



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

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

Website: www.ihm-newmelle.org

Office Phone: 636-398-5270

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

Schedule of Holy Mass

Saturday: 8:00am, 4:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
 Sunday: 7:30am, 10:00am
 Weekdays: 8:00am, in church, Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Weekly Devotions and Prayers

Eucharistic Adoration:

Monday 8:30am until Friday 11:00am, St. Joseph Chapel

Rosary: Prior to Saturday evening 4pm Mass

Weekday devotions after morning Mass:

Tuesday: Mother of Perpetual Help
 Wednesday: Litany to St. Joseph
 Thursday: Celebrating the Sanctity of Life
 First Friday: Litany of the Sacred Heart

First Saturday of the Month Devotions

8am Mass, Rosary, 15 minutes of meditation

Sacraments

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

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

Baptism: Contact the parish office
 to register for class and to arrange date

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:

Contact Shawn Mueller in the parish office

January 9, 2022 The Baptism of Our Lord



Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ."
 — Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself,

revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear. ©LPi

Welcome to 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

O Come Let Us Adore Him!

Dear Parishioners,

Today as we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord we rejoice in His acceptance of His ministry and the ultimate work of our Redemption. The Baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of His public ministry and proclamation of the Kingdom of God. While John prepared the way for the kingdom, Jesus begins the initiation of the kingdom. That kingdom is awaiting its final fulfillment upon His return in glory. Until then we are called by our own baptismal promises to participate in the work of the Kingdom through our Christian worship and service.

Many thanks to all who made this such a beautiful Christmas season. Our liturgies radiated the joy we experience as Jesus comes to us. It was in many ways a tiring season with all of the extra celebrations, but it is the type of tired we can take satisfaction in feeling. We are tired by love and devotion to



Our Lord. I can't think of a better reason to feel tired at the end of the day than for God and neighbor. All of the decorations in church were outstanding. There is a natural beauty present in our church, and our decorations enhanced and highlighted that daily beauty. Thanks to all who made this Christmas season so outstanding.

Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and generosity this Christmas Season. Thank you all for being signs of God's presence and goodness in our lives. This quote for Epiphany (reproduced below) is often fulfilled by the daily interactions that I have with our staff and our parishioners. The life of a parish priest is the Sacraments and his parish family. I know how blessed I am in my ministry.

Merry Christmas one last time

Fr. Tom

Constantly, each day, each hour, God is sending us people, circumstances, tasks,
which should mark the beginning of our renewal;
yet we pay them no attention, and thus continually we resist God's will for us.

Indeed, how can God help us?

Only by sending us in our daily life certain people, and certain coincidences of circumstance.

If we accepted every hour of our life as the hour of God's will for us,
as the decisive, most important, unique hour of life —
what sources of joy, love, strength, as yet hidden from us, would spring from the depths of our soul!

— Fr. Alexander Elchaninov —

"Who is this Christ? Is he like you?"

Perhaps you've heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

"He is nothing like me," the saint is said to have answered. "But I hope I am like him."

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. "One worthier than I is coming," he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God's will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Ministry Schedule

January 8—4pm

EM: Deacon Chris, Wilma Zurwelloer, Bryan Potter
Lec: Karen Wilson, Sharon Hagan
Serv: **volunteer please**
Music: Bryan & cantor
Ush: Ed Etzkorn, Larry Graves, Chris Cuddihee, **vol. please**

January 9—7:30am

EM: Deacon Chris, Michelle Greiwe, Mary Keune
Lec: Chuck Kettler, Bob Leeker
Serv: Sydney Jaeckle, David Vehige
Music: Verdi & Elizabeth
Ush: Tom Meczowski, Mark Thome, Ron Jacob, Joe Weber

January 9—10am

EM: Deacon Chris, Sharon Smith, Donna Wolff
Lec: Kat & Chris Menne
Serv: Izzy Czuchna, Thomas Kokker
Music: Adult Choir
Ush: Chuck Hinkle, Gary Struckhoff, Larry Smith, Bill Winters

IHMformation Station

4:00pm Karen Wilson
7:30am Mark & Terri Thome
10am Randy & Angie Gust

Ministry Schedule

January 15—4pm

EM: Wally & Jan Karase, Kathy Lalonde
Lec: Larry Graves, Jackie Dunn
Serv: Chase Spurgeon
Music: Bryan & cantor
Ush: Mike Rieker, Tim Wilson, Bill Pollihan, Andy Pope

