St. Mary Catholic Church

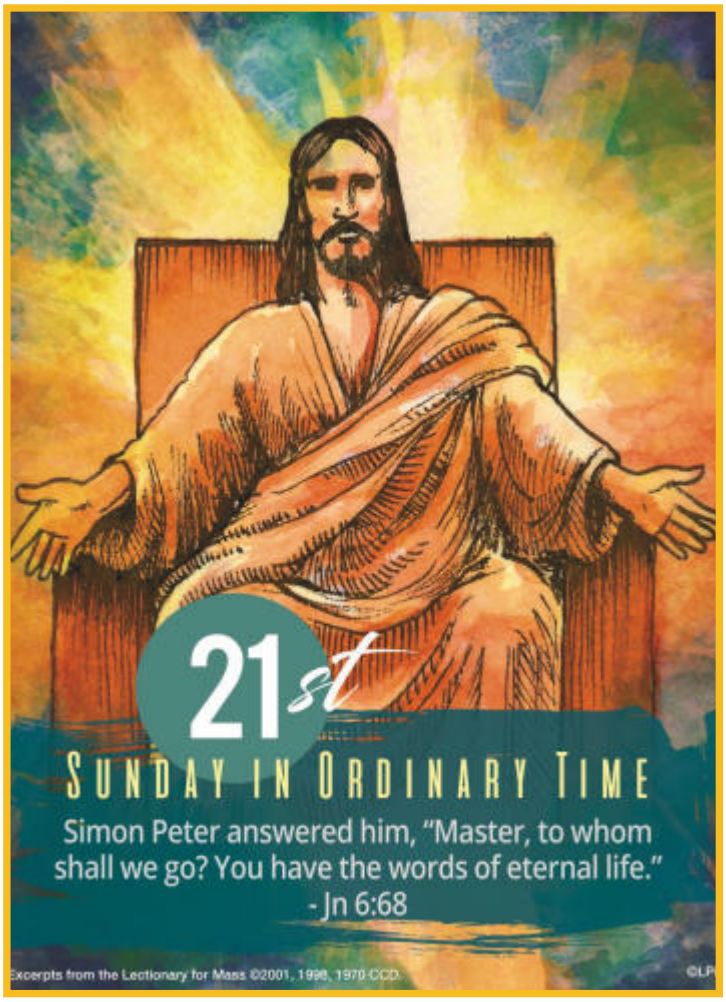
101 South Meyer Avenue, Valmeyer, IL 62295
Parish Office : 618- 935-2247
www.stmaryvalmeyer.org Email: smoffice@htc.net
Parish Ctr.: 618-935-2400

GOSPEL MEDITATION

"Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods." We struggle with our gods. They appear in the forms of things like money, power, prestige, popularity, privilege, and self-fulfillment. We like these "gods" because they make us feel good and ask very little of us in return. When we worship them, we worship ourselves. How can you go wrong with that? We buy into the illusion that if something can give us a comfortable life, free of want and need, then it is worth setting other things aside to pursue it. In essence, we sell our souls. Our struggle with "who is God" and to whom do we belong is a real one and one that can easily find us empty and experiencing disillusionment.

The devil tempted Jesus in the desert and promised him more. We are promised "more." But in pursuing the more and the satisfying we lose track of the cost, and the cost is great. We sacrifice our very life in pursuit of something disguised as life. We sacrifice truth for something that only "feels" true. While the true and real God certainly promises us many things, many things are also required. It is not about the warm and secure feelings and self-absorption the world wants to provide, but of giving back. There can be no lukewarm stance with regard to faith. If we are in, then faith in Jesus Christ asks us to do some difficult things: work in service of God's kingdom (not our own), love our enemies, offer no resistance to injury, that we must die to ourselves in order to find ourselves, and trust that Jesus truly gives us his flesh and blood to eat and drink. These are hard things to accept and even harder to put into practice. It is no wonder that many, who may be attracted to Jesus at first, walk away in pursuit of the more self-satisfying gods.

But truth is truth. If we cannot accept it from the lips of Jesus Christ, then where else will we find it? To whom can we go? There is only one source of truth and life, Jesus Christ. Jesus has the words of eternal life and if we do not go to him, then where else will we find this gift? But we must be faithful and buy into the whole package deal that requires sacrifice and fidelity. When we do, we find ourselves, through the Body and Blood of Christ, connected to the Source of all life and then intimately bound with our brothers and sisters. We all have to decide whether we want to stay or go and if we can accept what Jesus has to say. It's a choice we all have to make.



