



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 100 * New Melle, MO 63365

Website: www.ihm-newmelle.org

Office Phone: 636-398-5270

Deliveries only address: 8 West Highway D, New Melle, MO 63365

Schedule of Holy Mass

Saturday: 8:00am, 4:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday: 7:30am, 10:00am
Weekdays: 8:00am, in church, Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Weekly Devotions and Prayers

Eucharistic Adoration:

Monday 8:30am until Friday 11:00am, St. Joseph Chapel

Rosary: Prior to Saturday evening 4pm Mass

Weekday devotions after morning Mass:

Tuesday: Mother of Perpetual Help
Wednesday: Litany to St. Joseph
Thursday: Celebrating the Sanctity of Life
First Friday: Litany of the Sacred Heart

First Saturday of the Month Devotions

8am Mass, Rosary, 15 minutes of meditation

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Wednesday in church, 7pm
Saturday following 8am Mass

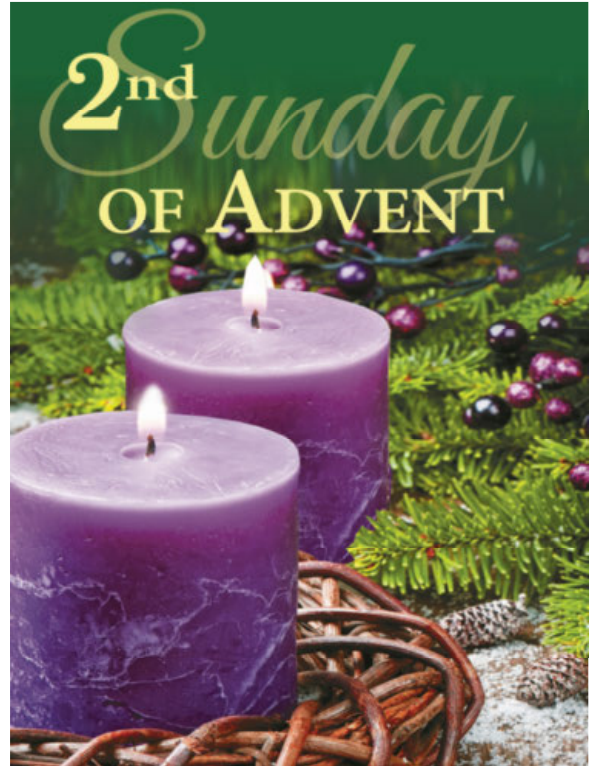
Marriage: Contact the parish office
at least six months prior to the wedding

Baptism: Contact the parish office
to register for class and to arrange date

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:

Contact Shawn Mueller in the parish office

December 5, 2021



Deeper Understanding of Scripture

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only

light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

©LPi

Welcome! Immaculate Heart of Mary: *Informed—Hospitable—Missionary*

Parish Staff

Parish Office: 636-398-5270

Fr. Tom Miller, Pastor *askpadre@aol.com*
(for emergencies only: 314-303-2428)

Deacon Chris Ast *chrisast@archstl.org*
Deacon Tony Falbo *tony.2011@centurylink.net*
Laura Orf, Business Manager *lorf@ihm-newmelle.org*
Peggy Dupree, Office Manager *secretary@ihm-newmelle.org*
Bryan Beams, Director of Music and Liturgy
bryanbeams@ihm-newmelle.org
Michael McDonald, Plant Manager *macmcd1123@gmail.com*
Karen Wappelhorst, Child Safety Coordinator
childsafety@ihm-newmelle.org

Religious Education

Shawn Mueller, Director

636-398-5270, *smueller@ihm-newmelle.org*

Parish School of Religion
Grades 1 thru 8, September thru May, 8:45-9:45am, Sundays
Confirmation Preparation
8th Grade—September thru May, 8:45-9:45am, Sundays
Children's Liturgy of the Word
September thru May, during the 10am Sunday Mass
Adult Education
Sundays 8:45—9:45am Grand Hall, Wednesdays 7:10pm Weber Hall
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—contact Shawn for schedule

