



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, 11:30am
 Weekdays: 8:00am, in church

Weekly Devotions and Prayers

Eucharistic Adoration:

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

Rosary:

Following 8am Mass weekdays & before Sat. 4pm.

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

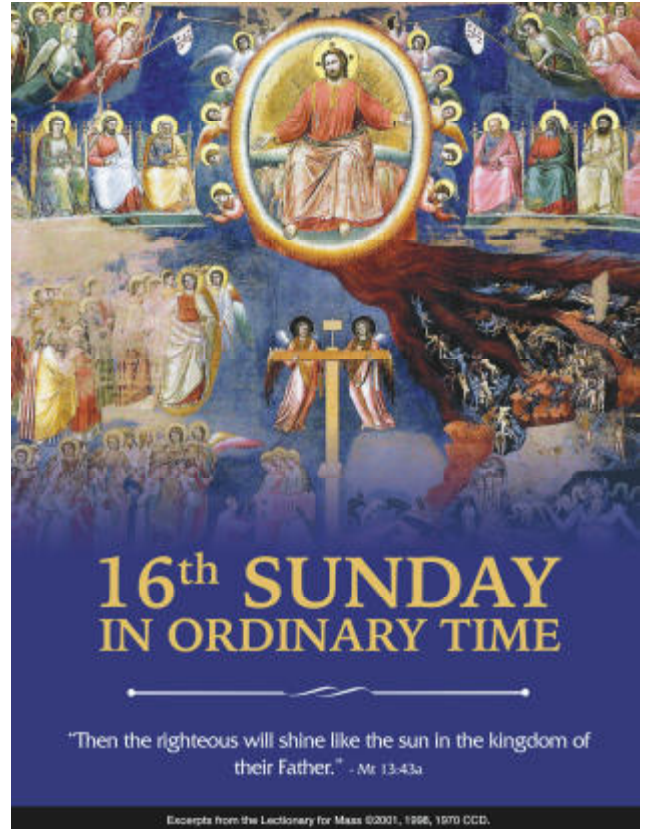
Reconciliation: Wednesday in church, 7pm (not during July)
 Saturday following 8am Mass

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

July 19, 2020



Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Grace and sin, belief and unbelief, good and evil all exist together. While we wrestle with these two dimensions of reality inwardly, they are also witnessed in the actions and words of others. Many, all too often, beat themselves up because of their sin. We are also all too quick to pass judgment on others whom we perceive to be in error and walking down a wrong path. God does not make rash judgments, nor should we. Patience is the order of the day as is an understanding that God is ultimately the caller of the shots.

Our faith tells us that while God allows the wheat and the weeds to coexist, the wheat will always triumph. As long as we can cultivate even a little faith and a small measure of desire for God, He can produce abundant blessings and good things.

Even when the weeds seem to have triumphed, there still may be a small measure of faith remaining that can be cultivated and grown. It doesn't take much! Unless a person totally allows the weeds to reign, there is always to be found at least a small measure of faith, good, light, and love. With even this small portion, God can produce abundant growth.

Admittedly, it is easy to give into the weeds, and they grow very quickly. Any gardener knows this to be true. Sometimes, the weeds even seem more attractive and vibrant. Dealing with weeds can quickly become a losing battle, and they can look healthier and grow faster than the very plants we are trying to protect. It's easy to give into them and let them win. While God will deal with all things

in due time, we are responsible for keeping things in check in the short term. It is our task to keep our eyes fixed on God's presence and mercy. We are asked to avoid judgment. And, it is not our responsibility to deal with the weeds in someone else's garden, only our own. One garden is enough responsibility for anyone.

Weeds have power. We have to realize this. While they can appear attractive and healthy, they can quickly choke us off from God's presence. Our task is one of maintenance and cultivating a desire for God. Even the smallest kernel of faith can grow into something wonderful. In God's time, the eternal harvest will come, and we will no longer have to worry about the weeds.

