



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

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

Website: www.ihm-newmelle.org

Office Phone: 636-398-5270

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

Schedule of Holy Mass

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

Weekly Devotions and Prayers

Eucharistic Adoration:

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

Rosary: Prior to Saturday evening 4pm Mass

Weekday devotions after morning Mass:

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

First Saturday of the Month Devotions

8am Mass, Rosary, 15 minutes of meditation

Sacraments

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

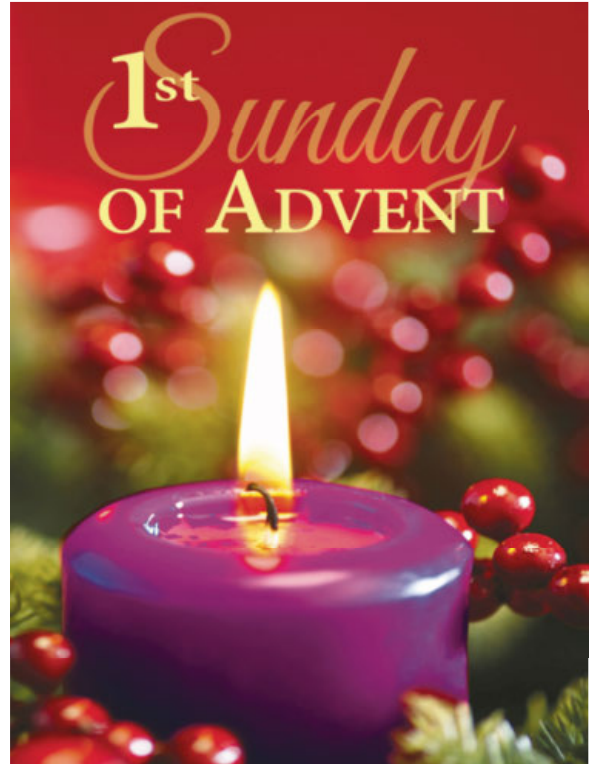
Marriage: Contact the parish office
 at least six months prior to the wedding

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:

Contact Shawn Mueller in the parish office

November 28, 2021



Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but

psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops.

And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire

we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love.

©LPi

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

Parish Staff

Parish Office: 636-398-5270

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

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

Religious Education

Shawn Mueller, Director

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

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

Quick Contacts Directory

Liturgical Videographer

Stan Kostecki 314-397-5965

Weddings, Receptions, Events

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

Prayer and Devotion

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

Liturgical Ministries

Extraordinary Ministers
Kathy Lalonde 636-439-9131
Lectors
Joe Willis 636-398-2106
Gift Bearers
Peggy Dupree 636-398-5270
Ushers
Gary Struckhoff 636-828-6067
Altar Servers
Deacon Chris Ast *chrisast@archstl.org*
Altar Society
Pam DeBold 636-482-4765
Art & Environment
Ashley Czuchna 636-578-8774
Music Ministry
Bryan Beams 636-398-5270
Adult Choir
Mary Sweeten 314-324-3249
Children's Choir
Elizabeth Jaeckle 636-828-4811

Parish Organizations

Budget & Finance
Larry Graves 314-799-9804
Cemetery Committee
Mark Keune 314-220-7075
Dinner Committee
Jeff Comotto 314-570-6972
Funeral Lunches
Ruth Neske 636-398-5699
Vicki Grunz 636-497-5230
Helping Hearts
John Grady 314-662-2138
Mary Hardesty 636-398-5663
Tim Lebb 314-775-7717
Maria Romine-Kantor 314-614-0857
Knights of Columbus
Tim Lebb 314-775-7717
Marian Council
Barb Pope 773-383-8602
Meal Train
Kelly Meyer *meyer5853@qmcinc.org*, 636-828-4994
Meals on Wheels
Jean Bammann 636-798-2718
Pro Life
Bill Winters 636-828-4133
Quilters
Vanita Joerling 636-544-0416
Ruth Willis 636-398-4597
Scouting
Chuck Hinkle 636-544-6639
Cub Scouts: John Lyons 217-778-3760
Boy Scouts: Chad Peters 314-807-7177
St. Vincent de Paul
Joe Willis 618-806-6684
Welcoming Committee
Teresa Berfanger 636-398-5565

Youth and Young Adults

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

Finding the Time

Dear Parishioners,

A few years ago I started a tradition of offering more hours for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During the Advent Season I will be in the Confessional from 7:00pm until 8:30pm Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. I will gladly stay longer any evening when there are people waiting to celebrate Reconciliation. While my primary reason for being in the Confessional is for the Sacrament, please know that if you would like to talk to me about anything I am there for you.



