



# 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, 9:30am  
 Weekdays: 8:00am, in church

## Weekly Devotions and Prayers

### Eucharistic Adoration:

Monday 8:30am until Friday, 11:00am

### Rosary:

Prior to Saturday evening 4pm Mass

### Perpetual Help Devotions:

Tuesdays following 8am Mass

### Respect Life Prayers:

Thursday following 8am Mass

### First Saturday of the Month Devotions

8am Mass, Rosary, 15 minutes of meditation

## Sacraments

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

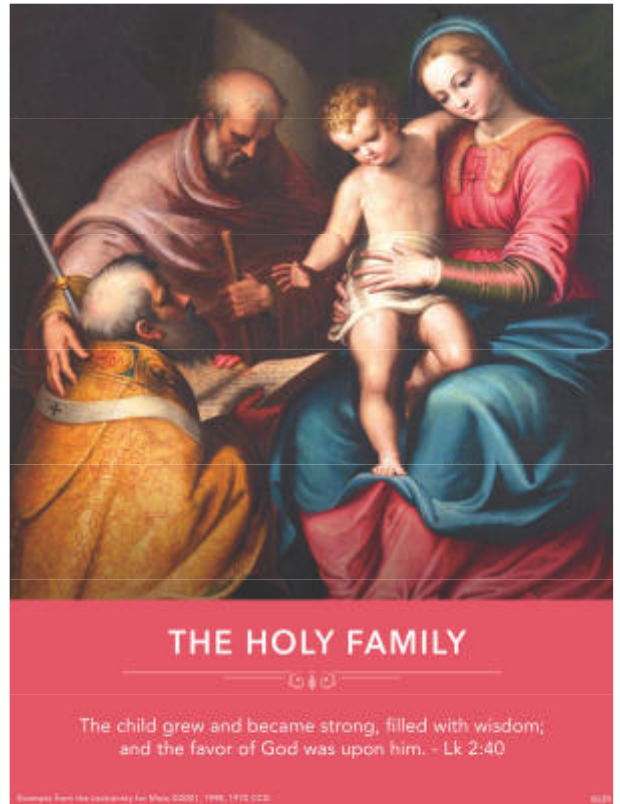
Marriage: Contact the parish office  
 at least six months prior to the wedding

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 27, 2020



## Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal

in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general.

Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

# Blessed Christmas! 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, Secretary *secretary@ihm-newmelle.org*  
Bryan Beams, Director of Music and Liturgy  
*bryanbeams@ihm-newmelle.org*  
Janet Hespen, Youth Leader *janethspn@outlook.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, 6-7:30pm, Wednesdays  
Confirmation Preparation  
8th Grade—September thru May, 6-7:30pm, Wednesdays  
Children's Liturgy of the Word  
September thru May, during the 9:30am Sunday Mass  
Adult Education  
Wednesdays at 8:45am and 6:10pm, September thru May  
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—contact Shawn for schedule

## Quick Contacts Directory

### 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  
Irene Caldwell 636-398-4311  
Lectors  
Joe Willis 636-398-2106  
Gift Bearers  
Peggy Dupree 636-398-5270  
Ushers  
Gary Struckhoff 636-828-6067  
Altar Servers  
Deacon Tony Falbo *tony.2011@centurylink.net*  
Altar Society  
Pam DeBold 636-482-4765  
Art & Environment  
Mary Karll 636-433-5049  
Music Ministry  
Bryan Beams 636-398-5270  
Adult Choir  
Mary Sweeten 314-324-3249  
Children's Choir  
Elizabeth Jaeckle 636-828-4811  
Contemporary Music Group  
Debbie Gillespie 636-398-4971  
Praise & Worship Band  
Steve Farber 636-751-3567

### 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  
Carol Grady 314-662-2281  
Ruth Neske 636-398-5699  
Vicki Grunz 636-497-5230  
Helping Hearts  
John Grady 314-662-2138  
Mary Fischer 636-561-7747  
Bob Hutchcraft 636-346-3471  
Maria Romine-Kantor 314-614-0857  
Knights of Columbus  
Bob Hutchcraft 636-346-3471  
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: Adam McCarthy 636-634-7622  
Boy Scouts: Chad Peters 314-807-7177  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Joe Willis 636-398-2106  
Welcoming Committee  
Teresa Berfanger 636-398-5565

### Youth and Young Adults

High School Youth Leader  
Janet Hespen 314-369-6521  
Young Adults  
Julie Lassiter 636-357-0121

## A Christmas Prayer to the Virgin Mary

by J.R.R. Tolkien

Grim was the world and grey last night: the moon and stars were fled,  
The hall was dark without song or light, the fires were fallen dead.  
The wind in the trees was like to the sea, and over the mountains' teeth  
It whistled bitter-cold and free, as a sword leapt from its sheath.

