



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

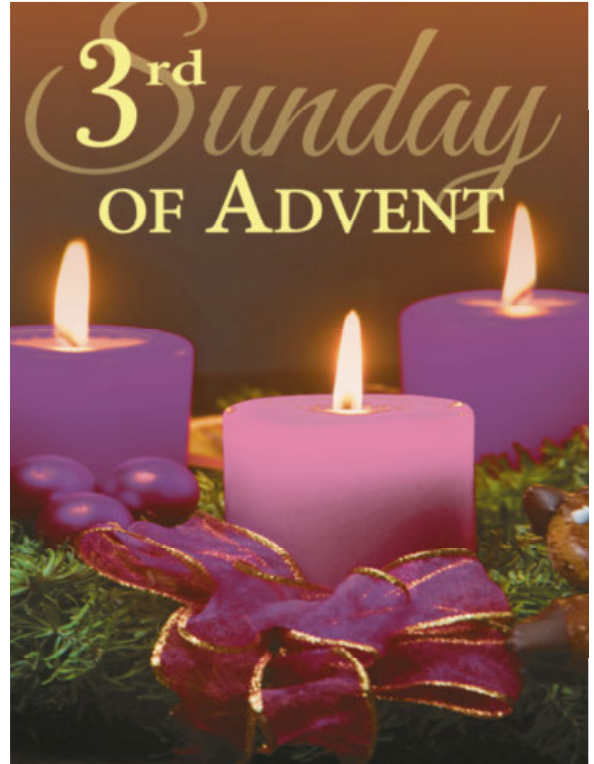
Marriage: Contact the parish office
 at least six months prior to the wedding

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 12, 2021



Deeper Understanding of Scripture

*"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints,
 good Lord, deliver us!"
 —St. Teresa of Avila—*

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)

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

Parish Youth
High School Youth Leader
Janet Hespen 314-369-6521

Holding on to Joy

Dear Parishioners,

We come together in prayer on this Gaudete Sunday to rejoice in God's abundant goodness. As people of faith it is at times hard to distinguish the difference between happiness and joy. Who doesn't like both happiness and joy? I know I often confuse/overlap the two because they share a lot of similarities. Both are good experiences in our life, but one is dependent upon the circumstances and the other is a gift from God and an awareness that can exist independent of those happenings.

Happiness comes and goes in our life depending upon the happenings in our life. We know that is not an enduring reality because of the ever-changing circumstances of life. We can be caught by surprise with the changes in life and our happiness can suddenly evaporate. Given time and patience, those circumstances will change again and happiness will return. God is good and wants to see us happy, but in an imperfect world happiness is not a permanent reality. Happiness can be cultivated in this life by an attitude of gratitude. Gratitude does more than just open the door for happiness, it makes clear the highway for real joy.

Joy comes from a fundamental awareness that God is victorious and that nothing can separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Jesus Christ. Joy is both a fruit of the Holy Spirit



and an attitude of faith that springs from a trust in God's providential goodness. I pray daily to abide in that awareness. Holding on to joy is difficult because we often allow the happiness of the moment to become the determining factor in our awareness of our joy. While unhappiness can make it difficult to remember our reasons for embracing joy, it is possible to be joyful in your heart while experiencing sadness.

One can hold on to joy by remembering the deeper truths of faith that surpass the current experience of life. Feelings are not reality, but a response to experience. We pay attention to our feelings without letting them become the all encompassing means to interpreting experience. Our thoughts, feelings and faith combine to form an integrated response to experience. Joy draws life from remembered faith that places trust in God's enduring love. As St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always! I shall say it again, rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near." In these remaining days of Advent, let us cling to joy with a fearsome faith and cultivate happiness as we prepare to celebrate the beauty of Christmas.

Peace & Joy!

Fr. Tom

Third Sunday of Advent —Year C

[A man named John began preaching at the Jordan River.]

People's hopes began to rise, and they began to wonder whether John perhaps might be the Messiah. LUKE 3:15

Viktor Frankl was a Jewish psychiatrist when the Nazis arrested him and sent him to a concentration camp. In his book *Man's Search for Meaning*, he describes some of the sufferings that Jews endured in those camps. One was the pain of waiting—waiting to learn the fate of loved ones, waiting to learn one's own fate, waiting to be rescued. The pain of waiting also plagued Jews in Jesus' time—waiting to be delivered from the Romans, waiting for the Messiah to come. This pain affected Jews in different ways. Some lost hope; some lost faith. Others simply watched and prayed. What is one thing I am waiting for in my life? How is this affecting me?

