



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

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

Website: www.ihm-newmelle.org

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

Parish Office: 636-398-5270 Fax: 636-398-5577

Schedule of Holy Mass

Saturday: 8:00am
4:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am
Weekdays: 8:00am, St. Joseph Chapel

Weekly Devotions and Prayers

Eucharistic Adoration:

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

Rosary:

Following 8am Mass Monday thru Friday

Perpetual Help Devotions:

Tuesdays following 8am Mass

Respect Life Prayers:

Thursday following 8am Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction:

Friday at 11:30am

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:

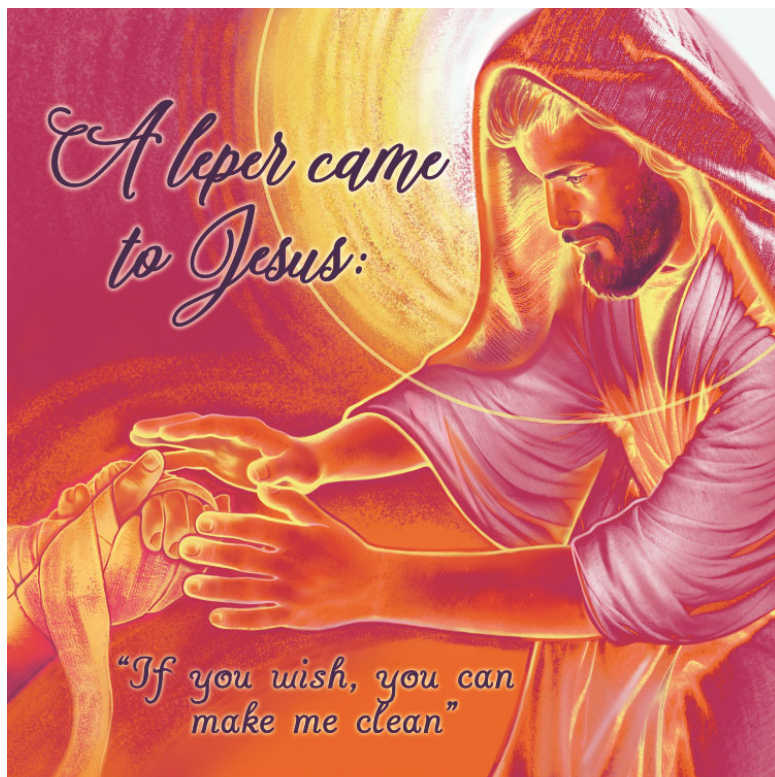
Contact the parish office

to register for class and to arrange date

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:

Contact Shawn Mueller in the parish office

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 11, 2018



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PAUL THE PEOPLE PLEASER?

Last week we heard St. Paul saying that he was all things to all people. This week, we hear that he tried to please everyone. To modern ears, that sounds more like a used car salesman, who has just the right deal for any buyer. But that wasn't what Paul meant. The key to Paul's way of life is the last line of the second reading: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1 Cor 11:1)

Remember when Paul was still Saul, the Jew who persecuted Christians? When he was struck by lightning he heard, not thunder, but the voice of Jesus, who asked why Saul was persecuting him. Paul later began

to understand that all Christians make up the body of Christ. As members of that body, we can show others what Jesus is like, by our example. That seems to be a two part process.

First, to show Christ, we have to know Christ. We can do that by reading the scriptures and praying with them. We can receive the sacraments regularly, especially Reconciliation, where we experience his forgiveness and love, and the Eucharist, where Jesus unites himself with us, so that we can become more like him.

The second part is acting like Jesus. If we want people to see Christ in us, we don't dress like him, or grow a

beard. We have to do things as Jesus would: Forgive people who hurt us, care for the sick, the dying, the poor. Don't be afraid to tell people what God has done for you; encourage others to be grateful for what God has done for them. Pray with people who have difficulty talking to God.