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, Secretary *secretary@ihm-newmelle.org*
Bryan Beams, Director of Music and Liturgy
bryanbeams@ihm-newmelle.org
Janet Hespen, Youth Leader *janethspn@outlook.com*
Karen Wappelhorst, Child Safety Coordinator
childsafety@ihm-newmelle.org

Religious Education

Shawn Mueller, Director

636-398-5270, *smueller@ihm-newmelle.org*

Parish School of Religion
Grades 1 thru 8, September thru May, 6-7:30pm, Wednesdays
Confirmation Preparation
8th Grade—September thru May, 6-7:30pm, Wednesdays
Children's Liturgy of the Word
September thru May, during the 9:30am Sunday Mass
Adult Education
Wednesdays at 8:45am and 6:10pm, September thru May
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—contact Shawn for schedule

Quick Contacts Directory

Weddings, Receptions, Events

Pat Gentry, Hall Rental 636-398-5270
Kelly Meyer, Wedding Coordinator 636-828-4994
Jean Hitt, Wedding Coordinator 636-987-2131
Joan Marren-Slaughter, Event Coordinator 636-398-5270
Mary Keune, Event Coordinator 636-398-5270

Prayer and Devotion

Eucharistic Adoration
Shawn Mueller 636-398-5270
Legion of Mary
Maria Romine-Kantor 314-614-0857
Prayer Chain
Brenda Hutchcraft 636-248-8493
Prayer Intercession/Jonah Team
Debbie Gillespie 636-398-4971
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Julia Kettler 314-616-0096

Liturgical Ministries

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

Parish Organizations

Budget & Finance
Larry Graves 314-799-9804
Cemetery Committee
Mark Keune 314-220-7075
Dinner Committee
Jeff Comotto 314-570-6972
Funeral Lunches
Carol Grady 314-662-2281
Ruth Neske 636-398-5699
Vicki Grunz 636-497-5230
Helping Hearts
John Grady 314-662-2138
Mary Fischer 636-561-7747
Bob Hutchcraft 636-346-3471
Maria Romine-Kantor 314-614-0857
Knights of Columbus
Bob Hutchcraft 636-346-3471
Marian Council
Barb Pope 773-383-8602
Meal Train
Kelly Meyer *meyer5853@qmcinc.org*, 636-828-4994
Meals on Wheels
Jean Bammann 636-798-2718
Pro Life
Bill Winters 636-828-4133
Quilters
Vanita Joerling 636-544-0416
Ruth Willis 636-398-4597
Scouting
Chuck Hinkle 636-544-6639
Cub Scouts: Adam McCarthy 636-634-7622
Boy Scouts: Chad Peters 314-807-7177
St. Vincent de Paul
Joe Willis 636-398-2106
Welcoming Committee
Teresa Berfanger 636-398-5565

Youth and Young Adults

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

Why don't our guardian angels spare us certain trials?

*"In his wisdom," St. Augustine tells us,
"God prefers to draw good from evil rather than to prevent all evil."*

Our guardian angel is interested in everything that affects our life — most of all our soul and its eternal destiny. That's why a guardian angel, an "expert" in worship, particularly helps us in our prayer time. He also takes an interest in our mental and physical health, and cares for us even in the smallest details of our daily life, inspiring us to fulfill our responsibilities in life ... as well as to find that parking space we need!

In Exodus we read, "I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. Be attentive to him and listen to his voice; do not rebel against him ... My angel goes in front of you" (Ex 23:20-23). Thus, the primary mission of our guardian angel is to lead us to safe haven, to an encounter with the living God. "He is the minister of divine solicitude for each and every one," wrote Pope Benedict XVI, both spiritually and materially.

So how to reconcile this understanding of the role of the guardian angel with the troubles, and even the tragedies, of life? For example, we find an angel freeing the Apostles from their prison (Acts 5:19); the same for Peter (Acts 12:7-11). And yet, in God's good time these angels did not prevent their martyrdom.

The guardian angel doesn't spare us trials that help us grow spiritually.

