

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

Any builder worth his or her salt knows the value and importance of a cornerstone. Properly laying and securing this primary unit determines how the rest of the project unfolds and its success. Cornerstones are necessary elements not only of buildings but of lives as well. Many human beings conduct the business of their lives paying little attention to a grounding reference or starting point. Hence, what unfolds is a tapestry of relativism, with few anchors or guideposts and many impulsive choices. Some consider love to be their cornerstone. While this may sound attractive and useful, the pursuit of love without a simultaneous pursuit of its source can be shallow and self-focused. Just because a person chooses to do no harm and love others does not mean that they are living in truth and properly anchored to the real cornerstone.

Jesus is the true and authentic cornerstone and shepherd. It is only in following the Risen One as the way, the truth, and the life that we can move from being well grounded ethical people to properly focused moral ones. Proper conduct, a true sense of justice, wisdom, virtue, moral principles, faith, hope, and love will be difficult to find unless we listen to the right Voice. It is when we learn to listen to the voice of God that we begin our journey on the road to salvation. It is only the Good Shepherd, the authentic and solid cornerstone, who can guide us through life's questions and challenges and bring us to the safe and proper pasture.

A person's life only has meaning when the cornerstone is properly selected and set. Understanding themselves only as random acts of creation, existing without intent or purpose, will color their choices and influence their decisions. The foundation of their lives will be simply a matter of preference and choice, leaving benchmarks of growth and higher ideals optional to pursue. Whereas people who believe that they are fashioned and loved into existence by a God who purposely made them, have this incredible unconditional relationship at their source which has tremendous significance. Their allegiance is not to themselves but to their Creator. Life, then, is an adventure in search of this Creator God and a journey of self-discovery that seeks to unite their will to His. There is a cost. We have to give up our life in order to gain our life. As ironic as that sounds, it is true. It is only when we finally figure this out that the true cornerstone of our lives will be properly laid and we can, with God's help, get about the business of properly constructing a temple that endures.



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 24 - Todd or Maria Hildreth
Sunday, April 25 - Donna Wierschem
Saturday, May 1 - Todd or Maria Hildreth
Sunday, May 2 - Sharon May

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you!

Today on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Jesus identifies himself as our Good Shepherd. "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me... for these sheep I will give my life." (John 10:11) We are grateful that our Risen Lord is a shepherd to each of us, that he knows us personally and is continually calling us by name, walking before us and guiding us to a deeper life with him.

Fittingly today we pray for the good shepherds in our lives, both in the domestic Church (parents, grandparents, godparents) and in the larger community of the Church (bishops, priests, deacons and religious). We need shepherds to guide us, care for us, teach us and protect us. I am forever grateful for the shepherds of my early life; the care and generosity of my parents, the fine example of the priests who served at my home parish, and the Sisters of Mercy who taught in our parochial school.

I encourage you to pray frequently for an increase of shepherds in the Church; asking God for generous young people to respond to the Lord's call in becoming a priest, deacon, sister or brother. Our Office of Vocations, under the direction of Fr. Steven Beatty, will be implementing new initiatives in which we invite our youth to consider if God is calling them to serve in the priesthood or religious life. Please join me in praying daily for God to bless our efforts and for our youth to be inspired to serve the Lord joyfully. -- Bishop Michael McGovern

Mid-life Singles: Are you looking for a renewed sense of connection & purpose during this pandemic? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT Catholic weekend retreat at King's House Retreat Center, Belleville, (20 min from downtown St. Louis), on June 4-6, 2021. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$210 including meals and a single room. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.stlouis@gmail.com, or call (314) 283-0044 for details.

SPPCS Pre-Registration & Re-enrollment

New Families/Students: 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.

Mass Intentions

Sat., April 24 - Alberta Riechmann, offered by Andrew & Carla Mitan
Sun., April 25 - Joe Sondag, offered by Dale & Wilma Mehrtens Family
Tues., April 27 - Peter Muertz
Wed., April 28 - Alex & Mary Mitan, offered by Lewis & Mary Effler
Thurs., April 29 - Cleo & Alvera Eshom
Fri., April 30 - Art Kaestner
Sat., May 1 - Joe Sondag, offered by Doug & Rhonda Sondag
Sun., May 2 - Fred & Rosalia Krewer, offered by Penny Heusohn
Sat., May 8 - Eleanor Althoff, offered by Tom & Charlotte Gartzke
Sun., May 9 - Dale Mehrtens, offered by John & Bobbie Klinkhardt

Please remember in your prayers members of our parish family and friends who are injured or sick, especially:

Kylie Ballas † Lee Guttman † Ellen Heavner † 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

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 [22]/
1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18
Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [117:1a]/
Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/
Jn 12:44-50
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/
Jn 13:16-20
Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/
Jn 14:1-6
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-1