Paul obviously didn't please everyone, or he wouldn't have ended his life in prison. He was more interested in pleasing God by spreading the Good News of Jesus' resurrection. If we can imitate Paul in that way, we can't go wrong.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Parish Staff

Fr. Tom Miller, Pastor: askpadre@aol.com
 Cell phone for emergencies only: 314-303-2428
 Deacon Chris Ast: chrisast@archstl.org
 Deacon Tony Falbo: tony.2011@centurylink.net
 Shawn Mueller, Director of Religious Education: smueller@ihm-newmelle.org
 Laura Orf, Business Manager: lorf@ihm-newmelle.org
 Peggy Dupree, Secretary: secretary@ihm-newmelle.org
 Submit bulletin articles by Monday 9am to bulletin@ihm-newmelle.org
 Marilyn O'Neill, Music Director: m.oneill@ihm-newmelle.org
 Janet Hespen, Youth Ministry: janethspn@outlook.com
 Karen Wappelhorst, Child Safety Coordinator: childsafety@ihm-newmelle.org

Weddings, Receptions, Events

Hall Rental Information: Pat Gentry 636-398-5270
 Wedding Coordinators: Pat Gentry 636-398-4358
 Kelly Meyer 636-828-4994
 Event Coordinators: Joan Marren-Slaughter 636-398-5270
 Mary Keune 636-398-5270

Religious Education

*(Please contact Shawn Mueller,
 Director of Religious Education
 for more information)*

Parish School of Religion

(Grades 1 through 8)
 September through May
 Wednesdays from 6:00—7:30pm

Confirmation Preparation

(8th Grade)
 September through May
 Wednesdays from 6:00—7:30pm

Children's Liturgy of the Word

September through May
 During the 9:30am Sunday Mass

Adult Education

Wednesdays at 8:45 and 6:10pm

Quick Contacts Directory

Prayer and Devotion

Eucharistic Adoration
 Shawn Mueller 636-398-5270
 Legion of Mary
 Maria Romine-Kantor 314-614-0857
 Prayer Chain
 Rita Langford 636-399-6083
 Prayer Intercession/Jonah Team
 Debbie Gillespie 636-398-4971
 Prayer Shawl Ministry
 Julia Kettler 636-616-0096

Liturgical Ministries

Extraordinary Ministers
 Irene Caldwell 636-398-4311
 Gift Bearers
 Peggy Dupree 636-398-5270
 Lectors
 Ed Taylor 636-561-7099
 Ushers
 Need a coordinator
 Altar Society
 Pam DeBold 636-482-4765
 Music Ministry
 Marilyn O'Neill 314-341-2622
 Contemporary Music Group
 Debbie Gillespie 636-398-4971

Education

High School Youth Leader
 Janet Hespen 314-369-6521
 RCIA, PSR, Children's Liturgy of the Word
 Shawn Mueller 636-398-5270
 Young Adults
 Julie Lassiter 636-357-0121

Parish Organizations

Art & Environment
 Mary Karll 636-433-5049
 Budget & Finance
 Larry Graves 314-799-9804
 Cemetery Committee
 Mark Keune 314-220-7075
 Dinner Committee
 Jeff Comotto 636-798-2369
 Golden Hearts
 Jackie Hackett 636-398-5605
 Knights of Columbus
 Gary Potter 636-228-4755
 Marian Council
 Mary Jean Hartenbach 636-398-4677
 Meals on Wheels
 Jean Bammann 636-798-2718
 Outreach
 Steve Farber sfarber@farbermarketing.com
 Pro Life
 Bill Winters 636-828-4133
 Quilters
 Mary Ann Brakensiek 636-828-5776
 Ruth Willis 636-398-4597
 Scouting
 Jerry Hespen 636-236-1955
 Cub Scouts: Wesley Brandhorst 636-327-0531
 Boy Scouts: Chad Peters 314-807-7177
 Venture Crew: Steve Williams 314-486-4023
 St. Vincent de Paul
 Teresa Waddington 314-440-7475
 Welcoming Committee
 Teresa Berfanger 636-398-5565

LENTEN HABITS

Dear Parishioners,

This coming Wednesday we begin our annual Lenten preparation for Easter. There are a number of things I want to make you aware of as we enter this new liturgical season. Many of these are just a personal choice and are not mandated by the Church, but rather chosen by me as a way of enhancing our celebration of the season.

