



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

Weekly Devotions and Prayers

Eucharistic Adoration:

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

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

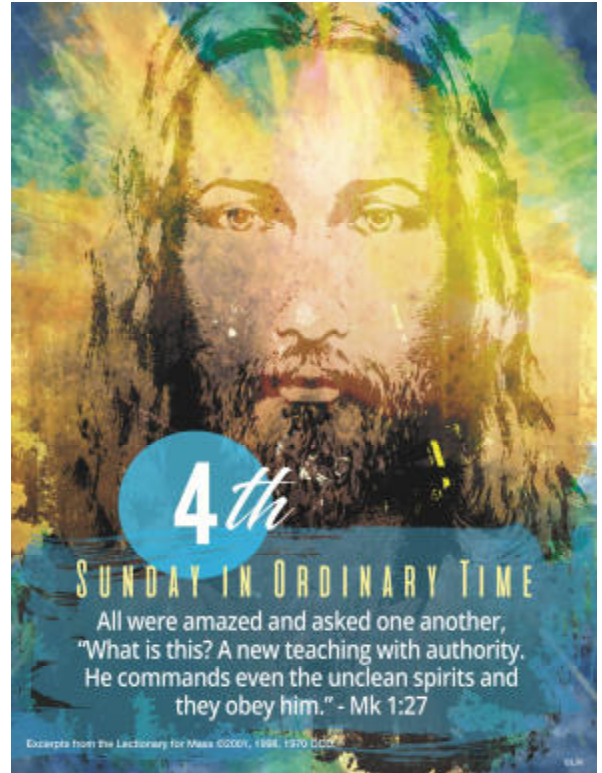
Marriage: Contact the parish office
 at least six months prior to the wedding

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

January 31, 2021



Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Most of us are quiet people who desire to live a good and holy life, promote the values and mission of the Gospel as best we can and desire to one day inherit the surprise of life eternal God promises to us. We are not trail blazers. We are simple people who want to do the simple things of life well. But there are others who left a more profound impact along the way of the paths they walked. Folks like Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and many others left lasting impacts and legacies. Like Moses, they show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose driven life look like. They show us how to be holy. We need Moses people like these to give us inspiration, hope and an example of holy living.

We do not need to do what they did or

even mirror their relationship with God. Each one of us is God's special creation, with a purpose and soul known only to us. We need to learn how to open up and bring, without compromise, our soul-ness to life. We know when someone is authentic and centered because they always point to truth, even though they struggle and sin themselves, and they embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and it astonished many who listened. We do not need to move mountains, advance a cause, write books or become notable. All we have to do is become credible witnesses of the faith we profess. Moses people can teach us how to do this.

St. Oscar Romero was an amazing man and a Moses figure for sure. He saw God in the burning bush and brought the

flame of Gospel faith to the poorest of the poor, challenging the evils of the society in which he lived. He was tireless and persistent. He must have gotten very close to the problem because it cost him his life. He suspected it would. St. Romero said, "When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mt Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties." We can learn from this wisdom. If we allow the power of the Mass to truly transform us, we will leave that holy encounter changed. Our face will shine, and we will have courage. We can then bring what we have received to life's challenges. That sounds doable, doesn't it? Because of the example of our simple holiness, people will be amazed.

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

Parish Staff

Parish Office: 636-398-5270

Fr. Tom Miller, Pastor *askpadre@aol.com*
(for emergencies only: 314-303-2428)

Deacon Chris Ast *chrisast@archstl.org*
Deacon Tony Falbo *tony.2011@centurylink.net*
Laura Orf, Business Manager *lorf@ihm-newmelle.org*
Peggy Dupree, Office Manager *secretary@ihm-newmelle.org*
Bryan Beams, Director of Music and Liturgy
bryanbeams@ihm-newmelle.org
Karen Wappelhorst, Child Safety Coordinator
childsafety@ihm-newmelle.org
Michael McDonald, Plant Manager *macmcd1123@gmail.com*

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

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
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

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

You did what?

Come again?

