

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 7:30am, 9:30am

Weekdays: 8:00am, St. Joseph Chapel

Weekly Devotions and Prayers

Eucharistic Adoration:

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

Rosary:

Sunday:

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

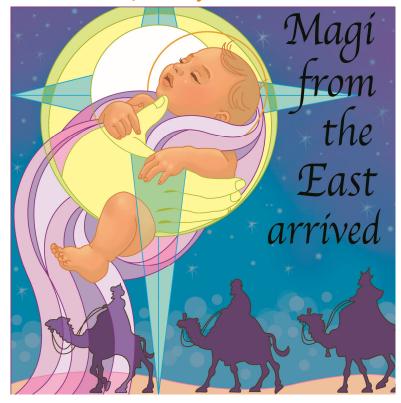
Baptism: Contact the parish office

to register for class and to arrange date

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:

Contact Shawn Mueller in the parish office

The Epiphany of the Lord January 7, 2018



The Little Drummer Boy

Did you know that the only reason we say that there were three wise men is that they brought three gifts? The Bible never says their number or their names. The gifts tell us about the givers. And these special gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—tell us much.

When one king visited or sent an ambassador to another, he would give a gift of gold to show that he acknowledged the kingship of the other. So the first gift of the wise men tells us they recognized Jesus as King. The second gift is a type of incense, which was used in Jesus time to worship God. So this gift shows the wise

men paying homage to Jesus' divinity. The gift of myrrh is oil used to anoint the dying. It reminds us of Jesus suffering and death on the cross.

So what gifts do we have for Jesus? Maybe we can take a hint from the wise men. If we acknowledge Jesus as king, maybe a better gift than gold would be to pledge our obedience to him. Each day we can promise to live our vocation as best we can, to love those around us, and forgive those who hurt us.

A better way than burning incense to pay homage to Jesus' divinity is to take time to pray throughout the day. Some people are able to attend daily Mass, others spend time in adoration before the Eucharist, or even a few minutes of their lunch break to say the rosary.

As for the gift of myrrh, we can give Jesus the crosses we bear each day. When we accept suffering in our lives, especially that caused by our sins, we give ourselves to Jesus as he gave himself for us on the cross.

The song "Little Drummer Boy" reminds us that the best gift is not necessarily the most expensive. Instead, it is the simple gift that only we can give. Let Epiphany remind us to offer our lives to Jesus each day.

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 Gentry636-398-5270Wedding Coordinators:Pat Gentry636-398-4358

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

Parish Organizations

Wednesdays at 8:45 and 6:10pm

Quick Contacts Directory

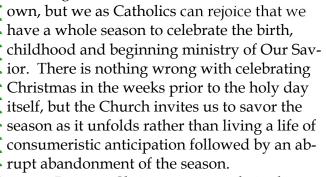
Prayer and Devotion

<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Eucharistic Adoration		Art & Environment	
Shawn Mueller	636-398-5270	Mary Karll	636-433-5049
Legion of Mary		Budget & Finance	
Maria Romine-Kantor	314-614-0857	Larry Graves	314-799-9804
Prayer Chain		•	
Mary Jean Hartenbach	636-398-4677	-	314-220-7075
Prayer Intercession/Jonah Team			311 223 7073
Debbie Gillespie	636-398-4971		636-798-2369
Prayer Shawl Ministry			030-796-2309
Julia Kettler	636-616-0096		626 200 5605
Liturgical Ministries		-398-5270 Mary Karll Budget & Finance -614-0857 Larry Graves -398-4677 Mark Keune -398-4971 Dinner Committee	636-398-5605
Extraordinary Ministers			
Irene Caldwell	636-398-5270 Mary Ka Budget & Fin Larry Gr Cemetery Co Mark Ke Dinner Comn Jeff Com Golden Heart Jackie H Knights of Co Gary Por Marian Coun Mary Jen Mary Jen Meals on Wh 636-398-5270 Meals on Wh 636-443-3817 Jean Bar Outreach Steve Fa Pro Life Bill Wint Quilters 314-341-2622 Mary Ar Ruth Wi Scouting Jerry He Cub Sco 314-369-6521 Boy Scort Venture 636-398-5270 St. Vincent de Teresa W 636-357-0121 Welcoming C	•	636-228-4755
Gift Bearers		Marian Council	
Peggy Dupree	636-398-5270	Mary Jean Hartenbach	636-398-4677
Lectors		Meals on Wheels	
Suzanne Michaelree	636-443-3817	Jean Bammann	636-798-2718
Ushers		Outreach	
Need a coordinator		Steve Farber	sfarber@farbermarketing.com
Altar Society		Pro Life	
Pam DeBold	636-482-4765	Bill Winters	636-828-4133
Music Ministry		Quilters	
Marilyn O'Neill	314-341-2622	Mary Ann Brakensiek	636-828-5776
Contemporary Music Group		•	636-398-4597
Debbie Gillespie	636-398-4971		000 000 1007
Education		· ·	636-236-1955
High School Youth Leader			
Janet Hespen	314-369-6521	-	314-807-7177
RCIA, PSR, Children's Liturgy of the Word		•	314-486-4023
Shawn Mueller	636-398-5270		314-480-4023
Young Adults	030 330 3270		214 440 7475
Julie Lassiter	626 257 0121	Teresa Waddington	314-440-7475
Julie Lassitei	030-337-0121	Welcoming Committee	626.206.775
		Teresa Berfanger	636-398-5565