Simple Entrance: Since my early days as a priest I have liked the idea of processing into church by the sound of a simple chime or bell. My hope was that it would provide a more reflective state of mind as we enter the liturgy.

Confiteor: This form of the penitential rite can be done anytime, but it is especially fitting for Lent as we examine our sins in preparation for receiving the Lord. The penitential rite itself does not forgive sin, but rather calls to mind that we can approach God with confidence because He is merciful.

Apostle's Creed: During Lent we have the option to say the Apostle's Creed instead of the Nicene Creed. While the Apostle's Creed is older than the Nicene Creed it is not as complete in its explanation of the theological elements professed in a creed.

Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation: The last few Lent's I have made it a point to pray these Eucharistic Prayers as part of our celebration. They tend to emphasize the themes of mercy and reconciliation. I don't think these prayers are in our new missals, so it will require more attention at Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: During the Lenten season I will be offering additional times to celebrate the Sacrament. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday I will be in my Confessional from 7:00pm until 8:30pm or until the last confession is heard. Please know that if you have some hesitation about celebrating the Sacrament, I am more than happy to walk you through the Sacrament. Nobody wants you to be reconciled to God more than He does.

Stations of the Cross: While not part of Mass, the Stations invite us to reflect upon the last hours of Our Lord's life. This year we have a few different varieties to experience. Hopefully I can talk with the Deacons and will be able to let you know what version we are praying on a given Friday of Lent.

Peace,

Fr. Tom



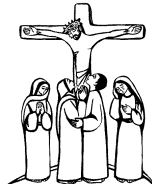
MASSES:
8am & 7pm in Church



Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 7pm,
Saturday at 8:45am

Stations of the Cross
Fridays of Lent
7pm in Church

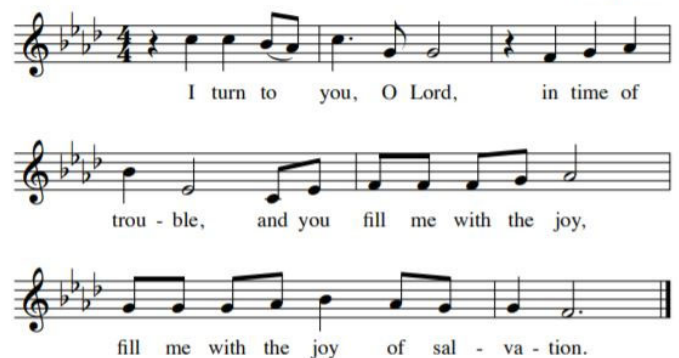


AM 1460 KHOJ, Catholic radio
For inspiration and encouragement
in your spiritual life

I Turn to You, O Lord

Psalm 32

David Haas



The English translation of the Psalm Response from the *Lectionary for Mass*
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NEXT WEEK MINISTRY SCHEDULE

February 17
4:00pm

EM: Pat Barnard, Jennifer Fredrick, Ann Zaleuke,
Wilma Zurweller, Pat Noack, Donna Cuddihee,
Bernadine Pollihan, Karen Wilson
Lec: Nancy Ast, Larry Graves
GB: Stan & Barb Nikonowicz
Serv: Brody & Ashlyn Stafford
Ush: Chris Cuddihee, Tim Wilson, Bryan Potter,
Joe Spiess

February 18
7:30am

EM: John & Karen Wappelhorst, Peggy Dupree,
Maureen Blondin, Emily Cooksey, John Fiacco
Lec: Kris Jenkins, Chuck Kettler
GB: Loretta Bruns, Rosemary Marquart
Serv: Andy, Daniel, David Vehige
Ush: Philip Thoman, Mike Stassi, Rich Molitor,
Walt Reel

9:30am

EM: Chris Aulbach, Laura Holstein, Alvina Fry,
Janet Hespen, Don & Susan Hladky, Clara Haas,
Bob Leeker
Lec: Drew Smith, Michelle Greiwe
GB: Steve & Trish Williams
Serv: Brianna, Morgan, Jordan Dale
Ush: Terry Schneider, Brian Corrigan, Curt Eccardt,
Joe Weber, Alan Raymond, Walt Hollenstein III

CAN YOU HELP US?

