



# Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

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

**Website: [www.ihm-newmelle.org](http://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 26, 2021*



## Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and lead-

ing? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

# Holiday Blessings! 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

## *Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!*

Dear parishioners,

As we prepare for the New Year and continue our Christmas celebration I thought it would be great to share a prayer for the coming year of grace. As we learned from the four years of reflecting upon our faith as an invitation to become dynamic Catholics, prayer is the foundation of our relationship with God and our greatest hope for personal conversion and redemption. Here are a few prayers as we venture into this coming year.

### **A Prayer for the New Day and the New Year**

Almighty God and Father,

I come before You on this new day to offer You my prayers, my hopes and my dreams.

I lift up to Your grace all those who have asked for my prayers.

Be with those who now are in danger of dying;

shepherd them at this dark hour to see and trust in Your light.

May Your Holy Spirit comfort their loved ones and give them peace and renewed faith.

Be with those who are hospitalized or homebound.

Be their strength as they struggle against illness and infirmity.

Make me more sensitive to their needs and more willing to give of myself.

Shepherd all those who will travel to work this day, guard their coming and going.

May their day be an offering pleasing in Your sight.

Watch over our students and children today.

Protect them from the dangers of the world; help us to love and treasure them.

Be with our work today; make us gracious and understanding, considerate and patient with others.

May the little things that inconvenience us be put in their proper perspective

so that we may laugh rather than complain.

Help us together to work for the good before us,

the transformation of our lives, and to use our gifts and talents for Your glory.

Lastly be with me. May I never rely only upon my personal talents and abilities,

but more completely realize that all I do is through your Son and with His Spirit.

Keep me from falling into the traps and pitfalls that accompany our pilgrimage of life.

Give me the humility and courage to strive for genuine holiness and joy in all that I do.

Thank you for this day. May I recognize that it is your gift and spend it well.

AMEN

Happy New Year & Merry Christmas!

Your Spiritual Father,

*Fr. Tom*

## *The Holy Family — Year C*

The first and fundamental structure ... is the family, in which man receives his first formative ideas about truth and goodness, and learns what it means to love and to be loved, and thus what it actually means to be a person. Here we mean the *family founded on marriage*, in which the mutual gift of self by husband and wife creates an environment in which children can be born and develop their potentialities, become aware of their dignity and prepare to face their unique and individual destiny... It is necessary to go back to seeing the family as the *sanctuary of life*. The family is indeed sacred: it is the place in which life — the gift of God — can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed, and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth. In the face of the so-called culture of death, the family is the heart of the culture of life. [JP11, CA#39].



## Holiday Blessings! Immaculate Heart of Mary: *Informed—Hospitable—Missionary*



### 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

## Ministry Schedule

### January 1—4pm

EM: Donna Hecht, Ed Etzkorn, Becky Wilson  
 Lec: Theresa & Jim Risch  
 Serv: Izzy Scheer  
 Music: Bryan & cantor  
 Ush: Chris Cuddihee, Tim Wilson, Bill Pollihan, Andy Pope

### January 2—7:30am

EM: Peggy Dupree, Dianne Dickherber, Emily Cooksey  
 Lec: Kris Jenkins, Karen Wappelhorst  
 Serv: Mary Grace & Janie Becker  
 Music: Verdi & Brooke  
 Ush: Chris Molitor, Terry Schneider, Rick Scharf, Gary Potter

### January 2—10am

EM: Bob Brossette, Laura Orf, Mary Busby-Simpson  
 Lec: Pat Gentry, Yvonne Brossette  
 Serv: volunteer please  
 Music: Adult Choir  
 Ush: Bill Riley, Alan Raymond, Bob Hutchcraft, Ron Simpson

### IHMformation Station

4:00pm	TBD
7:30am	TBD
10am	TBD

### Heavenly Dusters

Week of December 26:	<i>Christmas Break</i>
Week of January 2:	Ruth Neske
Week of January 9:	Pat Gentry
Week of January 16:	Rita Langford
Week of January 23:	Betsy Struckhoff
Week of January 30:	Carolyn Schellert

### Purificators

Month of January: Carol Ostermeyer



We offer our prayerful sympathy  
 to the family of

Francis Meyer, father of Steve Meyer  
 May he 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), Mary Ann Blaske (mother of Jeff Blaske), Peyton Newman (grandson of Mike & Mary Hardesty), Loren Brandon (father of Marty & Peggy Dupree), Charlie Grady (grandson of John & Carol Grady), Marlene Hagemeier (sister of Pat Roche), 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, David Gentry (grandson of Pat Gentry)

