

# 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 struggle with Jesus. Some who consider themselves faithful hail him in their churches but still struggle to figure out what to do with him on our streets. The message is somehow more palatable when it echoes pious renderings and sentiments and involves singing hosannas during worship. It becomes a bit trickier when it gets to the part about changing the way we conduct the business of our lives, becoming more sensitive to the disadvantaged, poor, and marginalized, and living as servants of our Loving Creator. Ultimately, it is a struggle between wanting to be God ourselves and letting God be God as God is. That's why it's so easy to become hypocritical. We, like those who hailed Christ as he arrived in Jerusalem and sent Christ to the cross to die, also talk out of both sides of our mouths. We entertain what suits us at the time and walk away from the rest.

Many neglect God's beautiful creation because they prefer what humans have made instead. Progress isn't seen in preserving and enhancing what God has made but replacing it with something we believe is better and more useful. The earth, flowers, and animals are all expendable if they stand in the way of the "more" we want to achieve. We seek to remove as many obstacles and hurdles as possible in search of the easiest, quickest, and most efficient path we can find. We have created drugs and laws that preserve our free choice, even though it may mean setting aside God's vision and example. Why suffer when we can easily be put to rest? Why endure insult or injury when we can retaliate, eliminate or subdue? Why accept life when it is acceptable to choose otherwise? We want to be God and resist accepting the fact that our real Creator has already given us the blueprints for the life we need to live in the Beatitudes and in the example of his Passion. We don't like being stewards and managers and really want the power to do as we wish and desire. We want to create our own way.

Where has the true, effective Christian voice been through all of the wars and violence, prejudice and unjust conquests, abuse of human beings and attempted extinctions of nationalities, the establishments of procedures and protocols that serve only a few and not the many and all of the injustices and exploitations that are a part of our human history? A few courageous prophets have stood up and out throughout all of the comings and goings of our human journey with many receiving the same fate as the Crucified One we hail this week. Some still walk among us as shining stars showing us how it really can be. How would Jesus' journey have ended if he lived life as we do? Unless we encounter the good with the bad, the just with the unjust, the grace with the sin, the glory with the cross, the death with the life we most certainly risk rendering God obsolete. After all, haven't we already convinced ourselves that we can do better?



**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, 3/27 - 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 - 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 Wierschem**

**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

### The Paschal Triduum – 01-04 April 2021

These Holy Three Days begin on Thursday with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, continues with the Passion of the Lord on Friday, rests in the joyfully expectant paschal fast of Saturday and the Rites of Preparation with the elect, and comes to an end with the Easter Vigil, the Masses of Easter Day, and Evening Prayer. Plan to come if you are safely able.

Mass of the Lord's Supper: Thursday, April 1, 7:00 PM  
*(No Washing of the Feet due to Covid)*  
Good Friday: 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

### Mass Intentions

Sat., March 27 - Dale Mehrtens, offered by Joe Sondag  
Sun., March 28 - Harlan Wesbecher, offered by Randy & Donna Wierschem  
Wed., March 31 - Tom Bade  
Thurs., April 1 - Carnel & Catherine Gilbert  
Sun., April 4, 7 am - Mary White, offered by Jeanne Langsdorf  
Sun., April 4, 9 am - Joe Sondag, offered by Tim & Dawn Brown  
Sat., April 10 - Janet Hildreth, offered by Todd & Kathy Hildreth  
Sun., April 11 - Alberta Riechmann, offered by Ellery & Adele Hawkins

### Weekly Scripture Readings:

Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39  
Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11  
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 [cf. 15ab]/ Jn 13:21-33, 36-38  
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25  
Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16]/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15  
Friday: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 [Lk 23:46]/ Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42  
Saturday: Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 [30] or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 [5b]/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Ex 14:15—15:1/Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 [1b]/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 [42:2] or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/ Mk 16:1-7

### Entering and Dying.

This Holy Week begins with a festive entry into Jerusalem with cloaks spread around, with leafy branches waving, and with "Hosannas" crying out. But this all ends with suffering and death.

- How will spend this day and this week emptying myself as Jesus did?
- How can I, like Jesus, be more humble?
- How will I be obedient?

### 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**

# PALM SUNDAY (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.

**CRS Rice Bowl Campaign** - This Lent, we prayed, fasted and gave alms. Our Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl challenges us as we begin the Easter season to share the joy of having a loving God that is alive and accompanies us always. Let's do the same by being present to our global family by caring for their material and spiritual needs. Turn in your CRS Rice Bowl in the Gathering Area, or donate online at [crsricebowl.org/give](http://crsricebowl.org/give).

**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.

Congratulations to Donna Wierschem, the newest member on the Parish Council. Thank you to both David Carr 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!

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

A most heartfelt thanks to all those who have already responded with a gift to The 2021 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. If you have not done so as yet, there's still plenty of time. One-time donations or pledges – in any amount – are needed and can be made through your parish or at [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org) (click on "Giving to the Diocese"). Your generosity supports 16 agencies and programs that daily serve thousands of people. Please consider making your gift today or at any time you are able in the coming months. We also ask for your prayers for the success of this year's appeal and all those we serve. Thank you and may God bless you always.



**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 14	March 21
Envelopes	\$1,766	\$2,691
Loose	\$45	\$30
Ash Wednesday	---	\$10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,811</b>	<b>\$2,731</b>
Weekly Budget	\$3,145	\$3,145
<b>Fiscal YTD Total</b>	<b>\$76,738</b>	<b>\$79,469</b>
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$116,365	\$119,510
<b>BUDGET DEFICIT</b>	<b>(\$39,627)</b>	<b>(\$40,041)</b>
Building Fund	\$1,420	\$100
<b>Fiscal YTD Bldg. Fund Total</b>	<b>\$3,481</b>	<b>\$3,581</b>
Black & Indian Missions	---	\$10
Catholic Relief Services	\$65	\$10
Mass Intentions	\$390	\$65
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> .		

**Gibault Spring Rummage Sale** - The Gibault Women's Club is hosting their annual Spring Rummage Sale! This year's sale will be in the GCHS gym lobby. Pre-sale is Friday, April 2, from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Pre-sale admission is \$5.00. The sale continues on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Barbeque lunch available Saturday from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. or until sold out. Donations for the sale can be dropped off at the gym lobby March 29 - April 1 from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Respect Life Corner - "Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed His last."** In the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, the culmination of the liturgical year leads us to Holy Week, where Jesus by dying, destroys our death and by rising, restores our life. Life is a gift of inestimable value and the rigors of the passion show us how much Christ loves and values each human life. He gives His life for us; we are to give our lives for one another. **Learn, Act, Connect and Pray**- many current issues demean the same human life that Christ loves and are being trampled underfoot. Rejection of human life is a rejection of Christ. (The Gospel of Life n.104) One of the most vulnerable: the unborn baby of an underage mother in Illinois, frightened and planning an abortion until she has a supportive talk with her parent/ guardian through the Parental Notification Act, now up for repeal in Illinois. The law is credited with saving more than one thousand babies a year and many of the young mothers stay in school and finish with help from their families. Those who are victims of sex trafficking or prostitution, can be saved by that phone call, revealing where their missing daughter is. Also we hear of a rise of anti-Asian violence and discrimination across our nation. According to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, incidents of anti-Asian hate and bias increased nearly 150% in 2020. These are just two examples. We must know the issues and continue the work necessary to advance the values of life, equity and inclusion for all God's people.

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