The lord of snows upreared his head; his mantle long and pale  
Upon the bitter blast was spread and hung o'er hill and dale.  
The world was blind, the boughs were bent, all ways and paths were wild:  
Then the veil of cloud apart was rent, and here was born a Child.

The ancient dome of heaven sheer was pricked with distant light;  
A star came shining white and clear alone above the night.  
In the dale of dark in that hour of birth one voice on a sudden sang:  
Then all the bells in Heaven and Earth together at midnight rang.

Mary sang in this world below: they heard her song arise  
O'er mist and over mountain snow to the walls of Paradise,  
And the tongue of many bells was stirred in Heaven's towers to ring  
When the voice of mortal maid was heard, that was mother of Heaven's King.

Glad is the world and fair this night with stars about its head,  
And the hall is filled with laughter and light, and fires are burning red.  
The bells of Paradise now ring with bells of Christendom,  
And Gloria, Gloria we will sing that God on earth is come.

## The Holy Family—Year B

There lived in Jerusalem at the time a certain man named Simeon.  
He was just and pious, and awaited the consolation of Israel. —Luke 2:25

Union with Christ means that sin no longer can hold us hostage and that we long to be free of its grip of our lives. It does not mean, necessarily, however, that sin vanishes totally from our lives. Emilie Griffin says of the Christian: "While he is a new man in Christ, he has brought over a good deal of the old man with him. His little sins and temptations begin to creep back into his life and catch him unawares. The new man and the old man... coexist throughout our lives in constant tension, so life becomes a spiritual battle. The mature Christian accepts this duality as part of the daily journey, always invoking the strength and consolation of the Lord who calls us to place our hope in him.

*I confess I am not what I ought to be, but I thank you, Lord, that I'm not what I used to be.* Maxie Dunnam

Mark Link S.J. "Mission"



### Ministry Schedule

December 26—4:00pm

EM: Deacon Chris, Bryan Potter, Pat Roche,  
Chris Warren  
Lec: Jerry Knott, Sharon Hagan  
Serv: Zoey Panus  
Music: Bryan & cantor  
Ush: Wally & Jan Karase, Larry Graves

December 27—7:30am

EM: Deacon Chris, Josh Deters, Becky Wilson,  
Betty Tuepker  
Lec: Kris Jenkins, Mary Hardesty  
Serv: Janie Becker  
Music: Verdi & Brooke  
Ush: Larry Smith, Mike Hardesty, Gary Potter

December 27—9:30am

EM: Deacon Chris, Josh Deters, Janet Hespen,  
Chris Richter  
Lec: Bill Winters, Jackie Dunn  
Serv: Izzy Czuchna  
Music: Bryan & cantor  
Ush: Alan Raymond, Gary Struckhoff, Joe Weber

### Ministry Schedule

January 2—4:00pm

EM: Josh Deters, Ed Etzkorn, Ann Zaleuke, Pat Roche  
Lec: Richard & Kathy Lalonde  
Serv: Aiden Panus  
Music: Bryan & Mary Ann  
Ush: Tom Zaleuke, Bill Pollihan, Chris Cuddihee

January 3—7:30am

EM: Deacon Chris, Josh Deters, Dianne Dickherber,  
Maureen Blondin  
Lec: Nancy Ast, Dave London  
Serv: Mary Grace Becker  
Music: Verdi & Brooke  
Ush: Bob & Teresa Berfanger, Ron Jacob

January 3—9:30am

EM: Deacon Chris, Josh Deters, Chris & Kat Menne  
Lec: Chuck Hinkle, Donna Hecht  
Serv: Mary Becker  
Music: Bryan & Betsy  
Ush: Bill Riley, Larry Smith, Ron Simpson

