

St. Mary Catholic Church

101 South Meyer Avenue, Valmeyer, IL 62295

Parish Office : 618- 935-2247

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

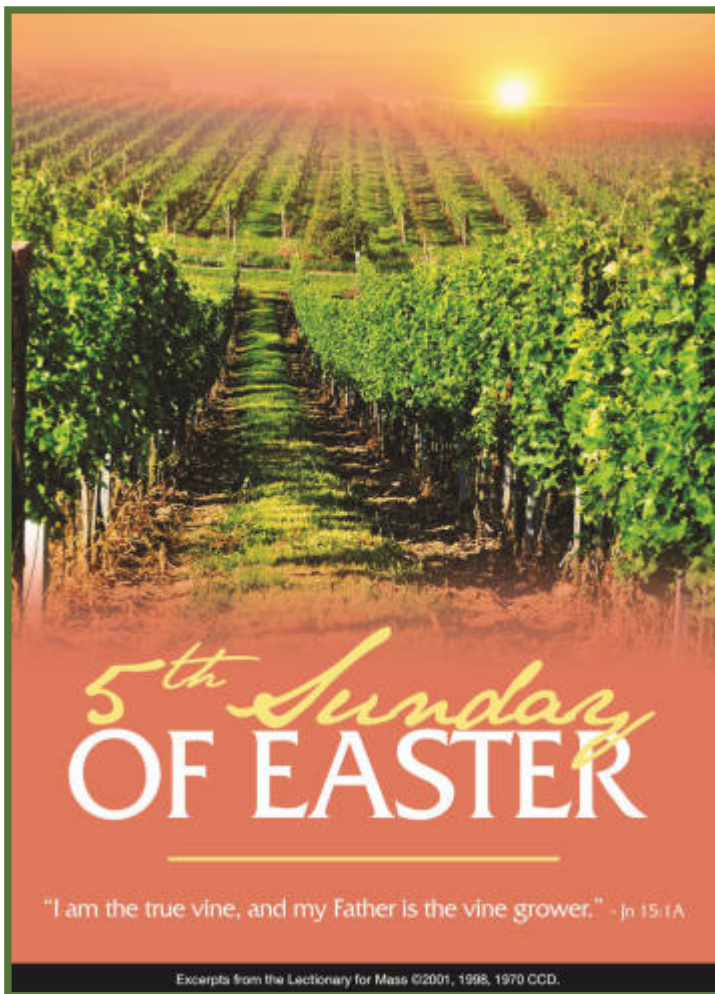
Parish Ctr.: 618-935-2400

GOSPEL MEDITATION

"Spiraling out of control," is a phrase that can easily describe the current display of human existence. In addition to the violence, unrest, uneasiness and turmoil that are common elements of our daily news, other essential pieces are misplaced or missing. Many lack an objective center around which to order and structure their lives or a clear set of definable goals or mores to act as guideposts and life directives. It appears that "feelings" have become a "new god" and traditional structures and ideals set aside. It is almost as if history only shows that we got this whole thing wrong and many are determined to finally set things right. The real truth, however, is that while wrongs and errors are certainly a part of our often-checked past, it is hardly the case that all was wrong. It is not our task to rewrite the history of our lives, but to learn from mistakes that were made, and preserve the perennial wisdom at the root of our successes. Learning is an essential part of being human.

The question becomes, however, from whom do we learn? Some have such a hard time placing God in that position, but that is precisely where God needs to be. God is the Master Teacher from whom all of humanity learns and gets its cues. It is in and through this relationship with the Gardener of Life that we are fashioned and pruned into the people we are intended to be and can be. It is only in God that we are able to find our best selves. Sadly, many think that religion too, as well as history in general, has also gotten all this wrong. Yet, our resurrection faith tells us differently. We are reminded, today especially, that we are meant to remain in Christ as Christ remains in us. We are also reminded that Jesus, the Incarnate God, is the vine upon which we grow, the branches that flow from the source of God's life.

Giving up our will to God's can be a painful endeavor. It is not easy to set our own desires and wants aside and allow God to step in and direct and guide our growth. But this is the only way to prevent deadly weeds from overtaking us and bringing us to a place of self-destruction. God's commandments are the very guideposts and benchmarks we need, yet many seek to remove them from all public view because they appear to limit self-expression and suppress what is considered by many to be "human freedom." They are the only way we can find freedom, however. And, until we learn this fundamental lesson, we will continue to spiral out of control, never really knowing who we are, what our potential can be or how life really can be lived. We will not know 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

LECTOR SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 1	Todd or Maria Hildreth
Sunday, May 2	Sharon May
Saturday, May 8	Todd or Maria Hildreth
Sunday, May 9	Donna Wierschem
Saturday, May 15	David Carr
Sunday, May 16	Mary Wuertz
Saturday, May 22	Todd or Maria Hildreth
Sunday, May 23	Jane McCarthy

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.