January 16—7:30am

EM: Jan Kardasz, Kris Jenkins, Dianne Dickherber
Lec: Karen Wappelhorst, Peggy Dupree
Serv: Izzy Scheer, KaBella Bruno
Music: Verdi & cantor
Ush: Ron Neske, Rick Scharf, Chris Molitor, Terry Schneider

January 16—10am

EM: Patrice Riley, Maureen Blondin, Janet Hespen
Lec: Bill Winters, Joe Willis
Serv: William Lassiter, Jack Lyons
Music: Adult Choir
Ush: Bill Riley, Alan Raymond, Bob Hutchcraft, Ron Simpson

IHMformation Station

4:00pm Wally & Jan Karase
7:30am Peggy Dupree
10:00am Joe & Debbie Willis



Rest in Peace



We offer our prayerful sympathy to the family of

Johnnie Johnson, mother of Brenda and Bob Hutchcraft

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

Heavenly Dusters

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

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), David Gentry (grandson of Pat Gentry), 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), Charlie Grady (grandson of John & Carol Grady), Marlene Hagemeyer (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),

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

“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean.
But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”

Mother Teresa

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 10	
8:00am	Lou Mossotti+
Tuesday, January 11	
8:00am	All Souls Moiria Ryan +
Wednesday, January 12	
8:00am	the Schneider Family
6:30pm	Bob Burke +
Thursday, January 13	
8:00am	Rev. Charles Burgoon +
Friday, January 14	
8:00am	Peggy Miller + Audrey Hueffmeier (2nd ann.) +
Saturday, January 15	
8:00am	Gerrie Bader +
4:00pm	Steve Kettler +
Sunday, January 16	
7:30am	People of IHM Fr. Tom's 29th Anniversary
10:00am	Herbert O. Fine + int. of Dick & Kathy Lalonde

Activities this Week

Sunday, January 9	
	PSR, Founders Hall/Weber Hall/Trailer 8:45—9:45 Faith Formation, Grand Hall, 8:45am
Monday, January 10	
	Scouts, Founders Hall/Trailer, 6:30pm ACTS Core Team, Weber Hall, 6:30pm Men's prayer group, Grand Hall, 7pm
Tuesday, January 11	
	Legion of Mary, Weber Hall, following 8am Mass Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am Choir practice: children 6pm, adults 7pm Marian Council, Grand Hall, 6:30pm
Wednesday, January 12	
	Sunday readings study, Weber Hall, 8:45am 6:30pm Mass followed by Reconciliation Bible Study, Weber Hall, 7:15pm
Thursday, January 13	
	Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am RCIA, Weber Hall, 6:30pm Event in Grand Hall this evening
Friday, January 14	
	Quilting, Weber Hall, 8:30—noon
Saturday, January 15	
	Reconciliation following 8am Mass
Sunday, January 16	
	PSR, Founders Hall/Weber Hall/Trailer 8:45—9:45 Faith Formation, Grand Hall, 8:45am Baptismal prep, Weber Hall, 11am (please call the parish office ASAP to register)

2021 Contribution 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.

Contributions December 24/25/26

General/Christmas contributions:	\$15,860.05
Online gifts:	\$3,942.73
Total offering:	\$19,802.78

Contributions January 1/2

General contributions:	\$15,548.10
Online gifts:	\$7,730.67
Total offering:	\$23,278.77

"John answered them all, 'I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming ... he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...' (Luke 3:16)

The Catholic Catechism states that *"Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will."* In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus—the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

We pray: that we may fulfill our own Baptismal call by giving ourselves entirely to God and answer His call to holiness.

Needed at the Pantry

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



After Jesus was baptized, He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and a voice was heard "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." As we give to the poor, we also can hear these same words.

As you help those who are suffering, know in your heart the truth of the words "you are my beloved with whom I am well pleased."

Know someone looking for a great job in retail?

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores are a place of hope and help for many in the St. Louis area and a vital part of the mission to serve those in need. Shoppers in our Thrift Stores help us generate revenue to fund our programs year-round.

We are always looking for new team members to work in our stores, to join us in the mission to provide amazing service and bring hope to those who need it most.

Apply online at www.svdpstlouis.org.

What's Your Catholic IQ?