The historical and beautiful Catholic cemeteries of Mount Carmel in Belleville and Holy Cross in Fairview Heights are offering a 25% discount on pre-need grave and crypt sales during May and June. It shows prudent and practical foresight to pre-plan your burial arrangements, especially now with very affordable payment terms. Contact our Catholic cemeteries office staff at 618-397-0181 for additional information or to set an appointment.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Council:

Mary Wuerz von Holt - Chair - 415-845-4144 / mary@wvh.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

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (CYCLE B)

Altar Sodality "No-Bake" Bake Sale Sunday, April 25

All proceeds will go to the Bi-County Back Pack Program
Thank you for your generosity!

The Messenger is planning to do a story related to Memorial Day. If anyone in our parish has a story to tell about someone they knew or a relative who died during a war, please pass that info on to Penny Heusohn. Additionally, you can provide to Penny the names of service members who were killed in action (WWII onward (include rank & which war)) and the name of anyone who presently is serving in harm's way or anyone who served in Iraq or Afghanistan or Syria and have returned home. Penny needs to provide this info to *The Messenger* by May 3.

Valmeyer Knights of Columbus Scholarship

Your Knights are once again offering a scholarship between \$300 and \$400 to an active St. Mary Parish Senior in high school. Forms will be available in the gathering area. Contact Tom Andres, Scott Roeber, Kevin Lubbes, or Howard Heavner if you have any questions.

The next Altar Sodality Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 6, in the parish center, immediately following Mass. There will be no meeting in May.

"With confidence in the Lord, I am turning to you today asking for your support of this year's Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. My hope is that your generous response will help our ministries grow and the compassion of Jesus will be experienced more profoundly in our communities." -Bishop Michael McGovern Please consider making your gift today!

Being Good. Jesus is good. He is the best of shepherds. He knows and protects, leads and loves. He offers himself as a pattern for our own living.

- Who needs my guidance?
- Who needs my love and protection?
- How will I be good today, this week, this Easter Time?

Respect Life Corner-"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." In John's Gospel Chapter 10, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, shows that sacrificial love is the truest definition of love. While love can include heartwarming moments with others, love is primarily about sacrifice, willing the good of the other. (Agape Love) Think about two images of the Good Shepherd. First, the tender, gentle Lord who welcomes us and cares for us in a holy, compassionate way. Second, ponder and pray over the Crucifixion. Our Good Shepherd sacrificed His life for each of us, so that we could have life in Him. Learn, Act, Connect and Pray-How do we recognize the voice of the Shepherd calling us? In what ways can we live a life of sacrificial love in the world around us? Every human life has value, worthy of our love. Once we see that, we will change the world.

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	April 11	April 18
Envelopes	\$2,256	\$1,737
Loose	\$65	\$10
Easter	\$100	---
TOTAL	\$2,421	\$1,747
Weekly Budget	\$3,145	\$3,145
Fiscal YTD Total	\$86,899	\$88,646
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$128,945	\$132,090
BUDGET DEFICIT	(\$42,046)	(\$43,444)
Building Fund	---	\$100
Fiscal YTD Bldg. Fund Total	\$3,611	\$3,711
Catholic Relief Services	\$515	---
Mass Intentions	\$10	\$495

For On-Line Giving: <https://www.igivecatholictogether.org/info/belleville> or click on the Online Giving menu in the upper left of our parish website, www.stmaryvalmeyer.org.

The **Valmeyer Music Boosters** are holding an **online auction** from **April 13 through May 4** in lieu of the usual Dinner Theater and Auction. You can access the auction at www.32auctions.com/valmeyerMB. Please check out all the awesome items up for auction and help support the school's music program!

St. Patrick Parish - Ruma Drive-through Chicken Dinner Sunday, May 16, 11 am - ??

Dinner includes one-half Fried Chicken (breast, thigh, leg and wing) mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, coleslaw, roll with strawberry jam.

(No special orders or substitutes, please)

Drive Thru is One Way Only! Vehicles should enter at 2 Pioneer Lane (Adorers of the Blood of Christ entrance) and Exit at 1 Pioneer Lane.

Valmeyer Kindergarten Registration & Screening Wednesday May 12, 2:15 - 6:45 pm

An appointment is required to register your child for Kindergarten. Call 935-2100 starting Monday, April 19 to schedule your appointment. Children must be 5 years old by 9/1/2021 to legally enter Kindergarten this August.

Bring a certified copy of your child's birth certificate (the copy will be kept in the school's records). Also provide proof of residency - utility bill or lease.

Masks are required in the school building. Parents are asked to maintain a social distance of 6 ft. while in the building.

We look forward to meeting you and your child!

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