Quick Contacts Directory

Liturgical Videographer

Stan Kostecki 314-397-5965

Weddings, Receptions, Events

Pat Gentry, Hall Rental 636-398-5270
Kelly Meyer, Wedding Coordinator 636-828-4994
Jean Hitt, Wedding Coordinator 636-987-2131
Joan Marren-Slaughter, Event Coordinator 636-398-5270
Mary Keune, Event Coordinator 636-398-5270

Prayer and Devotion

Eucharistic Adoration
Shawn Mueller 636-398-5270
Legion of Mary
Maria Romine-Kantor 314-614-0857
Prayer Chain
Brenda Hutchcraft 636-248-8493
Prayer Intercession/Jonah Team
Debbie Gillespie 636-398-4971
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Julia Kettler 314-616-0096

Liturgical Ministries

Extraordinary Ministers
Kathy Lalonde 636-439-9131
Lectors
Joe Willis 618-806-6684
Gift Bearers
Peggy Dupree 636-398-5270
Ushers
Gary Struckhoff 636-828-6067
Altar Servers
Deacon Chris Ast *chrisast@archstl.org*
Altar Society
Pam DeBold 636-482-4765
Art & Environment
Ashley Czuchna 636-578-8774
Music Ministry
Bryan Beams 636-398-5270
Adult Choir
Mary Sweeten 314-324-3249
Children's Choir
Elizabeth Jaeckle 636-828-4811

Parish Organizations

Budget & Finance
Larry Graves 314-799-9804
Cemetery Committee
Mark Keune 314-220-7075
Dinner Committee
Jeff Comotto 314-570-6972
Funeral Lunches
Ruth Neske 636-398-5699
Vicki Grunz 636-497-5230
Helping Hearts
John Grady 314-662-2138
Mary Hardesty 636-398-5663
Tim Lebb 314-775-7717
Maria Romine-Kantor 314-614-0857
Knights of Columbus
Tim Lebb 314-775-7717
Marian Council
Barb Pope 773-383-8602
Meal Train
Kelly Meyer *meyer5853@qmcinc.org*, 636-828-4994
Meals on Wheels
Jean Bammann 636-798-2718
Pro Life
Bill Winters 636-828-4133
Quilters
Vanita Joerling 636-544-0416
Ruth Willis 636-398-4597
Scouting
Chuck Hinkle 636-544-6639
Cub Scouts: John Lyons 217-778-3760
Boy Scouts: Chad Peters 314-807-7177
St. Vincent de Paul
Joe Willis 618-806-6684
Welcoming Committee
Teresa Berfanger 636-398-5565
Youth and Young Adults
High School Youth Leader
Janet Hespen 314-369-6521
Young Adults
Julie Lassiter 636-357-0121

Sweet Mercy



Dear Parishioners,

Advent is all about welcoming the Lord as He comes in glory and shifting to remembering fondly and celebrating joyfully His Incarnation. These two movements make up the spiritual realities of our anticipatory faith. We live in the present moment where grace is most potent and possible for our growth as disciples of Christ. Our attentiveness to the present moment is about using our time well and not squandering the precious time we are given. And yet while we live in this present moment, our faith is all about anticipating what is to come, in particular WHO is to come.

We long for Jesus to come to us, be it at the end of time or the end of our personal pilgrimage here on earth. Jesus is coming to us. We want to meet the Lord as His free and faithful servants. We long to be brought into His presence to make a return on the gifts that He has entrusted to us. No one is more committed to your personal growth and maturity in holiness than Jesus. Holiness is not the treasured possession of the few, but meant to be the transformational reality for all of humanity. The Holy Trinity, Our God and the Love of our life, is personally committed to our future communion with them. The only path to that blessed communion is conversion and spiritual maturity, also known as holiness.