1. "They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the ____ they saw the child with Mary his mother" (Matthew 2:10-11)
 - a. city
 - b. stable
 - c. house
 - d. Temple
2. In the story of the Wedding Feast at Cana (John 2:1-11), who of the following does not have a speaking part?
 - a. Peter
 - b. Jesus
 - c. the headwaiter
 - d. Mary
3. During Mass, the Lord's Prayer takes place within the
 - a. Concluding Rite
 - b. Communion Rite
 - c. Eucharistic Prayer
 - d. Presentation of the Gifts
4. This saint was nicknamed "Dumb Ox" when he was in college.
 - a. Augustine
 - b. Origen
 - c. Ignatius
 - d. Thomas Aquinas
5. This pope moved the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, to January 1.
 - a. Paul VI
 - b. John Paul II
 - c. John XXIII
 - d. Pius X
6. In 1828, this woman and her companions established the first Catholic school for African-American children in the United States.
 - a. Angela Merici
 - b. Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange
 - c. Mother Catherine McAuley
 - d. Mother May I
7. In the Eastern Catholic Church, these two Sacraments are conferred by the priest when an infant is baptized.
 - a. Penance, Confirmation
 - b. Penance, Eucharist
 - c. Anointing of the Sick, Confirmation
 - d. Confirmation, Eucharist
8. The eremitic life refers to the life lived by those who are
 - a. consecrated virgins
 - b. martyrs
 - c. cloistered monks
 - d. hermits
9. In the prayer of absolution in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the priest says: "Through the ministry of the Church, may God give you ____."
 - a. pardon and peace
 - b. peace and quiet
 - c. courage and strength
 - d. wisdom and understanding
10. During the Cold War, Catholics commonly prayed for the ____ of Russia.
 - a. defeat
 - b. elimination
 - c. conversion
 - d. sanctification

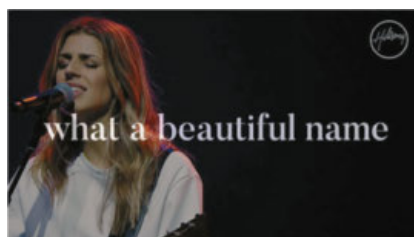


Pope's Intentions for January: For True Human Fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

PSR Corner

In the Traditional- Devotional Dedication of the Months of the Year, January is typically dedicated to The Holy Name and Childhood of Jesus. Gather the family around the computer and google the worship song "What a Beautiful Name" by Hillsong. Enter into the spirit of worship of the Lord's name.



Advertising Opportunity

We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for the parish. This book will contain everything pertinent to our church: the various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions and events plus a complete directory of all members. The 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.

Recent survey results by Guide Book Publishing show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Guide Book & Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. It "will pay" to advertise in our new Guide Book & Directory.

Update Membership Info

Does our church database have YOUR family membership record correct?

Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory (if you haven't already done so).

It is time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past year.

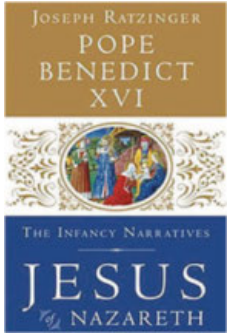
Have you changed your phone number? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home and are they all included in your membership record? Do you want your record published?

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. The church office phone: 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



Jesus of Nazareth: Infancy Narratives: Pope Benedict

The momentous third and final volume in the Pope's international bestselling Jesus of Nazareth series, detailing how the stories of Jesus' infancy and childhood are as relevant today as they were two thousand years ago.

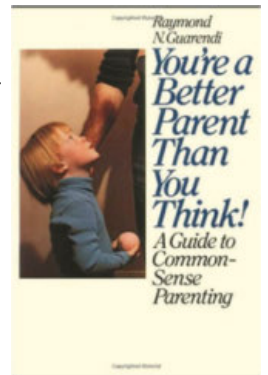
In 2007, Joseph Ratzinger published his first book as Pope Benedict XVI in order "to make known the figure and message of Jesus." Now, the Pope focuses exclusively on the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life as a child. The root of these stories is the experience of hope found in the birth of Jesus and the affirmations of surrender and service embodied in his parents, Joseph and Mary. This is a story of longing and seeking, as demonstrated by the Magi searching for the redemption offered by the birth of a new king. It is a story of sacrifice and trusting completely in the wisdom of God as seen in the faith of Simeon, the just and devout man of Jerusalem, when he is in the presence of the Christ child. Ultimately, Jesus' life and message is a

story for today, one that speaks to the restlessness of the human heart searching for the sole truth which alone leads to profound joy.

(From reviews on Amazon.com)

"This is the best parenting book I've read, and I've read a bunch. It's completely free of psychobabble, and his approach is straightforward, practical, and sensible. Guarendi doesn't get into the usual controversies about whether or not to spank, attachment parenting, or the like. Instead, he gives parents practical ways to apply whatever their particular philosophies are. I can't recommend this book highly enough!"