A couple of extra hands are needed during February to ride along with us to collect donated groceries to deliver to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food Pantry in St. Louis. We meet in Wentzville on Tuesday and Thursday morning then ride together in the OLPH truck. Pickup runs begin at 7:30 and we are usually complete by 1pm. If you are interested in helping, please call Ralph Britton at 636-357-2111 or Mike Freymuth at 314-397-7777. You won't be sorry, and you'll be amazed to see how many people we actually help.

THIS WEEK AT HOME

Sunday, February 11

KofC Breakfast, Founders Hall, 8-11am

Monday, February 12

Scouts, Founders Hall/Trailer, 6:30pm

Tuesday, February 13

Legion of Mary, Weber Hall, 9am

Fitness class, Grand Hall foyer, 9-10am

Children's Choir, church, 6:45pm

Wednesday, February 14—ASH WEDNESDAY

Masses at 8am and 7pm

Sunday readings study, Weber Hall, 8:45am

PSR, Weber/Founders Hall, Trailer, 6pm

The Creed study, Grand Hall, 6pm

Reconciliation, 7pm

Oremus prayer study, Grand Hall, 7:30pm

Thursday, February 15

Fitness class, Grand Hall foyer, 9-10am

RCIA, Weber Hall, 6:30pm

Choir practice, church, 7pm

Friday, February 16

Whom Am I To Judge study, 6:30am, Weber Hall

Quilting, Weber Hall, 8:30—noon

Fish Fry, Founders Hall, 4:40—7pm

Stations of the Cross, St. Joseph Chapel, 7pm

Saturday, February 17

Reconciliation, 8:45am

Women's Prayer Breakfast, Grand Hall, after Mass

SVDP Pantry open 9-10:30am

Sunday, February 18

Donuts, Weber Hall, 8:30—11am

Thanks to the Welcoming Committee

Golden Hearts, Grand Hall, 1pm



✠ REST IN PEACE ✠

We offer our prayerful sympathy
—to Sue and Paul McNeill on the death of her mother
Winnie Koenig

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

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A diseased man came to Jesus, knelt down, and begged him for help...Jesus was filled with pity, and reached out and touched him. At once the disease left the man. The man went away and began to spread the news everywhere. MARK 1:40-42,45

Jesus' miracles made people take notice. They were "signs," proclaiming that something historic was happening. They were "signs," proclaiming that Jesus was setting in motion the long-awaited Kingdom of God. And what was this Kingdom of God? It was a new world order in which love would replace hate, concern would replace apathy, light would replace darkness, and life would replace death. It was a new world order in which God's will is to be done "on earth as it is in heaven." What is one way my personal life reflects to those around me the new world order that Jesus began?

I alone control the inner switch that can make a light in our world.

Mark Link S.J. *Mission*

Mass Intentions



PLEASE NOTE: Ash Wednesday Masses, February 14

8:00 am & 7:00pm in Church

Monday, February 12

8:00am All Souls

Tuesday, February 13

8:00am Randy & Lukas Schneider +

Wednesday, February 14

8:00am Rev. Donald T. Dalton +
Tom Holstein +

7:00pm Bill & Rosemary Bangert +

Thursday, February 15

8:00am Larry Randolph +

Friday, February 16

8:00am Cy Bamert +
Bob Barnard +

Saturday, February 17

8:00am Shirley McDonald +
Jack Hitt—3rd anniv. +

4:00pm Jack Roderick +

Sunday, February 18

7:30am Kim Kristiansen +
Ed Rabbitt +

9:30am People of the Parish
Erma Guinn +

NAR-ANON SUPPORT GROUP: Weekly meetings
on Saturdays, 10:00 am in the Trailer at IHM.

