



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

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

Website: www.ihm-newmelle.org

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

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

Schedule of Holy Mass

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

Weekly Devotions and Prayers

Eucharistic Adoration:

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

Rosary:

Following 8am Mass Monday thru Friday

Perpetual Help Devotions:

Tuesdays following 8am Mass

Respect Life Prayers:

Thursday following 8am Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction:

Friday at 11:30am

First Saturday of the Month Devotions

8am Mass, Rosary, 15 minutes of meditation

Sacraments

Reconciliation:

Wednesday in church, 7pm
Saturday following 8am Mass

Marriage:

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

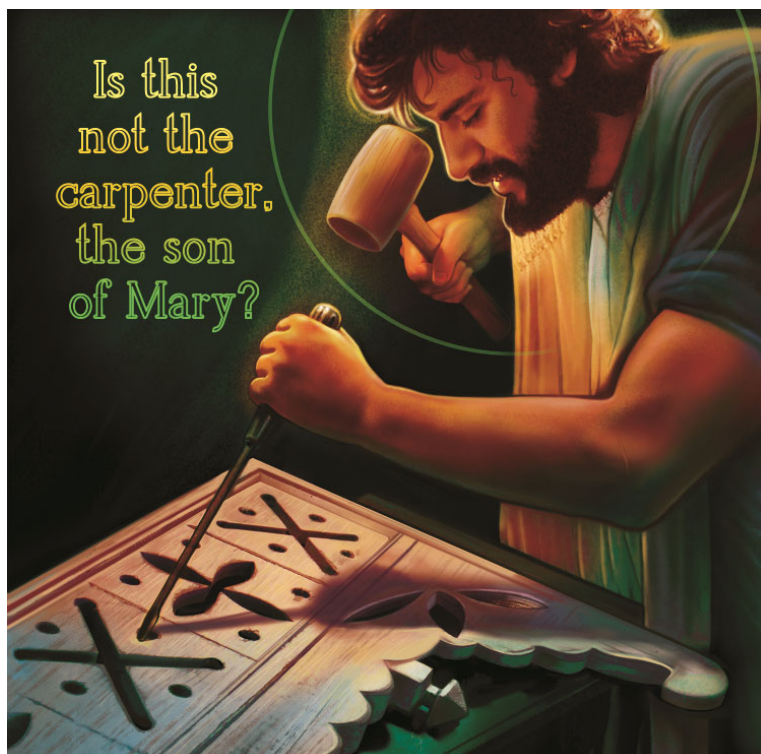
Baptism:

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:

Contact Shawn Mueller in the parish office

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 8, 2018



Strength in Weakness

Is Paul serious? Can you imagine being content with “weaknesses, insults, hardships, and persecutions?” (2 Cor 12:10) Paul never specifies what that “thorn in the flesh” was. I used to think it referred to a physical weakness, or disability. But some of the commentaries I’ve read say that it was a person who opposed Paul (think of a “thorn in my side.”) That opponent may have been a Christian who Paul did not want to mention by name.

Paul could have been proud of all that God revealed to him, and of all that he accomplished in spreading the gospel. He sees that “thorn” as God’s way of keeping him humble. So instead he boasts about his weaknesses. He knows that all the good work he

has done has been accomplished by Christ. So he accepted suffering, rejection, setbacks and persecution because they helped him see how much Christ was doing through him.

We can learn a lot from St. Paul. Remember how Jesus said to love your neighbor as yourself? Paul loved himself in the good sense of accepting his faults and weaknesses. He was always aware that he once persecuted Christians. But that fault enabled him to experience God’s forgiveness. I usually try to avoid doing things that show my weaknesses. That means I might miss a chance to see how God can help. Suppose you don’t know how to swim, so you stay out of swimming pools. Of course, then you

could never learn to swim. But if you get in the water and let someone teach you, you might just find yourself liking the water.

St. Paul says that when he is weak, then he is strong. He knows that God will still work through him, showing God’s power to heal the sick and draw converts to Christ, in spite of Paul’s weaknesses. Paul did what he could to encourage others to follow Jesus, but he knew the results of his preaching and healing were up to God. When you think that you would fail at spreading the faith, remember Paul and give your weaknesses to God. Then see what he can do!