"I first learned about Dr. Ray from a friend who read this book. Since then, I have purchased every one of Dr. Ray's books and even downloaded his wonderful 13-part audio series from the EWTN web site (...) This book has helped me more in my parenting than any other that I have read. Dr. Ray gives you a no-nonsense approach based on his premise that the one thing parents of today need the most is confidence (at least the parents who are willing to read a book about parenting, that is). What makes this book stand out is that not only will it help you in rearing your child, it will also give you a new perspective when reading other parenting books."



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

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

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

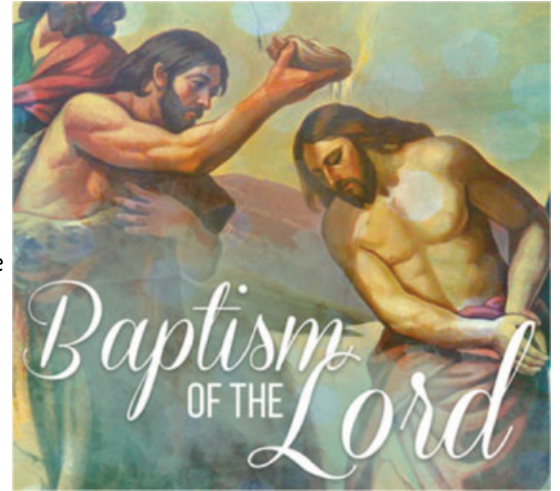
The Respect Life Apostolate has recently launched the **Abortion Healing Ministry (AHM)** which seeks to help the wounded in our communities heal from the manifold pain of abortion. Their network of specially-trained caregivers, including clergy, lay staff, mental health professionals, and spiritual directors, work as a team to provide care to those touched by abortion loss, enabling them to grieve, develop a personal relationship with Christ, and be united with the Church through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They invite those in need to reach out to them for further help: phone/text 314-406-0815, email at hopehealing@archstl.org, or <https://www.archstl.org/hope-healing>.



The Baptism of the Lord: What does it mean?

by Fr. Hezekias Carnazzo: <https://instituteofcatholicculture.org/baptism-of-the-lord/>

It was not uncommon for the Jews of Jesus' day and the early Church to see in baptism a correlation with certain Old Testament events. Saint Peter, in his second epistle, explains that our baptism corresponds to the flood of Noah. Just as in those ancient days when all evil men perished under the waters of the great deluge, so in our baptism, the sinful man is destroyed (2 Pet 2:5). Further, our baptism can be seen as a new crossing of the Red Sea. As Saint Paul explains, the Israelites underwent a baptism when Pharaoh and the Egyptians were buried under the waters of the sea and the people of God were saved and called to walk in the new life which God had bestowed upon them (1 Cor 10:2). Also, we may see our baptism as a type of Israel's crossing of the Jordan River after forty years of wandering in the desert. Just as Joshua led Israel into the Promised Land through the waters of the Jordan, so each of us who is baptized is led by Jesus into the promised land of the Church. These Old Testament prefigurements of Christian Baptism receive their full meaning, however, at the Baptism of the Lord. What happened when Jesus was baptized? The Fathers of the Church give three answers.



First, by entering into the water of the Jordan River, Jesus sanctified it and made the water of baptism a place for the working of the Holy Spirit. Second, because baptism among the Jews was seen as a ritual act of death and burial of the old man, Jesus confronted the Ruler of Death in the baptismal waters of the Jordan, that he might defeat death and bestow life upon all of creation. It was at the Baptism of Christ that Our Lord met his adversary of old, the Devil, and struck a decisive blow against him. By his baptism into death, the giver of life destroyed the power of death: "death no longer has dominion over him" (Rom. 6:9).

Finally, in his baptism, Jesus met all of us who were bound to death through the sin of our first parents, and taking us by the hand through the instrumentality of the priest, each one of us was raised from the dead, out of the baptismal waters. Through the resurrection of Christ, the tomb of the baptismal font becomes the womb of the Church, which gives new life to all who approach this Holy Sacrament.

Saint Paul, in his epistle to the Romans, gives the following catechesis,

"Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have been united with him though likeness to his death, so shall we be through a like resurrection" (1 Cor. 6: 3-4).

Therefore, as Saint Paul explains, baptism is a sacramental act whereby we are mystically joined to the death and resurrection of Christ.