A Final Merry Christmas

Dear Parishioners:

I pray I am not the last to wish all of you a blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as we celebrate this solemn feast of the Epiphany. Many of our neighbors, even fellow Christians, put Christmas behind them once the day is done. I guess to each his



Because Christmas was early in the week this year, our Christmas season ends to-morrow with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. For the most part, many of you will not be able to celebrate the solemn feast day since it is on a Monday, but I hope that you make tomorrow the last day to wish a family member, co-worker or neighbor a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If they ask what it is about, let that opening provide an opportunity



to share our faith. Gently share or remind them that to-day is the feast of the Lord's Baptism and that it concludes our celebration of the Christmas season as Catholics. Don't be afraid if they press you for more answers by asking questions. Rather, if they want to know more, invite them to Mass. We don't have to know

everything about the faith at every given moment, but we should know where to find the answers to feed understanding.

I want to thank all of you for your kind words, cards and gifts this Christmas season. Your kindness is overwhelming and very humbling. Once of the traditions I have kept for a number of years is to open most if not all of my cards Christmas evening. I find it a very fitting end to the day as I read your thoughtful expressions of love and kindness. I am most thankful for all of your prayers for my health, well-being and continued pastoring of IHM. I am profoundly blessed to pastor Immaculate Heart of Mary and pray that 2018 blesses all of us with a deepening desire for communion with God and one another.

Blessings!

Tr. Tum

Why did the Magi come to see Jesus?

All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him. — Psalm 72:11

They apparently had material of a prophetic nature (some have suggested that they got it from an eastern Jewish community, such as the one in Babylon) that allowed them to identify the birth of the new "king of the Jews" astronomically.

They may have been especially motivated to come see *this* king of the Jews since there was an expectation at the time that a universal ruler would shortly come from Israel. Pope Benedict explains:

We know from [the Roman historians] Tacitus and Suetonius that speculation was rife at the time that the ruler of the world would emerge from Judah—an expectation that [the Jewish historian] Flavius Josephus applied to [the Roman emperor] Vespasian, consequently finding his way into the latter's favor (cf. De Bello Judaico iii, 399–408)

Next Week Ministry Schedule

January 13 4:00pm

EM: Wilma Zurweller, Pat Noack, Ann Zaleuke,

Jennifer Fredrick, Donna Cuddihee, Carole Baker,

Karen Wilson, Bernadine Pollihan

Lec: Sharon Hagan, Pat Barnard
GB: Larry & Amy Molitor & Family
Serv: Colton, Camden, Celina Genta

Ush: Bryan Potter, Chris Cuddihee, Tim Wilson,

Joe Spiess

January 14 7:30am

EM: Walt & Jean Reel, Peggy Dupree, Carol Rabbitt,

John & Karen Wappelhorst

Lec: Kris Jenkins, Elizabeth Vehige

GB: Frank & Jan Kardasz

Serv: Mary Grace & Janie Becker

Ush: Larry Koch, Larry Gassei, Gary Potter,

Frank Marquart

9:30am

EM: Michelle Greiwe, Terry & Marcia Schneider,

Donna Wolff, Chris Aulbach, Maureen Blondin,

Alvina Fry, Bob Leeker

Lec: Don & Susan Hladky
GB: Ruth Scott & Joshua Scott

Serv: Lindsey & Madelyn Bouquet, Ellen Aulbach

Ush: Charles Hinkle, George Stark, Joe Weber,

Stan Kostecki, Dave DeBold, Brian Corrigan

Please pray for all the sick and suffering

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 Mary Jean Hartenbach at 636-398-4677 or email mjhartenbach@gmail.com.

