

St. Mary Catholic Church

101 South Meyer Avenue, Valmeyer, IL 62295

Parish Office : 618- 935-2247

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

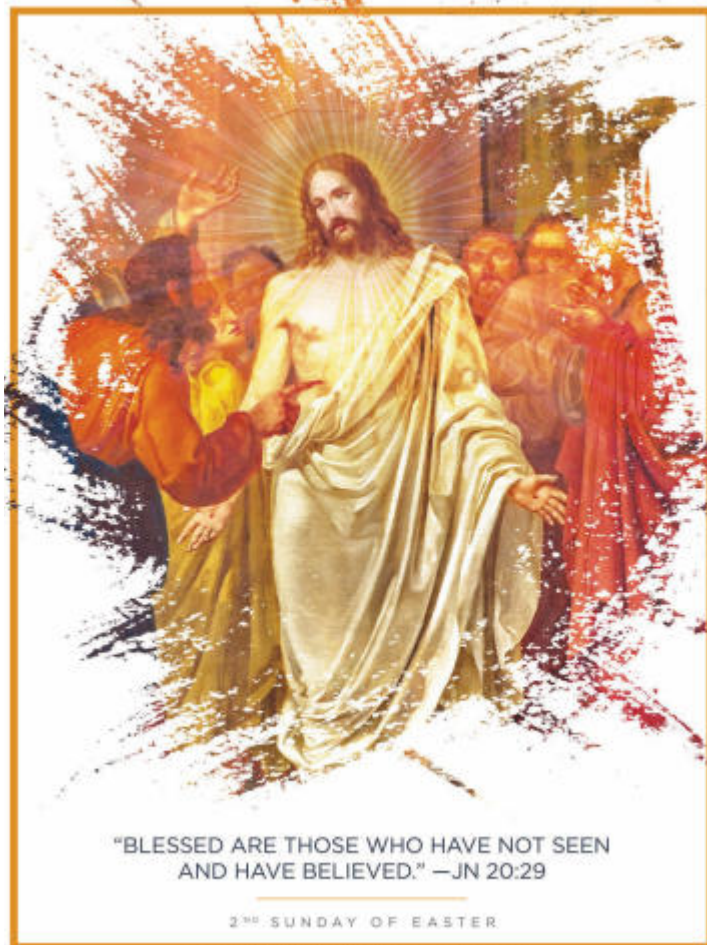
Parish Ctr.: 618-935-2400

GOSPEL MEDITATION

What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. "Mercy is the heart of God," Pope Francis tells us. The image of a heart has been used to point to the very life source of a person as it is the organ that allows life to flow through our veins and sustain us. Mercy is the heart of God. Imagine this dynamic, powerful, compassionate, piercing, embracing, loving, propelling, penetrating, absorbing, and enveloping, transforming presence of God flowing into the very depth of our souls. It is God's mercy that allows blood to flow through our veins. It is God's mercy that forms every atom of our being and leads us to what is true. God's mercy reveals all superficiality and falsehood, and lays bare all distortions, empty promises, weakness, and sin.

"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope," Pope Francis continues. God's all forgiving, compassionate love is with us. When we finally believe and accept that Christ's resurrected transfigured presence resides with us, we then find within us a strong confidence to accept life's imperfections and disappointments and move on. Every day is a new adventure in new life. God leaves the past behind and opens doors to the future. It doesn't matter how many mistakes we made yesterday. All that matters is what we do tomorrow and what we learn along the way. It is so easy to remain tethered and mired in the past, but there is no need to do so. God is all about tomorrow and the work God has yet to do in our lives.

Mercy gives birth to hope. Hope for the greatest of sinners and hope for the worst of disasters. There is nothing God cannot do and nothing God cannot fashion. After all, everything we know and treasure was once nothing, and look what God did with the nothing God had! The resurrected Christ stands before us with nail marks in his wrists and wounds on his body as a testament that not even injustice, suffering and death can trample over and destroy God's mercy. What have we to fear? Why do we keep ourselves from peace? Our lack of faith prevents us from going forward and fully receiving the holiness God desires to breathe upon us. Breathe in God's mercy, allow the wind of God's presence to kiss all of your sins and caress all of your fears. Exhale peace.