Eucharist are the two lungs with which we breathe in the life of God, the Holy Spirit.

My hope is that the additional hours will provide you with a convenient time to celebrate the Sacrament. I also hope that if you have situations in your life that are more complicated the additional times will provide you with the freedom to come in and not feel rushed. If you need 5 minutes or 50 to celebrate the Sacrament I am willing to make the time to be with you. More than anything is my desire to help you be more completely reconciled with God and confident in His love for you.

Finding the time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an integral part of living a more complete life in Christ. Jesus waits for us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation to heal us of our sins and to strengthen us in our struggle to grow in holiness. It is very easy for us to delay celebrating the Sacrament because the experience of acknowledging our sins and then confessing them is uncomfortable. The very fact that we sinned means we knew better and acted otherwise. While there is potential shame associated with sin, the good news is how much the Lord wants to free us. We will not find a greater advocate for our growth in holiness than Jesus Christ. He desires to help each of us recognize the great gift of the Father's love. Reconciliation and

If it's been a while since you came to Confession, please know that I will do my best to walk you through the Sacrament. I pray and strive to remove any barriers and all excuses that prevent us from coming to God in this great gift of His healing grace. Eucharist is our most intimate experience of coming to Jesus. What can compare to receiving the Living God into our very bodies? Confession is our most personal response to His grace. What can compare to coming to God in our sorrow and leaving filled with joy?

Blessed Advent,

Fr. Tom

First Sunday of Advent—Year C

[Jesus said,] "Be careful. ...Be on watch and pray." LUKE 21:34-36

Farmers hope for lots of rain right after they plant their corn. Once it sprouts and gets a good start, they hope for a "dry period." The reason is to force the corn's roots to grow downward in search of water, rather than stay on the surface. Unless the tap root of the corn grows downward to the "water level," the corn will wither and dry when the heat of summer sets in--it will have no way to draw up water.

Our prayer life is like that. God usually gives us a good start. Then God lets a "dry period" set in to force our prayer roots to grow downward to the faith level, rather than stay on the surface at the feeling level. Why must prayer be primarily an exercise of faith rather than feeling?

Pure love and prayer are learned in the hour when prayer has become impossible and your heart has turned to stone.

THOMAS MERTON

Fr. Mark Link S.J. Vision 2000

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

Ministry Schedule

November 27—4pm

EM: Deacon Chris, Kathy Lalonde, Vanita Joerling
Lec: Donna Hecht, Clare Holifield
Serv: Chase Spurgeon
Music: Bryan & Debbie
Ush: Andy Pope, Larry Graves, Ed Etzkorn, Bryan Potter

November 28—7:30am

EM: Deacon Chris, John Fiacco, Maureen Blondin
Lec: Karen Wappelhorst, Bob Leeker
Serv: Emma Clifton, Sydney Jaeckle
Music: Verdi & Elizabeth
Ush: Rick Scharf, Ron Jacob, Chris Molitor, Tom Meczowski

November 28—10am

EM: Deacon Chris, Janet Hespen, Pat Gentry
Lec: Susan & Don Hladky
Serv: Izzy Czuchna, Thomas Kokker
Music: Children's Choir
Ush: Bob Hutchcraft, Bill Winters, Alan Raymond, Ron Simpson

IHMformation Station

4:00: Larry & Donna Hecht
7:30: Maureen Blondin
10:00: Pat Gentry

Birtheright Christmas Cards

The Pro-Life Committee will be selling Birtheright Christmas cards after all Masses the weekends of November 27-28 and December 4-5. Please consider supporting Birtheright when planning your Christmas card purchases.