While we live in the present and joyfully anticipate the future, many of us are haunted by the past. The past is meant to remind of us two things, and two things only. We remember the past with gratitude for the blessing of God and the goodness of people in our past. The other lesson of the past is to grow beyond our sins and avoid those paths in the future. Unfortunately, many of us are

trapped by the past and often haunted by sins and memories of the past. How do we address this reality?

If our sins are still haunting us because they have not been brought to God's mercy, get to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and celebrate God's immeasurable mercy. Don't take it to your grave, give it to the One who has conquered the grave! Find a good Confessor and seek him out for a more complete and cleansing review of life. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we are minister's of mercy, not your "betters" entitled to pass judgment. We priests witness to the Lord who went to Hell for all of us so that we might be spared that terrible end to our life. We profess the work of the Healer who can soothe any wound or expunge every disease. No one is more patient, more understanding, and more hopeful about our future growth as holy disciples than our Lord. The Father wants us to become His beloved sons and daughters, and the Holy Spirit longs to dwell within us to accomplish the works of mercy.

If by chance you are haunted by sins you have confessed but still regret, ask for the Lord's continued healing. Sin always wounds us; the longer and greater the sin, the deeper the wound. Only mercy and gratitude can fill that wound with life and hope. Ask the Lord to help you remember past offenses and failings in the light of His mercy. When we do that, regret can be replaced by genuine thanks. Shame can be replaced by eternal hope. Jesus sees the whole person that we are, and loves us more than we will ever know until we stand before Him.

Blessed Advent,

Fr. Tom

**Advent Reconciliation Times at IHM:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 7pm, Saturday at 8:45am**

Second Sunday of Advent —Year C

[John the Baptist began preaching,] "Turn away from your sins and be baptized, and God will forgive your sins." LUKE 3:3

Legend says that while painting The Last Supper, Leonardo da Vinci had a terrible fight with someone. Afterward, he went to his studio, picked up his brush, and prepared to paint the face of Jesus. To his dismay he couldn't make a single decent stroke. He put down his brush, went to the man he had fought with, and asked his forgiveness. Leonardo returned to his studio and resumed painting the face of Jesus. Have I ever had an experience similar to Leonardo's? What motivates me to repent my sins?

It is one thing to mourn sin because it exposes us to hell...and another thing to mourn it because it is wrong and offensive to God. It is one thing to be terrified, another, to be humbled. Gardiner Spring

Welcome! Immaculate Heart of Mary: *Informed—Hospitable—Missionary*

Ministry Schedule

December 4—4pm

EM: Kathy Lalonde, Wally & Jan Karase
Lec: Chuck Kettler, Richard Lalonde
Serv: Izzy Scheer
Music: Bryan & Mary Ann
Ush: Ed Etzkorn, Chris Cuddihee, Mike Rieker, Bill Pollihan

December 5—7:30am

EM: Deacon Chris, Mary Keune, Emily Cooksey
Lec: Karen Wappelhorst, Peggy Dupree
Serv: Mary Grace & Janie Becker
Music: Verdi & Brooke
Ush: Gary Potter, Mike Hardesty, Ron Neske, Joe Weber

December 5—10am

EM: Deacon Chris, Sharon Smith, **volunteer please**
Lec: Grant Smith, Chuck Hinkle
Serv: William Lassiter, Jack Lyons
Music: Adult Choir
Ush: Larry Smith, Bill Riley, Gary Struckhoff, Bob Hutchcraft

IHMformation Station

4:00: Wally & Jan Karase
7:30: Peggy Dupree
10:00: Chuck & Laurie Hinkle

Ministry Schedule

December 11—4pm

EM: Deacon Chris, Pat Roche, Ann Zaleuke
Lec: Yvonne Brossette, Joe Willis
Serv: Zoey Panus
Music: Bryan & Betsy
Ush: Tim Wilson, Bryan Potter, Andy Pope, Mike Rieker

December 12—7:30am

EM: Deacon Chris, Jan Kardasz, Dianne Dickherber
Lec: Bob Leeker, Karen Wappelhorst
Serv: David Vehige, Sydney Jaeckle
Music: Verdi & Elizabeth
Ush: Mark Thome, Rick Scharf, Terry Schneider, Chris Molitor