Most Rev. Michael McGovern
Bishop of Belleville

Fr. John Kizhakedan
Pastor

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sat.: 5 pm
(fulfills Sunday Obligation)

Sun.: 9 am

Thurs.: 7 pm

Holy Days of Obligation:
7 am & 7 pm

SACRAMENT REQUIREMENTS

Baptism: One month notice & preparation

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

Day	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers (Host)	Greeters
Sat., 8/21	Todd &/or Maria Hildreth	Kathy Hildreth	Volunteer
Sun., 8/22	Donna Wierschem Jane McCarthy	Nancy Gilbert	Pat Ellis
Sat., 8/28 (see note)	Julie Wright Mary Wuertz	Angela Atkinson	Donna Wierschem
Sun., 8/29	Sharon May	Barb Kendall	Pat Ellis

Mass Intentions

Sat., Aug. 21	Eleanor & Wesley Althoff, offered by Tom & Charlotte Gartzke
Sun., Aug. 22	Howard Riechmann, offered by Pat & Jane McCarthy
Sat., Aug. 28	Alvin & Ella Mae Wierschem, offered by Randy & Donna Wierschem
Sun., Aug. 29	Joe Sondag, offered by Rita Floarke

Today's Readings — #1041

Today's Songs:

Gathering: #549 - We Gather Together
Offertory: #610 - Where Charity And Love Prevail
Communion: #512 - Christ, Be Our Light
Recessional: #536 - Praise To The Lord, The Almighty

Please remember in your prayers members of our parish family and friends who are injured or sick, especially:
Kylie Ballas † Lee Guttmann † Ellen Heavner † Lillian Hohnbaum † Eleanor Mary Krebel † Allen Mattingly † Marge Unterseh McKenzie † David Mehrtens † Kaylee Muertz † Santos Pallares † Ricky Rodenberg † Brian Schmitt † Ben Stork † Judy Vogt † Donald Weber † Doris Weber † Zachary Wheat

And all Military Men and Women, especially:
Miranda Kaufmann, US Air Force, daughter of Don Kaufmann

We aren't comfortable with the idea of submission. Our society champions equality, and rightly so — but it's a mistake to think that submission is at odds with equality. To submit ourselves fully, we must first be free. We must first be our own masters. God has granted us that freedom with the salvation He offers. We are no longer the slaves of sin. Now He asks us to be subordinate to one another, in the name of Christ.

What a completely uncomfortable task! What He's asking is for us to be subordinate to the person who irritates us the most. The person we really can't stand. The person who doesn't respect us or appreciate what we have to offer. The person we think we're smarter than, more talented than. The person we envy.

That's the real challenge of stewardship, isn't it? Subordination. Inconveniencing myself by giving of time, of money, of relationship. Putting the needs or wants of another above my own when they haven't done anything special to earn it.

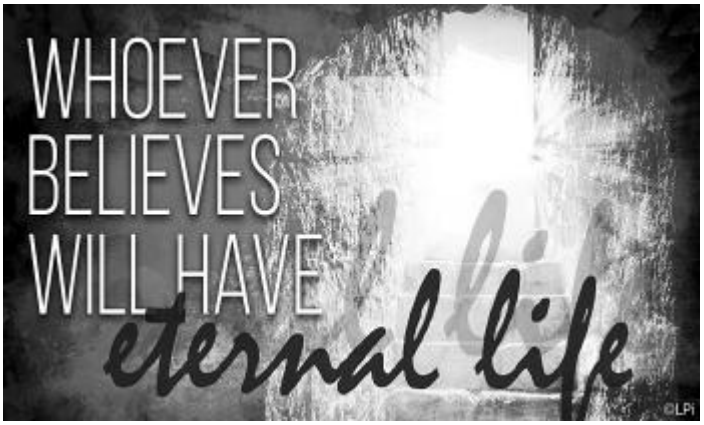
I invite you to consider the cross — the most radical expression of submission, and of stewardship, that ever existed. If there was ever someone who deserved superiority, isn't it the God who let Himself be nailed to a tree, who gave so freely of His life, His body, His blood, His everything?