### ✠ Rest in Peace ✠

Jennifer Ristich  
former parishioner, wife of Bruce Ristich  
Lawrence Stahlschmidt  
John Sprock  
brothers-in-law of Pat Noack  
Greg Gross  
father of Mark & Theresa Gross  
May they and all the faithful departed  
rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

### Heavenly Duster Schedule

Christmas Break the next two weeks

Week of January 3:	Ruth Neske
Week of January 10:	Pat Gentry
Week of January 17:	Rita Langford
Week of January 24:	Betsy Struckhoff
Week of January 31:	Carolyn Schellert

### Purificators

Month of December:	June Spiess
Month of January:	Carol Ostermeyer

## Please pray for all the sick and suffering:

Phyllis Zerr, Sandy Knott, Mike & Pat Ryan, Fran Bussen, Nancy Hollenstein, Deacon Tony, Walt Reel, Amy Robbins,  
Betty Boyd, Don Schmidt, Janie Roth, Betty Heppermann, Joyce Brakensiek, Carl Wolff, Gary Potter, Pete Schepis, Terry Hagen

Lisa Debold (daughter of Dave & Pam DeBold), Leon Burkemper (son of Carol Rabbitt),  
Doris Eisenbath (mother of Judy Molitor), Janet Piel (sister of Joni Marren-Slaughter),  
John Stringer (friend of Larry & Rita Bendel), Loren & Evelyn Brandon (parents of Marty & Peggy Dupree),  
Audrey Molitor (sister of Flo Joerling), Pat Finan (daughter of Fran Bussen),  
Marlene Hegemeier (sister of Pat Roche), Steve Wengerski (family friend of Mandy Daub),  
Sophia Hartsfield (granddaughter of Ed & Marcia Etzkorn), Keith Langford (son of Rita & brother of Valerie Langford),  
Red Brockmeyer (cousin of Kay & Ray Cherry), Karla Sitzes (daughter of Sophia Bax),  
Karen Windler (sister of John Wappelhorst), Michael Speir (son-in-law of Jackie & Steve Dunn)

**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](mailto:brhutchcraft@centurytel.net)

## Mass Intentions

Monday, December 28	
8:00am	Audrey Kalist +
Tuesday, December 29	
8:00am	Paul Welhoelter + intention of Sr. Mary Carolyn Welhoelter
Wednesday, December 30	
8:00am	All Souls Michael Zurweller +
Thursday, December 31	
8:00am	Jim Elfrink +
4:00pm	Ed Haas +
Friday, January 1	
10:00am	Holy Vocations Brett Varady +
Saturday, January 2	
8:00am	Vickie Brink +
4:00pm	Milton Barta +
Sunday, January 3	
7:30am	People of IHM
9:30am	Mary Fine + Carolyn Whitmore +

## This Week at Home

*social distancing recommended at all events*

Monday, December 28	Scouts, Founders Hall, 6:30pm
Tuesday, December 29	Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am
Wednesday, December 30	Reconciliation, 7pm
Thursday, December 31	Holy Day eve Mass at 4pm
Friday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Holy Day Mass at 10am
Saturday, January 2	Reconciliation, 8:45am Event in Grand Hall early afternoon



## Contributions, Dec. 12/13

General Offertory:	\$17,461.48
Online—General Offertory:	\$4,911.42
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$22,372.90</b>

### December 29/20 will be reported next week

*"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive."*  
Colossians 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, give the gift of forgiveness with someone—a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

**We pray ... that God will provide us the strength to forgive those that have hurt us.**

## Needed at the Pantry



Vegetable soup, fruit juices, sugar, hot chocolate, men's deodorant, razors, toothbrushes, tea bags, coffee, canned fruit, gravy packets, oil, jelly, bisquick, dish soap, laundry detergent, all purpose cleaner, snacks for kids lunches.

***Please hold your plastic bags—we have plenty!!***

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. During our New Year may our families "grow in wisdom and have the favor of God upon them."

During the month of December, through your gifts of financial help and Angel tree presents, St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring Christmas to the hearts of the poor. Thanks, and a blessed 2021 from us to you!