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

Parish Staff

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

Weddings, Receptions, Events

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

Religious Education

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

Parish School of Religion

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

Confirmation Preparation

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word

September through May
 During the 9:30am Sunday Mass

Adult Education

Wednesdays at 8:45 and 6:10pm

Quick Contacts Directory

Prayer and Devotion

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

Liturgical Ministries

Extraordinary Ministers
 Irene Caldwell 636-398-4311
 Gift Bearers
 Peggy Dupree 636-398-5270
 Lectors
 Ed Taylor 636-561-7099
 Ushers
 Gary Struckhoff 636-828-6067
 Altar Society
 Pam DeBold 636-482-4765
 Music Ministry
 Marilyn O'Neill 314-341-2622
 Contemporary Music Group
 Debbie Gillespie 636-398-4971

Education

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

Parish Organizations

Art & Environment
 Mary Karll 636-433-5049
 Budget & Finance
 Larry Graves 314-799-9804
 Cemetery Committee
 Mark Keune 314-220-7075
 Dinner Committee
 Jeff Comotto 636-798-2369
 Funeral Lunches
 Ruth Neske 636-398-5699, 314-650-5676
 Golden Hearts
 Jackie Hackett 636-398-5605
 Knights of Columbus
 Gary Potter 636-228-4755
 Marian Council
 Mary Jean Hartenbach 636-398-4677
 Meals on Wheels
 Jean Bammann 636-798-2718
 Outreach
 Steve Farber sfarber@farbermarketing.com
 Pro Life
 Bill Winters 636-828-4133
 Quilters
 Mary Ann Brakensiek 636-828-5776
 Ruth Willis 636-398-4597
 Scouting
 Jerry Hespen 636-236-1955
 Cub Scouts: Wesley Brandhorst 636-327-0531
 Boy Scouts: Chad Peters 314-807-7177
 Venture Crew: Steve Williams 314-486-4023
 St. Vincent de Paul
 Teresa Waddington 314-440-7475
 Welcoming Committee
 Teresa Berfanger 636-398-5565

How to deal with distractions during prayer, according to St. Thérèse of Lisieux

*The "Little Flower" offers her simple advice
for those struggling with distractions in the midst of prayer.*

For many of us, when we sit down to pray, we are bombarded by constant distractions. It could be anything from the ticking of the clock on the wall, the honking of a horn outside, or even a barrage of thoughts about various people or relationships in our lives.

It can be difficult to focus our attention on God and remain in a conversation with Him.

However, sometimes these distractions aren't "distractions" at all, they are thoughts introduced by God that are aimed at our spiritual benefit.

For example, here is what St. Thérèse of Lisieux wrote about being distracted during prayer:

I also have many [distractions] but as soon as I am aware of them, I pray for those people the thought of whom is diverting my attention, and in this way they reap benefit from my distractions.

Sometimes God wants to divert our attention and shed light on a struggling friend or family member.



They may need our prayers or our charity. This way the distraction is turned in the right way and instead of taking us away from God, it brings us closer to Him and His divine plan.

The key is to be attentive when that happens and notice when you begin thinking about someone in your life, or even something you saw on Facebook. In some instances God may want you to be praying for that individual or extending a helpful

hand to them.

St. Josemaria Escriva instructs us that, "The closer an apostle is to God, the more universal his desires. His heart expands and takes in everybody and everything in its longing to lay the universe at the feet of Jesus."

So the next time you feel distracted during prayer, offer it to God and open your heart to whatever God wants to communicate to you in that moment.

by Philip Kosloski who writes for
The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
(Apostleship of Prayer)

If God is slow in responding, it is because He is preparing a better gift. God withholds what you are not yet ready for. All of which is to pray always and do not lose heart. — St. Augustine

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Jesus went to his home in Nazareth, only to be rejected by many people.] Jesus said to them, "A prophet is respected everywhere except in his own home town and by his relatives and his family."

MARK 6:4

The Olympics date from the Greek games held on the plains of Olympia in 776 B.C. Ancient towns often honored victors by erecting a statue in their honor. A Greek story concerns a town that honored such a local hero. The hero's rival was so envious that one night he rocked the statue back and forth and toppled it. It fell at an odd angle, crushing him. That story dramatizes the boomerang effect envy can have. The cancer of envy is often a factor in why prophets are not respected in their hometowns.

