

2017 *Guide Book & Directory*



IMMACULATE
Heart of Mary

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Immaculate Heart of Mary

Catholic Church

PO Box 100

8 West Highway D

New Melle, MO 63365

636-398-5270



2017

Dear Parishioners,

If you manage to live to the age of 75 you will have lived 27,375 days. Somehow I thought it would be longer. If you account for sleep, anywhere from one quarter to one third of time is spent in blissful slumber. So assume you have 50 years of active waking moments, 10.3 of those years are spent at work (Hope you enjoyed them!). Outside of work is the rest of life. How will you spend those moments free from employment and not snuggled in your blankets?

In an average year you will spend about 60 hours at Mass. A little more than one hour a week since you have to account for various Holy Days and other celebrations. That one hour a week is the foundation and anchor of our life in Jesus Christ. Without that hour, you may turn out to be a good person, but you will be a lousy disciple. Jesus calls us to discipleship. He, along with His Father and their Holy Spirit, want the Mass to be the source and summit of our lives. Our life of faith is one of being fed and taught by the Lord at Mass so that we can be sent out into the world to proclaim the Good News.

Within this guide book are various signposts on the path to discipleship. Discipleship is certainly not limited to Church activities, but the Church is most often where we are nourished as followers of the Lord. Please explore this guide book and then ask the Holy Spirit to nudge you. Where is God calling you to serve? How is Jesus inviting and encouraging you to deepen and strengthen the bonds of communion within our parish family? Your time is precious; spend it in activities that are worthwhile and with people who love and respect you. Discovering new friends in Christ is one of the greatest joys in our life.

If you are 50 years old, you have 9,125 days left to live. How do you want to make those days count? Like the ancient psalmist, we should all be praying that the Lord will help us to measure our days aright. Our parish family of Immaculate Heart of Mary and the faith we profess are meant to help us make the most of our days by living a more vibrant life in Jesus Christ. While the time we spend together may not always be fun, I pray that it is meaningful and fulfilling. In a world that constantly promotes fun and overindulgence, it is hard to remember that meaningful and fulfilling moments and experiences are worth more than any fun days. The staff and I are here to help you make the most of your days in Christ Jesus.

Peace,

Father Tom



*Immaculate Heart of Mary
Catholic Church*

Mailing Address

PO Box 100
New Melle, MO 63365

Delivery Address

8 West Highway D
New Melle, MO 63365

Website: www.ihm-newmelle.org

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Deacon Tony Falbo	Permanent Deacon
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Mr. Dave Gentry	Head of Maintenance
patgentry@ymail.com	
Mr. Bud Guinn	Parish Housekeeping
bud_guinn@yahoo.com	



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Welcome

On behalf of the pastor and staff of Immaculate Heart of Mary, we are glad to offer this little booklet containing both practical and spiritual information concerning the life, faith and practices of the universal and local Church here at IHM. This booklet also includes personal contacts and numbers regarding ministries and works for you to generously consider. We offer all these prayers, works, joys and sufferings to the Lord through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, whose intercession as our patroness we prayerfully seek.

Regarding an overview “vision” of our role as Church, few texts summarize it as eloquently and succinctly as the opening articles of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

THE LIFE OF MAN - TO KNOW AND LOVE GOD

- CCC 1** God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man. He calls man to seek him, to know him, to love him with all his strength. He calls together all men, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of his family, the Church. To accomplish this, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son as Redeemer and Savior. In his Son and through him, he invites men to become, in the Holy Spirit, his adopted children and thus heirs of his blessed life.
- CCC 2** So that this call should resound throughout the world, Christ sent forth the apostles he had chosen, commissioning them to proclaim the gospel: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” Strengthened by this mission, the apostles “went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it.”
- CCC 3** Those who with God’s help have welcomed Christ’s call and freely responded to it are urged on by love of Christ to proclaim the Good News everywhere in the world. This treasure, received from the apostles, has been faithfully guarded by their successors. All Christ’s faithful are called to hand it on from generation to generation, by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer.

With this unifying vision laid out by the Catechism, we present various opportunities for works of mercy and parish involvement here at IHM, past, present and future. These offer some of the principal ways that, as a parish, we have sought to respond to this call of the Lord and His Church.

Registration with the Parish

New families are asked to contact the Parish Office to register and get information about the parish. Official registration with the office insures that you will receive mailed communications and envelope packets, if requested.

Registered parishioners are asked to keep the Parish Office informed of any contact information changes (i.e., moving, disconnecting old phone numbers, new cell numbers) as well as changes in family situations (i.e., marriages, a new birth in your family, older children who have left home, a death, or a divorce.) We also ask that if you are transferring to another parish that you please inform us of that life change as well.