December 12—10am

EM: Deacon Chris, Laura Orf, Patrice Riley
Lec: Mary Busby-Simpson, Michelle Greiwe
Serv: Mary Grace & Janie Becker
Music: Adult Choir
Ush: Alan Raymond, Ron Simpson, Bill Winters, Chuck Hinkle

IHMformation Station

4:00: Joe & Debbie Willis
7:30: Mark & Terri Thome
10:00: Ralph & Janice Britton

Heavenly Duster Schedule

Week of December 5: Carol Ostermeyer
Week of December 12: Elizabeth Jaeckle
Week of December 19: Christmas Break
Week of December 26: Christmas Break

Purificators

Month of December: June Spiess

Please pray for all the sick and suffering:

Phyllis Zerr, Fran Bussen, Betty Boyd, Deacon Tony,
Amy Robbins, Don Schmidt, Carl Wolff, George Stark,
Loretta Bruns, Betty Heppermann, Joyce Brakensiek,
Pat Foster, Tom & Mary Jean Hartenbach, Terry Hagan,
Richard & Doris Berhorst, Larry Gassei, Pat Ryan,
Pete Schepis, Justin Wehmeier, Jeff Bollman,
Frank Kardasz, Tom Baker, Jim Hall, Mike Vesel,
Patricia Clayton, Bob Willis

Steve Wengerski and Kathy Schuckman (friends of Mandy Daub),
Keith Langford (son of Rita & brother of Valerie Langford),
Red Brockmeyer (cousin of Kay & Ray Cherry),
Karla Sitzes (daughter of Sophia Bax),
Pat Finan (daughter of Fran Bussen),
Kelly Taylor (friend of Kat Brittingham),
Michael Speir (son-in-law of Jackie & Steve Dunn),
Carol Fague (sister of Bob Woodford),
Peyton Newman (grandson of Mike & Mary Hardesty),
Loren Brandon (father of Marty & Peggy Dupree),
Charlie Grady (grandson of John & Carol Grady),
Marlene Hageimer (sister of Pat Roche),
Mary Ann Blaske (mother of Jeff Blaske),
Michael Molitor (brother of Richard Molitor),
Sal Polisi (brother of Nancy and Walter Hollenstein),
Janet Piel and Jordan Keene
(sister and friend of Joni Marren-Slaughter),
Rosemary Bell (sister of Janet & Jerry Hespen),
Rodney Marquart (son of Frank & Rosemary Marquart),
Jennifer Fitzsimmons (cousin of Karen Fitzsimmons),
Malachi (newborn nephew of Kim and Tim Lebb),
Sheila Birk (daughter-in-law of Ken & Mary Birk)



Gift Angels will be on the tree thru **December 15**, which is the date all gifts need to be returned to church (some will be marked for return before that date). Thanks to everyone who will participate in this yearly effort —your generosity helps give to others the joy of the Christmas season. God bless all of you!

P.S. The church is open during the week if you care to pick up a gift angel then.

Hospitalization: If you are hospitalized, please let us know. Please call the office or ask a friend to call for you if necessary.

Communion Calls: If you would like to receive Communion but are unable to get to Mass because of illness or disability, please contact the parish office: 636-398-5270.

Prayer Requests: Brenda Hutchcraft at 636-248-8493 or email brhutchcraft@centurytel.net

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 6	
8:00am	Brett Varady + Otis & Helen Watson +
Tuesday, December 7	
8:00am	Wes Forrester + intention of Abby Hofman +
Wednesday, December 8	
8:00am	All Souls
6:30pm	Betty Shea +
Thursday, December 9	
9:00am	Ed Rabbitt + Irene Weiss +
Friday, December 10	
8:00am	Ben & Iris Bader +
Saturday, December 11	
8:00am	Maira Ryan +
4:00pm	Dave London +
Sunday, December 12	
7:30am	Evelyn Brandon +
10:00am	People of IHM GenRose Dudenhoeffer +

