



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

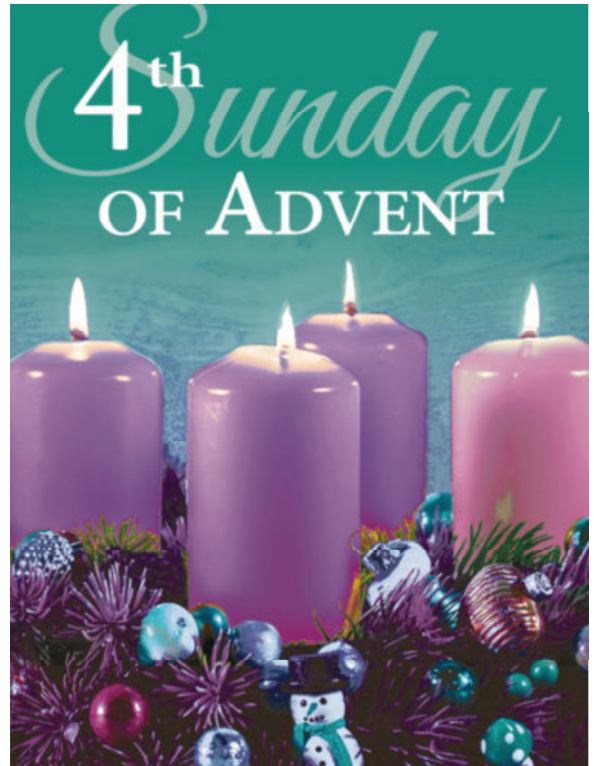
Marriage: Contact the parish office
at least six months prior to the wedding

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

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life’s necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world’s ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes. Why doesn’t God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he

would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world’s ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice,

and hand. She became God’s vessel so that God’s greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God’s fix for the world’s difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God’s instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Merry Christmas!

Dear Parishioners and Guests:

If you are reading this on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our time for Christmas is nigh! With less than a week to go before the Solemn Feast of the Incarnation, we prepare our hearts and homes for such a mighty Guest. May these remaining days be filled with ever-growing anticipation. The Gospel of this Sunday presents us with the beautiful and familiar scene of the Visitation. The Blessed Mother bears the recently incarnated Jesus in her own womb as she hastens to meet St. Elizabeth to share her joy in preparing for the birth of John the Baptist.

For those reading this on Christmas:

On behalf of all of the staff I wish you and your families a very Blessed and Merry Christmas! As we gather to celebrate Christmas let us reflect upon the uniqueness of our faith as Christians. We celebrate the mystery of God made flesh. While we joyfully reflect upon that first Christmas when the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph received the newborn Christ, we are reminded by the Gospel of St. John that Jesus is God's eternal Word. The Word was with God in the beginning and all that is came to be through God's Word and the working of the Holy Spirit.

Alone among the religions of the world we Christians celebrate the profound intimacy of our God who became like us in all things but sin. We celebrate our faith in one God who is a community of Persons, overflowing with abundant creative life and love. Our creation is the fruit of that abundant crea-



tive love. No necessity, no hidden desire or motive, no need "caused" creation other than the overflowing mystery of Trinitarian love. God creates us to share in His life, and gives us revelation and faith to form that life. It's hard to grasp or even begin to appreciate a love like that because all of our "loves" bear some weight of need and necessity. In God's love there is no need or necessity but only desire for the beloved. Ever so slowly we pray that such love will transform us humbly and subtly into the likeness of the One who loves us.

As Catholics we not only share in the profound intimacy of our God with our brothers and sisters of other Christian faiths, we also acknowledge that God comes to us in the Eucharist. Few experiences are meant to be more intimate than holding the Lord in our hands, being fed by His Body and Blood and experiencing the mystery of communion upon our reception of Him. May we accept the invitation to come to the altar, to open our ears to God's loving truth in Scripture, to praise the Father for the gift of His Son, to offer ourselves in union with Jesus, and to implore the Holy Spirit to give us the Body and Blood of Jesus while forming us into active members of the Body of Christ. Like the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph we are privileged to welcome, behold and receive the Son of God. We receive Him in humility and cradle Him in gratitude. O Come let us adore Him!