Sacramental/Spiritual Life of the Parish



Sunday Mass: The Day of the Lord

CCC 2177

“The Sunday celebration of the Lord’s Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church’s life. “Sunday is the day on which the paschal mystery is celebrated in light of the apostolic tradition and is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church.”

Mass Times for the Lord's Day at IHC

Saturday Vigil Mass	4:00 pm
Sunday Masses	7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am

CCC 2181

The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.

Daily Mass Times

Monday-Friday Mass	8:00 am in the St. Joseph Chapel
Saturday Mass	8:00 am in the Church

Devotions following Morning Mass

Tuesday: Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions

Thursday: Respect Life Devotions

First Friday of every month: Litany of the Sacred Heart

First Saturday of every month: Immaculate Heart of Mary Devotions

Every day, Monday through Friday: Rosary

The Seven Sacraments

The Sacraments are encounters of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, through which Divine life is given. The seven Sacraments span all stages of natural life and all important moments of the Christian life. Sacraments are classified as Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist), Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick), and Sacraments of Service (Matrimony and Holy Orders). The Eucharist occupies a unique place as the Sacrament of Sacraments, and all the other Sacraments are ordered to it as to their end. **[CCC 1131, 1210, 1211]**

Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is the foundation of Christian life, the entrance to the life in the Spirit and access to the other Sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from original sin, become heirs to the Kingdom of God, are incorporated into the Church and become sharers in the Mission of the Church. **[CCC 1213]**

Baptisms of infants and young children are celebrated for families who are members of the parish, usually on Sundays after the 11:15 am Mass. Parents must attend a preparation session before the baptism can be celebrated.

Appointments for the preparation session and baptism should be made with the Parish Office at 636-398-5270.

Baptisms of school age children and adults need to be arranged through our religious education program and/or a faith formation process called RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults).

Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace, and through the gifts of the Holy Spirit helps us grow to Christian maturity. The Sacrament strengthens our bond with the Church, associates us more closely with her Mission and helps us bear witness to the Christian faith in words and deeds. **[CCC 1316]**

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Confirmation is offered annually to eighth grade students. Candidates for this Sacrament are prepared through our weekly PSR classes and special events (i.e., retreats). (See PSR section in this booklet for more details.)

Adults wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation are prepared according to a process designed specifically for their needs. This can take place via RCIA or personal instruction culminating in reception of the Sacrament at the Easter Vigil. Also, every year, on the Feast of Pentecost, the Archbishop confers the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral-Basilica for those adults who have requested and are sufficiently prepared to receive this Gift of the Spirit.

Sacrament of the Eucharist

The Sacrament of the Eucharist has its origin at the Last Supper when, on the night Jesus was betrayed, He instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice of His Body and Blood. This He did in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages until He comes again. In this Sacrament, Jesus entrusts to his Church a memorial of His death and Resurrection, the Sacrament of Love, a Sign of Unity and a Bond of Charity, in which Christ is consumed, and our minds are filled with grace and a pledge of future glory. The Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith through the actions of the Holy Spirit and the Real Presence of Jesus; His Body and Blood become present under the form of bread and wine. It is through the Eucharist that each of us are nourished by Jesus to seek God's Will. **[CCC 1323, 1327]**

Children are generally prepared to receive their first Holy Communion when they reach the second grade. They are prepared via weekly PSR classes and special events (i.e., retreats). Older children may be prepared separately from the second graders.

Adults who wish to be initiated into the sacrament of Holy Communion should contact the Parish Office about the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults).

The Blessed Sacrament may be brought to anyone unable to attend Mass, due to health problems. **Please contact the Parish Office at 636-398-5270.**

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance was instituted by Jesus, the physician of our souls and bodies, who forgave the sins of the paralytic and willed that his Church continue, in the power of the Holy Spirit, His work of healing and salvation. Jesus has willed that the life and actions of his Church be a sign and instrument of forgiveness and reconciliation. **[CCC 1442]**

Children are generally prepared to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time when they reach the second grade. They are prepared through the weekly PSR classes. Older children may be prepared separately from the second graders.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered at IHM on **Saturday mornings after the 8:00 am Mass for as long as is needed and also on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm**. Extra Reconciliation times are offered during Lent and Advent. Please see the weekly bulletin for extended times that Father Tom will make himself available for the Sacrament. Individuals may also call the Parish Office at any time to arrange for a personal appointment to celebrate the sacrament.

Below is a schedule of times when the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered in neighboring parishes.