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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 10 - Volunteer Welcome
Sunday, April 11 - Jane McCarthy
Saturday, April 17 - Volunteer Welcome
Sunday, April 18 - Mary Wuertz
Saturday, April 24 - Todd or Maria Hildreth
Sunday, April 25 - Donna Wierschem
Saturday, May 1 - Todd or Maria Hildreth
Sunday, May 2 - Sharon May

Respect Life Corner - "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28), In today's Gospel, the apostle Thomas stands for each of us as he personally experiences God's mercy as he peers into the face of Jesus, the Risen Lord. Thomas failed to believe the apostles' stories that they had seen their teacher. The risen Jesus, out of abundance of love and patience, made sure that Thomas knew that he had not been abandoned. Learn, Act, Connect and Pray- In *Laudato Si* (2015), Pope Francis reminds the faithful that God never abandons us; He never forsakes His loving plan for us to live together as a whole human family. Humanity still has the ability to work together to build a common home, free of environmental degradation which is risking the lives of the world's poorest. We must have respect for the integrity of all God's people who deserve the right and access to a quality of life. We must take a look at hard issues in our world: poverty, oppression, injustice, unjust incarceration, human trafficking, as well as abortion. By allowing ourselves to be loved by Our Lord and to encounter His mercy and forgiveness in the sacraments, we are better capable of mercy, patience, forgiveness and love in the world. There are no greater gifts than the gifts of life and the gift of salvation. We are truly thankful!

SPPCS Pre-Registration & Re-enrollment

New Families/Students: You can now pre-register for the 2021-2022 school year. The links to enrolling for both our Early Learning Center and Kindergarten - 8th grade are on our website under Admissions.

Current families: Go to the Option C Family Portal and click the office tab and scroll down to Enrollment. Click yes by each student if they will be returning for the 2021-22 school year. If you are enrolling a new student, you will do that by clicking on the "add a new student for consideration, click or press here."

Once this is complete we will have Registration materials available and a message will be sent via Option C email

**Happy Birthday**

The Knights of Columbus would like to wish a happy birthday to:

Nick Cascio / Jared Berning / Ethan May
John DeBourge / Ed Van Zandt III

Mass Intentions

Sat., April 10 - Janet Hildreth, offered by Todd & Kathy Hildreth
Sun., April 11 - Alberta Riechmann, offered by Ellery & Adele Hawkins
Tues., April 13 - George Andres, Sr.
Wed., April 14 - Theresa Weber
Thurs., April 15 - Myrtle Andres
Fri., April 16 - Eliz Ann Henke
Sat., April 17 - Dale Mehrtens, offered by Joe Sondag
Sun., April 18 - Joe Sondag, offered by Tim & Dawn Brown
Sat., April 24 - Alberta Riechmann, offered by Andrew & Carla Mitan
Sun., April 25 - Joe Sondag, offered by Dale & Wilma Mehrtens Family

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 † 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

Readings for the week of April 11, 2021

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36
Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/Jn 6:1-15
Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/Jn 6:16-21

Not All Factual—But All True: The Story of the Old Testament Tuesdays, April 13, 20, 27 and May 4, 10 a.m. – 12 Noon

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Visitors Center
Presenter: Mark Etling, Ph.D.

When reading the Old Testament the most important questions isn't "Did it really happen?" The most important question is "When and why was it written?" In this series we will search for the context and meanings of the stories that helped shape our faith. Cost: \$40 for series; \$10 per session. For more info, call 618-394-6281. Register online at <https://snows.org/scripture-study-mark-etling/>

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

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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

To report an allegation of sexual misconduct by a priest or other diocesan personnel, call

**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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (CYCLE B)

The April Altar Sodality Meeting - Sunday, April 11, in the parish center, immediately following Mass.

CRS Rice Bowl Campaign - Please return your CRS Rice Bowl in the Gathering Area by Sunday, April 18, or donate online at crsricebowl.org/give. There will be a box in the Gathering Area to place bowls in.