**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

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, December 26, 2021

### Mass Intentions

Monday, December 27	
8:00am	Peggy Miller + Amy Gentry +
Tuesday, December 28	
8:00am	Burl Semar + intention of Debbie Willis +
Wednesday, December 29	
8:00am	Dave London +
6:30pm	Jean Reel +
Thursday, December 30	
8:00am	Michael Zurweller + Maureen Everett +
Friday, December 31	
8:00am	Marian Hofman +
Saturday, January 1	
8:00am	Brett Varady +
4:00pm	People of IHM
Sunday, January 2	
7:30am	Bud Messig +
10:00am	Mary Fine +

### Activities this Week

Sunday, December 26	
	Masses at 7:30 and 10am No IHMformation Station, PSR, Faith Formation
Monday, December 27	
	Scouts, Founders Hall/Trailer, 6:30pm Men for Christ, Grand Hall, 7pm
Tuesday, December 28	
	Legion of Mary, Weber Hall, following 8am Mass Rejoice! Advent study, Founders Hall, after 8am Mass Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am
Wednesday, December 29	
	Sunday readings study, Weber Hall, 8:45am Spring Dinner meeting, Weber Hall, 8:45am 6:30pm Mass followed by Reconciliation
Thursday, December 30	
	Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am
Friday, December 31	
	Quilting, Weber Hall, 8:30—noon No vigil Mass tonight
Saturday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	
	Morning Mass at 8am for the Solemnity 4pm Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany Jonah Team will pray with you after 4pm Mass
Sunday, January 2—Epiphany of the Lord	
	Blessed chalk and prayers for home blessing near the baptismal font Jonah Team will pray with you after 9am Mass Church office will be closed on Monday, January 3

### Contributions December 18/19

Will be reported next week

*"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God" and so we are."  
(1 John 3:1)*

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received—being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

We pray: that as grateful children of God, we remember to tell family and friends that we love them every day and to pray for those people that may annoy us.

### 2021 Contribution Statements

All contributions to the parish for 2021 must be received no later than January 2 to be included in your annual giving statements. The statements will be available for you to print during the second half of January. Please watch for an email from our office with a link to your own personal giving account.

### Needed at the Pantry

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



Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and so we can celebrate that we all belong to the holy family of God which makes us brothers and sisters to each other.

At Christmas this year, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring the joy and hope to our "brothers and sisters" who are poor by providing food through our Food Pantry, funds for utility and rent bills, and of course gifts through our Giving Tree. Thank you!

### SVDP 24-hour Helpline

St. Vincent dePaul has a 24 hour helpline for anyone in crisis, including the homeless, by dialing 2-1-1. Our coordinated entry team will respond to their needs. For our local SVDP Conference, please call 636-398-5270, ext. 225.

God bless you all for your continued support. Please join us in prayer for the homeless and all who are in crisis!

### *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 with candles
  - a lava lam[
  - 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 First 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.
  - cash
  - 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



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**



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

12/30:

Youth Group Christmas Party at Janet and Jerry Hespen's home, 7 Hobie Cat Court. 5pm.



**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.



### *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](http://www.missourilifecaravan.org). Contact us at 314-434-4900 or [mrl.eastern@yahoo.com](mailto:mrl.eastern@yahoo.com).

**Let us allow Mary to do in us and through us whatever she desires, and she will surely accomplish miracles of grace, and we ourselves will become holy, great saints, very great saints, because we will succeed in becoming like her.**

**—St. Maximilian Kolbe**



## St. Paul Library / Lighthouse CD Resources

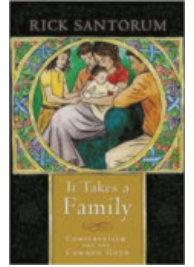
(Note: With close to 3000 items, the Parish Library is located in the Grand Hall past the restrooms. It is open during the week-normal business hours and works on an honor system. Items from the Lighthouse CD rack are located and available in the Narthex.

### From the Parish Library: Grand Hall (lower level Church)



When asked to name the most important things in our lives, many of us put family near the top of our list. But what is the purpose, what is the meaning, of family? How can the family practice the Catholic faith at home, in its parish, and in today's society? *In Mission of the Family*, Jon Leonetti explains that evangelization, compassion, and changing the world starts with the members of our family. Discover God's important mission and purpose for you, your spouse, and your children.