In his baptism, Jesus has reversed the curse of the fall. In his baptism, Christ has opened for the faithful that garden of delight closed by sin. In his baptism, Christ has restored Adam to all that he lost through disobedience. Let us who have been baptized into Christ see the ancient deceiver conquered. Let us who have been baptized into Christ see the baptismal waters as the place of sanctification for our souls. Let us who have been baptized into Christ see man once more enter into Paradise and hear the Father's words of mercy, "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased" (Lk 3:22).

Baptism of the Lord —Year C

"Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which closes the period of Christmas." Jesus' Baptism was extremely important for the apostolic community, "not only because then, and for the first time in history, the mystery of the Trinity was made manifest clearly and completely, but also because with that event Jesus' public ministry began. ... The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan anticipates His Baptism of blood on the Cross and symbolizes the entire sacramental activity with which the Redeemer would achieve the salvation of humanity."

Pope Benedict XVI

Roses for Life

The Knights of Columbus will be holding the annual Roses for Life campaign at all Masses the weekend of **January 8/9**. The Knights ask for your support by signing the roses you will find in the pews. These roses will then be collected and sent to our elected representatives in Washington D.C. to remind them that we support the right to life of the unborn, and that we expect them to vote in support of pro-life legislation.

The Knights also ask you to pray the Rosary to end abortion and to pray for safe travel for those going to Washington D.C. to participate in the annual March for Life, which will take place on January 21. January 22 is the 49th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in demand in the U.S.



March for Life 2022 Registration Open

MISSOURI LIFE CARAVAN is accepting registrations for our bus trip to the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., **Thursday—Saturday, January 20-22**. Until all life is protected, we will travel to D.C. to meet with our representatives and peacefully protest against the Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion. This trip is open to anyone ages 7 and up (chaperones not provided). We depart from several locations in the St. Louis area and we do not stay in hotels as we sleep on the buses. Seats are limited because of Covid-19. The cost is \$235.

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

Annual Roe v. Wade Memorial Mass & Prayer Vigil

Saturday, January 15, 10am at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

January 22, 2022 marks 40 years since the Supreme Court decisions *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* legalized abortion in our country. Since then, over 61 million unborn children have lost their lives and countless women, men and families have been harmed by legalized abortion in the U.S.

Please join the archdiocesan **Respect Life Apostolate** and **Generation Life St. Louis** and the Catholic and Pro-life community in this January 15 Memorial Mass praying for an end to abortion, healing and forgiveness for those involved in abortion, and an increased respect for all human life. Mass is celebrated at 10am at the Cathedral Basilica.

The Mass collection will benefit **LifeLine Coalition**, a local network of social service and pro-life agencies whose financial and emotional support help thousands of area women, men, children, and families annually.

Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski, will be followed by a peaceful and prayerful Rosary Procession to/from Planned Parenthood and fellowship at a reception in Boland Hall. For more information contact the Respect Life Apostolate at 314-792-7555, prolife@archstl.org or online at STLRespectLife.org.

LifeLine Coalition

The Archdiocesan Respect Life Coalition consists of a group of social service agencies and prolife caregivers who assist women and families in crisis pregnancies. They provide women with assistance for medical expenses, housing, food and clothing, and they offer educational and spiritual guidance, counseling and adoption services. Envelopes to provide financial assistance to the LifeLine Coalition are available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Archdiocesan Young Adult Pro-Life Holy Hour, January 20

Join young adults (19-39) throughout the Archdiocese to pray for an end to abortion and promote a greater respect for all human life. This annual Archdiocesan event, co-sponsored by Anima Christi, the Office of Young Adult Ministry, and Respect Life Apostolate, will be held **Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 7pm at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis**.

Kathy Fowler will share her inspirational adoption journey as well as her professional work at Good Shepherd Children & Family Services as the executive director. After her talk, Eucharistic Adoration, the Rosary and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered.

For more information, contact stlya@archstl.org or 314-792-7008.



You're invited to join thousands of Catholics nationwide in prayer for the respect of human life during a special novena called **9 Days for Life**. Visit 9daysforlife.com to sign up to receive daily intentions from January 19 through 27.



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



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When you were baptized, a priest sprinkled holy water over your head. He said, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” God said, “This is my child in whom I am well pleased.” Tell God you are glad you are his child. Tell him you will obey his laws. Tell him that you love him with your whole heart, soul, body, and mind.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, I want to be a good child of God.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I will talk to God when I first wake up each morning.

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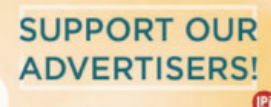
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