Assumption Church, O'Fallon: Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm

Immaculate Conception, Dardenne Prairie: Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm

St. Francis Borgia, Washington: Tues. after 7:00 am Mass; Sat. after 8:00 am Mass, and 3:30 - 4:15 pm

St. Gianna, Lake St. Louis: Fri. 7:30 - 7:55 am; Sat. 4:30 - 4:55 pm; Sun. 7:30 - 7:55 am and 10:30 - 10:55 am

St. Joseph, Josephville: Tues. 6:30 - 6:50 pm; Fri. 7:30 - 7:50 am; Sat. 4:30 - 5:05 pm; Sun. 7:00 - 7:20 am

St. Patrick, Wentzville: Thurs. 5:00 - 6:00 pm; Sat. 4:00 pm-4:45 pm

St. Theodore, Flint Hill: Sat. 4:00 - 4:45 pm; Sun. 7:00 - 7:15 am & 9:30 - 9:45 am

The Archdiocese of St. Louis website, www.archstl.org, includes a search engine to find times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation around the archdiocese. You can also visit a parish's website to see current times for reconciliation.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Anointing the Sick has as its end the conferral of a special grace on people experiencing a grave illness or old age. The Church exhorts the Christian who is ill to unite with the Passion and Death of Christ. **[CCC: 1511, 1499, 151]**

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may be received by any Catholic who is facing a serious illness or is of advanced years. Individuals who are planning to enter the hospital are particularly encouraged to receive the Sacrament before their admission by calling the Parish Office to arrange for an appointment with the priest. The parish priest, deacons, pastoral staff members and volunteers will visit those who are in the hospital, nursing home, or confined to their own home. **Please notify the Parish Office at 636-398-5270 whenever someone enters the hospital or desires a pastoral visit.**

Sacrament of Matrimony

The Sacrament of Matrimony signifies the union of Christ and the Church. It gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love with which Christ has loved His Church. The grace of the Sacrament perfects the human love of the spouses, strengthens their indissoluble unity, and sanctifies them on the way to eternal life. **[CCC 1661]**

To celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony, couples must contact Fr. Tom or one of our deacons at least six months prior to the wedding date for proper assistance.

One of our helpful Wedding Coordinators will be assigned to you to assist in making your special day run as smoothly as possible. Our Wedding Coordinators are Kelly Meyer and Pat Gentry.

Sacrament of Holy Orders

Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time; thus it is the sacrament of apostolic ministry. (It includes Bishops, Priests and Deacons). **[CCC 1536]**

For additional information on the Sacrament of Holy Orders, or for consecrated religious life for either men or women, **please contact Fr. Tom or call the Vocation Office of the Archdiocese of St. Louis at 314-792-6461. Deacon Chris Ast** of the parish is Director of the Permanent Diaconate, responsible for the overall formation of the men who will be ordained deacons for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. He can be reached at **314-792-7432** or **chrisast@archstl.org**. You can also speak with our other deacon, Deacon Tony Falbo, regarding vocations. He can be reached at 636-625-2617 or **tony.2011@centurylink.net**.

Prayer and Devotion

“What is needed is a Christian life distinguished above all in the art of prayer. Inasmuch as contemporary culture, even amid so many indications to the contrary, has witnessed the flowering of a new call for spirituality, due also to the influence of other religions, it is more urgent than ever that our Christian communities should become ‘genuine schools of prayer’.” (JP11, Letter on the Rosary, 42.)

Eucharistic Adoration

Join members of the parish as they respond to the Lord’s question, “Could you not watch with me one hour?” (Mt 26:40) by spending an hour each week before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament in the St. Joseph Chapel. Currently, members are united in this prayer around the clock, Monday through Friday, what we jovially call “the largest prayer group in the area.” **Contact Shawn Mueller in the Parish Office at 636-398-5270**, if you feel the call to take an hour or be on a substitute list. Keep an eye out in the bulletin for requested hours.



Call me today for the attention you deserve.

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“The Church and the world have great need of Eucharistic adoration. Jesus waits for us in this sacrament of love. Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in adoration and contemplation full of faith. And let us be ready to make reparation for the great faults and crimes of the world. May our adoration never cease.”--Pope John Paul II Dominicae Cenae.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament & The Chaplet of Divine Mercy (Friday)

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is a prayer devotion made popular by the apparitions of our Lord to St. Faustina in the 1930s. **Our parish Eucharistic Exposition typically ends on Friday at 11:30 am with the sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy followed by Benediction.**

The Prayer of the Rosary

A part of the Rosary (5 mysteries) is prayed Monday-Friday after the 8:00 am Mass in the St. Joseph Chapel. Each Wednesday at noon the full Rosary (20 mysteries) is prayed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the St. Joseph Chapel and is led by the Legion of Mary. All are invited to join others in prayer at these times.

“The Rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer... With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer.” (JP II, Letter on the Rosary.)

Stations of the Cross

Praying the Stations of the Cross—alone or with a group—while traditionally a Lenten practice, is also recommended as a fitting devotion in the spiritual life. Devotional books are available to pray the Stations as you walk to their depictions throughout the Church. As a private devotion, the Stations can be personally prayed at any time.