This Week at Home

Sunday, January 7

Jonah Team will pray with you after 9:30am Mass

Monday, January 8

Scouts, Weber Hall/Trailer, 6:30pm Bell Choir practice, church, 7pm

Tuesday, January 9

Legion of Mary, 9am

Fitness class, Grand Hall foyer, 9-10am Marian Council, Weber Hall, 6:30pm Children's Choir, church, 6:45pm

Wednesday, January 10

Sunday readings study, Weber Hall, 8:45am PSR, Weber/Founders Hall, Trailer, 6pm Reconciliation, 7pm

Thursday, January 11

Fitness class, Grand Hall foyer, 9-10am

RCIA, Weber Hall, 6:30pm Choir practice, church, 7pm

Friday, January 12

Quilting, Weber Hall, 8:30—noon

Saturday, January 13

Reconciliation, 8:45am

Sunday, January 14

KC Breakfast, Founders Hall, 8-11am

Office will be closed on January 15



Rest in Peace



We offer our prayerful sympathy
—to Jeff and Joni Marren-Slaughter
on the death of his father

Ray Slaughter

—to Bob and Teresa Berfanger on the death of his brother-in-law

Mark Katigbak

- —to Joyce and Joe Weber on the death of her father lgnatius Keeven
- —to Maria and Joe Schonlau on the death of her mother **Pearl Zottarella**
- —to Tom and Carol Ostermeyer on the death of his brother **Jack Ostermeyer**
 - —to Jim & Victoria Meder on the death of his mother Helen Meder

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

Join the Holy Father's prayer intentions for January: Religious Minorities in Asia

That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.



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



Monday, January 8 8:00am

All Souls

Tuesday, January 9 8:00am

Terry Daub (1st ann.) +

Larry Randolph +

Moira Ryan +

Cy Bamert +

Jack Tersteeg +

Wednesday, January 10

8:00am

Thursday, January 11

8:00am

Friday, January 12

8:00am

Saturday, January 13

8:00am

4:00pm Greg & Laverne Kettler +

Jerome Kluge Sr. +

Sunday, January 14

7:30am

People of the Parish Intention of Nathan Fry

9:30am intention of Peggy Miller
Tom Holstein +

Roses for Life

The Knights of Columbus will be holding the annual Roses for Life campaign at all Masses the weekend of January 6/7. 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 DC 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 people going to Washington DC to participate in the annual March for Life, which will take place on January 19. January 22 is the 45th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand in the United States.

Contributions: December 30/31

General Offertory:
Online – General Offertory:

will report next week \$4,144.00

"...they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..."

MATTHEW 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

That, like the Magi, we generously share our gifts with the Lord, trusting He will provide all that we need.



Heavenly Duster Purificators

Pat Noack

Jane Szostek

Needed at the Pantry:

coffee, sugar, vegetable oil, canned fruit, canned chicken, paper goods, personal items, cleaning items

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul monthly collection so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

Youth Group Change for Miles

Help our Youth get to the Pro Life March in Washington DC later this month. Please drop your donation—big or small—into the jug. Anything is appreciated.



Young Adult Pro-Life Holy Hour

Join young adults (19-39) throughout the Archdiocese on January 18th for this annual event to promote a greater respect for human life. We'll start with dinner and fellowship in Boland Hall at 6pm followed by Adoration, the rosary, and an opportunity for Confession at the Cathedral at 7pm. Then we'll return to Boland Hall for a dynamic pro-life speaker and dessert! Contact stlya@archstl.org or 314-792-7555 for details, or visit online at: http://archstl.org/node/4405413.

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.