Ministry Schedule

December 4—4pm

EM: Kathy Lalonde, Wally & Jan Karase
Lec: Chuck Kettler, Richard Lalonde
Serv: Izzy Scheer
Music: Bryan & Mary Ann
Ush: Ed Etzkorn, Chris Cuddihee, Mike Rieker, Bill Pollihan

December 5—7:30am

EM: Deacon Chris, Mary Keune, Emily Cooksey
Lec: Dave London, Peggy Dupree
Serv: Mary Grace & Janie Becker
Music: Verdi & Brooke
Ush: Gary Potter, Mike Hardesty, Ron Neske, Joe Weber

December 5—10am

EM: Deacon Chris, Sharon Smith, **volunteer please**
Lec: Grant Smith, Chuck Hinkle
Serv: William Lassiter, Jack Lyons
Music: Adult Choir
Ush: Larry Smith, Bill Riley, Gary Struckhoff, Bob Hutchcraft

IHMformation Station

4:00: Wally & Jan Karase
7:30: Peggy Dupree
10:00: Chuck & Laurie Hinkle

Heavenly Duster Schedule

Week of November 28: Sharon Hagan
Week of December 5: Carol Ostermeyer
Week of December 12: Elizabeth Jaeckle
Week of December 19: Christmas Break
Week of December 26: Christmas Break

Purificators

Month of November: Nancy Hollenstein
Month of December: June Spiess

Check out the Boy Scout Christmas Tree Lot under the pavilion. Dates and times are posted.

Please pray for all the sick and suffering:

Phyllis Zerr, Fran Bussen, Betty Boyd, Deacon Tony, Amy Robbins, Don Schmidt, Carl Wolff, George Stark, Loretta Bruns, Betty Heppermann, Joyce Brakensiek, Pat Foster, Tom Hartenbach, Richard & Doris Berhorst, Terry Hagan, Larry Gassei, Pat Ryan, Pete Schepis, Justin Wehmeier, Jeff Bollman, Frank Kardasz, Tom Baker, Jim Hall, Mike Vesel, Patricia Clayton

Steve Wengerski and Kathy Schuckman (friends of Mandy Daub), Keith Langford (son of Rita & brother of Valerie Langford), Red Brockmeyer (cousin of Kay & Ray Cherry), Karla Sitzes (daughter of Sophia Bax), Pat Finan (daughter of Fran Bussen), Kelly Taylor (friend of Kat Brittingham), Michael Speir (son-in-law of Jackie & Steve Dunn), Carol Fague (sister of Bob Woodford), Peyton Newman (grandson of Mike & Mary Hardesty), Loren Brandon (father of Marty & Peggy Dupree), Charlie Grady (grandson of John & Carol Grady), Marlene Hagemeyer (sister of Pat Roche), Mary Ann Blaske (mother of Jeff Blaske), Michael Molitor (brother of Richard Molitor), Sal Polisi (brother of Nancy and Walter Hollenstein), Janet Piel and Jordan Keene (sister and friend of Joni Marren-Slaughter), Rosemary Bell (sister of Janet & Jerry Hespen), Rodney Marquart (son of Frank & Rosemary Marquart), Jennifer Fitzsimmons (cousin of Karen Fitzsimmons), Malachi (newborn nephew of Kim and Tim Lebb), Sheila Birk (daughter-in-law of Ken & Mary Birk)

Hospitalization: If you are hospitalized, please let us know. Please call the office or ask a friend to call for you if necessary.

Communion Calls: If you would like to receive Communion but are unable to get to Mass because of illness or disability, please contact the parish office: 636-398-5270.

Prayer Requests: Brenda Hutchcraft at 636-248-8493 or email brhutchcraft@centurytel.net

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 29	
8:00am	Salvatore Bufalino +
Tuesday, November 30	
8:00am	All Souls Martha Almeling (1st) +
Wednesday, December 1	
8:00am	Lorraine DuPont +
6:30pm	Mitchell Weiss +
Thursday, December 2	
9:00am	Johnny Smythe +
Friday, December 3	
8:00am	Holy Vocations
Saturday, December 4	
8:00am	Charles & Betty Hightower +
4:00pm	Ed Haas +
Sunday, December 5	
7:30am	People of IHM Karen Windler +
10:00am	Jameo Kelmme + Josephine Seper +

Contributions November 13/14

General Offertory:	\$7,861.66
Online Gifts:	\$4,097.00
Total	\$11,958.66

Contributions November 20/21

Will be reported next week

*"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand."
(Luke 21:28)*

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Advent season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same? Start by sharing your God story with others, especially those closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Advent.

We pray: that we have the courage to share our faith story with others and accompany them on their journey.