(From a review at Amazon.com) It doesn't really matter if you consider yourself a right-winged conservative or a free-thinking liberal; this book remains a very compelling explanation of the family centered conservative position. The author represents a large portion of our American population and, therefore, cannot be lightly dismissed. This is an important book to read at this difficult time in our nation's history. Conservatives will find this book absolutely inspiring and liberals may discover in it a marvelous opportunity to exercise their tolerance for diversity. I'm buying more copies of this book to share with my adult children because of the practical advice the author provides for raising a culturally rich family. I really encourage everyone to read this book.



### PSR Corner

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



### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/ Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52  
 Mon: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
 Tue: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18  
 Wed: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35  
 Thur: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40  
 Fri: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18  
 Sat: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

### Answers to Catholic IQ

1. b European Catholics in the Middle Ages "Christianized" candle 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.
3. 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.
4. c Matthew 2:1-2 describes how the Magi came to Jerusalem after seeing a star in the east that indicated the birth of a great king.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. c The Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated between Christmas and New Year's Day.
8. a Gold represented 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.
9. b This angelic song anchors the Gloria we pray every Sunday Mass except during Advent and Lent, the seasons of penance in the Church.
10. 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.

## Please pray for our troops

Ian Bagby—U.S. Army  
Randy Brittingham—U.S. Air Force  
Gregory Conners—U.S. Army  
Joseph Gardner—U.S. Navy  
Austin Gilliam—U.S. Marine Corps  
Nicholas Hitt—U.S. Army  
Jacob Holstein—U.S. Marine Corps  
Anna Jaeckle—U.S. Air Force  
Connor Jaeckle—U.S. Navy  
Emily Jaeckle—U.S. Marine Corps  
Courtney Kelley (Swoboda) - U.S. Air Force  
Angela Kettler—U.S. Navy  
Alexandra McIntosh—U.S. Navy  
Danielle McIntosh—U.S. Marine Corps  
Richard Ostermeyer—U.S. Marine Corps  
Matthew Rison—U.S. Navy  
Molly Rison—U.S. Navy  
Eric Roethler—U.S. Marine Corps  
Andrew Salmo—U.S. Army  
Katelyn Stitzes—U.S. Air Force  
Matthew Stovall—U.S. Marine Corps  
Daniel Vehige—U.S. Marine Corps  
Alexander Vesel—U.S. Navy

and all U.S. military men and women  
who have dedicated their lives  
to preserve and protect our country

*(if you would like your loved one listed,*



**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**

## *Working Towards a Happy and Holy Family*

### **The Five Love Languages** by Gary Chapman

Unhappiness in marriage often has a simple root cause: we speak different love languages, believes Dr. Gary Chapman. While working as a marriage counselor for more than 30 years, he identified five love languages:

Words of Affirmation  
Quality Time  
Receiving Gifts  
Acts of Service  
Physical Touch

In a friendly, often humorous style, he unpacks each one. Some husbands or wives may crave focused attention; another needs regular praise. Gifts are highly important to one spouse, while another sees fixing a leaky faucet, ironing a shirt, or cooking a meal as filling their "love tank." Some partners might find physical touch makes them feel valued: holding hands, giving back rubs. Chapman illustrates each love language with real-life examples from his counseling practice. Are you and your spouse speaking the same language? Learn to speak and understand your mate's love language, and in no time you will be surprised how your relationships can be transformed.

<http://www.5lovelanguages.com/>

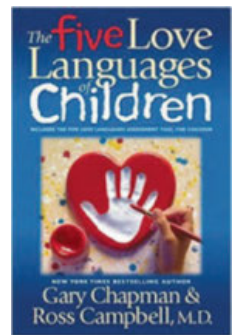
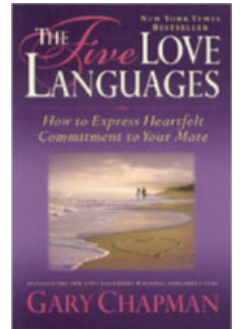
Which of these is your primary love language? What about your spouse? **Your children?** Friends? It can be fun to discuss or try to guess one another's language.