"Be strong and don't be afraid! God is coming to your rescue." ISAIAH 35:4

Fr. Mark Link S.J. *Vision 2000*

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

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

Ministry Schedule

December 18—4pm

EM: Deacon Chris, Bob Brossette, Karen Wilson
Lec: Richard & Kathy Lalonde
Serv: Chase Spurgeon
Music: Bryan & Mary Ann
Ush: Chris Cuddihee, Tim Wilson, Bill Pollihan, Andy Pope

December 19—7:30am

EM: Kris Jenkins, Betty Tuepker, Mary Hardesty
Lec: Peggy Dupree, Michelle Greiwe
Serv: Izzy Scheer, KaBella Bruno
Music: Verdi & Brooke
Ush: Ron Jacob, Gary Potter, Tom Meczowski, vol. pls.

December 19—10am

EM: Donna Wolff, Pat Gentry, Maureen Blondin
Lec: Patrice Riley, Grant Smith
Serv: Izzy Czuchna, Thomas Kokker
Music: Adult Choir
Ush: Larry Smith, Bill Riley, Gary Struckhoff, Bob Hutchcraft

IHMformation Station

4:00: Andy & Barb Pope
7:30: Michelle Greiwe
10:00: Maureen Blondin

Heavenly Duster Schedule

Week of December 12: Elizabeth Jaeckle
Week of December 19: *Christmas Break*
Week of December 26: *Christmas Break*

Purificators

Month of December: June Spiess

Pope's Intentions for December: Catechists



Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

—Rest in Peace—

We offer our prayerful sympathy
to the families of

Dave London

Bob Willis, husband of Ruth Willis

Kenneth Hake, father of Jeff and Ann Hake

Norbert Haarmann, father of Margie Kettler

Amy Gentry, daughter-in-law of Pat
and sister-in-law of Mike Gentry

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

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, Patricia Clayton

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), Jennifer Fitzsimmons (cousin of Karen Fitzsimmons), Pat Finan (daughter of Fran Bussen), Kelly Taylor (friend of Kat Brittingham), Rodney Marquart (son of Frank & Rosemary Marquart), 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 Hagebauer (sister of Pat Roche), Mary Ann Blaske (mother of Jeff Blaske), Michael Molitor (brother of Richard Molitor), Rosemary Bell (sister of Janet & Jerry Hespen), Sal Polisi (brother of Nancy and Walter Hollenstein), Janet Piel and Jordan Keene (sister and friend of Joni Marren-Slaughter), Malachi (newborn nephew of Kim and Tim Lebb), Sheila Birk (daughter-in-law of Ken & Mary Birk)

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 13	
8:00am	the Ernst Family
Tuesday, December 14	
8:00am	Tom Bergmann + Muriel Andries +
Wednesday, December 15	
8:00am	Edsward T. Rock Sr. +
6:30pm	intention of Erin Reheis
Thursday, December 16	
9:00am	All Souls Robert Shea +
Friday, December 17	
8:00am	Tom Holstein (4th ann.) + Bob Willis +
Saturday, December 18	
8:00am	Mary Karll +
4:00pm	Larry Zigler +
Sunday, December 19	
7:30am	People of IHM
10:00am	Louise Mohr + Don Iffrig +



Christmas Ministry Schedule

December 24—4pm

EM: Deacon Chris, Pat Roche, Donna Hecht, Donna Cuddihee, Bob Brossette, Janet Hespen
 Lec: Karen Wilson, Sharon Hagan
 Serv: Isabella Czuchna, David Vehige, Emma Clifton
 Music: Children
 Ush: Chris Cuddihee, Jerry Hespen, Jordan Hespen, Mike Rieker, +2

December 24—Midnight

EM: Deacon Chris, Kat Menne, Becky Wilson
 Lec: Peggy Dupree, Chris Menne
 Serv: Thomas Kokker, Chase Spurgeon
 Music: Adults
 Ush: Michelle Greiwe, Gary Struckhoff, Alan Raymond, Larry Graves

December 25—10am

EM: Sharon Smith, Patrice Riley, Mary Hardesty
 Lec: Grant Smith, Joe Willis
 Serv: Izzy Scheer +1
 Music: TBD
 Ush: Bill Winters, Bill Riley, Ron Simpson, +1

Contributions November 27/28

General Offertory:	\$13,143.83
Online Gifts:	\$6,056.43
Total	\$19,200.26

Contributions December 4/5

General Offertory:	\$10,325.50
Online Gifts:	\$7,128.20
Total	\$17,453.70

*"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."
 (Philippians 4:6)*

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God—He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.