SPOTLIGHT ON FAITH

**Women's Lenten Prayer Breakfast on Saturday,
February 17, Grand Hall**



You are invited to listen to IHM parishioner, actress, singer and entrepreneur Maria Romine as she breaks apart her conversion story and "Spotlights" how we can live our faith, not necessarily on a public stage, but with our family, friends, and acquaintances. Since her conversion to Catholicism, Maria has developed a deep passion for spreading the joy of the Gospel and uses her talents and gifts as an actress to call others to feel and share that same joy.

Breakfast following 8am Mass

All are welcome to this fee-free event

Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office

CONTRIBUTIONS: FEBRUARY 3/4

General Offertory: \$10,681.08

Online—General Offertory: \$4,080.00

Total Offertory: \$14,761.08

"Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "gods" (like our pride and ego, money and possessions to name a few) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself: am I doing this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?

We pray that everything we do is for the glory of God.



HEAVENLY DUSTER

Vicky Grunz

PURIFICATORS

Mary Stassi

NEEDED AT THE PANTRY:

Canned fruit: applesauce, mandarin oranges, peaches, pears, and fruit cocktail; cake and brownie mixes, hamburger helper, tuna helper, dry spaghetti, pasta sauce, sloppy joe sauce, cold cereal, toilet paper, bisquick

In the Gospel today Jesus, moved with pity, touched the leper and healed him. Let us pray today for the grace to be generous with our lives to help those who are suffering.

By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you indeed put your faith into action as you bring healing to the poor, hungry and weeping.

HAVE YOU TRIED ONLINE GIVING?

Are you tired of putting checks in your envelope each week? Do you wish you could give more, but when the weekend rolls around you just don't have as much cash as you'd like? Welcome to ONLINE GIVING! Done this way, your financial offering to the parish is made electronically (and securely) through the parish website. You specify the amount of the gift and how often, and on those dates the funds are automatically transferred from your account to the parish account. **We now offer credit card giving options!** You have access to your account 24/7 and flexibility to change your financial offering at any time. Simply go to the parish website, click Online Giving, and follow the easy instructions.

**ATTENTION all families
with children
in Catholic elementary
and high schools**

Alive in Christ 2018-19 scholarship applications are now available on a first-come, first-served for all new awards and younger siblings that may be eligible. The application deadline for Beyond Sunday, Catholic Families Tuition Assistance and the Parish Employees Endowment Fund is February 28, 2018. Any family who would like to be considered for these programs, even if you are applying for requalification, must apply between January 29 and February 28. Please visit www.ttef-stl.org for information and application support. Click on Info for Parents under the Scholarships section for helpful resources!



**Join the Holy Father's prayer
intentions for February:
Say "No" to Corruption**

That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

IHM Lenten Fish Fries



February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23
Serving from 4:30—7:00pm

- \$12: Adults Dine in**
- \$10: Adults Carry out**
- \$6: Kids 12 and under Dine in**
- \$5: Kids 12 and under Carry out**

Menu Includes:

Haddock—Cod—Catfish

**French Fries, Green Beans, Cole Slaw,
Mac & Cheese, Applesauce, Surprise Pasta each week
Tea, Coffee, Lemonade**

**Beer and soda available for purchase
thanks to our Knights of Columbus**

We need your help! Please sign up in the Narthex



Consider serving our Lord and your fellow parishioners in one of our Liturgical Ministries here at IHM. You are being invited to the ministry of **Lector** - those who proclaim the first and second Readings at Mass; **Extraordinary Minister** - those who assist Fr. Tom and the Deacons in distributing Holy Communion; **Usher**—those who take up the collection, help people find a seat, as well as assist the congregation in any way possible; **Gift Bearers**—those who bring forth the bread and wine for the offertory.