Above all, the angel sees and seeks our finality, our ultimate vocation: holiness. It's in this sense that our guardian angels actively participate in the spiritual combat "against the rulers ... of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Eph 6:12).

St. Padre Pio was, however, abandoned by his guardian angel at the time of a terrible battle against evil. "I scolded him severely for having kept me waiting so long when I was ceaselessly calling on him for help. To punish him, I didn't wish to look him in the face anymore, I wished to flee him... But he came to me almost in tears. He grabbed hold of me until I raised my eyes, looked him in the face, and saw him very angry." And the angel explained to Padre Pio that he had received instructions from the Lord to act thus, all while reassuring him, "I am always close to you, my dear little one, always surrounding you with affection."

It is in the light of this finality — eternal life — that we must view the disconcerting adversities and crucifying trials of existence. To this end, our angel's actions can sometimes be "muscular." St. Françoise Romaine's angel supposedly once gave her a sharp slap when, at a society dinner, she slandered someone! Everyone heard the slap and saw the red mark on Françoise's cheek! So our angel is not going to spare us certain tests of spiritual growth. But he will pray for us and be there with us in the heat of the battle.

Consider St. Ignatius of Loyola, who had his leg shattered at the siege of Pamplona, or St. John of the Cross, thrown into a dungeon by his Carmelite brothers. One might be outraged that their angels did not prevent these sufferings. And yet, it was through these events that the lives of both men were turned around. "In his wisdom," St. Augustine tells us, "God prefers to draw good from evil rather than to prevent all evil."

*Fr. Nicholas Buttet
Catholic monk and spiritual director in Switzerland*

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A

Jesus said, "An enemy sowed weeds in a farmer's field. When the farmer saw the weeds growing amid the wheat, he told his workers, 'Let the two plants grow together until harvest. Then I will tell the harvest workers to pull up the weeds. . . and burn them, and then to gather in the wheat and put it in my barn.'"

Matthew 13:30

The wheat stands for good people; the weeds stand for evil people. Jesus' parable reminds me that I should not be disturbed to find "weeds" growing amid the "wheat" in Jesus' Church. What is/should be my attitude toward the "weeds" growing amid the wheat in Jesus' Church?

Be patient with the Church. It is always a community of weak and imperfect individuals. Put yourself at the disposal of the Church. The Church needs you... You are the future of the Church. (Pope John Paul II speaking to the youth of Switzerland)

From Mark Link S.J. *Vision 2000*

Ministry Schedule

*Please note: We have changed
the number of ushers per Mass to 4*

July 18—4pm

EM: Deacon Chris Ast, Bob Brossette,
Ed Etzkorn, Becky Wilson
Lec: Yvonne Brossette, Larry Graves
Serv: Aiden Panus
Music: Verdi & Amelia
Ush: Tim Wilson, Wally & Jan Karase, Chris Cuddihee

July 19—7:30

EM: Maureen Blondin, Betty Tuepker,
Dianne Dickherber, Jan Kardasz
Lec: Chuck Kettler, Kris Jenkins
Serv: Mary Becker
Music: Verdi & Brooke
Ush: Chris Molitor, Frank Kardasz,
Larry Smith, Tom Meczowski

July 19—9:30

EM: Chris Richter, Laura Orf, Sharon Smith, Janet Hespen
Lec: Patrice Riley, Grant Smith
Serv: William Lassiter
Music: Bryan & Amelia
Ush: Brenda Hutchcraft, Gary Struckhoff,
Alan Raymond, Jerry Hespen

July 19—11:30am

EM: Marcy Pivin, Mary Busby-Simpson
Lec: Chris & Kat Menne
Serv: Thomas Kokker
Music: Contemporary Group
Ush: John Hofman, Tim Maher, Chuck Hinkle, Ron Simpson