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40
Mon:	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
Tue:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
Wed:	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
Thu:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
Fri:	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Sat:	1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

Authentic Catholic Radio: AM 1460



The people at St. Patrick's Center were so grateful for all the warm coats, suits, sweaters, blankets, etc., **31 huge bags full!**  
Your caring and generosity is just what God is asking of us, especially at this time.  
Bless you all, and have a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.  
—Pat Gentry and her elves—



## What's Your Catholic Catechism IQ?

"The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a statement of the Church's faith and of Catholic doctrine, attested to or illuminated by Sacred Scripture, the Apostolic Tradition and the Church's Magisterium. I declare it to be a sure norm for teaching the faith." (Pope St. John Paul II)

- Man's dignity requires him to act out of conscious and free choice, not by blind \_\_\_\_\_ in himself or by mere external constraint.
  - sight
  - following
  - impulses
  - search
- The virtue of chastity comes under the cardinal virtue of \_\_\_\_\_, which seeks to permeate the passions and appetites of the senses with reason.
  - justice
  - prudence
  - temperance
  - fortitude
- Self-mastery is a long and exacting work. One can never consider it acquired once and for all; it presupposes renewed effort at all stages of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - birth
  - schooling
  - death and dying
  - life
- Chastity presupposes the right to receive information and an education that respect the moral and \_\_\_\_\_ dimensions of human life.
  - financial
  - spiritual
  - macro
  - micro
- Charity is the form of all the virtues under its influence, chastity appears as a school of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the person.
  - control
  - gift
  - emotion
  - passion
- Chastity is expressed notably in \_\_\_\_\_, which represents a great good for all; it leads to spiritual communion.
  - seduction
  - manipulation
  - kidnapping
  - friendship
- All Christ's faithful are called to lead a chaste life in keeping with their particular \_\_\_\_\_ of life.
  - desire
  - states
  - dysfunctions
  - temptations
- Some profess virginity or consecrated \_\_\_\_\_ which enables them to give themselves to God alone with an undivided heart in a remarkable manner.
  - homes
  - celibacy
  - veils
  - documents
- Others live in the way prescribed for all by the moral law, whether they are married or single; married people are called to live \_\_\_\_\_ chastity.
  - conjugal
  - above
  - beyond
  - without
- Those engaged to marry are called to chastity in continence, seeing in this time a testing, a discovery of mutual respect, an apprenticeship in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - fidelity
  - building a home
  - anxiety
  - carpentry

## PSR Corner

### The Holy Family

What was the life of the Holy Family like? One can only imagine the dynamic of a family relationship where God was really, truly, personally at the center of their relationship. Over the years two Scriptures come to mind in particular when reflecting about this dynamic. Ponder these two inspired Scriptures of the Holy Spirit and see how they relate to your own family relationship-dynamic.



**Philippians 2:3-4** Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**Romans 12:9-10** Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

### Please pray for our troops:

Ian Bagby—U.S. Army  
 Randy Brittingham—U.S. Air Force  
 Gregory Conners—U.S. Army  
 Luke Cwiklowski—U.S. Navy  
 Joseph Gardner—U.S. Navy  
 Austin Gilliam—U.S. Marines  
 Nicholas Hitt—U.S. Army  
 Jacob Holstein—U.S. Marines  
 Connor Jaekle—U.S. Navy  
 Emily Jaekle—U.S. Marines  
 Courtney Kelley (Swoboda) - U.S. Air Force  
 Angela Kettler—U.S. Navy  
 Alexandra McIntosh—U.S. Navy  
 Danielle McIntosh—U.S. Marines  
 Richard Ostermeyer—U.S. Marines  
 Matthew Rison—U.S. Navy  
 Molly Rison—U.S. Navy  
 Eric Roethler—U.S. Marines  
 Andrew Salmo—U.S. Army  
 Matthew Stovall—U.S. Marines  
 Blake Varady—U.S. Army  
 Alexander Vesel—U.S. Navy

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

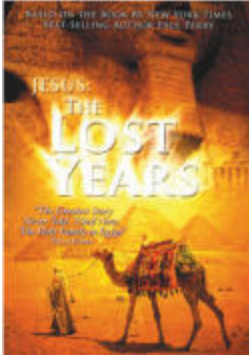
Answer Key:  
 1. c (2339) 2. c (2341) 3. d (2342) 4. b (2344) 5. b (2346)  
 6. d (2347) 7. b (2348) 8. b (2349) 9. a (2349) 10. a (2350)



## St. Paul Library / Lighthouse CD Resources

(Note: With close to 4000 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



*Jesus the Lost Years*: DVD.

