

St. Mary Catholic Church

101 South Meyer Avenue, Valmeyer, IL 62295

Parish Office : 618- 935-2247

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

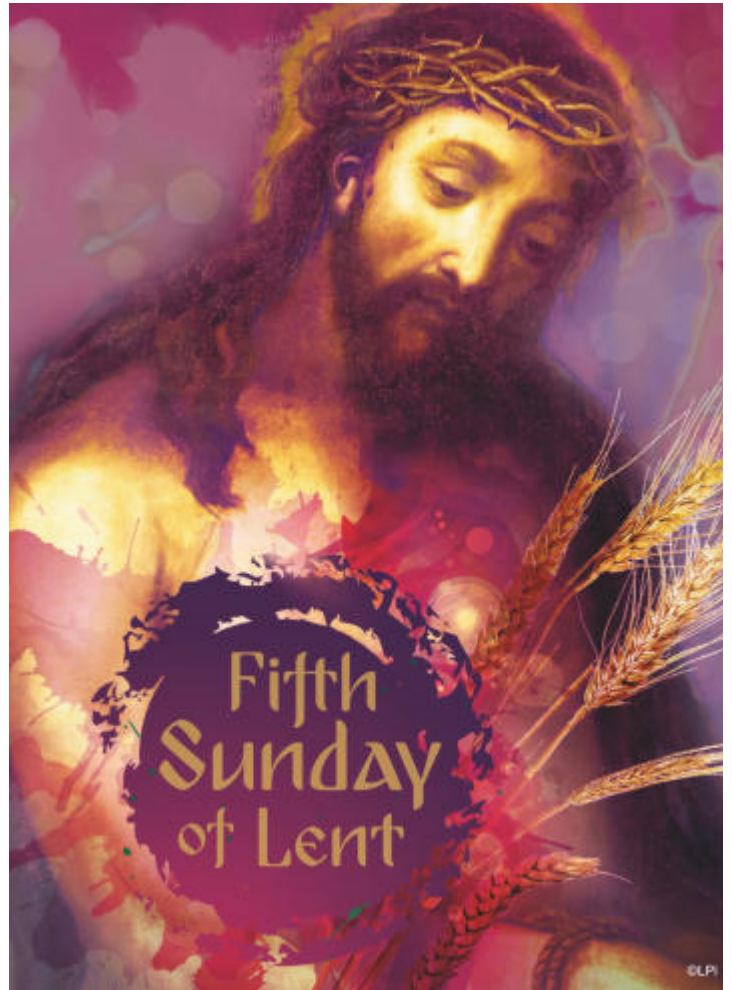
Parish Ctr.: 618-935-2400

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned it doesn't need to be taught again. When we internalize things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God's own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God's DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life's lessons from his example, especially obedience.

When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalized this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God's law is love and love never fails. Even in the moments of Jesus' deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes.



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, 3/20 - Todd or Maria Hildreth
Sunday, 3/21 - Donna Wierschem
 Saturday, 3/27 - Mary Wuertz
 Palm Sunday, 3/28 - Donna Wierschem
 Palm Sunday Vigil, 3/27 5:00 pm - L1 Mary Wuertz, L2 Julie Wright
 Palm Sunday, 3/28 9:00 am - L1 Donna Wierschem, L2 Maria Hildreth
Holy Thursday, 4/1 7:00 pm - L1 Sharon May
 Good Friday, 4/2 7:00 - L1 Todd Hildreth, L2 Maria Hildreth
Holy Saturday, 4/3 8:00 - L1 Julie Wright, L2 David Atkinson,
L3 Mary Wuertz, L4 Todd Hildreth
Easter Sunday, 4/4 7:00 am - Ed VanZandt
Easter Sunday, 4/4 9:00 am - L1 Sharon May, L2 Donna

Please remember in your prayers members of our parish family and friends who are injured or sick, especially:
Diane Guttman † Lee Guttman † Ellen Heavner † Curtis Henke † Gene Henry † Bonnie Hoffman † Cheryl Hohnbaum † 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

Weekly Scripture Readings:

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
 Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4b]/Jn 8:1-11
 Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/Jn 8:21-30
 Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/Jn 8:31-42
 Thursday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
 Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/Jn 10:31-42
 Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56

Mass Intentions

Sat., March 20 - Alex & Mary Mitan, offered by Janet Zimmermann
 Sun., March 21 - Allan McCarthy, offered by Bob & Gertie Eshom
 Tues., March 23 - Daniel & Hazel McCarthy
 Wed., March 24 - Fr. Ed Hustedde
 Thurs., March 25 - Roy Riechmann
 Fri., March 26 - Mary Archer
 Sat., March 27 - Dale Mehrtens, offered by Joe Sondag
 Sun., March 28 - Harlan Wesbecher, offered by Randy & Donna Wierschem
 Sun., April 4, 7 am - Mary White, offered by Jeanne Langsdorf
 Sun., April 4, 9 am - Joe Sondag, offered by Tim & Dawn Brown

Congratulations to Donna Wierschem for becoming the newest member on the Parish Council. Thank you to David and Donna, who were both good candidates, for accepting the nominations to run for Parish Council. Thank you to the Nominating Committee for their time and effort in obtaining nominees. And thank you to all who voted!

THANK YOU to Carrie Gilbert for serving 6 years on the Parish Council! She was a valuable member, serving as Chairman, Vice Chair and Secretary at one point in those years. Job well done Carrie!

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE B)

Responses at the end of Bishop's Mass

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

(If he choose to say the "Prayer Over the People", he will now say "Bow down your heads and pray for God's blessings". **At the end of the prayer, all will say, "Amen".**)

Bishop: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

People: Now and forever.

Bishop: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: Who made heaven and earth.

Bishop: May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: [make the sign of the cross] Amen.

Dismissal:

Deacon/Priest/Bishop: (A) Go forth, the Mass is ended

(or B): Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

(or C): Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

(or D): Go in peace.

People: Thanks be to God.

K of C Fish Fries are back in 2021!

One more – March 26, serving starting at 4 pm. To-go orders only, limited to just fish and chips. 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!

COMMUNITY IN MADAGASCAR

Poor nutrition can lead to devastating long term consequences for individuals, communities and entire countries. That's why communities must work together to ensure that all children have access to better food and nutrition. New planting and cooking techniques are helping many communities in Madagascar improve the health and wellbeing of their children. How does your community work together for the good of others?

Visit csrcicebowl.org to learn more.

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.

Prayer for Lent - "O God, bless us during this season of spiritual renewal. Fill our minds and hearts with love, that we may be a sign of Jesus to all those living in our midst."

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	March 7	March 14
Envelopes	\$1,753	\$1,766
Loose	\$30	\$45
Reimbursement for Cleaning	\$286	---
Holy Land/Good Friday	\$10	---
Easter	\$20	---
TOTAL	\$2,099	\$1,811
Weekly Budget	\$3,145	\$3,145
Fiscal YTD Total	\$74,927	\$76,738
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$113,220	\$116,365
BUDGET DEFICIT	(\$38,293)	(\$39,627)
Building Fund	\$170	\$1,420
Fiscal YTD Bldg. Fund Total	\$2,061	\$3,481
Black & Indian Missions	\$10	---
Catholic Relief Services	\$10	\$65
Mass Intentions	\$20	\$390

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.

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.

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