Please complete this form and return in the collection or by mail. You will be contacted soon.
Thank you, and God bless you!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

I am interested in: **Lector** _____ **Extraordinary Minister** _____ **Usher** _____ **Gift Bearer** _____

Mass time preferred: 4:00pm 7:30pm 9:30pm Email: _____



The tales of why the Church embraced eating fish at Lent are as big as the one that got away. Especially this account: Centuries ago, the pope required Catholics to eat fish on Fridays to support a floundering fishing industry rife with financial troubles. — Oh, that's a good one! Urban legends aside, the reasons our Church has taken to these little — or big — swimmers as a source of penitential sacrifice are rooted in the idea of remembering the betrayal and crucifixion of Christ. No law states that Catholics must eat fish on the Fridays of Lent, but it's a rule that we must abstain from eating the meat of warm-blooded animals. The practice of abstinence among Christians dates back centuries — and was mentioned in the Didache, the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, written around the first or second century.

Among the simplest ways of explaining our fascination with fish? It was a natural go-to back in the day, especially among those without means. Meat was a luxury, hence why fish came onto the Lenten scene.

Fish fries these days aren't fixed on the fin, though. Menus include vegetables, meatless pastas, ethnic specialties such as tamales and even the legs of our amphibian friends. But the overriding element is the sense of community built when more than one are gathered in His name.

As we pledge to eat more fish — or other meatless fare — let us make this Lent a good one.



Archdiocesan Lenten Regulations

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." JOHN 3:16-17

The Church has always helped us fulfill these words of Jesus by prescribing very definite penance for all Catholics, so that we too might have Eternal life. Accordingly, the Pope and the American Bishops have outlined obligatory fast and abstinence as follows:

Ash Wednesday (February 14, 2018) and Good Friday (March 30, 2018) are days of **abstinence** for all Catholics **over the age of 14**. On these two days, **fast**, as well as **abstinence**, is also obligatory for those **from the ages of 18-59**. Abstinence means refraining from meat. Fast means one full meal a day, with two smaller meals and nothing between meals (liquids are permitted). No Catholic will lightly excuse himself or herself from this obligation.

All Fridays in Lent are days of **abstinence** from meat. Here again Catholics will not hold themselves lightly excused, but if there is a serious health problem, this obligation would not apply.

Valentine's Day coincides with Ash Wednesday this year

Catholics throughout the world recognize Ash Wednesday as the solemn beginning of a period of prayerful reflection and penance, as is evident by the large number of churchgoers on this day. In view of the significance of Ash Wednesday, the obligation of fast and abstinence must naturally be the priority in the Catholic community.

Valentine's Day can appropriately be celebrated the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, which also happens to be Mardi Gras, a traditionally festive time before beginning our Lenten observance.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76; Mk 8:11-13
Tue: Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21
Wed: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17;
2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thu: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25
Fri: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
Sat: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32
Sun: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

Did you miss last week's homily?



It's on the website! www.ihm-newmelle.org, scroll down the homepage to "This Week's Homily" (lower left) and just click! An archive of past homilies are on the website also. Click on "Resources" and hit "Homilies" on the popdown menu. Many words of wisdom are tucked away on our website!



New Melle Community
Passion Play

New Melle Sports and Recreation
Saturdays, March 17 & 24, 7pm
Sundays, March 18 & 25, 2pm and 4:30pm
Admission Free

Please pray for all the
sick and suffering, including

Gerard Wehrle, Larry Bendel

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

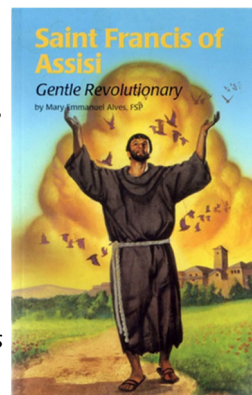
Communion Calls: If you are unable to get to Mass because of illness or disability but would like to receive Communion, please contact the parish office: 636-398-5270.

Prayer Chain: We have a very active group of parishioners who pray for all those who have requested prayers, so your intentions are being remembered to God thru the **Prayer Chain**. If you have a prayer intention, or would like to join them in praying for others' intentions, please call Rita Langford at 636-398-4654 or email ritalangford4@gmail.com.