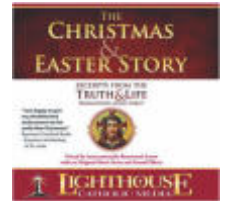
Where did the Holy Family go when they went to Egypt?

The Bible contains only a few verses about the years Jesus spent in Egypt. What Perry finds is truly amazing: places where Jesus slept, suffered, performed miracles and destroyed massive statues - all events aligning with Old Testament Prophecy. The story begins in the harsh Sinai Desert and reveals mysteries and miracles as he follows the trail of the childhood of Jesus. This is an inspiring voyage that combines adventure, spiritual journey and historical detective work. *Jesus: The Lost Years* takes you on a journey that explores the childhood of Jesus and secrets you never knew existed. Was Jesus' childhood actually spent in Egypt? If so, what did He do there? Where did He go? Is there any proof?

### Listen to the Bible on FORMED.org. Go to [www.ihm-newmelle.formed.org](http://www.ihm-newmelle.formed.org)

Experience these beautiful excerpts from the Truth & Life Dramatized Audio Bible New Testament. Endorsed with an Imprimatur and voiced by internationally-renowned actors, this dramatized audio content is enhanced with sound effects and music that make the Christmas and Easter narratives come alive.

This is a nice intro for the Truth & Life audio bible that focuses on the Christmas and Easter Stories, but since the full version of the Truth & Life audio bible is also on FORMED you can listen to the entire New Testament now!



**BEHOLD** ... is a ministry for separated and divorced members of the body of Christ. Through the use of the image of the Ecce Homo during this 12 week program, each person may be met through the Church in

Encountering Christ's Compassionate Embrace.

The next 12 week program at Immaculate Conception—Dardenne Prairie starts January 5, 2021 from 7pm to 9pm. Contact Debi Jones-Orf at [debijo@att.net](mailto:debijo@att.net) for more information.

#### Pope's Intentions for December: For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



Janet Hespen, Youth Minister,  
314-369-6521

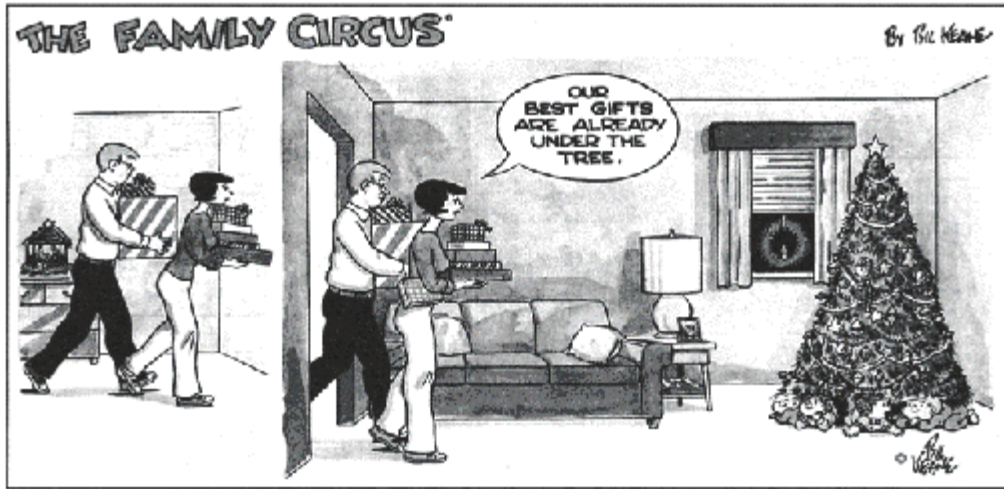
- Jan. 1: Mary, Mother of God, Holy Day Mass 10am
- Jan. 7: New Beginnings: Begin Luke 18 planning
- Jan 21: Building Discipleship
- Jan. 28: Luke 18 planning and practice skit. Practice stocks 1 through 4.
- Feb. 4: Luke 18 discussions and practice talks 5 thru 8
- Feb. 11: Luke 18 final preparations
- Feb. 12: Luke 18 setup
- Feb. 13: Luke 18 lock-in Retreat for all IHM 8th graders. Check in at 9am. Ends after Mass on Feb. 14



