!

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	Feb. 28	March 7
Envelopes	\$2,227	\$1,753
Loose	\$8	\$30
Ash Wednesday	\$10	---
Reimbursement for Cleaning	---	\$286
Candles	\$74	---
Holy Land/Good Friday	---	\$10
Easter	---	\$20
TOTAL	\$2,318	\$2,099
Weekly Budget	\$3,145	\$3,145
Fiscal YTD Total	\$72,828	\$74,927
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$110,075	\$113,220
BUDGET DEFICIT	(\$37,247)	(\$38,293)
Building Fund	\$50	\$170
Fiscal YTD Bldg. Fund Total	\$1,891	\$2,061
Black & Indian Missions	\$10	\$10
Catholic Relief Services	---	\$10
Mass Intentions	\$80	\$20
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.

Chrism Mass at the Cathedral, Tues., March 30, 2 pm - Have you ever attended a Chrism Mass where the sacred oils are blessed? Once a year on Chrism Tuesday, parishes send their representatives to the Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville to witness and celebrate this beautiful liturgy. Due to Covid, this year St. Mary may send only one representative. If interested, please contact Fr. Felix.

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>.

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.

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