



# Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

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

Website: [www.ihm-newmelle.org](http://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

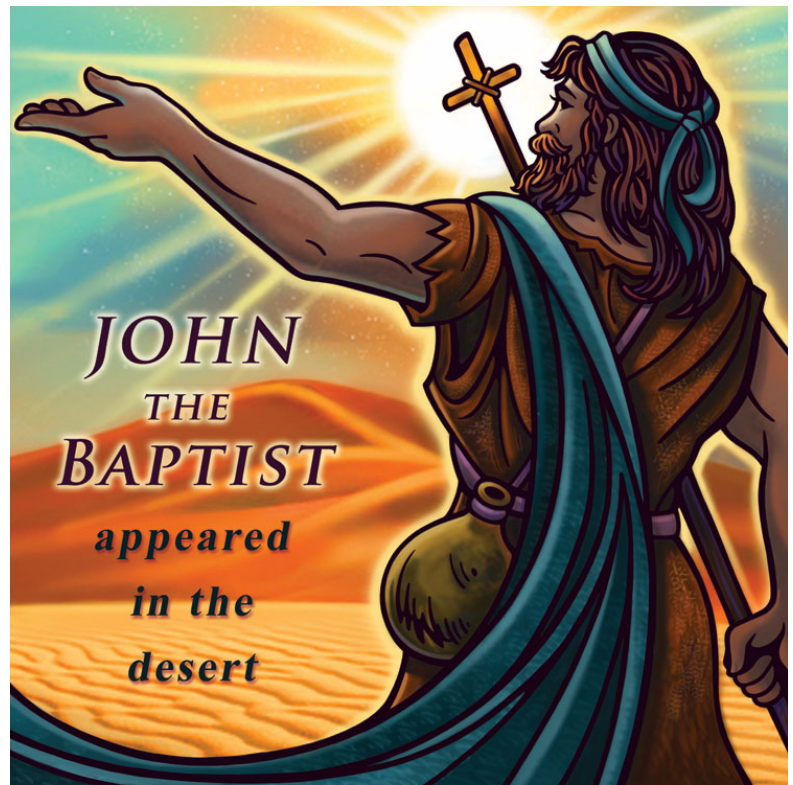
**Reconciliation:** Wednesday in church, 7pm  
Saturday following 8am Mass

**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

## Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2017



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## Prepare the Way of the Lord

Saint Peter shows us a characteristic of God that we normally do not think about. He tells us that for God, "a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day" (1 Peter 3:8). Somehow, God is not restricted by time as we are. Taken literally, that seems to violate the laws of physics. Of course, God made those laws, so if anyone can ignore them, God certainly could. More likely, because early Christians sometimes complained that Jesus' second coming had been delayed, Peter is trying to tell us that what seems like a long time to us is nothing to God. Like the early Christians, we may wonder how long it will take for God to answer our prayers. We may be praying for some-

one who is looking for a job, a sick relative, an end to abortion, or world peace. Some prayers just take time to be answered, especially if a large number of people need to change their hearts to make it happen. Some prayers require us to change, and we may not be ready.

What Peter means is that a thousand years is not too long for God if someone needs that long to repent. God is far more patient than we are. If someone had been fighting me for months or years, I would probably give up on them. But God can wait till we are mature enough to face our sins and be sorry for them. In the same way, God has been "waiting" over two thousand years for us to preach the gospel to all na-

tions. God has been waiting for millennia for people to give up war as a means for solving our problems. God has been waiting since the beginning of the human race for us to learn how to love our neighbor.

We might not be as patient as God but we can help. Saint Peter says that we are not just waiting for the Lord's return, we are hastening it. When we make a choice that is based on faith rather than selfishness, we make it a little easier for people to believe in God. Jesus is the light of the world; he asks us to let our light shine, so that people can see Jesus in us. May our light "prepare the way of the Lord" (Mark 1:3).

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### Parish Staff

Fr. Tom Miller, Pastor: [askpadre@aol.com](mailto:askpadre@aol.com)  
 Cell phone for emergencies only: 314-303-2428  
 Deacon Chris Ast: [chrisast@archstl.org](mailto:chrisast@archstl.org)  
 Deacon Tony Falbo: [tony.2011@centurylink.net](mailto:tony.2011@centurylink.net)  
 Shawn Mueller, Director of Religious Education: [smueller@ihm-newmelle.org](mailto:smueller@ihm-newmelle.org)  
 Laura Orf, Business Manager: [lorf@ihm-newmelle.org](mailto:lorf@ihm-newmelle.org)  
 Peggy Dupree, Secretary: [secretary@ihm-newmelle.org](mailto:secretary@ihm-newmelle.org)  
 Submit bulletin articles by Monday 9am to [bulletin@ihm-newmelle.org](mailto:bulletin@ihm-newmelle.org)  
 Marilyn O'Neill, Music Director: [m.oneill@ihm-newmelle.org](mailto:m.oneill@ihm-newmelle.org)  
 Janet Hespen, Youth Ministry: [janethspn@outlook.com](mailto:janethspn@outlook.com)  
 Karen Wappelhorst, Child Safety Coordinator: [childsafety@ihm-newmelle.org](mailto: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  
 Mary Jean Hartenbach 636-398-4677  
 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  
 Suzanne Michaelree 636-443-3817  
 Ushers  
 Ed Rabbitt 636-332-5344  
 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  
 Golden Hearts  
 Jackie Hackett 636-398-5605  
 Knights of Columbus  
 Gary Potter 636-228-4755  
 Marian Council  
 Michelle Brothers 314-614-1114  
 Meals on Wheels  
 Jean Bammann 636-798-2718  
 Outreach  
 Steve Farber [sfarber@farbermarketing.com](mailto: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