Ministry Schedule

July 25—4pm

EM: Karen Wilson, Chris Warren, Ann Zaleuke, Pat Roche
Lec: Mike Greene, Sharon Hagan
Serv: Zara Panus
Music: Bryan & Besty
Ush: Ed Etzkorn, Tom Zaleuke, Mike Rieker, Larry Graves

July 26—7:30am

EM: Deacon Chris Ast, John Fiacco,
Mary Hardesty, Dianne Dickherber
Lec: Kris Jenkins, Chuck Kettler
Serv: Natalie Jaeckle
Music: Verdi & Elizabeth
Ush: Bob & Teresa Berfanger, Gary Potter, Ron Jacob

July 26—9:30am

EM: Deacon Chris Ast, Patrice Riley, Don & Susan Hladky
Lec: Nancy Ast, Pat Gentry
Serv: William Lassiter
Music: Bryan & Betsy
Ush: Michelle Greiwe, Chris Molitor,
Gary Struckhoff, Larry Smith

July 26—11:30am

EM: Chris & Kat Menne
Lec: Chuck Hinkle, Marcy Pivin
Serv: Thomas Kokker
Music: Contemporary Group
Ush: Tim Maher, Ron Simpson, **2 volunteers please**

Heavenly Duster Schedule

Week of July 19: Judy Cova
Week of July 26: Flo Joerling

Purificators

Month of July: Carol Ostermeyer

✠ Rest in Peace ✠

Gordon Colbert

husband of Becky, son of Ken & Beverly Colbert

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

Congratulations!!

to Mike and Gina McDonald
who are celebrating their 40th wedding
anniversary on July 19

Authentic Catholic Radio: AM 1460

Your Photos Wanted Please! (and thank you!)

Looking ahead to our new photo directory, we have had some interesting events happen during the year. We are asking any of our parishioners who may have photo-captured some of these events to consider sharing them with the parish office. Please send them to Peggy in the office with a short description. A few of the subjects that we would like to highlight in this year's directory are:

- Mass watching t-shirts
- Good Shepherd Sunday parade for Fr. Tom (47 cars!)
- Corpus Christi consecration of parish boundaries
- a full page devoted to relatives in the military
- other parish events, i.e. Fall Sausage Dinner, KC Car show, Christmas parties, etc.

*We have a great story to tell—
help us tell it!*

Mass Intentions

Monday, July 20

8:00am

Glen Strunk (1st ann.) +
Maurice J. Lonsway Jr. +

Tuesday, July 21

8:00am

Dan Roberson +
Parents of Jeff & Chris Comotto +

Wednesday, July 22

8:00am

Dave Gentry +
Moiria Ryan +

Thursday, July 23

8:00am

All Souls
Jim Blondin (3rd ann.) +

Friday, July 24

8:00am

Waldo Godier +
Rose Reuther +

Saturday, July 25

8:00am

Gordie Colbert +
Jack Roderick +

4:00pm

Stan Nikonowicz +
Mark Kellems +

Sunday, July 26

7:30am

Kathy Reininger +
Imogene Easley +

9:30am

Jim Fischer +
People of the Parish

11:30am

Jerry Tajkowski +

Contributions, July 11/12

General Offertory:

\$8,879.20

Online—General Offertory:

\$4,762.52

TOTAL

\$13,641.72

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field . . . He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom."

(Matthew 13:24, 37-38)

As children of God, we are all "good seeds." We are blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God's plan when we spend time in prayer every day, use our skills to help others, and share our financial gifts to help build God's kingdom on earth. Through our example of gratitude and generosity we sow "good seeds" on earth and ultimately help each other get to Heaven!

Let us pray . . . that we may allow stewardship to blossom in our hearts and joyfully share our gifts.

Needed at the Pantry

sugar, jelly, fruit juices, chicken broth, dish soap, laundry detergent, shaving lotion, razors, hair conditioner, body wash, saltines, cake mixes, icing, brownie mixes, paper products, syrup, bisquick, jiffy mix, jello and pudding



Hearing this Gospel, we can trust that God knows our love and good deeds, and that he will mercifully gather us into His kingdom.