You said you buried St. Joseph to help you sell your house? Did it work? Did your house sell because of the intercession of St. Joseph? Seriously, you did all the burial stuff and what-have and your house sold? That is amazing. I can't imagine entrusting such a need and decision in life to the intercession of St. Joe. He is such a humble and silent saint, but a man of consequential action. Such little miracles are amazing to me.

So I am assuming you have a devotion to St. Joseph now that you are moved into your new home. What do I mean devotion? I mean a spiritual friendship formed with St. Joseph in prayer with him as you mature as a Christian. You didn't know there was such a thing? You didn't realize that you could have a friendship with a saint? Surely you just didn't get your new home and set St. Joe aside? I mean, your home sold, you moved into a new home, your life has moved into a new chapter because of the friendship of this remarkable saint and the most you can do is retell the story? Well, it is not too late to leave the ranks of the USERS and join the ranks of the GRATEFUL.

You know USERS—life is full of them, the world cultivates them like drops of rain. The world and its USERS take and move on to the next opportunity.

USERS are the tiresome takers of the world, the politely selfish people who move along their way with their concerns always in the forefront. Some

of the politest people we know are USERS, all of us have been among their ranks at one time or another. We are all recovering from being USERS. The world is constantly calling us back to the ranks of the USERS. USERS live only for this life, and this life is all they will share in if they can't change their ways.

The GRATEFUL remember. The GRATEFUL know that life is a gift filled with an overflowing abundance of gifts. The GRATEFUL fill their life with gratitude for things great and small. God is calling us to the ranks of the GRATEFUL. The GRATEFUL believe that God is working miracles from behind His veil of humility. If we are attentive, responsive and above all intentional, we will catch glimpses of His hidden movements.

The Saints, who number among the eternally GRATEFUL, can show us the path of lifelong gratitude. They remember who God is and what God has done for them. St. Joseph, silent and steady, showed constant gratitude in his actions. I imagine real estate is among the least of his concerns, and yet many turn to him in times of need. I can't imagine not being among the GRATEFUL if I really attributed blessings in my life to his intercession. This year in honor of St. Joseph seems a fitting time to be more GRATEFUL and seek his friendship in prayer and devotion.

Peace,

Fa. Tum

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year B

A man with an evil spirit. . . screamed, "What do you want with us, Jesus?"... Jesus ordered the spirit, "Be quiet, and come out of the man!" The evil spirit. . . came out of him. MARK 1:23-26

The original movie *The Exorcist* is based on a true story of a boy from Mount Rainier, Maryland. Newsweek magazine wrote of the boy: "After he was admitted to Georgetown University Hospital...the boy began to mouth fierce curses in ancient languages and at one point, while strapped helplessly in his bed, long scratches appeared on his body." The boy survived and now lives near Washington, D.C. This true story recalls how Jesus expelled evil spirits—a sign that God's Kingdom was replacing Satan's Kingdom. It also reminds us that we must finish what Jesus began.

What is one way I am working to finish the war against evil that Jesus began?

Be firm in your faith and resist [the Devil]. (1 Peter 5:9)

Ministry Schedule

January 30—4pm

EM: Josh Deters, Chris Warren, Wally & Jan Karase
Lec: Mike Greene, Karen Wilson
Music: Bryan & cantor
Serv: Izzy Scheer
Ush: Andy Pope, Chris Cuddihee, Mike Rieker
Proj: Kathy Lalonde

January 31—7:30am

EM: Deacon Chris, Josh Deters, Jan Kardasz,
Dianne Dickherber
Lec: Dave London, Kris Jenkins
Music: Verdi & cantor
Serv: Mary Grace Becker
Ush: Larry Smith, Frank Kardasz, Gary Potter
Proj: Margie Vandeven

January 31—9:30am

EM: Deacon Chris, Michelle Greiwe, Sharon Smith, Laura Orf
Lec: Chris & Kat Menne
Music: Bryan & cantor
Serv: Thomas Kokker
Ush: Alan Raymond, Gary Struckhoff, Joe Weber

Please pray for all the sick and suffering:

Phyllis Zerr, Mike & Pat Ryan, Fran Bussen,
Nancy Hollenstein, Deacon Tony, Amy Robbins,
Betty Boyd, Don Schmidt, Betty Heppermann,
Joyce Brakensiek, Carl Wolff, Gary Potter, Terry Hagan,
Richard & Doris Berhorst

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),
Loren & Evelyn Brandon (parents of Marty & Peggy Dupree),
Audrey Molitor (sister of Flo Joerling),
Pat Finan (daughter of Fran Bussen),
Charlie Grady (grandson of John & Carol Grady),
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

Ministry Schedule

February 6—4pm

EM: Deacon Chris, Josh Deters, Pat Roche, Ed Etzkorn
Lec: Larry Graves, Joe Willis
Serv: Aiden Panus
Music: Bryan & Mary Ann
Ush: Bill Pollihan, Andy Pope, Bryan Potter
Proj: Kathy Lalonde

February 7—7:30am

EM: Deacon Chris, Josh Deters, Jan Kardasz, Kris Jenkins
Lec: Bob Leeker, Nancy Ast
Serv: Mary Grace Becker
Music: Verdi & Brooke
Ush: Bob & Teresa Berfanger, Bob Hutchcraft
Proj: Nancy Neske

February 7—9:30am

EM: Deacon Chris, Aaron Waldeck, Laura Orf, Patrice Riley
Lec: Scouts
Serv: Scouts
Music: Bryan & Betsy
Ush: Scouts
Proj: Thomas Kokker

Heavenly Duster Schedule

Week of January 31:	Carolyn Schellert
Week of February 7:	Vicky Grunz
Week of February 14:	Therese Hussey
Week of February 21:	Nancy Neske
Week of February 28:	Ann Zaleuke

Purificators

Month of January:	Carol Ostermeyer
Month of February:	Mary Stassi

† Rest in Peace †

Jerry Knott
parishioner, attended 4pm Mass
Walt Reel
father of Mike & Cathy Reel and Sue Roethler
Janie Roth
wife of Charlie Roth
Dennis Britton
brother of Ralph and Janice Britton
May they and all the faithful departed
rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun:	Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28
Mon:	Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31/Mk 5:1-20
Tue:	Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Wed:	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103/Mk 6:1-6
Thu:	Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48/Mk 6:7-13
Fri:	Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27/Mk 6:14-29
Sat:	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23/Mk 6:30-34

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 1	
8:00am	Brett Varady + Bonnie Wightman +
Tuesday, February 2	
8:00am	Milton Barta +
Wednesday, February 3	
8:00am	Tom Miller +
Thursday, February 4	
8:00am	Jameo Klemme + intention of Betsy Struckhoff
Friday, February 5	
8:00am	Holy Vocations
Saturday, February 6	
8:00am	Dave Gentry +
4:00pm	For our Country
Sunday, February 7	
7:30am	People of IHM Walt Reel +
9:30am	All Souls Louise Mohr +

Contributions, January 23/24

General Offertory:	\$7,340.58
Online – General Offertory:	\$3,713.79
TOTAL:	\$11,054.37

*“Brothers and sisters:
I should like you to be free of anxieties.”
1 Corinthians 7:332*

How much anxiety do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about not having enough or attaining more things? God won't necessarily give you everything you want, but He will provide everything you need. Try this—use the word “pray” instead of the word “worry” in the future. Then pray for things instead of worrying about them.

We pray: that we may open our hearts to receive more fully all of God's simple and abundant blessings.

Needed at the Pantry

Laundry detergent, coffee, pancake syrup, grape jelly, canned fruit, canned corn, men's deodorant, shaving lotion, body wash, body lotion, bisquick, canned mixed vegetables, oil, sugar, all purpose cleaner, cold and hot cereal, sugar. Please no glass jars of pasta sauce.



Please hold your plastic bags—we have plenty!!

In the Gospel today we read that because Jesus spoke with authority His reputation spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. As His disciples, we can also speak with authority when we put our faith into actions by helping the poor and suffering.

Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

This Week at Home

social distancing recommended at all events

Monday, February 1	
St. Vincent de Paul, 6pm	
Scouts, Founders Hall, 6:30pm	
Men For Christ, Grand Hall, 7pm	
Tuesday, February 2	
Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am	
KofC officers, Founders Hall, 7pm	
Wednesday, February 3	
Sunday readings study, Weber Hall, 8:45am	
Bible Study, Grand Hall, 6:15pm	
Reconciliation, 7pm	
Thursday, February 4	
Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am	
Youth Group meeting, Founders Hall, 6:30pm	
Friday, February 5	
Quilting, Weber Hall, 8:30am—noon	
Saturday, February 6	
Reconciliation, 8:45am	
SVDP Food Pantry open 9-10:30am	



Pope's Intentions for February: Violence Against Women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.



Visit a St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store for your next bargain

At our stores, families can find a nice table for the kitchen, and books, toys, and clothes for the children. Men and women can select a good suit and shoes for a job interview. Thrifters dig for treasures. College students outfit their apartment. Green shoppers find goods to reuse, recycle, and upcycle. When you're ready to clean out your basement or attic, we'll be ready to pick up your donation. And we're always looking for friendly volunteers who enjoy the retail environment. Whether you're shopping, donating, or volunteering, you're helping! With nine stores in the St. Louis area, including one in St. Charles, there is a St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store near you!

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 illumined 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)

1. The supreme gift of marriage is a human person. A child may not be considered a piece of _____, an idea to which an alleged right to a child would lead.
a. trash b. biology
c. land d. property
2. The sixth commandment and the New Testament forbid adultery absolutely. Christ condemns even adultery of mere _____.
a. consent b. control
c. action d. desire
3. The prophets denounce the gravity of adultery; they see it as an image of the sin of _____.
a. rape b. heresy
c. idolatry d. apostasy
4. The Lord Jesus insisted on the original intention of the Creator who willed that marriage be _____.
a. as long as individuals feel happy
b. merely contractual
c. indissoluble d. temporary
5. Between the baptized, a ratified and consummated marriage cannot be dissolved by any human power or for any reason other than _____.
a. death b. annulment
c. divorce d. separation
6. If civil _____ remains the only possible way of ensuring certain legal rights, the care of the children, etc. it can be tolerated and does not constitute a moral offense.
a. divorce b. separation
c. court d. law
7. Divorce is a grave offense against the natural law. It claims to break the contract, to which the spouses freely _____, to live with each other till death.
a. play acted b. lied
c. bore false witness d. consented
8. Divorce does injury to the _____ of salvation, of which sacramental marriage is the sign.
a. children b. covenant
c. world d. society
9. Contracting a new union, even if recognized by civil law, adds to the gravity of the rupture: the remarried spouse is then in a situation of public and permanent _____.
a. bigamy b. adultery
c. idolatry d. polygamy
10. Divorce is immoral also because it introduces _____ into the family and into society.
a. order b. disorder
c. anxiety d. fear

Answer Key: 1. d (2378) 2. d (2380) 3. c (2380) 4. c (2382) 5. a (2382) 6. a (2383) 7. d (2384) 8. b (2384) 9. b (2384) 10. b (2385)

PSR Corner

Did you know that the months of the year have been given a devotional "focus" in Church tradition. January is dedicated to **the Holy Name of Jesus**. Consider speaking about the name of Jesus with your children, how it should be spoken of as a blessing, not as a swear word. Consider how one ought to reverence the name of Jesus, especially during Mass, when the Church asks that we give a small head bow when the Lord's name is said.



Authentic Catholic Radio: AM 1460

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

Many thanks to everyone who sent get well cards and offered prayers for me during my recent absence. I am home and recuperating!