Activities this Week

Sunday, December 5	
	PSR, Founders/Weber Hall/Trailer, 8:45—9:45am Faith Formation, Grand Hall, 8:45—9:45am Jonah Team will pray with you after 10am Mass “In His Hands” Benefit Concert, Grand Hall, 3—5pm
Monday, December 6	
	Scouts, Founders Hall/Trailer, 6:30pm St. Vincent de Paul, Brand Hall, 6pm Reconciliation, 7—8:30pm
Tuesday, December 7	
	Legion of Mary, Weber Hall, following 8am Mass Rejoice! Advent study, Fndrs. Hall, after 8am Mass Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am Marian Council Christmas Party, Grand Hall, 6pm KofC officers, Founders Hall, 6:30pm Choir practice, church, Kids @ 6pm, Adults @ 7pm Reconciliation, 7—8:30pm
Wednesday, December 8—the Immaculate Conception	
	Masses at 8am and 6:30pm (office closed) No Sunday readings study today
Thursday, December 9	
	Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am RCIA, Weber Hall, 6:30pm
Friday, December 10	
	Quilting, Weber Hall, 8:30—noon
Saturday, December 11	
	Reconciliation after 8am Mass Stroke Scan, Founders Hall, 8:30am—3:30pm Jonah Team will pray with you after 4pm Mass

Contributions November 20/21

General Offertory:	\$7,718.50
Online Gifts:	\$7,085.10
Total	\$14,803.60

Contributions November 27/28

Will be reported next week.

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...”
(Luke 21:28)

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that “gift” truly an expression of your love for the other person—or, are you just fulfilling your “obligation” to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them, learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less “stuff” and spend more time with those you love.

We pray: that we may resist the lure of holiday advertising and instead concentrate on the message of simplicity and trust that is found in the Christmas manger scene.

Needed at the Pantry

sugar, oil, coffee, reg and sugar free jello
and pudding, laundry detergent, Kleenex,
paper towels and toilet paper *expired or
previously opened items*



In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to “Prepare the way of the Lord,” and this is what Advent is all about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the St. Vincent de Paul hotline so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.



Rest in Peace



We offer our prayerful sympathy to:

- the family of
Dave London
- Ruth Willis on the death of her husband
Bob Willis
- Margie Kettler on the death of her father
Norbert Haarmann
- Jeff and Ann Hake on the death of his father
Kenneth Hake

May they and all the faithful departed
rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

Marian Council Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 7 in the Grand Hall—doors open at 6pm

All women are invited!

\$5 pay in advance, reservation deadline **THIS WEEKEND!**
Marian Council members are available after all weekend Masses

*In the spirit of the season, please donate a personal or paper product for
St. Vincent de Paul*



PSR Corner

The lights of the candles on the Advent Wreath break through the darkness, reminding us of the Light of Christ that we anticipate during this holy season. The Advent Wreath is very symbolic. The evergreens used for the wreath itself are a reminder of continuous life. The shaping of them into a circle reinforces that meaning. The circle is also a sign of everlasting life as well as the eternity of God. The four candles used, three purple and one pink, mark the Sundays of Advent before Christmas. The purple candles are reminders that this should be a time of prayer and sacrifice to prepare us for the second coming of Christ. On the third Sunday, the pink candle is lit to announce Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday of rejoicing for Christ is coming near. With the lighting of that candle, the light has won out over the darkness (three candles lit vs. the one that remains unlit).



Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Presents Choral Christmas Concert

*Featuring Immaculate Heart of Mary's
Adult Choir and accompanying orchestra
under the direction of Mary Sweetin*

Friday, December 17th 7:00 PM
8 West Highway D, New Melle, MO 63365



Warm Clothing Collection

IHM will collect winter coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, scarves or any warm clothing until **December 10**. Please put your new or gently used clothing donations in the container by Weber Hall. Thanks in advance for your care and consideration.