To what extent is envy a factor in my life and work? What might I do to lessen its impact? Love looks through a telescope; envy through a microscope. —E. C. McKENZIE
Mark Link S.J. Mission

Next Week Ministry Schedule

July 14
4:00pm

EM: Karen Wilson, Jan Jokisch-Messig, Sharon Hagan,
Pat Roche, Wally & Jan Karase, Mary Hannig,
Wilma Zurweller
Lec: Ed Taylor, Nancy Ast
GB: Bill & Bernadine Pollihan
Serv: Isabelle Scheer, William Fredrick
Ush: Dave Hendrix, Stan Nikonowicz, Jerry Braden,
Bryan Potter

July 15
7:30am

EM: Kris Jenkins, John Fiacco, Rich Molitor,
Mary Hardesty, Jan Kardasz, Betty Tupeker
Lec: Chuck Kettler, Bob Leeker
GB: Carol Rabbitt, Loretta Bruns
Serv: Mary Grace & Janie Becker
Ush: Mike Hardesty, Rich Molitor, Larry Gassei,
VOLUNTEER please

9:30am

EM: Don & Susan Hladky, Clara Haas, Alvina Fry,
Laura Holstein, Janet Hespen, Donna Wolff,
Cheryl Gray
Lec: Drew Smith, Michelle Greiwe
GB: Larry & Amy Molitor
Serv: Alex McCarthy, Brody & Ashlyn Stafford
Ush: Terry Schneider, Walt Hollenstein, Bob Gray,
Alan Raymond, Gary Struckhoff, Charles Hinkel

IHMformation Station

July 14, 4:00pm: Barb & Andy Pope
July 15, 7:30am: Bob & Teresa Berfanger
July 15, 9:30am: Lois Cobleigh

This Week at Home

Sunday, July 8

KC Breakfast, Founders Hall, 8-11am

Monday, July 9

Scouts, Founders Hall/Trailer, 6:30pm

Tuesday, July 10

Legion of Mary, 9am

Fitness class, Grand Hall foyer, 9am

Staff meeting, Grand Hall, 10:30am

Marian Council, Weber Hall, 6:30pm

Wednesday, July 11

No reconciliation tonight

Thursday, July 12

Fitness class, Grand Hall foyer, 9am

Youth Group, Grand Hall foyer, 6:30pm

Friday, July 13

Quilting, Weber Hall, 8:30—noon

Saturday, July 14

Reconciliation, 8:30am

Marriage Prep, Grand Hall, 9:30—3:30pm



Please welcome the Little Sisters of the Poor
who will be speaking at all Masses on July 14/15

PSR Corner

Please return the registrations
that were emailed to you recently
(if you had a son or daughter registered
last year in grades 1-7). If you are a new fami-
ly or have a new student, please be sure to contact
the parish office and we will
send you a registration for the
2018-2019 school year.

Questions: Please call Shawn in
the parish office: 636-398-5270

PSR
Now Enrolling

Please pray for all the sick and suffering,
including:

Ed Haas, Bill Tate, Mark Klemme,
Jolene Molitor, Ed Langford, Jean Reel,
Bob Fritz (Michelle Greiwe's dad)

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 Com-
munion but are unable to get to Mass because of illness or
disability, please contact the parish office: 636-398-5270.

Prayer Chain Requests: Rita Langford at
636-398-4654 or email ritalangford4@gmail.com.

IHM Youth Ministry

Janet Hespen, Youth Minister
314-369-6521

Hi IHM teenagers.

Please save these summer dates for fun,

July 12: Slam dunk night

July 20-22: Steubenville Retreat in Springfield, MO

July 26: Syran wrap night

Hope to see you soon! Call me any time.

During the month of July there will be no evening Confessions on Wednesday nights. Fr. Tom will be available for the Sacrament on Saturday morning after the 8:30am Mass.