PSR corner

Every PSR class has a chosen patron saint which catechists help students learn about. After 8 years, students will have learned more about 8 folks in God's Holy Hall of Fame. Meet the 1st grade patron— St. Francis of Assisi.

St. Francis endured many struggles in his life, starting with the struggles with his family, followed by his struggle to rebuild the Church. The story includes his love for God and his desire to follow God's will in all he did from starting a community of Brothers, Sisters, and Preaching. The story not only includes St. Francis' spiritual acceptance of God's will but also his acceptance of the wounds Jesus suffered on the cross.



What's your Catholic Catechism IQ?

It is the 25th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, under (now saint) Pope John Paul II, who wrote, "The Catechism is offered to every individual who asks us to give an account of the hope that is in us (cf. 1 Pet 3:15) and who wants to know what the Catholic Church believes." Every adult Catholic is asked to prayerfully "digest" the Catechism. These questions (which will cover the whole CCC during this year) can help break it down in small bites.



FALL OF ANGELS 2

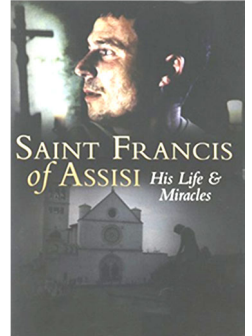
1. There is no repentance for the angels after their fall, just as there is no repentance for men after ____.
2. Scripture witnesses to the disastrous influence of the one Jesus calls "A ____ from the beginning."
3. The reason the Son of God appeared was to ____ the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)
4. The power of Satan is not infinite. He is powerful from the fact that he is pure spirit, but he is still only a ____.
5. It is a great mystery that providence should permit diabolical activity, but we know that in everything God works for this.

ORIGINAL SIN

6. The tree of the knowledge of ____ symbolically evokes the insurmountable limits that man must freely recognize and respect with trust.
7. Man is dependent on his Creator, and subject to the laws of creation and to the moral norms that govern the use of ____.
8. Man chose himself over and against God, against the requirements of his creaturely status and therefore against his own ____.
9. Seduced by the devil, man wanted to "be like God", but "____ God, before God, and not in accordance with God."
10. Consequences of this first disobedience are that Adam and Eve become ____ of the God of whom they have conceived a distorted image.

Mysteries, Marvels and Miracles in the Life of the Church: St. Francis of Assisi (Feast: October 4th)

Apart from the Lord Jesus Himself, few saints have had such an impact on the life of the Church as St. Francis of Assisi. Where does one begin to highlight, summarize his influence on the life of the Church or the mysteries, marvels and miracles associated with his life? A good place to start might be the DVD depicted below, which is based on the official writings of Brother Thomas Celano, a close companion and friar with St. Francis who spent many years with the saint. Brother Thomas called Francis an "alter Christos" who was like "a holy mirror of the sanctity of the Lord, and an image of His perfection." One reviewer on Amazon wrote: "When purchasing this DVD I assumed that it dealt primarily with the miraculous events in the Saint's life. Though some aspects of the miracles are covered, like the miracle of the swallows and of the fish, and of course the stigmata (the theological aspects of these miracle are superbly explained), the gist of this presentation is really the miracle of the LIFE of St. Francis; a life filled with a true love for Jesus Christ." We recently highlighted the Franciscan Priest, St. Padre Pio and the stigmata he shared. It would be fitting to mention St. Francis' stigmata as well.



The Chapel of the Stigmata is perched on the edge of the same sheer precipice where Saint Francis stood two years before his death and where he was swept up into the mystery of God's overwhelming love for him and for humanity. Saint Bonaventure, in his *Life of St. Francis*, describes Francis as being more inflamed than usual with the love of God as he began a special time of prayer at Mount La Verna in September of 1224. Bonaventure goes on: "While Francis was praying on the mountainside, he saw a Seraph with six fiery and shining wings descend from the height of heaven. And when in swift flight the Seraph had reached a spot in the air near the man of God, there appeared between the wings the figure of a man crucified, with his hands and feet extended in the form of a cross and fastened to a cross. Two of the wings were lifted above his head, two were extended for flight and two covered his whole body.