**Registration Now Open ...** MISSOURI LIFE CARAVAN is now accepting registrations for our bus trip to the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. **Thursday thru Saturday, January 28-30, 2021.** 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 \$230. For more information, to register or to sponsor a rider go to [www.missourilifecaravan.org](http://www.missourilifecaravan.org). Contact us at [mrl.eastern@yahoo.com](mailto:mrl.eastern@yahoo.com) or 314-434-4900.

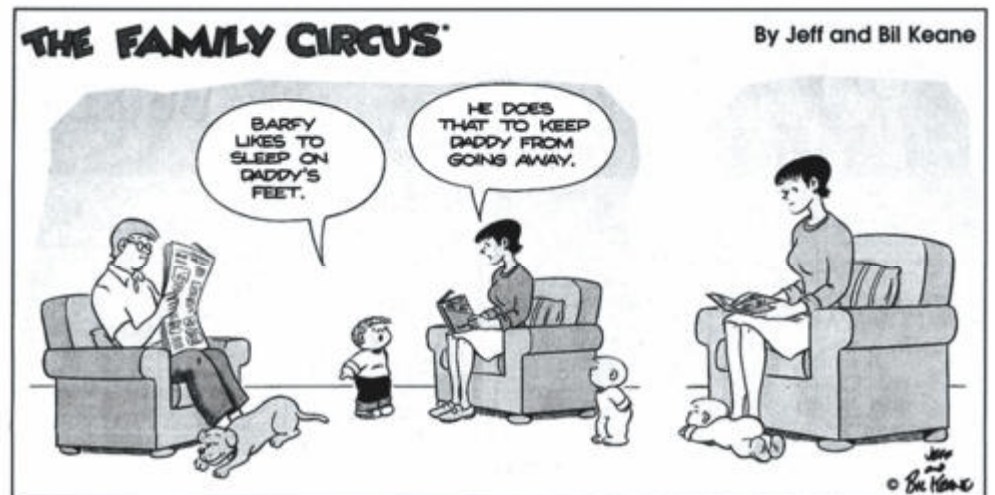
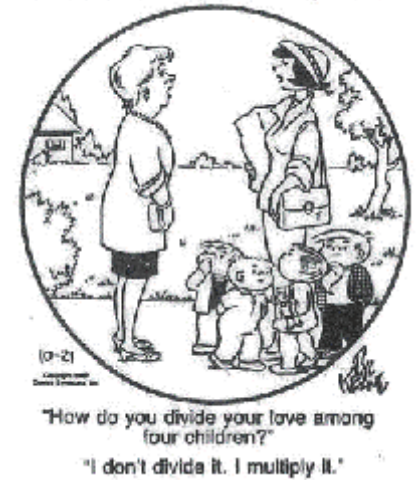
## The Holy Family with Family Circus

Here's some fun comics from "The Family Circus" for this Feast of the Holy Family.