To my IHM family:

*I personally want to thank everyone for
your cards, meals, phone calls and especially
prayers – lots of prayers!*

*Thanks to each and every one of you! God
bless.*

Gina McDonald

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Faith Formation
Opportunities at IHM



ADVENT EVENTS AT IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH

Mass in Church

Monday—Saturday, 8:00am
Wednesday evenings, 6:30pm (except December 8)
Saturday, 4:00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday, 7:30, 10am

Reconciliation

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 7—8:30pm
Saturday after morning Mass, 8:45am

Faith Formation

Rejoice Advent Meditations, Grand Hall,
Tuesdays after daily Mass
Sunday readings study with Shawn Mueller
Wednesdays after daily Mass, Weber Hall
Catholicism—The Pivotal Players,
Sundays 8:45—9:45am, Grand Hall

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8
Holy Day Masses at 8am and 7pm

Choral Christmas Concert: Friday, December 17, 7pm, Church

Rorate Caeli Candlelight Mass

Monday, December 13, 6:45am, Church

Anointing of the Sick:

After Masses on December 18/19



Candlelight Rorate Caeli Mass

6:45am Monday, December 13, Church

The **Rorate Caeli Mass** is a traditional Advent devotion in which a Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Advent is offered just before dawn, with no lighting other than candles on the altar, windowsills, and handheld. Those who attend can expect to be rewarded with a uniquely beautiful Mass.

The Mass takes its title, *Rorate Caeli* ("Drop down dew, ye heavens") from the initial Latin words of Isaiah 45:8. In the dimly lit setting priest and faithful prepare to honor the Light of the world, Who is soon to be born, and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illuminated by the sun as our Faith is illumined by Christ.

We will have weekday Mass at 8am as usual.



Rejoice! Advent Meditations with Mary

Each hour-long session will include a short video followed by discussion and prayer. Participants will receive a journal to use daily, recording their thoughts on Mary's Advent, and making it the center of Advent here and now. Sessions will be Tuesdays during Advent in Founders Hall following daily Mass.

All adults are welcome. Bring your friends from other parishes as well. The \$5 charge includes the journal and all videos. This series is presented by Ascension Press and features Fr. Mark Toups, who was the author of the *Oremus* series we had in the past. Come join us!

RSVP to Kelly Meyer at 636-634-1577. The dates are November 30, December 7, 14 and 21.

**Are you preparing for a day,
or are you preparing for a Person?**

Authentic Catholic Radio:

AM 1460 EWTN Global Catholic Network:

www.ewtn.com/radio and on Dish Network Channel 261



Please call 832-437-7355 for your appointment.

Vascular & Organ Wellness Ultrasound Screenings

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church on **Saturday, December 11**

Appointments are limited due to our COVID safety procedures.

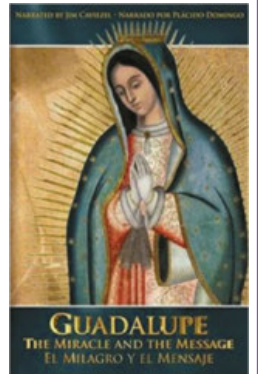
Total Discounted Package \$149 for 7 different screenings
Savings of \$194. Additional Testing Available. Appointments & info: 832-437-7355

St Paul Library Lighthouse CD Resources

(Note: With close to 3000 items, the Parish Library is located in the Grand Hall past the restrooms. It is open during the week-normal business hours-and works on an honor system. Items from the Lighthouse CD rack are located and available in the Narthex.

From the Parish Library—Grand Hall: Guadalupe The Miracle and the Message

Narrated by Jim Caviezel. The story told in this film is the story that happened to Juan Diego on December 9, 1531 at the hill of Tepeyac, Mexico, at the outskirts of what is now Mexico City. It's one of miracles, healings, and the foundation of the fastest growing religious movements, an estimated 9-10 million conversions in 7 years.