"When Francis saw this, he was overwhelmed and his heart was flooded with a mixture of joy and sorrow. He rejoiced because of the gracious way Christ looked upon him under the form of a Seraph, but the fact that he was fastened to a cross pierced his soul with a sword of compassionate sorrow." When the vision disappeared, writes Bonaventure, Francis was left with a "marvelous ardor" in his heart. At the same time, there "was imprinted on his body markings that were no less marvelous." These markings were the stigmata.

More about the Seraph There are two things to dwell on here. First is the seraph. Seraphs are angels closest to God, burning with love as they bow before the most high God, shouting "Holy, holy, holy!" Their fiery wings suggest the flaming



intensity of God's love that Christ communicated to Francis, which, in turn, set Francis' heart afire. The word seraphic is often used to describe Francis' passionate style of relating to God and is often applied to the Franciscan Order, which is sometime called the Seraphic Order. Second, we focus on "the gracious way that Christ looked upon him." This is something of a repeat of the vision Francis had in the beginning of his spiritual life in which "Jesus appeared to him fastened on a cross, and Francis' soul melted at the sight, and the memory of Christ's passion was so impressed on the innermost recesses of his heart that from that hour whenever Christ's crucifixion came to mind, Francis could scarcely contain his sighs..." (Bonaventure's *Life of St. Francis*).
<http://blog.franciscanmedia.org/the-stigmata-of-st-francis/>

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Sharing our Testimony

Jesus heals the man with leprosy in the Gospel today. Even after instructing the man not to spread the report abroad, the man shares it freely. In our own lives, how difficult is it not to proclaim the wonderful things that God has done for us, both big and small! This is the essence of sharing our personal testimony: telling others how Jesus has transformed our lives and given us a fullness that we previously lacked. I invite you to consider the many opportunities you have to learn how to prepare and share your testimony, which is unique and not quite like that of anyone else. Look into Parish Missionary Disciples, our evangelization training for parishes, or contact us to visit your parish. We are happy to help!

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Guide Book & Directory Advertising Opportunity

We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for the parish. This book will contain everything pertinent to IHM: the various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions and events plus a complete directory of all members. This book is being provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, and it is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the church office at 636-398-5270.

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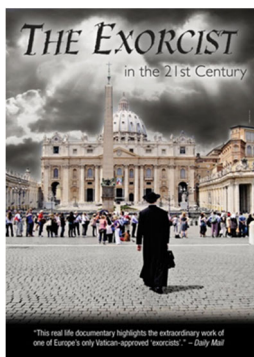
If you have not already informed the church office about changes to your record, please let us know now so that the information in the Guide Book & Directory is correct. Our church office number is 636-398-5270.

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 – Stoltz Grand Hall – Lower Level



The Exorcist of the 21st Century is a very well made documentary following the path of the only exorcist in the whole of Spain, Fr. Jose Antonio Fortea, who is a man of great wisdom and eloquence. It presents to us the forgotten world of exorcisms and the continual battle that mankind faces with the invisible forces of darkness. We are taken in a step-by-step manner into the world of the demonic and taught the many ways, situations and events that can lead to a demonic influence i.e., primarily through occultism, neo-paganism and witchcraft. Guest appearances in this DVD include Fr. Gabriel Amorth (the Vatican's chief exorcist), the Catholic Bishop of Norway, and an exorcist priest from the same country. Bonus features include extended interviews with Fr. Gabriel Amorth and Fr. Fortea. Captured in a compelling and dramatic fashion, the on-camera casting-out of demons is every bit as disturbing as anything Hollywood could conjure up. And the bonus footage of a real-life exorcism is a must-view for anyone interested in this subject. The documentary is 80 minutes long with 114 minutes of bonus features.

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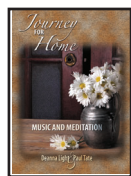
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