Activities this Week

- Sunday, November 28—First Sunday of Advent**
No PSR or Faith Formation today
- Monday, November 29**
Scouts, Founders Hall/Trailer, 6:30pm
Pulse of the Parish (POP), Grand Hall, 7pm
Reconciliation, 7—8:30pm
- Tuesday, November 30**
Legion of Mary, Weber Hall, following 8am Mass
Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am
Choir practice, church, Kids @ 6pm, Adults @ 7pm
Reconciliation, 7—8:30pm
- Wednesday, December 1**
Sunday readings study, Weber Hall, 8:45am
Evening Mass 6:30pm / Reconciliation, 7pm
Scripture Study, Grand Hall, 7pm
- Thursday, December 2**
Fitness, Grand Hall, 9am
RCIA, Weber Hall, 6:30pm
- Friday, December 3**
Quilting, Weber Hall, 8:30—noon
- Saturday, December 4**
Reconciliation after 8am Mass
SVDP Food Pantry open 9—10:30am
Jonah Team will pray with you after 4pm Mass
- Sunday, December 5**
PSR, Founders/Weber Hall/Trailer, 8:45—9:45am
Faith Formation, Grand Hall, 8:45—9:45am
Pivotal Players—St. Augustine
Jonah Team will pray with you after 10am Mass
"In His Hands" Benefit Concert, Grand Hall, 3—5pm

Needed at the Pantry

Peanut butter, jelly, coffee, mustard,
sugar, canned fruit, fruit juices, saltines crackers,
paper towels, cake and brownies mixes, icing,
stuffing, saltines. plastic bags (please double-bag)



We cannot accept expired or previously opened items

As we begin Advent we are called to "wait" in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they call our St. Vincent de Paul Society. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell.

Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul collection will help the poor celebrate the grace of God's love this Christ-



Warm Clothing Collection

IHM will collect winter coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, scarves or any warm clothing until **December 10**. Please put your new or gently used clothing donations in the container by Weber Hall. Thanks in advance for your care and consideration.

PSR Corner

Advent Calendar

An Advent calendar is a special calendar which is used to count or celebrate the days of Advent in anticipation of Christmas. Some calendars are strictly religious, whereas others are secular in content. Today, most Advent calendars are made for children. Many take the form of a large rectangular card with many "windows," one of which is opened every day during Advent. In less elaborate calendars, each window opens to reveal an image, a poem, or part of a story such as the Nativity story itself. More elaborate Advent calendars have a small gift concealed in each window, such as a toy or chocolate item. For an online Advent Calendar: www.usccb.org/advent



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Mon: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tues: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22
Wed: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
Thu: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/
Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
Sat: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

During Advent we will have additional opportunities for the
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday, 7pm



Pope's Intentions for December: Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

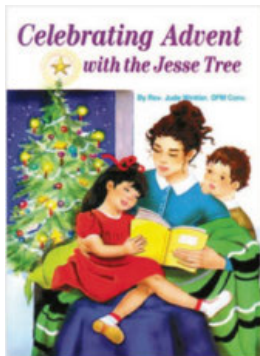
Marian Council is selling See's Candy as a fundraiser: \$22/lb for Milk or Dark Chocolate, Assorted Chocolate, Nuts and Chews, Toffee-ettes and 1½ pound box of peanut brittle. It's great for holiday hostess gifts, Christmas gifts, corporate gifts. Contact Jackie at 314-761-6127 to place your order, or after weekend Masses. Proceeds benefit local families' charities and the Parish.



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 rack—Narthex



This book helps children prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus by remembering the promises God made to His people in the Old Testament.

The book includes a page on preparing for Christmas, and what the Jesse Tree is about. The rest of the book retells the stories of the Jesse tree. Beautifully illustrated. 32 pages. Part of a larger series of children's books – great set for the family.

From the Parish Library—Grand Hall

Holy Heroes Jesse Tree DVD: An Advent Adventure - Family Activity

Includes a Jesse Tree video and Jesse Tree ornament for every day of Advent. The videos explain the Bible stories of the Jesse Tree and the PDF document contains the ornaments to cut out, color, and hang from the tree. Bonus!--seven extra videos and ornaments for the "O Antiphons" which are sung and prayed the last 7 days of Advent. Flexible to be used every year, regardless of the length of Advent (which varies between 23 - 28 days).