This week, please say a special prayer each day for the poor and forgotten in our parish.

Prayer Shawls

If you or someone you know needs to be wrapped in prayer, please pick a prayer shawl! We have a good supply in church.

Quilt of the Month Winners

April: our parishioner Wilma Zurweller

June: Glenda Hall, Wentzville,

Congratulations ladies!

New Cemetery Section now open.

Just in the first month we sold 29 lots and 3 more niches, and sales are continuing! We still have many, many lots available at the reduced parishioner price (thru August) of \$750. Prices go up September 1 to \$1,000. The current price for a single niche (one urn) is \$1,500, a double niche (two urns) is \$1,750. In checking around, you will find other cemeteries are charging much more, some even more than double. If you are interested, please call the office and we'll be happy to answer any questions you might have. Payment plans available through Online Giving.

IHM Cemetery
New Section



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)

- God chose _____ for Himself to be His people and revealed His law to them, thus preparing for the coming of Christ.
 - Israel
 - Moses
 - Abraham
 - Jesus
- The old Law is the first stage of revealed law, it's moral prescriptions are summed up in the _____.
 - Magisterium
 - Ten Commandments
 - three tablets
 - Supreme Court
- The Law is holy, spiritual, and good, yet still _____; like a tutor, it shows what must be done, but does not of itself give the strength, the grace of the Spirit, to fulfill it.
 - not quite all there
 - evil
 - clueless
 - imperfect
- The old Law is a preparation for the _____.
 - journey
 - walk of life
 - road to eternity
 - Gospel
- Aquinas wrote, "Even though the old Law prescribed charity, it did not give the _____ through whom God's charity has been poured into our hearts."
 - goods
 - hope
 - Holy Spirit
 - money
- The new Law or the Law of the Gospels is the perfection here on earth of the Divine Law, natural and _____.
 - positive
 - revealed
 - charged
 - negative
- The new Law is the grace of the _____ given to the faithful through faith in Christ.
 - mountain top
 - Holy Spirit
 - feeling
 - Beatitudes
- The new Law works through charity; uses the Sermon on the Mount to teach us what must be done and makes use of the Sacraments to give us the _____ to do it.
 - grace
 - inspiration
 - hope
 - courage
- The Law of the Gospel "fulfills," refines, surpasses, and leads the old Law to its _____.
 - opposite
 - end
 - perfection
 - conclusion
- The Sermon on the Mount does not add new external precepts, but proceeds to reform the _____, the root of human acts.
 - heart
 - gut
 - emotions
 - soil

Answer key:

1. a (1961) 2. b (1962) 3. d (1964) 4. d (1963) 5. c (1963) 6. b (1965) 7. b (1966) 8. a (1966) 9. c (1967) 10. a (1968)

Rummage Sale News

In spite of our hopefulness, the Rummage Sale has been cancelled this year. It is a major fundraiser for the Marian Council, but maybe next year will be bigger and better than ever!

For those of you who have saved up your treasures to donate and need to get rid of them, we have a great ministry for you to consider:

LOVE SERVING GOD

a local non for profit organization and ministry serving persons experiencing homelessness by providing clothing, food, transportation, survival boxes, care packages and referral services. They will be happy to receive your treasures such as:

clothing,
household items,
decorative objects, etc.

They are especially in need of food donations at this time.

Please do not bring:

lawn equipment

exercise equipment

bikes

electronics

especially no TV's

To find out the best time to drop off your donations or if they will accept an item in particular, please contact them at lsgministries@outlook.com or by phone at 314-766-2199 They are located at 704 East Pearce Blvd., Wentzville and can pick up your larger donations if necessary.

The **St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store** in St.

Charles is also open and accepting donated items. 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! The St. Charles store is located in Cave Springs at 1069 Regency Parkway, across the street from Wal-Mart. Their phone number is 314-881-6047. Call for hours of operation or if you have any questions.