Below is an easy memory aid for the various languages



Gift giving  
Relational Touch  
Encouraging Words  
Acts of Service  
Time together

These languages are **Gr-r-reat!** to know



**Live the Gospel of Life**

"Like every other human family, the Holy Family had to confront real and concrete challenges. Yet, 'in every situation, Joseph declared his own 'fiat' ' (PC 3). His 'yes' to the Lord meant that regardless of the hardship and personal sacrifice to himself, he consistently chose to put the needs of Mary and Jesus before his own. Joseph's devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
2021 Respect Life Reflection

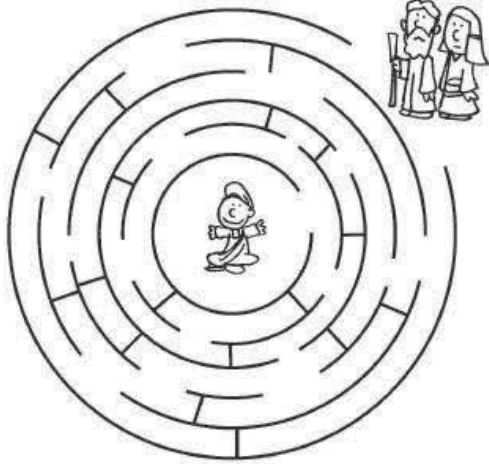
*We pray for all families that, as the domestic Church, they may pursue holiness, pass on the faith, and persevere in love.*





## PUZZLE

Help Mary and Joseph find Jesus.



## MISSION

Help visitors to your church feel welcomed.  
As a family or as a class, make cards for visitors,  
asking them to come back.



## GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE C



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Holy Family • Luke 2:41-52

## Dynamic Catholic *Alive!*

### Spiritual Leadership

St. Joseph is a model of spiritual leadership. Humility and obedience are not things that are praised in our culture today. But, remember, our goal is not possessing more things on earth, rather our goal is eternal life with God! Spiritual warfare is real. Through silence, we are able to discern God's will for us and our families. Studies show that when dad takes his faith seriously, so do his children. Men, the best thing we can do for our families is to be the men God is calling us to be, to be the spiritual leaders for our families. The best gift we can give our families is to teach them how to pray. [archstl.org/dynamic](http://archstl.org/dynamic)

## Marriage Banns

Marriage in Christ has been promised between:  
**Alexandra Gammon and Anthony Schulteheinrich**



A great way to organize emergency meals for the people of our parish!

Arrival of a new baby  
Military deployment  
Condolences

Injuries/Surgeries  
Extended illnesses  
Group events

Please contact Kelly Meyer at [meyer5853@qmcinc.org](mailto:meyer5853@qmcinc.org) if you have any questions or would like to become a part of this ministry.

Recycling bins are located on the gravel lot  
behind Fr. Tom's house

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

### FIRST READING:

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request.  
Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD;  
as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD."  
(1 Sm 1:27-28)

### PSALM:

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

### SECOND READING:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us  
that we may be called the children of God.  
And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)

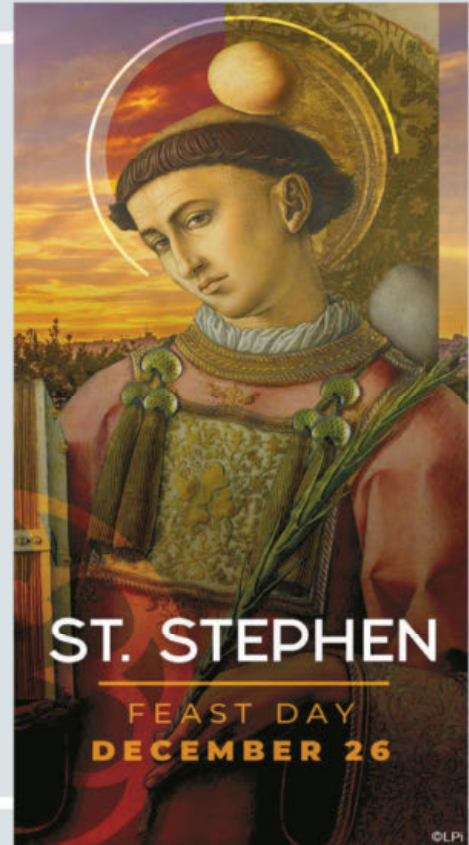
### GOSPEL:

After three days they found him in the temple,  
sitting in the midst of the teachers,  
listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
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### OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

Sunday: The Holy Family  
Monday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist  
Tuesday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs  
Wednesday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr  
Friday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve  
Saturday: New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God;  
World Day of Peace  
Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and  
Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church



## Saint of the Week

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.



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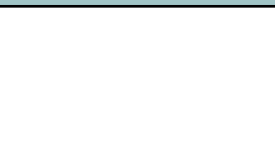
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