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1.	The existence of God the Creator can be known with certainty through His works, by the light of human
2	Among all conjugations to the first three shorters of this book accuracy a unique place

- 2. Among all scriptural texts about creation, the first three chapters of this book occupy a unique place.
- 3. God has no other reason for creating than His goodness and _____.
- 4. God, from the beginning of time, made both orders of creatures, the spiritual and the physical out of this.
- 5. God not only gives creatures being and existence, but also and at every , uphold and sustains them in being.

Providence and the scandal of evil

- 6. Angels and men, as intelligent and free creatures, have to journey toward their ultimate destines by their free _____.
- 7. God permits evil because He respects the _____ of His creatures.
- 8. Because He is supremely good, God would never allow any evil whatsoever to exist unless _____ could emerge from it.
- 9. This greatest moral evil committed brought about the greatest of goods.
- 10. We will fully know the ways by which, through evil and sin, God has guided His creation, only at this.

St. Paul Library / Lighthouse CD Resources

Note: With close to 3000 items, the <u>Parish Library</u> is located in the <u>Grand Hall</u> past the restrooms. It is open during the week-normal business hours-and works on an honor system.

Items from the <u>Lighthouse CD rack</u> are located and available in the Narthex.

THE Martin Sheen Alan Addin Eleen Brenner OURTH WISE MA He gave the greatest gift of a

From the Parish Library: Grand Hall

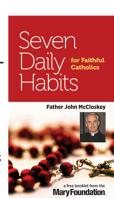
The Fourth Wise Man: Based on Henry van Dyke's classic, The Story of the Other Wise Man, this fictional story set in Biblical times is told in gently comic terms. A Magi named Artaban (Martin Sheen) sees a sign in the heavens that he hopes will lead him and his faithful servant to the Messiah. Artaban takes with him three precious gifts to present to the Messiah. For 33 years Artaban pursues Jesus, only to miss Him at every turn. Along the way, Artaban uses his gifts to help people in dire need. He now has nothing to present to the Messiah when he finds Him. The story culminates on Easter Sunday as Artaban, old and dying, finally encounters the new King, bringing peace to his life. A deeply moving experience examining what true faith really means. Starring Martin Sheen and Alan Arkin.

From the Lighthouse Catholic CD – Pamphlet Rack: Narthex

Already the most popular Catholic booklet of its kind in America, Seven Daily Habits for Faithful Catholics was adapted from a spectacularly successful article by Fr. John McCloskey (the "convert-maker" who helped notorious abortionist Bernard Nathanson convert to Catholicism).

It provides seven traditional ways to spend more time on a daily basis with Jesus and His mother, along with practical advice on how to approach and implement spiritual habits amidst our distracting secular culture.

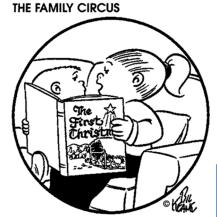
Its power to transform lives is profoundly simple. Any person who adopts one or more of these habits will grow closer to Jesus. Our Lord does the transforming. Even devout Catholics will discover habits they'll want to add to their daily lives.



There will be no classes on December 24th and January 3rd.
Thank you to all those who have been keeping up with all of the online work. This is meant to be a tool for you and your children to have "the faith" come first from

the direction of the parents at home, and secondarily from the "parish school of religion" here at Church. We will be back on Janu-

ary 10th.



"Then the three wise men came to baby-sit while Mary and Joseph went caroling."

Golden Hearts News



Everyone 50 years or older, are invited to come on January 20, 1pm in the Grand Hall for fun and games. Bring your favorite games, snacks, and BYOB. We will get together every third Sunday of the month in the Grand Hall. If you have any questions call Jackie Hackett at 314-761-6127 or Jackie Dunn at 314-640-1154.

Attention Ladies!

The PRAYER WARRIORS FOR PRIESTS

will initiate their monthly Rosary in the following parishes on the second Saturday at 10am . . .

January 13: St. Patrick Adoration Chapel

February 10: St. Gianna Church

March 10: Immaculate Heart of Mary

St. Joseph Chapel

April 14: Immaculate Conception (ICD)

Adoration Chapel

May 12: St. Patrick Adoration Chapel

June 9: St. Gianna Church





Do You Really "Believe?"

You say you "believe" every Sunday as you recite the Creed. But do you know what you're saying you "believe" in? Do the truths of the faith—listed in the Creed—really permeate your life? Learn how these ancient truths contain the promise of peace, joy and happiness for our lives.