So Many Catch Phrases Today. "The doors were locked." "Peace be with you." "There was no needy person among them." "His mercy endures forever." "His commandments are not burdensome." Locked doors cannot keep Jesus away. He speaks peace to us, even in these Covid-19 days. Because he is peace among us – no one has need. Because he is full and overflowing with mercy – nothing is a burden.

- How will I manifest peace, be peace this Easter week?
- How will I show mercy, be mercy this week?
- Whose burden will I ease?

Congratulations to the winners of the Altar Sodality Raffle!

- 1st prize - Quilt – Greg Reinhart
- 2nd prize – Quilt – Danny Sondag
- 3rd prize – Kate Spade Purse – Angie Long
- 4th prize – Kitchen Basket – Donna Mueller
- 5th prize – Kitchen Basket – Leeland Miller

Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets to support this fundraiser.


Annual Diocesan Spring Blessing of the Farm
Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 2pm at the Farm of Dale & Kay Haudrich
 7903 State Route 156, Waterloo, IL 62298
 Directions: Take IL-Hwy 159 to Hecker, IL. Travel west onto IL-Hwy 156 out of Hecker 3/4 of a mile. It is the first house on your right. "Farm Blessing" signs will also lead you.
Those attending are invited to bring seed and soil in marked containers along with animals and farm machinery to be blessed. Food for the poor and needy of the area will be collected.
Pandemic health and safety protocols will be in place.

Eye Has Not Seen

The Apostle Thomas, who couldn't bring himself to accept that Jesus had risen from the dead without seeing him, is such an utterly relatable figure in the Gospels. Thomas is still reeling from a loss — not only of his good friend but his Lord, who was taken prisoner and crucified before his eyes. Thomas is guarding himself. He's not believing the hype. He's going to be the only judge of what is real and what is fiction

Would any of us be any different? We've all had those thoughts. Can we believe it all — Jesus, salvation history, the Eucharist — when we haven't seen it with our own two eyes?

Sometimes the things that are most worthy of believing can't be seen with the naked eye.



We remember and pray for parish members who passed away in the month of April:
Ray Huffman / Kent Heise / Jeff Englerth / Melba Riechmann
Frank Sondag / Bob Falkner / Carnel Gilbert

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 28	April 4
Envelopes	\$1,567	\$658
Loose	\$105	\$90
Candles	\$159	---
Easter	---	\$2,430
TOTAL	\$1,831	\$3,178
Weekly Budget	\$3,145	\$3,145
Fiscal YTD Total	\$81,300	\$84,478
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$122,655	\$125,800
BUDGET DEFICIT	(\$41,355)	(\$41,322)
Building Fund	---	\$30
Fiscal YTD Bldg. Fund Total	\$3,851	\$3,881
Black & Indian Missions	\$50	\$130
Catholic Relief Services	\$5	---
SPPS Tuition	---	\$500
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 .		

The youth group at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Columbia, is hosting its **Annual Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 24, 8am-2pm**. Funds raised will help support our youth group activities. Whether you'd like to shop or donate items, we greatly appreciate your support. Any and all items are accepted, but please no computers, TVs or clothing. Drop off that Thursday, 4-8pm, that Friday, 10-7pm. 227 Goodhaven, Columbia IL, Rt 3 and Bottom Avenue across from Walgreens.

The list of our confirmation class included in the Parish newsletter was incomplete. Our class consists of:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Brice Ahrens | Cohen Brandt |
| Troy Neff | Lola Niebruegge |
| Devin Phillips | Grain Prather |
| Avery Proffer | Evan Riechmann |
| Caden Schweickhardt | Emily Vogt |
| Allison Wood | |

First Communion will be held at St. Mary on Sunday, May 2. We have three young parishioners making their First Holy Communion on that day -- Brayden Eckenfels, Leigha Henerfauth, Elizabeth Schreder

Father Urban recently suffered a mild stroke. After a brief hospitalization, he is home and recovering. Please remember Fr. Urban in your prayers. If you'd like to send him a card or note, his address is:

Father Urban Osuji
 506 W. Main St.
 Benton, Il. 62812

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Founder, Terry Andres, Native of Valmeyer

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