Mass Intentions

Monday, July 9

8:00am intention of Elizabeth Meier
Ralph & Cindy Bidy's 58th

Tuesday, July 10

8:00am All Souls
Aaron Strunk +

Wednesday, July 11

8:00am Moira Ryan +
Jack Hitt +

Thursday, July 12

8:00am Cy Bamert +

Friday, July 13

8:00am Tom Holstein +
Frank Schafer +

Saturday, July 14

8:00am Dalton Curran +
4:00pm Gerard Wehrle +
Bud & Mark Kellems +

Sunday, July 15

7:30am Ed Rabbitt +
Archie & Josie Ferguson +
9:30am People of the Parish

Contributions: June 30/July 1 Will be reported next week

"As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me, 'Son of man, I am sending you...'"

EZEKIEL 2:2-3

God asks each of us to do some special work for Him. He gives us the resources we needed to do His work. However, do we listen to God when He calls? Do we get up on our feet and use our talent to do the work He asks of us? Remember, God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called.

We pray ... that we generously use our God-given gifts to do the work God has placed us here on earth to do.

Heavenly Duster

Karen Wilson

Purificators

Jane Szostek

Needed at the Pantry:

vegetarian vegetable soup, chicken noodle, cream soups; corn and green beans; cold cereal; peanut butter; canned fruit; pineapple, mandarin oranges, peaches, fruit cocktail, apple sauce; tuna helper, hamburger helper; canned chicken; ketchup; sugar; vegetable oil; bbq sauce; Bisquick; jello; and all purpose cleaning supplies.

In today's Gospel the people ask: "How is it such miraculous deeds are accomplished by his hands?" Because of your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul many "miraculous deeds" are accomplished for the poor.

This week put a gift in the St. Vincent de Paul collection, knowing that through your kindness someone who is suffering will be touched by God in a miraculous way.

Get Weekly Parish News Early!

The next time you go to the parish website www.ihm-newmelle.org sign up for our newsletter by completing the spaces at the bottom of the home page. Once you sign up, every Friday you'll receive an email from IHM with news pulled from the upcoming Sunday bulletin, even before you see it in church. The parish news will come directly to your inbox!

Contact Info
Immaculate Heart of Mary
8 West Highway D
New Melle, MO 63365
Phone: 636-398-5270
Fax: 636-398-5577

Sign Up newsletter

App Available

First Name

Last Name

Email

Sign Up

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GET IT ON Google play

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Catholic Website Design by Connecting Members

† Rest in Peace †

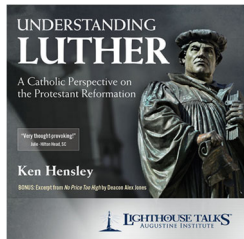
We offer our prayerful sympathy to Pete & Julie Lassiter on the death of their pre-born son
James Joseph Lassiter

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

St. Paul Library / Lighthouse CD Resources

(Note: With close to 3000 items, the Parish Library is located in the Grand Hall past the restrooms. It is open during the week-normal business hours-and works on an honor system. Items from the Lighthouse CD rack are located and available in the Narthex.

From the Lighthouse Catholic CD Rack: Narthex



Ken Hensley, a well-known Catholic speaker, teacher, and author, provides an insightful perspective on Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation from his vantage point as a former Baptist minister. Referencing Luther's writings and his own conversion story, Ken clearly shows the theological and practical flaws of sola Scriptura and other teachings promulgated by the sixteenth-century reformers. Both Catholics and Protestants are sure to benefit from this fascinating presentation!

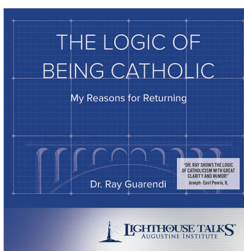
This talk gave me the tools to engage our Protestant brothers and sisters, appreciating their good points but at the same time gently letting them discover the untenableness of their position.

--Daniel - Vancouver, BC

Very thought-provoking! -- Julie - Hilton Head, SC

I gained a great deal of knowledge and understanding about Protestantism, something I thought I knew enough about. --Theresa - Ridge, NY

Very interesting from beginning to end. --Sandra - Weston, WV



Dr. Ray Guarendi shares his story of how logic led him home to the Catholic Church. He found out that, contrary to his Protestant misunderstandings, the Church is coherent and never contradicts herself. Dr. Ray explains how the answers to his objections to Catholicism were both Biblical and believed by the earliest Christians. Explore the logic that led him to the fullness of truth.