Pillar I: The Creed is a 12-Part program that will launch you on an amazing journey through the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Don't miss this opportunity to take part in a compelling and inspiring learning experience that is sure to draw you closer to Christ through a deeper understanding of the teachings of His Church.

Please join us for this 12-part series from January 10 through March 21 (6:10-7:25pm) Wednesday evenings (not Ash Wednesday) in the Grand Hall

Please contact Lisa Norton at llnorton@centurytel.net or Grant Smith at grantsmith.usa@gmail.com



Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Praver

Please join us for this 8 week study from January 31 thru March 21, Wednesday evenings in the Grand Hall from 7:30—9:00pm

Do you find it difficult to pray? Is prayer an integral part of your day? Do you hear God's voice in your daily life, and know how to respond accordingly? For many of us, the answer to these questions is "no." We all desire an intimate relationship with God. But, since learning to "say our prayers" as children, we never moved beyond rote recitation to an authentic conversation with God.

Oremus—Let Us Pray

The Oremus study program teaches you the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life. Over the course of 8 weeks you will discover how God speaks to you, even in the smallest encounters. Following the Tradition of the Catholic Church and the wisdom of the saints, you will learn how to express yourself to God in prayer, and how to hear His voice.

Please call Marilyn O'Neill 314-341-2622 or Kelly Meyer 636-828-4994 to sign up.

Readings for the Week

Mon: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38

or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or ls 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Mk 1:7-11

Tue: 1 Sm 1:9-20 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1 Sm 1:9-20;

1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28 or

Mk 1:14-20 and Mk 1:21-28

Wed: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39

Thu: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45

Fri: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12 Sat: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17

Sun: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

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Catholic IQ Answers





Financial Peace University teaches practical financial planning based on the teachings of the Bible. FPU has something to offer everyone, regardless of your financial situation. This class provides the opportunity to learn proactive strategies for handling your money, make a budget to fit your needs, and develop a plan for getting out of debt. We will also learn about topics such as increasing communication between spouses, the right kinds of insurance, mortgages, giving, and more!

Please prayerfully consider this nine week course beginning Tuesday, January 17th from 6:15-8:15 p.m. Classes will meet weekly in the ICD Parish Hall (with the exception of February 14th) and FREE child care will be provided. The cost of materials for the class is \$109 (shipping and access to online resources included). For more information and/or to sign up, please visit http://www.fpu.com/1045330 or call Amanda Willson at 417-234-7948, or email amanda2784@gmail.com.

Thanks to everyone that sold or bought See's Candy. It was a successful fund raiser for the Marian Council. We will not be selling candy after Mass.

E still have about 20 boxes left to sell. Anyone who wants to buy a one-pound box of candy for \$20, please contact Jackie 314-761-6127 or Rita 636-399-6083.





REGISTER NOW!

Limited Seating Available
Touhill Performing Arts Center (UMSL)

Catholic Men for Christ Conference—February 3

Featuring Curtis Martin, Fr. Godwin Olugbami, Dr. Scott Sulivan and Michael Cumbie Visit catholicmenforchrist.org to register.

Catholic Women for Christ Conference—March 10

Featuring Sr. Virginia Joy—Sisters of Life, Mary Beth Bonacci and Gloria Purvis Visit catholicwomenforchrist.org to register

Invitation to Divorced and Separated Catholics

The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide is a DVD program featuring Catholic experts, and lay men and women on the journey to healing. Topics include denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, the kids, the ex-spouse, spirituality, annulment and much more. Immaculate Conception/Dardenne will be hosting the program on Thursdays from 7-9pm beginning January 11 and ending April 5. Contact Debi at debijo@att.net or 314-276-3859 for more information.

Blessing Your Home for Epiphany

A beautiful Epiphany tradition will continue at our parish this weekend as Fr. Tom blesses chalk to scrawl markings over the door of our homes, carrying forth an ancient custom practiced in many homes around the world.

Some background:

The family gathers to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 18. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2018 is the year.

The Chalk has been blessed with these words:

- V. Our help is the name of the Lord:
- R. The maker of heaven and earth.
- V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:
- R. From this time forth for evermore.

Let us pray.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that



we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Instructions for Blessing the Home

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 18 while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human more than two thousand years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer: Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedictat*, "May Christ bless the house."