The **Mary-Martha** store in Wentzville is closed for the time being and is not accepting donated items. Please do not drop off anything at their location.

Please pray for all the sick and suffering:

Mark Hanna, Phyllis Zerr, Vickie Brink, Sandy Knott,
Mike & Pat Ryan, Carol Rabbitt, Fran Bussen, Karla Sitzes,
Vicky Monroe, Nancy Hollenstein, Walt Reel, Jean Bamert,
Amy Robbins, Kathy Feldewerth, Loretta Bruns, Jo Hailey,
Betty Heppermann, Don Schmidt, Frank Marquart,
Cindy White, Janie Roth, Betty Boyd, Lucy Smith

David & Lisa Debold (Dave & Pam DeBold's children),
Dave Asinger (brother-in-law of Larry & Rita Bendel),
Fred Brown (son-in-law of Bill & Bernie Pollihan),
Leon Burkemper (son of Carol Rabbitt),
Loretta Nolan (sister of Kathy Lalonde),
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),
Steve Wengerski (family friend of Mandy Daub),
Jim Raymond (brother of Alan & Marsha Raymond),
Sophia Hartsfield (granddaughter of Ed & Marcia Etzkorn),
Keith Langford (son of Rita & brother of Valerie Langford),
Rich and Dan Winters (brothers of Bill and Suzanne Winters),
Red Brockmeyer (cousin of Kay & Ray Cherry)

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

PSR corner

**PSR Registration
for fall of 2020**

The Holy Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation have been received. Summer break is now open us. There was a question about the Fall of 2020 and Registration. Typically we send out notes regarding registration sometime in July. Keep an eye out in the bulletin or for an email. Our start date is the first Wednesday after Labor day in September. This year that will be on September 9th. Please consider having your son or daughter stay plugged in to some resource of intellect-faith formation. In these days of massive confusion, skepticism, sifting through ideas of so-called 'smart' people who share completely different views, it can be hard to discern what is the truth or what is right or wrong. The end result is often indifference or relativism. One tool of light is the free gift subscription to FORMED at www.ihm-newmelle.formed.org. Consider taking another look at their expanding base of great Catholic, faithful, intellectual talks and programs.



Janet Hespen, Youth Minister,
314-369-6521

All teens: join us for IHM Youth Group

Zoom meetings every Thursday evening at 6:30pm. It lasts 1 hour and is lots of fun. Yes, we play lots of games.

Download Zoom app on your phone or get your computer and use this information for Thursday night meetings:
meeting ID is 636-268-5487, pw 099612

IHM Youth Group Fundraiser T-Shirts

"I Took a DNA test and GOD is my Father"

Please support the teens of our parish as they are the future of our parish.
As always we appreciate your support!!

Name _____

Phone # _____

Size(s) & Quantity _____

Total: _____ @ \$17

_____ @ \$19 Total enclosed \$ _____

Only \$17

XXL \$19

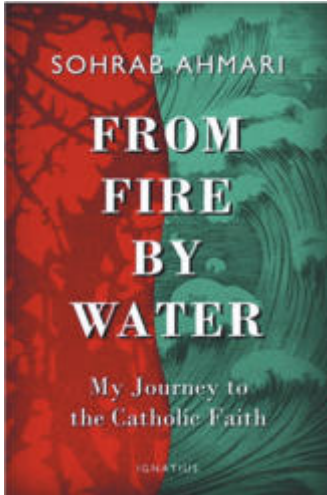
| Youth Sizes | Adult Sizes |
|-------------|-------------|
| YS 6 | AS 34 |
| YM 10 | AM 38 |
| YL 14 | AL 42 |
| | AXL 46 |
| | AXXL 50 |



In doubt, order next size up

Jesus' Eucharistic Presence and Power

A Pew Research Center survey from August 2019 found that around two thirds of Catholics do not believe in the core teaching of Jesus' real (and supernatural) presence in the Eucharist. Instead they see it only as something symbolic. One could make the case that how this survey was worded may have impacted the results of which should both shock and sadden. But, in this case, there is a parallel support in the fact that this percentage lines up with actual Catholic Mass attendance --- which is at about 30% nationwide. In other words two out of three Catholics do not bother to attend weekly Mass. One longtime