We pray: that we may take time every day to show our gratitude to God, who is the ultimate giver of all gifts.

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 says, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise."

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.



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! *Charity of the Poor gifts do not need to be wrapped.*

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

Authentic Catholic Radio:

AM 1460 EWTN Global Catholic Network:

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

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Faith Formation
Opportunities at IHM

ADVENT EVENTS AT IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH

Mass

Monday—Saturday, 8:00am, Church
Wednesday evenings, 6:30pm
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

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



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



March for Life 2022—Registration Open

MISSOURI LIFE CARAVAN is accepting registrations for our bus trip to the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., Thursday—Saturday, January 20-22. Until all life is protected, we will travel to D.C. to meet with our representatives and peacefully protest against the Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion.

This trip is open to anyone ages 7 and up (chaperones not provided). We depart from several locations in the St. Louis area and we do not stay in hotels as we sleep on the buses. Seats are limited because of Covid-19. The cost is \$235.

For more information, to register or to sponsor a rider go to www.missourilifecaravan.org. Contact us at 314-434-4900 or mrl.eastern@yahoo.com.

Boy Scout Troop 856 would like to thank all of our customers who visited the pavilion over the last couple of weeks. We are sold out of our **Christmas Trees**. Thanks to all, and a blessed Christmas to our entire parish family and community.



The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store located at 1069 Regency Parkway in St. Charles is in need of **men's clothing**, especially jeans—even with holes. If you have men's clothing to spare, please bring them bagged directly to the store. During store hours bring to the back of the store, ring the doorbell, and let the volunteer know you have men's clothing. That way it will be processed and sold at this store where the need is. If outside of store hours, please put a tag on the bag or write directly on the bag indicating that it is men's clothing. Thanks everyone.