Prayer Chain

Our parish has a very active Prayer Chain. Requests for prayers are passed on via phone calls or email to the many Prayer Warriors in our parish who then pray for each specific request. If you also wish for the prayer request to be public, you can ask that the name be included in the Prayer List in the bulletin so that others can pray for you as well. **Requests for prayers can be made by contacting Mary Jean Hartenbach at mjhartenbach@gmail.com or 636-398-4677.** Mary Jean sends all requests down the chain to all participating Prayer Warriors. If you would like to participate in this Spiritual Work of Mercy, contact Mary Jean, and she will see that you are included on the Prayer Warrior list.

Prayer Intercession/Jonah Team

The Jonah Team ministry is a way of re-introducing the gift of healing to the Church on a parish level. Suffering people (emotionally, physically, spiritually) experience Christ's presence, mercy and love through a ministry spiritually equipped in the Catholic sense of openness to the Person and gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Jonah Team is available the 1st Sunday of the month, after the 4:00 pm Mass and the 9:30 am Mass, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Church. No problem is too big or small to take to Jesus. Come for prayer or contact **Debbie Gillespie at 636-398-4971** if God may be calling you to be a part of this ministry.

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is the largest lay apostolic organization with over three million members worldwide. We pray and perform Works of Mercy under the banner of Mary. With Father Tom as our spiritual director, some of the Works of Mercy we do are visiting shut-ins, senior homes and hospitals to pray and bring Holy Communion. We encourage and teach the prayer of the Rosary. We also evangelize in many different ways to encourage those that have been away from the Church and those that don't go to church. We meet in Weber Hall every Tuesday morning at 9:00 am. We also have a group that meets at St. Gianna every Tuesday evening at 6:45 pm. **Contact Maria Romine-Kantor for more information at 314-614-0857.**

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is an outreach ministry of hope and healing and is composed of group of parishioners who offer their time, talent and treasure to knit or crochet shawls. These shawls are then blessed and available to parishioners who are struggling physically, emotionally or spiritually. **Contact Julia Kettler at 636-616-0096.**

Conferences/Recollections/Retreats

Men and women of the parish are encouraged to participate in spiritual renewal opportunities throughout the year as provided by various conferences, days of recollection and retreat centers, such as the White House Retreats or the ACTS retreats. The bulletin publicizes evenings of recollection, day and weekend retreats and upcoming conferences as they become available. Watch the bulletin, or call the Parish Office for upcoming information or a handbook of opportunities.

Stewardship

This Parish was established in 1945 through the commitment of time, talent, and treasure of our founding families. The Parish continues with that same vision even now as we number approximately 700 registered families. Stewardship is more important than ever before. Financial support of the parish is made through donations using envelopes or by electronic payments.

Principle of Stewardship: Parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church are asked through Prayer, Participation, and Generosity to share their time, talent, and treasure because of their baptism into the Catholic faith, and their most basic call to Christianity.

1. Everything we have is given to us by God. Regarding financial stewardship, we ask parishioners to prayerfully consider giving financially to the parish as they have been given in their lives. A practical goal has been suggested as 5-7% to one's parish and 3-5% to other charitable causes. Regardless, there should be no minimum or maximum set amount when it comes to generosity. Conversion of heart can be both irritated and tested when it comes to money matters. Paul's advice still presents to us the challenge, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work."

Our Parish Budget relies on your support. The budget is formed by the Finance Committee by carrying out the Mission Statement of our Parish and our Archdiocese.

2. The Lord has graced us with time and talents to share with others. There are many ministries in which we may share, ministries outside the Parish as well as those within the Parish. We have many ministries in which our talents are very much wanted and needed. Please consider being involved in at least one of them, as sharing in ministry helps form relationships and bonds us deeper to the Body of Christ, present within each and every one of us.



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Safe Environment Program

PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN – SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish is committed to the Archdiocese of St. Louis Safe Environment Program, Protecting God’s Children. This program helps keep our parish family protected as we participate in the various school, sports and parish life activities within our community. The purpose of the Safe Environment Program is to create and maintain a safe environment for all God’s children. All employees, volunteers, religious, priests, and deacons who work with or near children and vulnerable adults must be compliant with the Safe Environment Program of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis set forth by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. **If you are interested in volunteering at IHM, please visit this site, www.archstl.org/sep, to access all necessary forms and to register for a Protecting God’s Children workshop before you begin your volunteering. Any questions please contact Karen Wappelhorst, Safe Environment Coordinator, at childsafety@ihm-newmelle.org**

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING

Missouri Department of Social Services Children’s Division
Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline
1-800-392-3738

For additional information related to reporting incidents of suspected abuse, please refer to guidelines on www.archstl.org/sep or call 314-792-7704.