This may be the most convincing talk I've ever heard about the truths of the Catholic Faith!

Emmi - Arcata, CA

As a Catholic revert from Evangelical Protestantism, this talk really resonated with me. With humor, clarity, and the precision of a scientist, Ray exposes the logical inconsistencies of the non-Catholic approach to Christianity.

Nancy - Union City, TN

Dynamic Catholic® *Alive!* Sufficient Grace for Evangelization

We are reminded in the First Reading that God sends us to rebellious and obstinate people sometimes in order to bring the Good News to them. When we seek to evangelize others, we might encounter coldness and even hatred. These trials and others remind us, as St. Paul does, that God's grace is sufficient to sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage. Evangelization is the work of the Holy Spirit, and so we must remember that our job is to obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit, bringing the truth and the love of Jesus Christ to those who need it. It is not about boosting our own egos or seeing how many souls we can win by means of our own ingenuity. We must rely on God's assistance and not be discouraged if we are met with confrontation and insults due to a lack of faith of the ones we meet. Even Jesus was amazed by the lack of faith of some people in His time and native place, as the Gospel of Mark mentions today. Be patient and trust in God's grace.

archstl.org/dynamic



Did you miss last week's homily?

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

Join the Holy Father's prayer intentions for July: Priests and their Pastoral Ministry

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.



What's your Catholic Catechism IQ?

GIFT OF THE SPIRIT

- On the day of Pentecost when the seven weeks of Easter had come to an end, Christ's _____ is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
 - Passover
 - Journey
 - Pilgrimage
 - Road Trip
- On the day of Pentecost the Holy Trinity is fully _____.
 - One with the Father and the Son
 - Divine
 - Complete
 - Revealed
- St. Paul wrote, "God's love has been poured into our _____ through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."
 - Cups
 - Vessels
 - Homes
 - Hearts
- The first effect of the gift of love is the forgiveness of our _____.
 - Mortgage
 - Credit Card debt
 - Mistakes
 - Sins
- The communion of the Holy Spirit in the Church restores to the Baptized the Divine _____ lost through sin.
 - Likeness
 - Rights
 - Heritage
 - Powers

I BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH

- According to a favorite image of the Church Fathers, the Church is like the _____, all its light reflected from the sun.
 - Earth
 - Moon
 - Sky
 - Universe
- The article concerning the Church depends entirely on the article about the _____ which immediately precedes it.
 - Lord
 - Blessed Mother
 - Holy Spirit
 - Teaching on Grace
- This word from the Latin *ecclesia* means an assembly, usually for a religious purpose.
 - Book
 - Eclectic
 - Electric
 - Church
- Ekklesia* is used frequently in the Old Testament for assembly on Mount _____ where Israel received the law and was established by God as His holy people.
 - St. Helens
 - Vesuvius
 - Sinai
 - Everest
- By calling itself "church," the first community of _____ believers recognized itself as heir to that assembly.
 - People's Bank
 - Christian
 - First Baptist
 - First Church of Christ



EWTV CATHOLIC RADIO: AM 1460 with daily Mass, teaching the Faith, call-in programs

St. Vincent de Paul Greeting Card Forms

The St. Vincent de Paul Society has greeting cards available. These cards are sent by the Society to a person you designate. You can have the cards sent to let them know that you have made a contribution to the local Society either **in memory** of their deceased loved one, as **a tribute** in their honor or **for healing prayers** prayed by members of the Society. Directions for each type of card request are on the request form, found on the bulletin board (to the right as you enter church) in the narthex. Please take a form, fill it out, and return it in the envelopes provided either in the Sunday collection or the mail.

Thank you for supporting the SVDP Society of Immaculate Heart of Mary.