Joyce Brakensiek



Janet Hespen, Youth Minister,
314-369-6521

- Feb. 4: Youth Group, 6:30-8p
- Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday, 7pm Mass
- Feb. 18: Fish and fisherman party, 6:30-8pm
- Mar. 11: 40 Day Decisions
- Mar. 18: Youth Group, 6:30-8pm
- Mar. 25: Our faith and the media. Come with your favorite Christian song or YouTube video.
- Apr. 10: Luke 18 begins
- Apr. 11: Luke 18 ends with 9:30 Mass

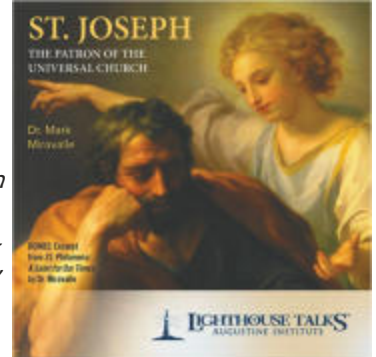
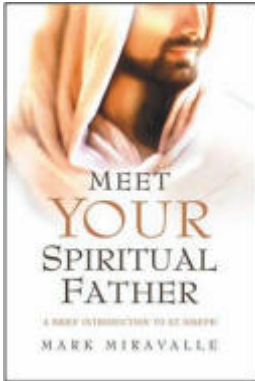
St. Paul Library / Lighthouse CD Resources

(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

Lighthouse Catholic CD – Pamphlet Rack: Narthex: Year of St. Joseph

The holy and hidden figure of St. Joseph comes to light in this captivating presentation by Dr. Mark Miravalle. What is the dignity of this great man, and how do we convey the wondrous power of his intercession? Listen now as Dr. Miravalle delves into the fascinating and hidden life of the man whom God chose to "substitute" for Himself when the Word became flesh to dwell among us.

I have a strong devotion to St. Joseph. However after this briefer than expected, but fascinating, talk by Dr. Miravalle, I was stunned. Dr. Miravalle is a wonderful theologian who I sense is very strong in his convictions, and the talk itself was outstanding. I now decided to further my devotion to St. Joseph even more as a result. - Rodney, ON



Meet the man who raised the Son of God and discover the role he wants to play in our life. With down-to-earth practical wisdom and sublime insights, Dr. Mark Miravalle lifts the veil that has shrouded this glorious patriarch for centuries, revealing the treasures and benefits of having an intimate relationship with the virginal father of the Son of God. Those who read *Meet Your Spiritual Father* will find priceless



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

There is much evil in the world. It divides and scatters the members of the Body of Christ. Uniting in prayer and in good works informed by our Catholic Faith is an excellent way to combat evil. I strongly urge the men of our parish to unite themselves and their families with the men and families of the Knights of Columbus. Simply go to www.kofc.org/joinus and follow the prompts. Use promo code MCGIVNEY2020 and your first year's dues are free! When asked for our IHM council number, enter 11656. Don't delay! Do it today! You will be glad you did.

Guidebook Book & Directory Advertising Opportunity

We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for our parish. This book will contain everything pertinent to our parish: 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 advertised. If you own or manage and business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the church office by February 15.

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 Member Information

Does our parish 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.

Year of St. Joseph

Pope Francis Declared a “Year of St. Joseph” from December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021 with his Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* “A Father’s Heart.” It is the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church by Pius IX.



Pope Francis’ Devotion to St. Joseph



St. Joseph is one of Pope Francis’ most beloved saints. In fact, he chose March 19th, the Feast of St. Joseph, as the date for his Papal inaugural Mass. His coat of arms even incorporates a symbol of St. Joseph. It is a spikenard flower which one might see blooming on the staff of statues-images of St. Joseph. A spikenard flower in Spanish iconography symbolizes Saint Joseph. Spikenard produces a costly aromatic ointment (cf Mark 14:3 and John 12:3) and would thus be a symbol of the Holy Spirit. It has also been called the wedding flower in Spanish poetry. Along with the lily, it has been associated with humility and purity.



During an apostolic trip to the Philippines in 2015 (at which the closing Mass was attended by an estimated 6 million people), Pope Francis explained some of his devotion to St. Joseph and why he keeps an image of the saint on his desk.