Liturgical Ministries

Mass Ministries

If you would like to get more involved at Mass, consider one of the ministries below and either contact the person listed about training or call the office. It takes many committed ministers to help our Mass run smoothly.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Men and women aid in the ministry of distributing Holy Communion at weekday and weekend Masses and to the homebound or sick. Preparation for this ministry is required. **Contact Irene Caldwell at 636-398-4311.**

Gift Bearers

Families, or individuals, who, representing the members of the parish, bring forth the bread and wine at the time of the offertory (Presentation of the Gifts) at Mass. Please volunteer to have your family periodically serve in this role. **Contact Peggy Dupree at 636-398-5270.**

Lectors

Lectors are parishioners who proclaim the Word of God at weekday and weekend Masses. Training is provided for adults and youth interested in this ministry. **Contact Tim Michaelree at 636-734-4816 or Suzanne Michaelree at 636-443-3817.**

Servers

Boys and girls are encouraged to serve at weekend Masses once they have entered the fourth grade. They are encouraged to continue through high school. Training sessions are available. **Contact one of our deacons or the parish office for more information.**

Ushers

Ushers are men, women and teens who act as ambassadors of hospitality to assist at Mass in finding seats for the congregation, to collect the offertory, as well as assisting the congregation in any way possible. **Contact our Usher Captain, Ed Rabbitt, at 636-332-5344.**

Altar Society

Several ladies of the parish take care of laundering all of the linens used at the altar. If you are interested in assisting in this important behind-the-scenes ministry, **contact Pam DeBold at 636-482-4765.**

Music Ministry

Music Ministry is very important at Immaculate Heart of Mary. **If you are interested in joining any of the groups listed, please contact the Director of Music, Marilyn O'Neill, at 314-341-2622.**

Adult Choir

Anyone interested in singing in the Choir, grade 8 or older, is invited to join. Rehearsals are scheduled on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. The Choir sings at the 9:30 am Mass on Sundays and as required on other special days during the year.

Children's Choir

Children in grades 2 through 7 interested in being part of our Children's Choir should contact Marilyn about joining. Practices are on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm. The children sing and also play the chimes, a children's instrument similar to hand bells.

Cantors

Men, women and teens able to lead the Parish in song at Mass and prayer services are invited to be Cantors.

Hand Bell Choir

Men and women, high school age and older, are invited to join the Bell Choir. No experience is needed but basic music reading skills help a great deal. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 7:00pm in church.

Musicians

Anyone interested in joining the Music Ministry, who has the ability to provide accompaniment or harmony parts, should contact Marilyn O'Neill as well.

Contemporary Group

This is a musical ensemble in its beginnings here at IHM looking to grow. They focus on sharing contemporary worship music at our 11:15 Mass on the last Sunday of each month. If you have a musical talent, vocal or instrumental, that you are being called to share, **contact Debbie Gillespie at 636-398-4971.**

Education and Formation

Opportunities for Adults

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

How does one “become Catholic”? The process of initiation, formation and education is the RCIA, the normative way for inquirers to receive the Sacraments of Initiation into Christ, and to “join the Church”. While a general program is offered from Fall to Spring, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can meet and greet and keep this opportunity of grace moving along. **Contact Shawn Mueller, Director of Religious Education in the Parish Office at 636-398-5270.**

There is sometimes a need for adult sponsors to walk with candidates as they journey in their decision to enter the Catholic faith. **Contact Shawn if you might like to help in the role of sponsor.**

Note: Those who need to complete their Sacraments of Initiation, such as Confirmation, should also consider being a part of this program as well.

FORMED

IHM has purchased a subscription to a great wealth of resources about the Catholic Faith, and we’re passing this onto our parishioners and neighbors at no charge. Go to Formed.org, enter our parish code on the homepage: 04c2dc, create a personal account with your email and a password, and start enjoying hours of inspiring movies and video series, Catholic eBooks, and audio presentations from the Church’s most compelling speakers. You can do this anytime and anywhere. It’s the Catholic Faith on demand.

Online Education MCFD/Paul VI Classes

Want a great way to learn Catholic content on a variety of subjects and at your own pace? Visit www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com. Another well-known avenue for learning here in the Archdiocese is the Paul VI Institute of Catechetical and Pastoral Studies. It offers college-level courses to adults pursuing a greater understanding of the Catholic Church. Visit Paul VI website at <http://archstl.org/paul6>.

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Bible Study/Faith Formation Groups

Adult members of the parish participate in various studies or video series and programs on a variety of Biblical topics. If “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ” as St. Jerome once said, then we must prioritize Scripture reading whether individually, or better, in groups. Contact the Parish Office to inquire about present or upcoming studies, or to share ideas on implementing new studies and groups. Currently a morning group meets on **Wednesdays at 8:45 to 10:00 am** to read and discuss the upcoming Sunday Mass readings in Weber Hall. **Evening groups meet in Stoltz Grand Hall during PSR times.** You are welcome to join in at any time.