Merry Christmas!

Fa. Tom and the IHM staff

Third Sunday of Advent — Year C

God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. LUKE 1:26

In your imagination, picture the human race before the coming of Jesus. It is under Satan's power and control. Sin and hopelessness are everywhere. Into this world God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin, named Mary. Gabriel said to her: "You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and... his kingdom will never end!" And the angel left her.

What might have gone through Mary's mind after the angel left her?

Let those love now, who never loved before; let those who always loved, now love the more.

ANONYMOUS

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

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

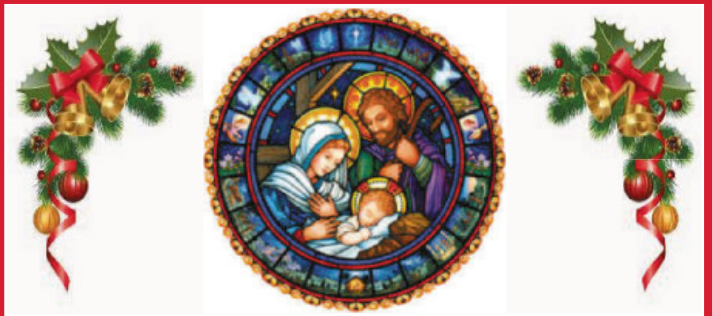
IHMformation Station

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

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 Hagemeyer (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 & friend of Joni Marren-Slaughter),
Malachi (newborn nephew of Kim and Tim Lebb),
Sheila Birk (daughter-in-law of Ken & Mary Birk)



Christmas Weekend 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, Ron Simpson, +1

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, +2

No 4pm Mass on Christmas Day

December 26—7:30am

EM: Deacon Chris, Mary Keune, Emily Cooksey
Lec: Karen Wappelhorst, Chuck Kettler
Serv: Emma Clifton, David Vehige
Music: Brooke & Verdi
Ush: Mike Hardesty, Chris Molitor, Ron Jacob,
Tom Meczowski

December 26—10am

EM: Deacon Chris, Chris & Kat Menne
Lec: Donna Hecht, Joe Willis
Serv: Izzy Czuchna, William Lassiter
Music: Children's Choir
Ush: Bob Hutchcraft, Ron Simpson, Alan Raymond,
Larry Smith

IHMformation Station

7:30: Mark & Terri Thome
10:00: Larry & Donna Hecht

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 20	
8:00am	Roy Miller +
Tuesday, December 21	
8:00am	Robert Shea Jr.
Wednesday, December 22	
8:00am	Tressie Semar +
6:30pm	Karen Richardson +
Thursday, December 23	
8:00am	Patrick Shea + intention of Molly H.
Friday, December 24	
8:00am	All Souls Sam Modica (1st ann.) +
4:00pm	Stan Nikonowicz +
Midnight:	People of IHM
Saturday, December 25	
10:00am	Peggy Miller +
no 4pm Mass this evening	
Sunday, December 26	
7:30am	Mark Kellems +
10:00am	Martha Almeling + intention of Laura Orf

Contributions December 11/12

Will be reported next week

*"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy."
(Luke 1:44)*

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lector or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Or, do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

We pray: that we take time to properly prepare ourselves to celebrate Mass each Sunday.

Needed at the Pantry



sugar, oil, coffee, reg and sugar free jello and pudding, laundry detergent, Kleenex, paper towels and toilet paper exp

used or previously opened items

Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there.

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, "Light" has shown, bringing real, lasting and deep joy to the hearts of the poor who live in dark places in our streets and neighborhood.



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.



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

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.

Heavenly Duster Schedule

Week of December 19/26: *Christmas Break*

Purificators

Month of December: June Spiess



The next Baptismal preparation classes are scheduled for **January 16 and February 20**. Please call the parish office to reserve your spot! 636-398-5270

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

Anointing of the Sick:

After Masses on December 18/19



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.