Catholic elementary school teacher put the dots together, "People don't go to Mass because they don't believe in the Real Presence, and they don't believe in the Real Presence because if it were true, then wouldn't the churches be full?" While there is a mountain of biblical, doctrinal, theological and miraculous data to support this amazing teaching and reality, there is also the simple and beautiful witness of testimony, individuals who have been given a grace to know Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. Here is a witness from Sohrab Ahmari from his book "From Fire by Water."

First a description of the book: Sohrab Ahmari was born into Islam. As a teenager living under the Iranian ayatollahs he decided that there is no God. Nearly two decades later, he would be received into the Roman Catholic Church. In *From Fire, by Water*, he recounts this unlikely passage, from the strident Marxism and atheism of a youth misspent on both sides of the Atlantic to a moral and spiritual awakening prompted by the Mass. At once a young intellectual's finely crafted self-portrait and a life story at the intersection of the great ideas and events of our time, the book marks the debut of a compelling new Catholic voice. Here's the event:

In the midst of a life crisis on a host of levels, Ahmari found his way in to a Capuchin Monastery as he was walking around a city one evening. "It was the first time that I had visited a place of worship on my own accord as an adult. The Sunday evening Mass was about to begin. At that point, I had a hint idea that Catholicism was the "original form" of Christianity, which to my mind heightened its prestige.

I also had some familiarity, via my mother, with the Church's sacred-art tradition. I had watched *The Godfather*, with its famous Baptism scene intercut with flashes of mob murder. These superficial cultural associations represented the sum total of my knowledge of the faith.

What mattered was that I was hungry for God, and in his infinite mercy our Lord pointed me to his Eucharistic presence. As Catholic churches go, the inside wasn't exactly impressive. I parked myself somewhere in the back, and I would remain seated the whole time. Even at that moment, with my deep spiritual longing, there

was a part of me that scoffed at the sacred mysteries. While a young guy with an acoustic guitar and a manbun led the parishioners in singing various hymns, the thought that crossed my mind was: You're too smart for this. What if someone I knew spotted me? Then I would forever be counted among the ranks of these gullible saps. But all of a sudden, the singing and strumming dissolved into that all-encompassing serenity, and something extraordinary happened.

"On the night he was betrayed," said the friar, "He took bread and gave thanks and praise. He broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take this, all of you, and eat it, for this is my body which will be given up for you.'" Then he held up with both hands a little white disk [I didn't know it was bread], a bell rang out thrice, and I felt waves of peace wash over me. I was as still as a statue. Tears streamed from my eyes and down my face. These were tears neither of sadness nor even of happiness. They were tears of peace. The friar continued: "When supper was

ended, he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples, and said: 'Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and to: all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.'" Now the friar held up a golden cup. The bell rang thrice more. My silent tears gave way to choked sobs. I was in the proximity of an awesome and mysterious force, a force bound up with sacrifice, with self-giving unto death, the idea that had made my heart tremble ever since I was a boy. I was aware, too, of my own abjection and smallness, which made me think that I didn't belong in the presence of this holy thing. Not sixteen hours earlier, I had drunk myself into a stupor. I had willingly degraded myself. Now I dared to show up here? And yet, peace continued to radiate from the altar and from the friar's words and hands. I covered my face and bent over in my pew.

(Get the book for the rest of the story)

Are You Celebrating 25, 50, or over 50 Years of Marriage during 2020?

**Annual Silver and Gold
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Sunday, October 11, 2020
Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis
2:30 p.m.



For details, or to register by Sept. 11, 2020, visit
archstl.org/jubilee or call 314.792.7598.