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.

Bearing Much Fruit. It is the start of May and, in the northern hemisphere, some of us are about spring planting. The tasks today look to future fruit and vegetables. By analogy, God is the gardener. We are the branches, the seeds, the fruit. To be healthy, we let ourselves be tilled around, watered, weeded.

- Because of how I behave now, how will I be tomorrow and in the future?
- What tending work will I let God do to me?
- What can I do to be a more fruitful Christian?

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

"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!

Mass Intentions

Sat., May 1	Joe Sondag, offered by Doug & Rhonda Sondag
Sun., May 2	Fred & Rosalia Krewer, offered by Penny Heusohn
Tues., May 4	Martin Kohnz
Wed., May 5	Audrey Fidler
Thurs., May 6	Joe Muertz
Fri., May 7	Mabel Kaestner
Sat., May 8	Eleanor Althoff, offered by Tom & Charlotte Gartzke
Sun., May 9	Dale Mehrtens, offered by John & Bobbie Klinkhardt
Sat., May 15	Dorothy Williamson, offered by Mary Jo Robinson
Sun., May 16	Pauline Sondag, offered by the family

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 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/ 1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8
Monday:	1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14
Tuesday:	Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/ Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday:	Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/ Jn 15:1-8
Thursday:	Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/Jn 15:9-11
Friday:	Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/ Jn 15:12-17
Saturday:	Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Council:

Nancy Gilbert - Chair
Donna Wierschem - Vice Chair
Mary Wuertz von Holt - Secretary
Larry Chausse
Linda Sharp

Angela Atkinson
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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (CYCLE B)



Congratulations to our young parishioners receiving their First Holy Communion this Sunday, May 2:

Brayden Eckenfels, Leigha Henerfauth, Elizabeth Schreder

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.



As you make plans for summer vacation, remember your marriage NEVER takes a vacation. Help your marriage sacrament stay refreshed and full of energy by getting it recharged at a virtual Worldwide

Marriage Encounter Experience. Upcoming Experiences include: May 6 - June 17, 2021 (one evening per week- Thursdays) - For more information contact Jim & Kris McCulloch, 630-577-0778, or to apply go to wwme.org

Respect Life Corner-“When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.” In Reading 1 from Acts of the Apostles, we are aware of the conversion that Saul, now Paul encountered on the road to Damascus, when he encountered the Risen Christ. Christ implored him to stop persecuting Jewish followers of Jesus. Barnabas spoke on behalf of Saul, later Paul, and opened up a dialogue that no one in the circle of the disciples was expecting. Barnabas took Saul under his wing and gave him a proper introduction and a proper welcome into the Jewish Christian community. **Learn, Act, Connect and Pray-** In the Gospels, we see that Jesus is deeply involved with the concerns of individual people, not entities of power. Jesus teaches us to take the same path, the path of dialogue. Who can we begin to really talk and listen to here in our own community? We are called to engage in subsidiarity, working with people and communities nearest to a problem and encourage them as they work to devise a solution. Guide our efforts, Lord, to truly help serve the needs of the poor and the oppression, not for our sake, but for theirs.

Terra Properties, which manages the Senior Apartments here in Valmeyer, has sent the parish information and applications for their apartments. If anyone is interested in this information or would like to have an application, please contact Penny at the church office.

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 18	April 25
Envelopes	\$1,737	\$1,127
Loose	\$10	\$55
Easter	---	\$10
Candles	---	\$82
TOTAL	\$1,747	\$1,274
Weekly Budget	\$3,145	\$3,145
Fiscal YTD Total	\$88,646	\$89,920
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$132,090	\$135,235
BUDGET DEFICIT	(\$43,444)	(\$45,315)
Building Fund	\$100	---
Fiscal YTD Bldg. Fund Total	\$3,711	\$3,711
Catholic Relief Services	---	\$90
Black & Indian Missions	---	\$10
Donation to SPPS Tuition	---	\$189
Mass Intentions	\$495	\$40

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.

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)

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

An appointment is required to registered 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.

Valmeyer High School Music Department Presents

Little Women - the Broadway Musical

At Borsch Memorial Park
409 MAR Graphics Drive in “Old” Valmeyer
Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8, at 7 pm
Sunday, May 9, at 2 pm

Donations accepted by cash, check, Venmo or Paypal
Brink your own chairs and please practice social distancing

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Founder, Terry Andres, Native of Valmeyer

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