“I would also like to tell you something very personal,” he said. “I have great love for St. Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength.” “On my table I have an image of St. Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church! Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St. Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words I tell him: pray for this problem!”

Pope Francis advised people to leave a “note” under the image of the saint for help whenever they have a problem. He urged Catholics to turn to St. Joseph. “Always invoke him,” the Pope said, “especially in difficult times and entrust your life to this great saint.”

Note we have purchased a small statue of the “sleeping Joseph” and have placed it in St. Joseph Chapel. We’ve been asked this year in a particular way to “Go to Joseph.” Let’s do that and follow Pope Francis’ example of placing our petitions under the statue and entrusting it to St. Joseph’s care.



February 14, 2021

Celebrate your Sacrament by applying for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. For more information on encounter experiences being held around the globe, go to www.wvme.org to find one in your area. For more information about experiences in the St. Louis area, contact Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317.

One of the stark differences between the pro-choice and pro-life positions is that the issue of abortion is almost always described by the pro-choice people as a ‘difficult’ and ‘complex’ issue, while those words are almost never used by the pro-life side. Mother Teresa was exactly on target when she said, ‘If abortion isn’t wrong, then nothing is wrong.’

Peter Kreeft
from the book *Three Approaches to Abortion*

Help support religious education at Immaculate Conception in Dardenne Prairie by attending the Mask-Erade virtual dinner auction on Saturday, February 6. Please go to icdauction.org for more details, or see the flier on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Valentine Dinner & Movie Night in the Grand Hall

(Limited Seating with Social Distancing)
Sponsored by the IHM Youth Group

Saturday, February 13

Dinner served at 5:30pm
(Parishioners welcome after 4pm Mass)

Dinner Includes:

Chicken Alfredo from West Allen Grill
salad, garlic bread, dessert & beverages
~~Youth Group Entertainment~~



In keeping with the “Year of St. Joseph” our movie presentation of
FATIMA (released 2020) will begin at 7pm.

St. Joseph and the Child Jesus
appeared to the children on October 13, 1917.

\$15 Per Person

Recommended for ages 10 and older
sign-up sheet in the narthex

Please pay at the church office or deposit in the
Youth Group drop box at the IHMformation Station

Reservations due by Monday, February 8

Questions? Call Janet: 314-369-6521

Are you or someone you know looking for a quiet work space? Somewhere to be by yourself for a few hours?

You can spend the day at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center where you will have access to a private room and bathroom for the day. Each room has a desk and chair, as well as a comfortable chair/rocker for relaxing and reading. Guests will also have access to free WIFI, the chapel, and the grounds (including the Labyrinth and Cosmic Walk).

This is a chance to spend some quiet time reading and relaxing, praying and meditating, or just having a safe and quiet place to work other than home for a day or two. Guests are encouraged to bring their own laptops and reading materials.

A brown bag or box lunch will be provided to each guest.

Reservation Details:

The Mercy Take Me Away reservation is for day use only—Monday through Friday. Guest must be 18 years or older.



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Question:

I get annoyed with myself when I am distracted while I pray. Is it a sin? How can I be more attentive?

Answer:

The mind is a marvelous and complex thing, producing amazing thoughts, images, wisdom and inspiration. Yet at times it is like a two-year-old: it does not follow directions, does what it wants and loves to tell us "no!" This is probably the oldest and most common problem in the spiritual life—dealing with distraction. It comes in all forms: good intentions forgotten, wandering thoughts at Mass, day-dreaming, etc. A little poem says it all: When the soul begins to pray, the brain always wants to play!

There are many ways to handle distractions. If we are distracted by thoughts about our families or friends, we should pray for them. If we lose our focus, we need just "re-collect" ourselves. If some worry or concern just won't leave our mind, then we deal with it and come back to prayer or make it part of our prayer. And when words just won't come, the only prayer we might offer is our presence, our suffering, and our desire to be close to the Lord. Most importantly, we need to be patient with ourselves. These things are not sinful, but reminders of our human frailty. Our weaknesses and good efforts are all acceptable to God, who reads the love in our hearts and the good intentions of our minds.

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