Parish Media Library/Lighthouse CD Rack

A varied collection of books, videos and CDs on all aspects of faith and family is located in our Parish Library in Stoltz Grand Hall. Working on an honor system, this resource is open to all members of the parish during normal “business hours”. Consider utilizing this very valuable resource as a tool for personal growth and evangelization. The Lighthouse CD rack with inspirational/ educational CDs is available in the Narthex in Church and in the back of the St. Joseph Chapel.

Education and Formation Opportunities for Children/Youth/Young Adults

As primary examples and “first teachers” of their children in the ways of faith, parents have the joyful duty and challenging responsibility to ensure that their children receive the full benefits of a Catholic education and formation in the faith, both inside and outside the home. As the “main meal” of this formation, parents can take advantage of a number of “vitamin supplements” to help provide their children with a “well-balanced diet” in the faith. Some parents send their children to local Catholic schools, others to local public schools, while some families home school. Respecting parental discernment in their schooling of choice, the parish has made available a supplemental means of education and formation in the faith through the Parish School of Religion (PSR) program.

IHM Parish School of Religion (PSR)

Classes meet each week on Wednesday evenings, Fall through Spring, for grades 1 through 8. Textbooks used are from the “Faith and Life” series produced by Ignatius Press. www.ignatiuspress.com . Along with textbooks, families have a supplemental means of learning via an online tool of the Faith and Life series found at www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com . This information and more, including registration, can be received by contacting the Parish Office. Information for registration can also be found on the parish website (under the PSR Tab at www.ihm-newmelle.org . **For more information, contact the Coordinator of PSR, Shawn Mueller at 636-398-5270.**

Our Parish sometimes has a need for PSR catechists (teachers) and catechists’ aides. If you would like to inquire about this, **contact the Parish Office.**

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Adult and confirmed teen parishioners serve as Ministers of the Word for children in grades K-4th during the 9:30 am Sunday Mass from September through May. Children exit Mass at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Word and go to Weber Hall for the Liturgy and return after the General Intercessions. No sign-ups are necessary. **If you would like to be a Minister, contact Shawn Mueller at 636-398-5270.**

Young Adult Ministry (Crossroads and Theology on Tap)

This is a group for folks in their 20s-30s that get together to talk and listen about the Faith but also to have a good time and make new friends. A local group of folks meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at local churches and area establishments, and an Archdiocesan-wide group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month for Theology on Tap at the Kirkwood Brewery.

Julie Lassiter, a member of the core team of Crossroads, and the Young Adult Coordinator here at the parish, can be reached for more information at 636-357-0121. Watch the bulletin for details where the local group is meeting or find them at www.CrossroadsStCharles.com.

Youth Summer Opportunities

Keep an eye out for details about the events for youth offered in the summer by way of camps and various outings. Of special note are the camps offered at Kenrick Glennon for boys called Kenrick Glennon Days. For girls is the “Camp Mater Dei.” Here at the parish for younger folks, we offer a week-long Catholic Kids Camp run with assistance of our older youth. Watch the bulletin for information or call the Parish Office.

Local Catholic Elementary Schools

Immaculate Conception School - 636-561-4450www.icdschool.org
Saint Patrick School - 636-332-9913.....www.stpatsch.org/school
St. Theodore School - 636-332-9269.....www.sainttheodore.org
St. Joseph, Josephville - 636-332-6676.....www.stjojo.net
Saint Vincent de Paul School - 636-433-2466.....www.svdutzow.org

Local Catholic High Schools

St. Dominic High School - 636-240-8303..... www.stdominichs.org
St. Francis Borgia Regional High School - 636-239-7871
.....www.borgia.com

Homeschool Co-op

The St. Gianna Homeschool Co-op meets weekly on Mondays throughout the academic year at St. Gianna Catholic Church, 450 E. Hwy N, Wentzville, MO 63385. For more information see www.stgiannahomeschool.com.

Catholic Colleges/Universities

A comprehensive Guide (website below) recommends Catholic colleges and universities in the United States plus eight international, online and unique programs based on the strength of their Catholic identity. In addition, the Guide includes several essays to help families better understand the search for a strong Catholic college. www.thenewmanguide.com

Parish Organizations and Involvement

Immaculate Heart of Mary has a variety of organizations other than the ministries to be involved in our vibrant and welcoming parish family. Below is a list of specific parish organizations that you might consider.

