

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

Rev. Felix Chukwuma - Cell: (618) 671-0641

Administrator

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5 pm *(fulfills Sunday Obligation)*

Sunday: 9 am

Tuesday & Thursday: 7 pm

Wednesday & Friday: 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 CONTACTS

Parish Council:

Penny Heusohn, Chair - 935-2581

Larry Chausse Carrie Gilbert

Nancy Gilbert Cole Proffer

Linda Sharp Mary Wuertz -

Von Holt (vice chair)

Parish Trustees:

Angie Crawford Kevin Lubbes

Parish Secretary:

Penny Heusohn (618) 935-2581

Altar Sodality:

Lillian Carr (618) 939-9432

lillian@zeracarr.com

Knights of Columbus:

Howard Heavner (618) 719-1778

PSR Coordinators:

Elissa Chausse, Pat Ellis

psrstmary@gmail.com

Script Coordinator:

Penny Heusohn (618) 935-2581

Bulletin Editor:

Sharon May (618) 935-2611

Parish Center Reservations:

Jean Langsdorf (618) 935-2481

jeanl@htc.net

Dearly beloved,

Welcome to Valmeyer—and in particular to the parish of Saint Mary Catholic Church.

When Jesus was asked which of all the commandments was the greatest, he replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. Secondly, you shall love your neighbor as yourself." These two pronouncements form the foundation of our mission at St. Mary: Love of God, from which flows love of neighbor.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, celebrated reverently and beautifully, is at the heart of the first of these Commandments. Worship of God and receiving the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life. It is "our daily bread", which Christ Himself taught us to pray for. Accepting this gift from God, we then share His love with our neighbors through our service and outreach to the community.

We hope you will consider becoming an active member of St. Mary Catholic Church, worshipping God with us, and learning more about our Catholic faith. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you are interested in joining us on our journey of faith.

You are most welcome to worship with us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am or Saturday evenings at 5:00 pm, as we give thanks to God for the blessings we have received, seek forgiveness for the times we falter, and give praise for His infinite love and compassion. Weekday Masses are celebrated as well. Please don't hesitate to enquire if interested in participating.

Thank you and God bless you.

Your brother and sisters in Christ

The beginning:

The parish of the Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin was established in the original town of Valmeyer on March 24th, 1921 as a mission church of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Harrisonville, IL. (which was located 3 miles west). The Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day in 1923.

In 1935 the church was extensively remodeled and expanded, at this time it was rededicated in honor of St. Mary under the title of Seven Sorrows (Dolors).

By 1940, due to the increase in membership at St. Mary, it was designated as a parish and the Harrisonville parish of St. Francis of Assisi became a mission church. In 1940 a parsonage was constructed on the lot directly west of the church.

The years of 1943, 1944 and 1945 brought high river levels. St. Mary survived the flooding and the congregation devotedly cleaned the muck and mud out of their homes and their beloved little white church, St. Mary.

A parish center was erected on the west end of the original Valmeyer in the years 1966 & 1967. The hall was later dedicated to Fr. Charles Hellrung.

In 1974, the bell that once called parishioners to mass at St. Francis in Harrisonville before it closed, was hung in the bell tower and dedicated to service at St. Mary. You can find that same bell hanging in the bell tower at St. Mary's current location.

In 1979, St. Mary was again extensively remodeled.

On Mother's Day 1993 a marble sculpture of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our patron saint, was dedicated and placed in the church yard. (You can find that sculpture at our current location.)

On August 1, 1993, St. Mary was hit by the flood far surpassing the floods of the 1940s. The Village of Valmeyer was destroyed, the parishioners, scattered throughout the surrounding counties, refused to abandon St. Mary. The little rock church, Immaculate Conception in Madonnville, (6 miles southeast and high and dry in the bluffs) welcomed their neighbors allowing St. Mary parish to hold masses in their church. After some time, Fr. Ed Hustedde was given permission to hold mass at the Gibault High School, where many of the St. Mary belonging were in storage. In 1995 a fire at Gibault destroyed many of these belongings.

The fire forced the parishioners to find a new home and in late 1995 services were moved to the temporary Valmeyer School trailers set up at the county fairgrounds. Holiday masses were shared with Immaculate Conception in Madonnville, but Sunday worship continued at the temporary school trailer until the completion of the new church in the relocated Valmeyer where on Christmas Eve, 1995, the Harrisonville bell called the parishioners to mass.