Bring the truth of God's love home to your children by tracing the family tree of Jesus from Creation to the Nativity.





Marian Council Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 7 in the Grand Hall—doors open at 6pm

All women are invited!

\$5 pay in advance, reservation deadline December 3
Marian Council members are available after all weekend Masses

*In the spirit of the season, please donate a personal or paper product for
St. Vincent de Paul*



To benefit *In His Hands Orphans*

Ring in the Christmas season with family and friends while enjoying a live instrumental and choral performance including a visit from Santa! **Sunday, December 5** from 3-5:30pm in the Grand Hall. Adults \$50, children (2-16) \$25. Tickets include open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres and Santa photo op. Tables of 8-10.

Register at InHisHands.org/events/ -or-
email Linda@InHisHands.org



Janet Hespen,
Youth Minister,

- 12/2: Youth Group to set up manger scene on parish grounds. How can we be Jesus to others?
7-8:30pm, Grand Hall
- 12/16: For King and Country Christmas Drummer Boy Concert at the Enterprise Center. Meet at IHM to carpool, 5:15 sharp
- 12/25: Merry Christmas and God bless our teens
- 12/30: Youth Group Christmas Party at Janet and Jerry Hespen's home, 7 Hobie Cat Court. 5pm.

What's Your Catholic IQ?

1. Advent is the liturgical season that prepares us for
 - a. Christmas
 - b. Easter
 - c. shopping
 - d. Christ's baptism
 - e. a new year's diet
2. Incarnation means
 - a. all nations will bow to Jesus
 - b. carnations will be used to celebrate Christmas
 - c. Good took on human flesh
 - d. the Virgin Mary is among us
3. Matthew 1:23 quotes the prophet Isaiah (7:14) saying: "the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." Emmanuel means
 - a. Thank you, Jesus
 - b. God is with us
 - c. God is coming
 - d. Jesus Christ is Lord
4. This solemnity celebrates the magi from the east giving homage to the infant Jesus.
 - a. Holy Trinity
 - b. Tres Leches
 - c. Epiphany
 - d. Immaculate Conception
5. The Christmas Season ends with the feast of
 - a. the Lord's Supper
 - b. Thanksgiving
 - c. the Archangels
 - d. the Baptism of the Lord
6. The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is a holy day of obligation celebrated on
 - a. May 1
 - b. July 4
 - c. January 1
 - d. December 25
7. The pope is the _____ of Rome.
 - a. Presbyter
 - b. Bishop
 - c. Director
 - d. Conductor
8. During the Advent and Christmas seasons, Catholics may pray the _____ Mysteries of the Rosary on Sundays.
 - a. Luminous
 - b. Glorious
 - c. Joyful
 - d. Sorrowful
9. When the Holy Family fled to Egypt, they were
 - a. chased by Herod's soldiers
 - b. sent back to Nazareth for being illegal immigrants
 - c. welcomed and taken in by the Jewish community in Egypt
 - d. sent to a detention center until their refugee status was processed
10. Jesus' first visitors were
 - a. the shepherds
 - b. the little drummer boy
 - c. the innkeeper
 - d. Herod's soldiers

What is Advent?



Preparation for Christmas

Advent is the season of preparing for Christ's coming, but what do we mean by Christ's coming? We mean, first of all, His birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Bethlehem. If we do not prepare well for the annual commemoration of our Lord's birth, then surely we will not understand the meaning of our Christmas celebration. No matter

how many times, over a lifetime, we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, it always seems new to us. The mystery of the birth of God the Son in our human flesh can never be fully comprehended by us. We never cease to wonder at the great mystery of God's love for us.

Preparation for Christ's coming in the Church

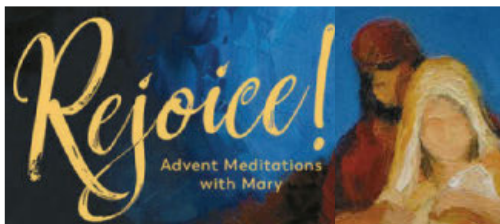
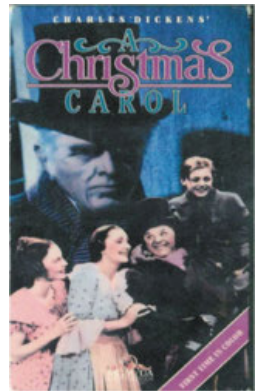
We also mean Christ's coming to us in the Church or, better, His dwelling with us always in the Church. The Advent Season reminds us of the many ways, most of all, the Holy Eucharist, in which Christ, Who first came into the world at Bethlehem, now remains with us in the Church, until He returns in glory on the last day. Through our observance of Advent, we overcome the tendency to reduce the life of Christ within us to an idea or sentiment, and we come face