Art & Environment Committee

This committee is responsible for the beautiful decorations around our parish. They decorate the church and the chapel according to the liturgical seasons with floral arrangements and other items to draw our attention to the season we are celebrating. If you have a knack for decorating, possess flower-arranging skills or are willing to help put up or take down decorations, **please contact Nancy Ast at 636-357-3456 or Julia Kettler at 314-616-0096 to offer your skills.**

Budget and Finance Committee

Budget and Finance handles the fiscal responsibilities of the Church with regard to stewardship, budgets, capital transactions and other financial decisions. Meetings are held once a month. **Contact John Wappelhorst at 636-398-5786.**

Cemetery Committee

This committee oversees the maintenance of and forms policies regarding the parish cemetery. **Contact Mark Keune, Chairman, at 314-220-7075.**

Dinner Committee

This committee is responsible for planning and organizing parish fundraising dinners. The IHM sausage dinners, held in the Spring and Fall, have quite a history dating back to 1947! In the last several years, the Dinner Committee has also been involved with the Lenten fish fries. Many thanks and prayers for those who generously give of themselves to help support our parish dinners. For more information or to volunteer, please **contact Tom Holstein at 314-456-1639, Jeff Comotto at 636-798-2369 or the Parish Office.**

Golden Hearts

Golden Hearts is a new community gathering of those 55 and older for social activities within our parish. The plan is to provide monthly opportunities to gather and enjoy each other's company and strengthen the bonds of community life. **Contact Fr. Tom at 636-398-5270.**



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Knights of Columbus

Men, 18 years of age and older, participate in this Catholic family fraternal service organization devoted to principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm in Founders Hall. **Contact Mike Reel, Grand Knight, at 314-581-6797.**

Marian Council

The Marian Council promotes social interaction and spiritual growth by encouraging participation in the devotional and social activities in our parish family. The membership conducts charitable undertakings and fundraisers to assist many parish activities and local charities. We are responsible for cleaning the St. Joseph Chapel (Heavenly Dusters), and coordinating funeral luncheons for families and friends of deceased parish members. We hold an annual rummage sale, with half the proceeds going to the community and the other half to the Parish. Our quilters are busy stitching all year long, creating gorgeous quilts to raffle off and we coordinate the prayer chain. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. Special Marian Council events are held in June and December (our Christmas party). New activities are added each year. The Marian Council is open to all women of the parish. **Contact Michelle Brothers, President, at 314-614-1114.**

Outreach

This committee explores and implements various ways to promote the Gospel in our parish and throughout our community. Anyone interested in sharing their faith would be welcome to join the committee. **Contact Steve Farber at sfarber@farbermarketing.com.**

Pro-Life Committee

Pro-life volunteers organize and keep the parish informed of “Respect Life” educational and legislative activities, as well as provide assistance and support however they find necessary to lend a helping hand. There are special “Respect Life” prayers after each Thursday morning Mass in the St. Joseph Chapel. **Contact Bill Winters, Pro-Life Chairman at 636-828-4133.**

Quilters

The IHM Quilters meet in Weber Hall on Friday mornings after the 8:00 am Mass. They donate beautiful handmade quilts to the sausage dinners as well as other charities and fundraisers. Everyone is welcome! **Mary Ann Brakensiek at 636-828-5776, or Ruth Willis at 636-398-4597.**

Scouting: Our scouting program is headed by fellow parishioner, Jerry Hesper, Charter Organization Representative and Unit Commissioner. **If you have a general scouting question, Jerry may be contacted at 636-236-1955.**

Cub Scout Pack 856: Cub Scouts offers boys in grades 1-5 an opportunity to join the Scouting program, which teaches duty to God, country, and service to others. Cub Scouts are divided into dens according to grades. Tigers meet once a month at a family activity. Wolf, Bear, and Webelo meet twice a month with their respective dens. Pack meetings for all Cub Scouts are on the last Tuesday of the month. **Contact Wesley Brandhorst at 636-327-0531.**

Boy Scout Troop 856: Open to all boys, ages 10½ through 18 years old. This group offers the boys an opportunity to learn outdoor skills, such as camping and hiking. The boys also improve their citizenship and leadership skills as they further grow in their awareness of duty to God, country, and service to others. Meetings are held every Monday in Founders Hall. **Contact Chad Peters at 314-807-7177.**

Venture Crew 2856: Venture Crew is a Boy Scouts of America program open to young women & men ages 14 - 21. This youth-led group offers participants the opportunity to experience high adventure activities, take part in community service, and develop leadership skills. No prior scouting experience is required. Advancement opportunities are encouraged but not required. Meetings are held on Thursdays in the trailer behind Founders Hall. **Contact Steve Williams at 314-486-4023.**

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

As a reflection of the whole family of God, members, who are known as Vincentians, are drawn from every ethnic and cultural background, age group, and economic level. Vincentians are united in an international society of charity by their spirit of poverty, humility and sharing, which is nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings and adherence to a basic Rule.

Organized locally, Vincentians witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making no distinction in those served because, in them, Vincentians see the face of Christ.

The Essential Elements of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are: Spirituality – Friendship – Service

You may wonder what you are contributing to for St. Vincent de Paul or the “Walk for the Poor”. We have a food pantry that is open the first and third Saturdays from 9:00 am to 10:30 am and we also address need within our community. Sometimes people come to us for rent or utility bills when there is a crisis and with our help and the love of Christ we encourage the person or family to believe in themselves to help them get out of the situation. We have a mattress program, car repair program, and car purchase program available from our St. Louis Council and several other programs including The Giving Tree, a lot of food, love, and laughter.