Be sure to get the "ritual" and piece of blessed chalk and holy water to bless your house on or around the Feast of Epiphany. There are various "blessings" that can be found on the web.

Thanks for the Thanksgiving Pies!

Dear Parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary:

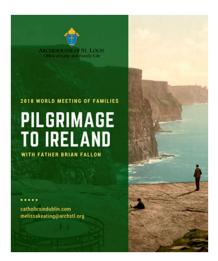
Once again your generosity to our Center's Thanksgiving Dinner was so appreciated. Your pies added a sweet end to our dinner to those in need. Christmas Blessings!

The staff of Our Lady of Perpetual Help





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Pilgrimage to Ireland - Join Us!

Join the Archdiocese in Ireland for the 2018 World Meeting of Families! A priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Fr. Brian Fallon, will lead us in a 10-day pilgrimage around this historically Catholic country. We will celebrate the beauty and joy of the family, in addition to exploring the Irish roots of our faith. Pilgrimage stops will include Our Lady of Knock, the Rock of Cashel, the Ring of Kerry and much more! Visit catholicsindublin.com to view the full itinerary (click on *Pilgrimages* from the menu, and then choose Archdiocese of St. Louis).

The total cost is \$4200, plus approximately \$100 for the World Meeting of Families once registration opens. Payment plans are available. For more information, please contact Melissa Keating at 314.792.7173 or melissakeating@archstl.org. Registration: catholicsindublin.com.

Let's Bring on the Holidays with St. Vincent School Trivia Night

At St. Vincent de Paul School, 13496 South Hwy. 94, Marthasville, MO—located in Dutzow, 4 miles north of Washington) on Saturday, January 13, 2018 starting at 7:00pm. Doors open at 6:15pm. \$15 per person—tables for 8-10 persons available. First place = \$200, Second place = \$100, Third place = \$50. Attendance prizes, 50/50 raffles, Best Table theme. Bring your own snacks! Soda, beer and wine available for purchase. Must be 18 years of age to enter. Please...no carried in coolers or drinks allowed. Contact Angela Struckhoff for reservations at 636-221-1596 or angrobowen@yahoo.com.

Our Lady's Inn Annual Trivia Night

Saturday, January 20 at Chaminade College Prep School (425 S. Lindbergh). Doors open at 6:00pm and trivia begins at 7:00pm. Cost is \$25 per person and \$200 for a table of ten. For more information or to register, call Katrina at 314-736-1544 or visit www.ourladysinn.org. Our Lady's Inn provides a loving home and an array of service supporting pregnant women and their children suffering with homelessness.

Spend an Afternoon with the Saints in Glass

At St. Francis Xavier (College) Church, 3628 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis 63108. Sunday, January 21 following our 10:30am Mass. The afternoon will begin with a light lunch in the Ballroom followed by a tour of the historic College Church windows by our pastor Fr. Dan White, S.J. and Aaron Frei of Emil Frei Studios. Cost \$20 per person due before January 11. Contact Mary Beth Erickson at 314-977-7304 or email church@slu.edu to make reservations. The "Saints in Glass" book by Fr. J.J. Mueller, S.J. and Fr. Thomas Rochford, S.J. will also be available for purchase.

Suite Seats for a Sweet Cause

Support families choosing to make the loving and often expensive choice to grow their family through adoption AND get or give a chance to enjoy a 2018 Cardinals game from the Mercy Suite! Raffle winner receives 10 tickets in Suite 33 (along the 1st base line) at Busch Stadium for a 2018 Cardinals Home Game, \$150 of food/drinks and one parking pass for a mutually agreed upon date. Made available through the generous donation of Mercy. All proceeds benefit the Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Adoption Fund. For more information: http://archstl.org/raffleforadoption or 314-997-7576.

Resolve to make your marriage even better in 2018!

Attend a Marriage Encounter Weekend and your good marriage will become even better. Just ask a couple who has attended the weekend. Apply for the weekend you deserve either on February 2-4 in St. Peters, MO, March 23-25 in Springfield, IL or April 20-22 in St. Peters, MO. Go to www.stl-wwme.org or call 314-649-7317.

A man was having a conversation with God:

Man: What is a million years like to you, O God? Man: What is a million dollars like to you, my Lord?

Man: Can you lend me a "penny"?

God: Like one second, my son. God: Like one penny, my son.

God: Sure! Just a second ...



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