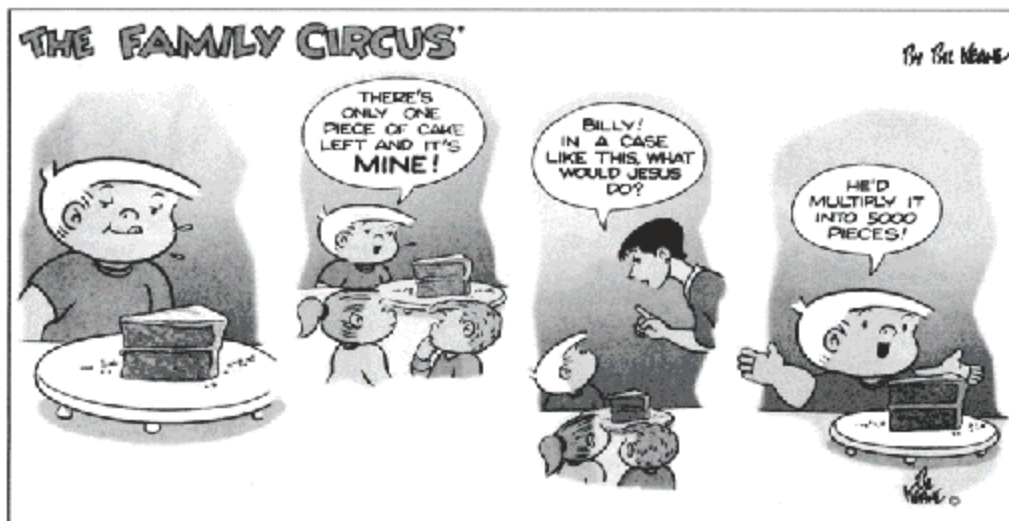


from The Joyful Noiseletter Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane ©Bil Keane

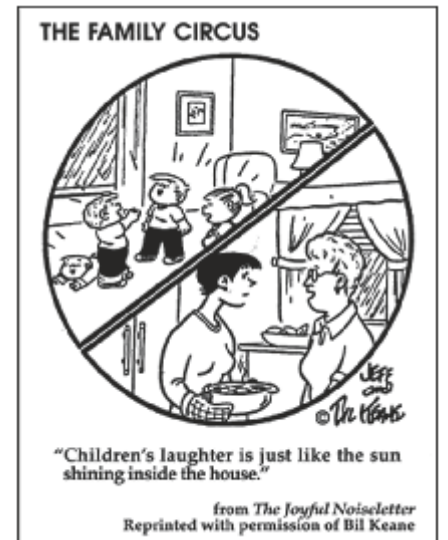
**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane



from The Joyful Noiseletter Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane



from The Joyful Noiseletter Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane ©Bil Keane







Here is our seminarian Josh Deters pulling the winning quilt ticket. And the winner is.....

Marilyn Taylor—Congratulations!!

Many thanks to all who entered the drawing for our Christmas quilt. It was a huge success this year, despite the limitations!

*P.S. The ladies have already started on next year's quilt!  
Rumors have it that a wreath is involved.*



Ralph Biddy was very surprised at the SVDP Christmas gathering recently. A grateful community presented him with a plaque (etched with St. Vincent de Paul's face) which reads:

**Immaculate Heart of Mary—Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
recognizes with deep appreciation  
Dr. Ralph Biddy  
for over 20 years of faithful service  
to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and to those we serve.**



Bah humbug!

No, they just weren't quite ready for their photo. Another couple of seconds and they broke out into great smiles. (Note the head coverings!)

Thanks to Phoebe Wehmeyer, the roving photographer, and to Josh and Fr. Tom for being willing to pose for the camera!



On the evening of December 11, our church was filled with soft lights, music and song during our "Seasons of Hope" Advent Christmas Concert. This beautiful evening was made possible by the following:

Bryan Beams: pianist/co-creator  
Maya Bryant: vocalist/co-creator  
Kyle Huelsing: vocalist  
Matthew Hinkle: percussion  
Vinnie Guiffida: keyboards  
Mike Gagliano: audio engineer  
Ray Gerard: narrator

Cathy Pescarino: vocalist/co-creator  
Connor Steinhart: vocalist/rhythm guitar  
Glen Smith: bass guitar  
Tom Winter: violin  
Jarrod Broadbooks: lead guitar  
Brian Gagliano: video engineer  
Chantal Beauchamp: production assistant

**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.



We welcome to our parish family  
through the Sacrament of Baptism  
**Emerie Lyn Schneider**

daughter of Tyler & Mackenzie (Veatch) Schneider

Marriage in Christ has been promised between  
**Erin Jaeckle and Christopher Moore**



## LIVE THE LITURGY

### INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

While families come in all shapes and sizes and no two are the same, they all need a common focus and grounding. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with a proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. In addition to all of these things, the axis of every family has to be centered on faith. It is here that we can learn about the virtues and discover the windows to God Himself in His gifts of faith, hope, and love. We can learn, modeling our experience after the Holy Family, how to use these as anchors in our lives so that we can live out the other virtues with greater integrity. Because our human families struggle with weakness and sin, we have to come back to the Holy Family often for inspiration and guidance. In the bond of love that they shared, they clung to the anchor of God Himself and endured challenges far greater than many we will ever face.



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