Prayers for Healing



In Loving Memory



In Tribute



10. Christian 751
9. Sinai 751
8. Church 751
7. Holy Spirit 749
6. Moon 748

5. Likeness 734
4. Sins 734
3. Hearts 733
2. Revealed 732
1. Passover 731

Catholic IQ Answers

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

Readings for the Week

Mon: Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22; Ps 145:2-9; Mt 9:18-26
Tue: Hos 8:4-7, 11-13; Ps 115:3-10; Mt 9:32-38
Wed: Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Ps 105:2-7; Mt 10:1-7
Thu: Hos 11:1-4, 8c-9; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16; Mt 10:7-15
Fri: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-14, 17; Mt 10:16-23
Sat: Is 6:1-8; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mt 10:24-33
Sun: Am 7:12-15; Ps 85:9-14; Eph 1:3-14 [3-10]; Mk 6:7-13

Prayer Shawls



Several IHM parishioners participate in the Corporal Acts of Mercy by creating prayer shawls. These prayer shawls are blessed and stored in the sacristy. If you have a friend or family member in need of tangible emotional or spiritual support because of whatever is going on in their life—grief, a difficult diagnosis, chronic pain, a caregiver, or struggling with spiritual or emotional pain—consider giving them a prayer shawl. You just have to stop by the parish office to request one and they can let you into the sacristy to select one. We do not charge for these shawls, but if you are in a position to make a donation, that would be appreciated.

If you knit or crochet and would like to contribute to this ministry, we welcome your interest and the gifts of your time, talent and treasure! Currently, we all work independently from home and no longer meet to work on our shawls as a group. You are welcome to call me if you are interested in participating in this ministry.

Because we no longer meet as a group, I have no idea who is contributing to this ministry. Please let me know if you are making shawls. I and the parish office would like to have an idea how many are contributing to this ministry.

NEWS THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU!!!

Fr. Scheid Players presents musical comedy *Guys and Dolls* to Benefit Catholic Youth Apostolate

Come see the Fr. Scheid Players' performance of the musical comedy *Guys and Dolls* at Incarnate Word Academy on July 20 and 21 at 7:30pm and July 22 at 2pm. The cast features five priests from the Archdiocese of St. Louis and more than 80 youth and adults from 35 parishes. All proceeds help to support the ministries of the Catholic Youth Apostolate. To purchase tickets, please call 314-605-7521. For more information, visit www.archstl.org/catholicyouth.

Divorce and Separated small group facilitator training

July 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Location given upon registration (required). Learn how to use Ascension Press's Surviving Divorce to bring faithful and fruitful divorced and separated ministry to your parish. Contact Melissa Keating at 314.792.7173, or melissakeating@archstl.org for more information.

Grief small group facilitator training

July 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Location given upon registration (required). We will explore how to implement the Seasons of Hope bereavement program in parishes. Contact Melissa Keating at melissakeating@archstl.org or 314.792.7173 for more information.

LOVE and LIFE: Family Mass and Dinner, Celebrating God's Loving Design for Marriage, Families and Life

You and your family are invited to enjoy an evening of faith, fellowship and fun on Saturday, July 21 in celebration of the **50th anniversary of the release of *Humanae Vitae*** (July 25, 1968), a foundation encyclical on family love and the sanctity of life. Join friends from around the St. Louis area for this anticipated annual event sponsored by the Office of Natural Family Planning. Mass will be celebrated at 5pm at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis by Archbishop Robert J. Carlson followed by a dinner catered by Pasta House and family entertainment in Boland Hall. Adults \$12; children 3-11 \$6 (or a maximum of \$60 per household). RSVP by July 15: 314-997-7576 or bit.ly/SVDinner2018

Mysteries, Marvels and Miracles in the Life of the Church: St. Kateri Tekakwitha (Feast: July 14)



Boy's Recovery: A Kateri Miracle by Eric W. Mauser, October 20, 2012

<https://www.catholicregister.org/features/item/15267-boy-s-recovery-a-kateri-miracle>

When then five-year-old Jake Finkbonner showed up to play his last basketball game of the season in Ferndale, Wash., he had no idea it would change his life and lead to events that would culminate in the canonization of a saint. Pope Benedict XVI signed a decree acknowledging a miracle attributed to the intervention of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha in the recovery of Jake from the rare and potentially fatal disease, necrotizing fasciitis.



At that fateful game in 2006, he cut his lip after falling on the base of the portable basketball hoop. On the surface was the bacteria necrotizing fasciitis. The fast-moving bacteria attacks and destroys the flesh. The disease has a high fatality rate. The bacteria infected Jake's facial tissue, and the infection quickly spread. "By the next day, I was fighting for my life," Jake writes on his web site.