REMEMBER the Fallen - HONOR those who Serve TEACH our children the value of freedom

The New Melle VFW and VFW Auxiliary is a proud sponsor of Wreaths Across America at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery and other National Cemeteries across the country. We are also involved in placing wreaths at local cemeteries, **including veterans buried at Immaculate Heart of Mary cemetery.**

New Melle VFW and VFW Auxiliary has made it our mission to honor and remember as many heroes as possible with a remembrance wreath. You can help by sponsoring a wreath, getting your employer involved to sponsor wreaths or raising money in our community or circle of peers to help place a wreath on a loved one's resting place.

Our parishioners are invited to place a wreath on the grave of their loved one who is a veteran. Wreaths cost \$15, a portion of which goes towards care packages for active military members serving overseas. Please complete and return the information below **by December 6**. Orders will then be forwarded to VFW. ***Wreaths will be delivered to IHM on December 17.***

If you would like to sponsor and place a wreath for a loved one buried in another cemetery, please use the form below.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

I wish to place a wreath on the grave of the veteran(s) listed below

Veteran(s) buried in IHM cemetery: _____

Veteran(s) buried in another cemetery: _____

Your name and contact info: _____

Wreaths _____ @ \$15 each = \$ _____ enclosed *(please make checks payable to New Melle VFW)*



Janet Hespen,
Youth Minister,

- 12/16: For King and Country Christmas Drummer Boy Concert at the Enterprise Center. Meet at IHM to carpool, 5:15 sharp
- 12/25: Merry Christmas and God bless our teens
- 12/30: Youth Group Christmas Party at Janet and Jerry Hespen's home, 7 Hobie Cat Court. 5pm.

Boy Scout 856 will be selling **Christmas Trees** from the pavilion again this year. They will have balsam, canaan and Fraser firs from 7 to 12 feet, a very similar selection to past years. They will also have 20 and 26 inch balsam wreaths available. The tree lot is open for business, hours noted below. The Troop is also **collecting canned food** items for the SVDP Food Pantry. Donations can be left in the container in the pavilion.



TREE LOT HOURS

Saturday 9am-8pm Sunday 8am-5pm
Monday through Friday 5-8pm
(hours subject to change without notice)



St. Joseph Our Spiritual Father

This documentary produced by the Knights of Columbus can be viewed

December 8—any time

KofC.org/StJoseph

Marian Council is selling See's Candy as a fundraiser: \$22/lb for Milk or Dark Chocolate, Assorted Chocolate, Nuts and Chews, Toffee-ettes and 1½ pound box of peanut brittle. It's great for holiday hostess gifts, Christmas gifts, corporate gifts. Contact Jackie at 314-761-6127 to place your order, or after weekend Masses. Proceeds benefit local families' charities and the Parish.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Mon: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tue: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
Wed: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Thu: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Fri: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
Sat: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

What's Your Catholic IQ?

- During the dark and cold winters of Northern Europe. Germanic tribes placed _____ in their homes for light and heat.
 - a yule log
 - an evergreen wreath
 - a lava lamp
 - smoldering ashes from Ash Wednesday
- The Year of Our Lord, the Church's calendar year, begins on
 - payday
 - New Year's Day
 - Easter Sunday
 - the 1st Sunday of Advent
- Saint _____ was the first to create a Christmas crèche (Manger) to celebrate the birth of Christ.
 - Nicholas
 - Mary
 - Joseph
 - Francis of Assisi
- How did the magi find the baby Jesus?
 - followed the GPS on their camels
 - found Bethlehem on Google Maps
 - followed the Star
 - asked the locals for directions to the Church of the Nativity
- There are _____ candles in the Advent wreath; all except one are the color _____.
 - seven/white
 - four/purple or violet
 - twelve/pink
 - three/Christmas tree green
- The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph occurs during the season of
 - Christmas
 - Advent
 - Ordinary Time
 - Lent
- Matthew 2:11 tells of the magi bringing gifts of gold, _____, and myrrh to the Christ Child.
 - silver
 - diamonds
 - frankincense
 - frankfurters
- The angels and the heavenly hosts proclaimed: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth _____ to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:14)
 - peace
 - blessings
 - happiness
 - prosperity
- The angel _____ told Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus.
 - from the TV show "Touched by an Angel"
 - Gabriel
 - Michael
 - Raphael
- Which figurine in the family crèche might not appear until Christmas morning?
 - the angel
 - the donkey
 - the magi
 - the Christ Child

answers later in this bulletin



The next Baptismal preparation classes are scheduled for December 19 and January 16. Please call the parish office to reserve your spot! 636-398-5270