Activities this Week

Sunday, December 12

PSR, Founders/Weber Hall/Trailer, 8:45—9:45am

Faith Formation, Grand Hall, 8:45—9:45am

Pivotal Players—St. Benedict

St. Vincent de Paul, Grand Hall, 4-6pm

Monday, December 13

Rorate Caeli Candlelight Mass, 6:45am in church

Scouts, Founders Hall/Trailer, 6:30pm

ACTS Core Team, Weber Hall, 6:30pm

Men's study group, Grand Hall, 7pm

Reconciliation, 7—8:30pm

Tuesday, December 14

Legion of Mary, Weber Hall, following 8am Mass

Rejoice! Advent study, Founders Hall, after 8am Mass

Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am

Choir practice, church, Kids @ 6pm, Adults @ 7pm

Sausage Dinner committee, Weber Hall, 6:30pm

Reconciliation, 7—8:30pm

Wednesday, December 15

Sunday readings study, Weber Hall, 8:45am

Den 4, Founders Hall, 6pm

6:30pm Mass followed by Reconciliation

2nd graders to make their First Confession

Thursday, December 16

Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am

RCIA, Weber Hall, 6:30pm

Praise & Worship practice, church, 6:30—8pm

Friday, December 17

Quilting, Weber Hall, 8:30—noon

Choral Christmas Concert, church, 7pm

Saturday, December 18

Reconciliation after 8am Mass

SVDP Pantry open 9—10:30am

Anointings after 4pm Mass

Event in Grand Hall this evening

Sunday, December 19

Anointings after 7:30 and 10am Masses

PSR, Founders/Weber Hall/Trailer, 8:45—9:45am

Faith Formation, Grand Hall, 8:45—9:45am

Pivotal Players—St. Francis of Assisi

Jonah Team will pray with you after 10am Mass

Baptismal prep class, Weber Hall, 11am

Masses on Friday, Christmas Eve: 4pm and Midnight

Mass on Saturday, Christmas Day: 10am

There will be NO 4pm Mass on Christmas Day



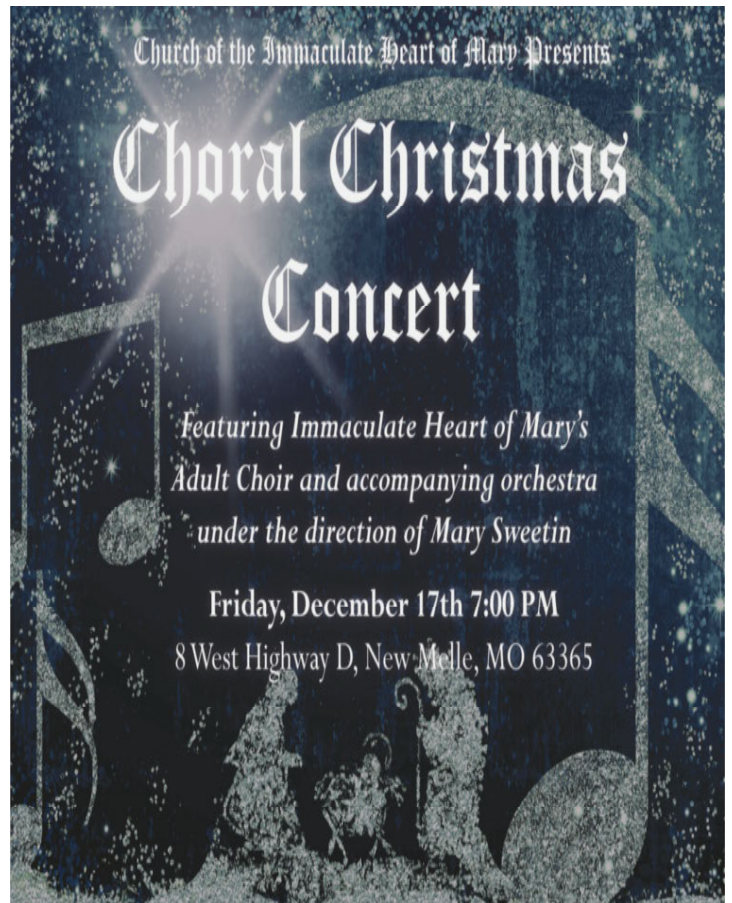
Candlelight Rorate Caeli Mass

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, illumined by the sun as our Faith is illumined by Christ.

We will have weekday Mass at 8am as usual.



Youth Ministry

**Janet Hespen,
Youth Minister,
314-369-6521**

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.

What's Your Catholic IQ?

During this Third week of Advent, we rejoice, looking ahead to the Feast of Christmas. Since people often rejoice by singing, here's a few verses from religious hymns to see if you can identify.

1. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove, the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.
2. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice, heaven sings Alleluia, Alleluia the earth replies.,
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to say, close by me forever, and love me I pray.
4. Good Christian, fear, for sinners here, the silent word is pleading. Nails, spear, shall pierce him through, the cross be borne, for me, for you.
5. Fear not, then said the angel, let nothing you affright. This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright, to free all those who trust in him, from Satan's power and might.
6. O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

For nos., 7-10 find the right name for the hymn described:

7. 5pm to 6am without noise
8. Listen, aerial spirits harmonizing
9. Assemble, everyone who believes
10. Hallowed post meridian

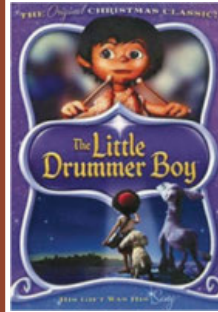


Thank you, St. Jude, for your intercession. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St. Jude, Worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, Help of the Hopeless, pray for us.

St. Paul Library / Lighthouse CD Resources

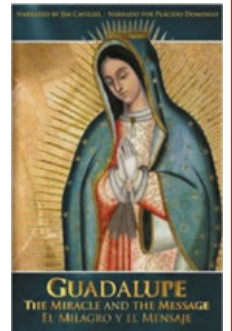
(Note: With close to 3000 items, the Parish Library is located in the Grand Hall past the restrooms. It is open during the week-normal business hours-and works on an honor system. Items from the Lighthouse CD rack are located and available in the Narthex.

From the Parish Library—Grand Hall



This story has touched the hearts of families everywhere. In this holiday classic, the true spirit of Christmas is revealed when a lonely orphan stumbles upon the birth of the baby Jesus and affirms what the holidays are really about giving and love. Featuring a beautiful soundtrack by the Vienna Boys Choir, this timeless tale of generosity makes a fitting preparation for the Christmas season.

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.



Recycling bins are located on the gravel lot behind Fr. Tom's house for paper, cardboard and clothes

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
 Mon: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
 Tue: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
 Wed: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
 Thu: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30
 Fri: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
 Sat: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

1. Joy to the World
2. We Three Kings
3. Away in a Manger
4. What Child is This
5. God Rest you Merry Gentlemen
6. O Little Town of Bethlehem
7. Silent Night
8. Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
9. O Come All Ye Faithful
10. O Holy Night

Answers to Catholic IQ

Mysteries, Marvels and Miracles in the Life of the Church: Our Lady of Guadalupe: Feast December 12

At right is the actual cloak (tilma) of Juan Diego from the apparition of our Lady to him in Mexico in the year 1531. Though made out of cactus fiber, the cloth has miraculously not decomposed and still hangs in the shrine at Mexico City to this day, 500 years later. The image of Mary has been called a "picture writing" for the Indians. Though there were some twenty-four languages and perhaps fifty dialects in Mexico at that time, all the Indians were able to understand Our Lady's message to them. The miraculous image produced on the tilma of St. Juan Diego is rich in symbolism, as one reads below. IHM Church has a faux-cactus replica of the image in which one can see such details close-up (picture lower right)



SYMBOL: Dress of rose overlaid with gold lace; fur-trimmed necks and cuffs; gold border on cape.