The Respect Life Apostolate has recently launched the Abortion Healing Ministry (AHM) which seeks to help the wounded in our communities heal from the manifold pain of abortion. Their network of specially-trained caregivers, including clergy, lay staff, mental health professionals, and spiritual directors, work

as a team to provide care to those touched by abortion loss, enabling them to grieve, develop a personal relationship with Christ, and be united with the Church through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They invite those in need to reach out to them for further help: phone/text 314-406-0815, email at hopehealing@archstl.org, or <https://www.archstl.org/hope-healing>.



IS YOUR CHILD OR A STUDENT YOU KNOW STAYING IN ST. LOUIS TO ATTEND COLLEGE?

The University of Missouri St. Louis-Catholic Newman Center (CNC) offers a warm and welcoming place to study, relax, pray, play and hang out. We have student-centered evening Masses, socials, faith sharing groups, service and leadership opportunities open to all college students and young adults. We have everything from barbeques, service trips, retreats, a stocked kitchen, a student computer lab, spiritual direction, and free WiFi.

If you can't make it to Sunday Morning Mass the Catholic Newman Center at UMSL has a Mass Sunday evenings at 6pm on the south campus of UMSL during the school year. Visitors welcome! For more information see: cncumsl.org. Know a Catholic UMSL or local community college student, send a note to frnick@cncumsl.org so we can personally invite them to Mass.

Activities this Week

Sunday, December 19

Please welcome seminarian Alex who will be speaking this weekend about the Seminary Collection

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

Monday, December 20

Scouts, Founders Hall/Trailer, 6:30pm

St. Vincent de Paul, Grand Hall, 6pm

Reconciliation, 7—8:30pm

Emergency Response committee, Weber Hall, 7pm

Tuesday, December 21

Legion of Mary, Weber Hall, following 8am Mass

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

Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am

Den 2, Founders Hall, 6-7pm

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

Men's Christmas Party, Grand Hall, 6:30pm

Reconciliation, 7—8:30pm -

Wednesday, December 22

Sunday readings study, Weber Hall, 8:45am

6:30pm Mass followed by Reconciliation

Thursday, December 23

Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Masses:

4pm with Children's Choir

Midnight—doors open at 11pm

Please be generous with the Seminary Collection

Saturday, December 25

Christmas Day Mass at 10am

No 4pm Mass this evening

Sunday, December 26

Masses at 7:30 and 10am

No IHMformation Station, PSR, Faith Formation



Janet Hespen,
Youth Minister,
314-369-6521

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.

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

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE. Christmas would not be complete at our home without sitting down together and watching this wonderful film several times over the holiday period. Frank Capra's story always reminds us what is truly important, and how our lives and our decisions can profoundly impact others. This uplifting story, rich with wonderful performances and impeccable direction, could not be made by Hollywood today. You won't find the cynical undertones that exist in today's so-called entertainment.

What you will find is a story that appeals to the highest and most noble aspirations in the human character, instead of exploring the darker side of our nature, as Hollywood films are currently obsessed with.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Sun: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
- Mon: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
- Tue: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33/Lk 1:39-45
- Wed: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2/Lk 1:46-56
- Thu: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25/Lk 21:28/Lk 1:57-66
- Fri: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89/Lk 1:67-79
- Sat: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
- Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
- Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14



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.

What's Your Catholic IQ?