To look at him in his agony is to truly understand the beauty of submission — of laying down what you have for the good of the other.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 | [9a]/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69
Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/ Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/Jn 1:45-51
Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab [1]/Mt 23:27-32
Thursday: Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17 [14]/Mt 24:42-51
Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12 [12a]/Mt 25:1-13
Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [9]/Mt 25:14-30



Mass Intentions
$20 for weekend Masses
$10 for weekday Masses

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Council:
Nancy Gilbert - Chair (618) 935-2207
Donna Wierschem - Vice Chair
Mary Wuertz von Holt - Secretary
Larry Chausse, Angela Atkinson
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

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

NEXT ALTAR SODALITY MEETING - Sunday, Sept. 12, following 9 am Mass (in the Cry Room).

VALMEYER FALL CHURCH PICNIC
Sunday, September 19, 2021

Mark your calendars and invite your family and friends to join us on that day.

Celebrating OUR 100th Anniversary

Centennial Mass—Saturday, August 28, 4 pm
celebrated by Bishop McGovern
Celebration dinner in the Parish Center to follow.

The Liturgy Committee is looking for additional members to help coordinate sacred liturgies as well as the liturgical ministries in the parish. The Liturgy Committee also plans the church environment for various seasons of the liturgical year. To volunteer, contact Angela Atkinson, Mary or Wuertz von Holt.

We also seek volunteers to help welcome parishioners to Mass, help them find seats, and guide them during Holy Communion. To volunteer for this ministry, please contact Penny Heusohn.

Question:
We live in a country that upholds the separation of Church and state. What is the role of Catholics in society?

Answer:
The role of the Church in the world has taken different forms over time, but the theme is the same. Be disciples in it! As the lay faithful — that is, not vowed priest or religious — we are called to live and love in the circumstances of our daily lives. St. John Paul II wrote a document about the laity. In it he wrote, "In their situation in the world God manifests His plan and communicates to them their particular vocation of seeking the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God" (On the Lay Members of Christ's Faithful, 15).

God wants us in the hospitals, the board rooms, the law offices, the food pantries, and the little league games! We are to engage in the affairs of the world. But when we're there, we should live the plan of God. We need to respect those around us, engage in just business and legal practices, and love our children. We should care for the earth, use our money wisely, and get to know our neighbors. We must advocate for social policies that respect human dignity and human freedom. No matter our state in life, we are invited to build the kingdom of God!

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	Aug. 8	Aug. 15
Envelopes	$1,038	$1,656
Loose	$81	$147
Assumption of Mary	—	$120
TOTAL	**$1,119**	**$1,923**
Weekly Budget	$3,145	$3,145
Fiscal YTD Total	**$12,543**	**$14,466**
Fiscal YTD Budget	$18,870	$22,015
BUDGET DEFICIT	**($6,327)**	**($7,549)**
Building Fund	$20	—
Fiscal YTD Bldg. Fund Total	**$200**	**$200**
Mass Intentions	$60	$120

Tshirts are available for purchase to celebrate our 100th anniversary. See order form in the Gathering Area.

If anyone has any photos, memorabilia, or stories they would like to share, or any ideas how to continue our celebration, please contact one of the committee members: Nancy Gilbert, Penny Heusohn, Bobbie Klinkhardt, Zoe Ann Schwarze, Linda Sharp, Donna Wierschem.

We are in need of two PSR teachers for the upcoming school year. Please let Elissa Chausse know if you are interested. You can email her at psrstmary@gmail.com. Thank you!

Registration for the 2021-2022 year is underway. Please let Elissa know if you did not receive the info to complete the registration online or if you would like to register over the phone. Classes will begin on Aug.22 for grades 1-4 and Aug. 25 for grades 5-8. Books will be handed out in class this year.

St. Augustine of Canterbury, Hecker IL

Drive-Thru Fried Chicken Dinner
Sun., Aug. 22 - 11 am – 4 pm @ Hecker Community Center
230 East Washington St. Hecker, IL 62248
(No one allowed inside the building except workers)
SET MENU (No Substitutions): One-half fried chicken, corn, green beans, mashed potatoes w/gravy, applesauce and …the famous St. Augustine Dressing! Cost is $12.00 per plate.

PUZZLE

Find your way through the maze to Jesus.

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