"He was injured on a Saturday and by Monday he was being airlifted to Children's Hospital in Seattle," said Elsa Finkbonner, Jake's mother. On Tuesday, doctors informed Elsa and her husband, Donny, that their son's situation was critical. Jake remained critical for the next two weeks, during which his family was told several times to prepare for his death. Given the ominous news, the Finkbonners called their pastor, Fr. Tim Sauer, to administer last rights to their son. Sauer, who was also pastor of a predominantly First Nations Catholic parish, was familiar with Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha and strongly urged the Finkbonners to seek her intercession to save their son. "I did exactly as I was told and I prayed for her intercession endlessly," said Finkbonner.



During that period, Jake later told his parents, he had an out-of-body experience where he met Jesus with his recently deceased godfather. Although Jake wanted to stay in that experience, he said Jesus told him that he needed to return to his parents and younger sisters.

After two weeks of surgical interventions, Jake's great-aunt brought a visitor to pray at his bedside. "The friend introduced herself as Sr. Kateri. I recall looking at her with a stunned look," said Finkbonner. "I got chills ... We had been praying for weeks for Blessed Kateri to intercede and spare Jake's life, and here was this woman and she had the exact same name." Sr. Kateri had brought a relic of Blessed Kateri with her to pray for Jake, which she carries with her whenever she goes to pray with someone. "I prayed with him and his family, and we placed the relic on his bed," Sr. Kateri said. Unaware to Sr. Kateri, it was after her visit that the major turning point in Jake's recovery occurred, said Finkbonner. "It was later that I heard that the doctors themselves said that this definitely is beyond any medical intervention," Sr. Kateri recalled.

Jake beat the odds and recovered, and with the approval of then-Archbishop Alex J. Brunett of Seattle, the case of Blessed Kateri's intercession was investigated as the possible one remaining miracle needed for her canonization. The Finkbonners were elated upon receiving the news of the Pope signing the decree for canonization — and of their son's part in it. "It's so overwhelmingly exciting, and just an honorable process to be a part of," said Finkbonner. "There's no doubt in mine and Donny's mind that Jake's survival is in fact a miracle."



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HUMANAE VITAE :
The Prophetic Voice of Blessed Paul VI
50 Years Later

Humanae Vitae (“Of Human Life”) is the papal encyclical of Blessed Paul VI released on July 25, 1968, which provides a beautiful and coherent teaching about God’s plan for married love and the transmission of human life.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the issuance of this document and during this anniversary year, all Catholics are urged to read the document and grasp its meaning and purpose and to rediscover the splendor of the matrimonial call to be open to human life.

To read the encyclical, search for “Humane Vitae Encyclical” and click on the Vatican link.

In anticipation of this upcoming anniversary, we will present some reflections from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Here’s the first.

Love is Freely Given

[Married love] is above all fully human, a compound of sense and spirit. It is not, then, merely a question of natural instinct or emotional drive. It is also, and above all, an act of the free will, whose trust is such that it is meant not only to survive the joys and sorrows of daily life, but also to grow, so that husband and wife become in a way one heart and one soul, and together attain their human fulfillment.
(*Humanae vitae* no. 9)

Reflection

Blessed Paul VI reminds us in his encyclical *Humanae Vitae* that married love comes from God who is love. In fact, married love mirrors God’s love. Divine love is freely given as a gift to us. We, in turn, should love others as God loves us. In choosing to love like God, we love in a way that is fully human.

Reflecting upon how God gave every man and woman this capacity to love like Him, married love is meant to reflect and participate in God’s love, which empowers husband and wife to freely decide to love in good times and through life’s challenges.

What does love freely given look like in your life? How can you love others more as God loves us?

Intercessory Prayer to Paul VI

God our Father, fill all married couples with your love.

Give them the grace to love one another every day,
living out their vow to love in good times and bad.

Help them to imitate your freely given, sacrificial love,
that they may choose each day to give of themselves,
reflecting Your love for us and You sent Your Son to die for our sins.

We ask this through the intercession of Blessed Pope Paul VI,
and in the name of Christ our Lord, *Amen*.



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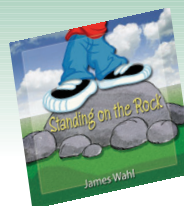
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