If you would like to help us with this cause or have a need yourself, please call **Teresa Waddington, President, at 314-440-7475** or you can **call the parish office, ask for extension 225**, and another Vincentian will return your call.

Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Committee is one facet of the Ministry of Hospitality. You will find this group of parishioners greeting the congregation before the weekend Masses and periodically hosting gatherings such as Donut Sunday to ensure that new as well as current parishioners find a place of warm welcome here at Immaculate Heart of Mary. This committee of volunteers will also call or write to newly registered parishioners and extend personal greetings and an invitation to attend a wine and cheese party. They also offer information, answer questions, and generally assist the newcomers in becoming acquainted with people and activities at IHM. **Contact Teresa Berfanger if you would like to become involved at 636-398-5565.**

New Groups in Development...

The following groups are in development this year and are looking for some leadership. If you would like to join one, help support it, or get it going, please consider calling **Fr. Tom at the office (636-398-5270)** or wait for announcements in the bulletin or at Mass.

Health Committee

Adults with an interest in the healthcare field: medicine, nutrition, exercise, etc. are welcome to join. This group provides various opportunities for assisting fellow parishioners in improving their overall health and wellness. Blood pressure screenings, vaccinations and information nights would be some of the activities planned.

Belonging

Single, widowed or divorced individuals who would like to gather at our parish for social-type activities are welcome. The activities would be determined by the group based on interests of those who join. The purpose of this group is to connect people whom life may have left on a more solitary path for whatever reason.

Communications

Bulletin and Website: The parish bulletin is published each week. If you belong to a local group or organization and wish to publish a special event or meeting, **please submit your article to Marilyn O’Neill, Bulletin Editor, no later than noon on Monday.** Submissions may be made by email to bulletin@ihm-newmelle.org or by a written note. The bulletin is sent to the publisher on Tuesday morning each week. It is through the advertisers on the back of the bulletin and J.S. Paluch Company, Inc., that the bulletin is distributed to you each week, free of charge to the parish. **Current and past bulletins are also available on the parish website by visiting: www.ihm-newmelle.org**

Parish History

On June 24, 1945, in the presence of twenty-five people, ground was broken by Father William Pezold, the Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Cottleville. The cornerstone, of what is now called St. Joseph Chapel, was placed on August 26, 1945, by Monsignor (later Bishop) Leo Steck, with the Most Reverend John J. Glennon, Archbishop of St. Louis, presiding. It was Archbishop Glennon who designated the parish to be named “Immaculate Heart of Mary,” the first parish in the Archdiocese with that title.

Fr. Pezold’s care of the parish extended from 1945-1956. On April 5, 1956, the mission was raised to the status of a full parish, and a rectory was built for a resident priest. Father Arthur Bromschwig was appointed as administrator, while also serving at Duchesne High School in St. Charles. Father Bromschwig later supervised the construction of the new St. Dominic High School in O’Fallon, while still serving as Administrator of this parish.

Pastors that succeeded Father Bromschwig (pastor here at IHM from 1956-1966) have been Fr. James Komaska (1966-1979), Father Charles Burgoon (1979-1982), Father Wenceslaus Klaric (1983-1992), Father Joseph A. Weber (1992-2001) and Fr. Richard Stoltz (2001-2011). On December 16, 2001, having outgrown the “little Church” (Mass now being offered each Sunday in the infamously named “Chall”), ground was broken for a new church to be built. Building upon the planning and vision of Father Joe Weber, the new Church was completed through the leadership and fine touch of Father Stoltz. Archbishop Justin Rigali dedicated the building on May 4, 2003.

On February 22, 2009, the Dedication of The Grand Hall (Church's lower level) took place. This was a special celebration, not only because the final phase of the Church building was completed, but because so many of the parishioners had contributed their time and talent, in addition to their treasure. Our Grand Hall has since been renamed Stoltz Grand Hall in recognition of the work of Fr. Stoltz throughout the whole construction process. In 2009 Fr. Stoltz renamed the old original hall "Founders Hall", in honor of the founding parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. A meeting room within the new Church was dedicated as "Weber Hall" in honor of Father Joe Weber.

In January of 2012, Fr. Tom Miller was appointed as the pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary. Under his pastoral guidance the parish embarked on a capital campaign to finally pay off the parish loan. It was a great success, not only in the pledges received, but also in the early payoff of our loan, making us debt-free after 20 years!

Echoing Daniel Webster's quote, "History is God's providence in human affairs," we are grateful to God's providential care in our history here at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish, and we entrust ourselves to that same care for our present and future.

To God Be the Glory!