to face with the truth that, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we are alive in the same Christ Who was born at Bethlehem and Who died for us on Calvary. As Advent brings us more fully into the company of Christ, it also strengthens us for the pilgrimage of this life.

Preparation for Christ's coming on the last day

Lastly, the coming of Christ, for which we prepare during Advent, is His final coming at the end of time. Christ, born at Bethlehem and alive for us in the Church, will bring to fullness His saving work, when He returns in glory to restore us and our world to God the Father. As Advent brings us more fully into the company of Christ, it also strengthens us for the pilgrimage of this life, which will reach its fullness, on the last day, when we, body and soul, will be with the Lord in the heavenly kingdom.

The classic video based on Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' is a fitting movie to watch during the season of Advent. It highlights similar themes that the Church presents to the believer about the comings of Christ mentioned above. In the case of the movie, the focus is on the coming of Christmas 'past, present, and future.'



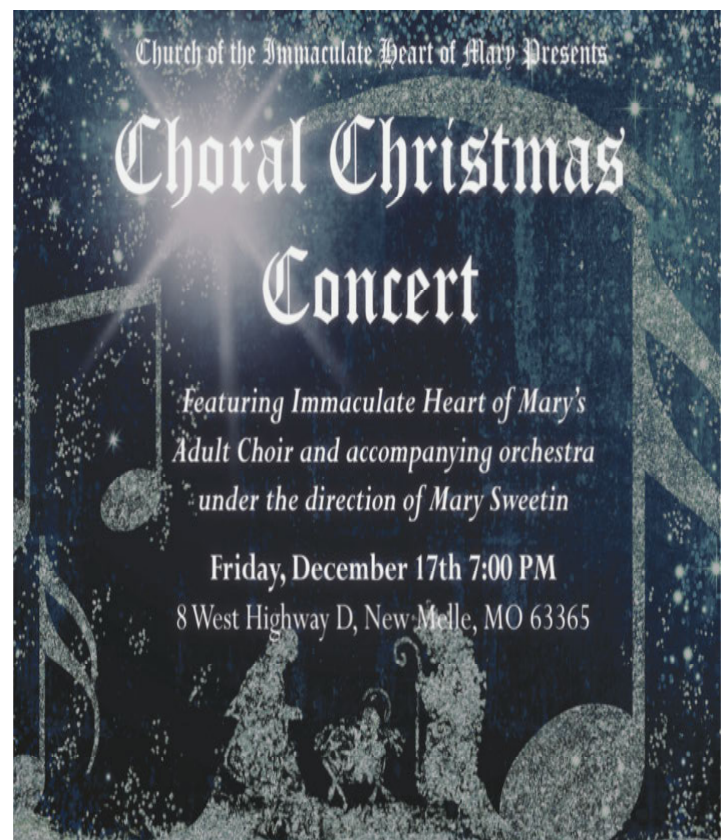
Rejoice! Advent Meditations with Mary

Each hour-long session will include a short video followed by discussion and prayer. Participants will receive a journal to use daily, recording their thoughts on Mary's Advent, and making it the center of Advent here and now. Sessions will be Tuesdays during Advent in the Grand Hall following daily Mass.

All adults are welcome. Bring your friends from other parishes as well. The \$5 charge includes the journal and all videos. This series is presented by Ascension Press and features Fr. Mark Toups, who was the author of the *Oremus* series we had in the past. Come join us!

RSVP to Kelly Meyer at 636-634-1577. The dates are November 30, December 7, 14 and 21.

Are you preparing for a day,
or are you preparing for a Person?



Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Faith Formation Opportunities at IHM



ADVENT EVENTS AT IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH

Mass

Monday—Saturday, 8:00am, Church
Wednesday evenings, 6:30pm
Saturday, 4:00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday, 7:30, 10am

Reconciliation

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 7—8:30pm
Saturday after morning Mass, 8:45am

Faith Formation

Rejoice Advent Meditations, Grand Hall,
Tuesdays after daily Mass
Sunday readings study with Shawn Mueller
Wednesdays after daily Mass, Weber Hall
The Prophets, Wednesday evenings 6pm, Grand Hall
Catholicism—The Pivotal Players,
Sundays 8:45—9:45am, Grand Hall

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8
Holy Day Masses at 8am and 7pm

Choral Christmas Concert: Friday, December 17, 7pm, Church

Rorate Caeli Candlelight Mass

Monday, December 13, 6:45am, Church

Anointing of the sick:

After Masses on December 18/19



Candlelight Rorate Caeli Mass

6:45am Monday, December 13, Church

The **Rorate Caeli Mass** is a traditional Advent devotion in which a Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Advent is offered just before dawn, with no lighting other than candles on the altar, windowsills, and handheld. Those who attend can expect to be rewarded with a uniquely beautiful Mass.

The Mass takes its title, *Rorate Caeli* ("Drop down dew, ye heavens") from the initial Latin words of Isaiah 45:8. In the dimly lit setting priest and faithful prepare to honor the Light of the world, Who is soon to be born, and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illuminated by the sun as our Faith is illumined by Christ.

We will have weekday Mass at 8am as usual.



Gift Angels will be on the tree thru December 15, which is the date all gifts need to be returned to church (some will be marked for return before that date). Thanks to everyone who will participate in this yearly effort —your generosity helps give to others the joy of the Christmas season. God bless all of you!

P.S. The church is open during the week if you care to pick up a gift angel then.



The next Baptismal preparation classes are scheduled for December 19 and January 16. Please call the parish office at least one week in advance to reserve your spot.

Answers to Catholic IQ (adapted from Catechist Magazine)

1. a Advent, the season before the Christmas season, helps us prepare for the birth of Jesus. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas
2. c Christmas celebrates the mystery of the Incarnation—when God took on human flesh. “The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness” and “[T]he Son of God became man so that we might become God” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 459 and 460, emphasis in original).
3. b Before the Incarnation, God spoke through signs and prophets. In Christ, however, God spoke to us face to face and lived among us.
4. c The visit by the three kings (the wise men or the magi), traditionally celebrated on January 6, revealed even more deeply that the child born to Mary was the Son of God.
5. d The Christmas season lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, when we celebrate Jesus being baptized by His cousin, John, in the Jordan River.
6. c “[T]he Church confesses that Mary is truly ‘Mother of God’” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 495).
7. b As Bishop of Rome, the pope is the successor of St. Peter, the Apostle Jesus selected to be the rock upon which the Church would be built (Matthew 16:18).
8. c The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary invite meditation on the birth and early childhood of Jesus. Traditionally, they are prayed on Mondays and Saturdays.
9. c Biblical scholars contend that the Holy Family probably settled within the Jewish community in Egypt during their years as refugees.
10. a In terms of their social status, shepherds at that time were similar to the homeless population today.

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 of shawls that have been hand-crafted by parish members who offer a prayer with each stitch, and each one has been blessed by Fr. Tom.



**REMEMBER the Fallen - HONOR those who Serve
TEACH our children the value of freedom**

The New Melle VFW and VFW Auxiliary is a proud sponsor of Wreaths Across America at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery and other National Cemeteries across the country. We are also involved in placing wreaths at local cemeteries, **including veterans buried at Immaculate Heart of Mary cemetery.**

New Melle VFW and VFW Auxiliary has made it our mission to honor and remember as many heroes as possible with a remembrance wreath. You can help by sponsoring a wreath, getting your employer involved to sponsor wreaths or raising money in our community or circle of peers to help place a wreath on a loved one's resting place.

Our parishioners are invited to place a wreath on the grave of their loved one who is a veteran. Wreaths cost \$15, a portion of which goes towards care packages for active military members serving overseas. Please complete and return the information below by December 6. Orders will then be forwarded to VFW. ***Wreaths will be delivered to IHM on December 17.***

If you would like to sponsor and place a wreath for a loved one buried in another cemetery, please use the form below.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

I wish to place a wreath on the grave of the veteran(s) listed below

Veteran(s) buried in IHM cemetery: _____

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Your name and contact info: _____


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