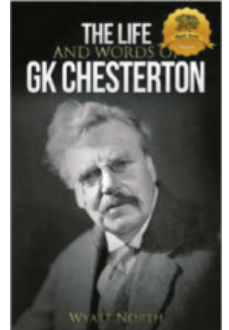


Birthright Christmas Cards

The Pro-Life Committee will be selling Birthright Christmas cards after all Masses this weekend. Please consider supporting Birthright when planning your Christmas card purchases.

The Season of Advent: A Season for Reflection on the "Last Things"

Fr. George Rutler writes, "It would be hard to think of any writer in the last several generations who celebrated Christmas as heartily as G. K. Chesterton. It was precisely because of this, and not in spite of it, that he said with a severity not characteristic of his benign personality: 'There is no more dangerous or disgusting habit than that of celebrating Christmas before it comes.'"

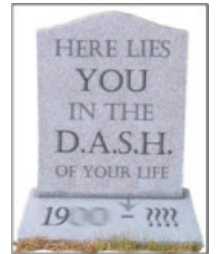


Dangerous, that is, because the rush neglects the deepest mysteries of life which are the stuff of Advent meditations: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell; and by that neglect we are abandoned to a life of anxiety, unable to know why we were made or what we are to become. Disgusting, that is, because rushing Christmas spoils the appetite for higher things and tries to replace holy joy with entertainments that quickly becomes boring.



The classic video based on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is a fitting movie to watch during the season of Advent. It highlights similar themes that the Church presents to the believer about the comings of Christ mentioned above. In the case of the movie, the focus is on the coming of Christmas 'past, present, and future.'

A Christmas Carol highlights reflection on the last things and the need for conversion of heart.



Read CCC 1020-1060 in its section about the "Last Things"

Answers to Catholic IQ (adapted from Catechist Magazine)

1. b European Catholics in the Middle Ages "Christianized" candled wreaths and incorporated them into their Advent preparation for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. (John 8:12).
2. d Unlike the civil calendar year, the Church begins her liturgical calendar at the beginning of Advent.
1. d On Christmas Eve in 1223, Francis recreated the birth of Christ in a cave with live animals and people. He hoped to inspire Christians to recognize Christ in their midst.
2. c Matthew 2:1-2 describes how the magi came to Jerusalem after seeing a star in the east that indicated the birth of the great King.
3. b Churches decorate for Advent with purple altar cloths, vestments, and candles. On Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, the candle is rose, signifying the joy of Christians awaiting the Messiah.
4. a The Feast of the Holy Family celebrates Jesus' family and every family. The Church calls the family a "domestic church," the first place of prayer, catechesis, and moral teaching. The family is where the gospel is brought to life. The Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated between Christmas and New Year's Day.
5. c Gold represents Christ's role as King. Frankincense represented His divine nature, since incense was used to worship God. Myrrh represented His sacrificial death for the sins of humanity, since it is a perfume for embalming the dead.
6. a This angelic song anchors the Gloria we pray every Sunday Mass except during Advent and Lent, the seasons of penance in the Church.
9. b Gabriel appears in Luke 1 to announce the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Tradition suggests that Gabriel also was the one who spoke to Joseph in his dreams (Matthew 1:20; 2:13, 19) and to the shepherds in the field (Luke 2:9-10).
10. d Some families do not place the figurine of the baby Jesus in their crèche until Christmas morning to build anticipation for the coming of Christ into their home.

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