1. St. Joseph was originally from... (Luke 2:3)
 - a. Bethlehem
 - b. Nazareth
 - c. Hebron
 - d. Jerusalem
 - e. None of the above
2. What does the Bible say that the innkeeper said to Mary and Joseph? (Luke 2:7)
 - a. "There is no room in the inn."
 - b. "I have a stable you can use."
 - c. "Come back later and I should have some vacancies."
 - d. Both A and B
 - e. None of the above
3. A manger is a...
 - a. stable for domestic animals
 - b. wooden hay storage bin
 - c. feeding trough
 - d. barn
4. Which animals does the Bible say were present at Jesus' birth?
 - a. cows, sheep, goats
 - b. cows, donkeys, goats
 - c. sheep and goats only
 - d. miscellaneous barnyard animals
 - e. none of the above
5. According to the Bible, how did Mary and Joseph get to Bethlehem?
 - a. camel
 - b. donkey
 - c. walked
 - d. Joseph walked, Mary rode a donkey
 - e. horse-drawn chariot
 - e. who knows?
6. What did the angels say/sing? (Luke 2:14)
 - a. "Glory to God in the highest, etc."
 - b. "Alleluia"
 - c. "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given"
 - d. "Joy to the world, the Lord is come"
 - e. "Glory to the newborn king"
7. What is a heavenly host?
 - a. The angel at the gate of heaven
 - b. The angel who serves refreshments in heaven
 - c. An angel choir
 - d. An angel army
 - e. None of the above
8. There was snow that first Christmas...
 - a. Only in Bethlehem
 - b. All over Israel
 - c. Nowhere in Israel
 - d. Somewhere in Israel

Live the
Gospel of *Life*

"Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn ten tips at respectlife.org/support-her.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"

We pray for all parents awaiting the birth of their child: May they look to the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph and follow their example of cherishing and protecting human life.

Prayer Shawls:

If you or someone you know needs to be wrapped in prayer, please pick a prayer shawl! We have a good supply in church of shawls that have been hand-crafted by parish members who offer a prayer with each stitch, and each one has been blessed by Fr. Tom.

The holidays can be a stressful time for many after severe illnesses or loss of loved ones. Prayer Shawls are a lovely way to show you care.



Save the Date!
February 13, 2022, 2:30pm
Join Archbishop Rozanski at
the Cathedral Basilica
to celebrate the
Sacrament of Matrimony on
World Marriage Day

Meals for the Homeless Poor

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish needs a volunteer group (10 to 12 people) to prepare dinner for the homeless once a month on either the 8th of the each month or the Thursday after the 11th of each month. There are usually 75 to 80 homeless who gather for a meal at 5pm (weekdays) and noon (weekends). If you would like to gather a group of parishioners and friends to help prepare and serve the homeless once a month, please contact Rachel Schoenberger, Volunteer Coordinator at Sts. Peter and Paul Church at 314-231-9923 for additional information. Sts. Peter and Paul is located at 1919 S. 7th St., 63104.

PSR Corner

Parents should have received report cards given to students at class on December 19th. If you still need to pick up, please contact the parish office. No PSR on Sunday, December 26th or January 2nd for Christmas Break.



Thanks so much!

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society is so very grateful for our community's amazing support of our Food Pantry, in cooperation with the Boy Scouts' recent **Scouting for Food**. On behalf of all the members of IHM St. Vincent de Paul, we are overwhelmed by the effort from our scouts, their leaders and of course all of the families in our surrounding community. We could not do what we do without their support. More than 5900 items were donated that day. Wow!



Answers to Catholic IQ

1. a He worked and lived in Nazareth, but he was returning to Bethlehem—"his own city." (see Luke 2:3)
2. e The innkeeper didn't "say" anything (see Luke 2:7). The Bible doesn't even mention an "innkeeper" because the "inn" was probably more like a guest room in a house.
3. c Feeding trough—interestingly enough, most mangers in New Testament times were made of stone. If you visit Israel today, you can see stone mangers used by Solomon to feed his horses at Megiddo.
4. e The Bible doesn't say
5. f Although the modern "pictures" in my Children's Bible show Mary on a donkey with Joseph beside her, the Bible doesn't say!
6. a Luke 2:14
7. d The word means "army" - literally thousands. Now, since there was a "multitude of the heavenly army" (hosts), there could easily have been from 10,000—100,000 angels there that night! No wonder the shepherds were "sore afraid"? I missed this one when I took the quiz because I thought the word "host" referred only to a large multitude, but it is correct. It refers to a heavenly army of angels.
8. d There is always snow on Mt. Hermon (<http://www.KeepBelieving.com/2008/12/22/answers-to-christmas-quiz>)



As the liturgical year has ended and a new one has begun, tune in to Covenant Network for the best in Catholic radio programming to help you prepare your heart to receive the Christ Child this Christmas season. Tune in to KHOJ 1460 AM or 102.9 FM on the radio or listen live on our free Covenant Network App or at Our-CatholicRadio.org.