Readings of the Week

- Sun: Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 [5a]/
Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30
- Mon: Mi 6:1-4, 6-8/Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21, Mt 12:38-42
- Tue: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8 [8a]/Mt 12:46-50
- Wed: Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2]/
Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
- Thu: Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13/Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11 [10a]/
Mt 13:10-17
- Fri: Jer 3:14-17/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/
Mt 13:18-23
- Sat: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6 [5]/
Mt 20:20-28

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The parable of the wheat and the weeds shows the greatness of Divine justice. God reminds us in the parable that we are not to judge those whom we think may be the weeds in the field. God allows the good and the evil to live side by side because He respects the free will that He bestowed on all human beings. All individuals will have the chance to choose to serve God or Satan, and God will judge them at death accordingly, but not until that time. We should refrain from casting judgment upon our neighbors, for we too have neglected to serve God at times. Instead of judging others, let us seek to do the will of God and to transform the “weeds” into “wheat.” Let us share the goodness of Jesus with others and lead them to the harvest of heaven.

archstl.org/dynamic

Help us strengthen our community

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic parish invites you to be part of our directory so everyone will know your name.



We've added some more dates!!

Thursday and Friday,
November 12/13, 1pm—7:10pm
Saturday,
November 14, 9am—2:40pm

This is the link that will take you directly to our online reservations:

<https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b60t1e46/>

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You will receive:

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St. Paul Library / Lighthouse CD Resources

(Note: With close to 4000 items, the Parish Library is located in the Grand Hall past the restrooms. It is open during the week-normal business hours-and works on an honor system. Items from the Lighthouse CD rack are located and available in the Narthex

From the Lighthouse CD Rack (Narthex)



Who...or What...is God?

Does the universe provide clues to God's existence?

Why would a loving all-powerful God permit suffering in the world?

What are some reasons to believe in the Trinitarian God of the Christian Bible?

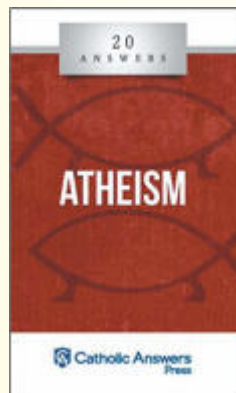
In this booklet you'll find smart, solid answers to these questions and many more. 20 Answers: God guides you down a path of rational inquiry and understanding toward an encounter with the central mystery of the universe. The 20 Answers series from Catholic Answers offers hard facts, powerful arguments, and clear explanations of the most important topics facing the Church and the world—all in a compact, easy-to-read package.

Life's Ultimate Questions -

- ◇ How can you know for sure that God exists?
- ◇ If God is good, why is there so much evil in the world?
- ◇ Doesn't evolution mean we don't need God to explain human life?
- ◇ Why should I believe in God when religion is the number-one cause of war, ignorance, and misery?

In this booklet you'll find smart, solid answers to these questions and many more. 20 Answers: Atheism will help you understand the main arguments for and against God's existence, and give you the knowledge you need to explain to others the reasonableness of belief.

Check out dozens of other topics in the 20 Answers Series of booklets published by Catholic Answers Press.



Pope's Intentions for July: Our Families

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

NEVER GET TIRED
OF DOING LITTLE THINGS
FOR OTHERS.
SOMETIMES THOSE
LITTLE THINGS OCCUPY
THE BIGGEST PART
OF THEIR HEARTS.

—ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

REFLECT

FIRST READING

The Jewish sage speaks of God as master of all who judges us with clemency and governs us with leniency. What are some areas of your life that make you grateful for a merciful God?

SECOND READING

Paul teaches the Christians in Rome that the Spirit helps us "to pray as we ought." When do you find yourself most at prayer?

GOSPEL READING

We hear today a series of parables describing aspects of the kingdom of heaven: the parable of the weeds among the wheat, the parable of the mustard seed, and the parable of the yeast. What do you think makes Jesus' parables such an effective method for teaching about the mystery of the kingdom of heaven?

"Gather the wheat into my barn." Let's be wheat!

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