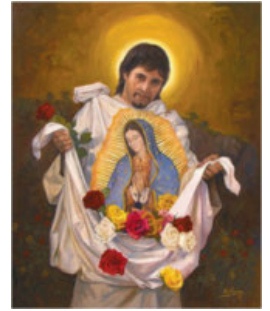
MEANING: Royalty, queen

SYMBOL: Golden brooch with black cross.

MEANING: Bearer of the true religion to Mexico. The Spaniards under Cortez had the same cross on their ships.

SYMBOL: Greenish-blue mantle or cape.

MEANING: The stars were worshipped as gods by the native people. Wrapped around the woman, it shows that they are not gods, but are part of the creation of whom the woman is reverently bowing. A 1983 study concluded that the stars on the Lady's mantle in the image are exactly as the stars of the winter solstice appeared before dawn on the morning of December 12, 1531.



SYMBOL: The girdle or bow around her waist

MEANING: The bow appears as a four-petaled flower, which to the native Indians was the "flower of the sun: a symbol of plenitude. The high position of the bow and the slight swelling of the abdomen show that the Lady is "with child."

SYMBOL: Fingers: three together, one farther apart

MEANING: The Trinity: three Persons in one God.

SYMBOL: Surrounded by rays, standing in front of the sun.

MEANING: The sun was worshipped as the highest god, and here the lady comes forth hiding but not extinguishing the power of the sun. She is now going to announce the God who is greater than their sun god.

SYMBOL: Stands on a darkened crescent moon.

MEANING: This testifies to her royalty. To the Meso-American Indians only kings, queens and other dignitaries would be carried on the shoulders of someone. She is queen of the angels, showing that she has come from heaven.

SYMBOL: Hands folded, head bowed in reverence to someone higher: The Almighty

MEANING: The eyes looking down was a sign to the native people that she was not a god since in their art, the gods start straight ahead with their eyes wide open. This shows that she is not God, but belongs to him, and honors him, clothed in his light.



PSR Corner

Christmas Tree

In the German Middle Ages, various plays at Christmas time within churches often featured as a prop an evergreen "Paradise tree" from which an apple was plucked. These plays were given on December 24, which as well as being Christmas Eve, is in some countries the religious feast day of Adam and Eve. To suggest the Garden of Eden, a tree decorated with apples (to represent the forbidden fruit) and wafers (to represent the Eucharist and redemption) was used as a setting for the play. The apples were replaced by round objects such as shiny red balls. In a later tradition, the wafers were replaced by cookies of various shapes. Candles, too, were often added as the symbol of Christ. Like the Christmas crib, the Paradise tree was later placed in homes.





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Christmas 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I send my warmest and most sincere greetings at this holy time of the year to all of you, and to all your families and loved ones!

This past year has been a challenging time for everyone. It has also been a year of great grace. We have witnessed the love and concern of people for one another. So many have been willing to make tremendous sacrifices to keep people safe, and try and curb this global health crisis. We have much to be grateful for as we move a step closer to the end of the pandemic. Now is the time for Catholics to step forward, giving generously to help those in need.

Each year, the people of the archdiocese are asked to make a special gift on Christmas Day to support our seminarians at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. These men are responding to Christ's call to follow Him as they discern a vocation to the holy priesthood, and have dedicated themselves to living, growing, and serving in His love as they prepare for a life of parish ministry. God willing, these men will bring the faith given to us by Christ 2,000 years ago to future generations.

This Christmas, I ask you to pray for vocations and for all our priests and seminarians. I also ask you to be generous in your donation to the Christmas collection at your parish, which helps ensure that our seminarians receive the education and formation they need to grow closer to Christ each day. Your support is a source of inspiration for the seminarians and helps to build up the Church in St. Louis. Together, we can encourage our future priests to walk the path of holiness as they seek to configure their hearts to the Heart of Jesus Christ.

I look forward to celebrating the joy of the Christmas season with all of the faithful of the Archdiocese. How wonderful it is to have the faithful back in church to celebrate Christ's birth. Please be assured of my prayers for you during the season of Christmas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis

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