Dynamic Catholic *Alive!* Surrender to God

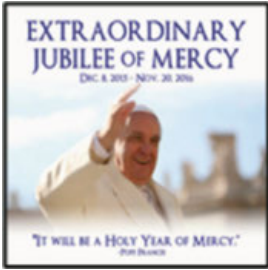
Ecce ancilla Domini. Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

This is one of the most beautiful lines in Scripture. It conveys to us the total surrender and power of obedience to God's will in our lives. Because of Mary's *fiat*, the Savior entered the world to save us from our sins and to bring us back to God. As we celebrate Christmas, let us do so in the spirit of joy, welcoming the humble Christ-child into our hearts once more and asking Him to conform our hearts to His most sacred heart. In this joyful time, let us show love, kindness, and mercy to our loved ones who have fallen away and never lose hope in their return home. The angel Gabriel tells us, "For nothing will be impossible for God" (Luke 1:37). May God bless you and your family this Christmas! *Venite adoremus Dominum!*

archstl.org/dynamic

Our heartfelt thanks to April Moxley of April's on Main for the donation of the new Christmas tree. Visit her store on North Main in St. Charles—you're in for a treat.

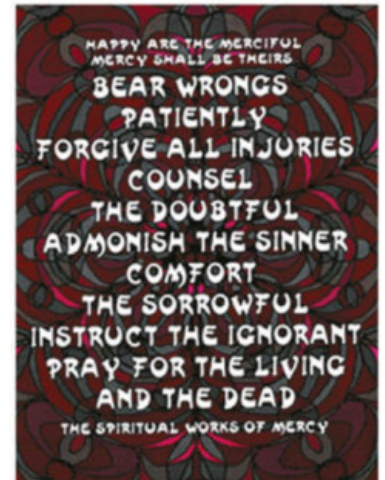
Advent and Beyond: A Time to Reflect on Love, Service and the Works of Mercy Present (or not present) in our lives



Recall that from 2015-2016 Pope Francis decreed a special year of mercy in which he directed the faithful to reflect and act on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. He wrote, "It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy. Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples. Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead."

To DO the works of Mercy, it is helpful to first KNOW the works of mercy. Many are familiar with the Corporal Works of Mercy. While there is a need for the Corporal Works of Mercy in all times and places, in America, it could be said that we are in greater need of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. Here are the Spiritual Works with some relevant Scriptures, as well as a memory aid.

1. **Admonish the sinner:** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, (Colossians 3:16)
2. **Instruct the ignorant:** "Philip.. asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' And he said, 'How can I, unless some one guides me?'" (Acts 8:30)
3. **Counsel the doubtful:** "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you...Let not your hearts be troubled..." Jn. 14:27
4. **Comfort the sorrowful:** "Come to me, all you grown weary and burdened, and I will refresh you." Mt. 11:28 Bear one another's burdens. (Gal 6:2)
5. **Bear wrongs patiently:** "...Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you." Lk. 6:27-28.
6. **Forgive all injuries:** "If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Mat 6:12 ff).
7. **Pray for the living and the dead:**
Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. (Eph 6:18)



Memory Aid for the Spiritual Works of Mercy

(P)rayer F.A.B.R.I.C

(Symbol: Clothing others in the prayer fabric /shawl of spiritual works)
Think of clothing others in a garment with the letter P (for Prayer) on it.

Pray for the living and the dead

F=Forgive all injuries

A=Admonish sinners

B=Bear Wrongs patiently

R=Relieve the Sorrowful

I= Instruct the Ignorant

C=Counsel the Doubtful



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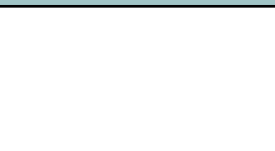
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