## Sweet Mercy

Dear Parishioners,

Advent is all about welcoming the Lord as He comes in glory and shifting to remembering fondly and celebrating joyfully His Incarnation. These two movements make up the spiritual realities of our anticipatory faith. We live in the present moment where grace is most potent and possible for our growth as disciples of Christ. Our attentiveness to the present moment is about using our time well and not squandering the precious time we are given. And yet while we live in this present moment, our faith is all about anticipating what is to come, in particular WHO is to come.

We long for Jesus to come to us, be it at the end of time or the end of our personal pilgrimage here on earth. Jesus is coming to us. We want to meet the Lord as His free and faithful servants. We long to be brought into His presence to make a return on the gifts that He has entrusted to us. No one is more committed to your personal growth and maturity in holiness than Jesus. Holiness is not the treasured possession of the few, but meant to be the transformational reality for all of humanity. The Holy Trinity, Our God and the Love of our life, is personally committed to our future communion with them. The only path to that blessed communion is conversion and spiritual maturity, also known as holiness.

While we live in the present and joyfully anticipate the future, many of us are haunted by the past. The past is meant to remind of us two things, and two things only. We remember the past with gratitude for the blessing of God and the goodness of people in our past. The other lesson of the past is to grow beyond our sins and avoid those paths in the future. Unfortunately, many of us are trapped by the past and often haunted by sins



and memories of the past. How do we address this reality?

If our sins are still haunting us because they have not been brought to God's mercy, get to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and celebrate God's immeasurable mercy. Don't take it to your grave, give it to the One who has conquered the grave! Find a good Confessor and seek him out for a more complete and cleansing review of life. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we are minister's

of mercy, not your "betters" entitled to pass judgment. We priests witness to the Lord who went to Hell for all of us so that we might be spared that terrible end to our life. We profess the work of the Healer who can soothe any wound or expunge every disease. No one is more patient, more understanding, and more hopeful about our future growth as holy disciples than our Lord. The Father wants us to become His beloved sons and daughters, and the Holy Spirit longs to dwell within us to accomplish the works of mercy.

If by chance you are haunted by sins you have confessed but still regret, ask for the Lord's continued healing. Sin always wounds us; the longer and greater the sin, the deeper the wound. Only mercy and gratitude can fill that wound with life and hope. Ask the Lord to help you remember past offenses and failings in the light of His mercy. When we do that, regret can be replaced by genuine thanks. Shame can be replaced by eternal hope. Jesus sees the whole person that we are, and loves us more than we will ever know until we stand before Him.

Blessed Advent,

*Fr. Tom*

**Advent Reconciliation Times at IHM:**  
**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 7pm, Saturday at 8:45am**

## Advent Reconciliation Times at Neighboring Parishes

St. Patrick	St. Gianna	Immaculate Conception	St. Joseph, Cottleville
Wednesday beginning 7:30am	Friday 7:30-7:50pm	Saturday 4-4:45pm (church)	Saturday 3:30-4:30pm
Thursday 5-6pm	Saturday 4:15-4:50pm	Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm (church)	Tuesday 4-5pm
Saturday 4-4:45pm	Sunday 7:30-7:50am	1st Saturday 8:30-9am (chapel)	December 13, 7pm
	Sunday 10:15-10:50am	Monday-Friday, 6-6:20pm (chapel)	
	December 15, 7:30pm		
	December 18-22, 7:30pm		

*Please welcome Riley Hartwell who will be speaking about the Christmas Seminary collection*



## Advent Reflection Time



Treat yourself to something special for the Advent season. Come join Deacon Tony and Mr. Michaelree for a quiet evening of reflection as we walk with the Holy Family on a journey to explore the Stations of the Nativity (the Annunciation to the visit of the Magi). This will take place on **December 13, 7pm** in Church.

## Next Week Ministry Schedule

**December 16**

**4:00pm**

EM: Pat Roche, Jan Jokisch-Messig, Bryan Potter, Mary Hannig, Jackie Barclay, Ed Etzkorn, Joan Falbo, Mary Jean Hartenbach  
Lec: Nancy Ast, Sharon Hagan  
GB: Joyce Brakensiek, Judy Cova  
Serv: Lindsey & Madelyn Bouquet  
Ush: Bill Pollihan, Larry Graves, Tom Zaleuke, Jerry Braden

**December 17**

**7:30am**

EM: John Fiacco, Betty Tuepker, Maureen Blondin, Jan Kardasz, Walt & Jean Reel  
Lec: Peggy Dupree, Kris Jenkins  
GB: Mike & Mary Hardesty  
Serv: Mary Grace & Janie Becker  
Ush: Larry Gassei, Philip Thoman, Frank Marquart, Rich Molitor

**9:30am**

EM: Terry & Marcia Schneider, Donna Wolff, Tom & Laura Holstein, Chris Aulbach, Alvina Fry, Bob Leeker  
Lec: Suzanne Michaelree, Pat Gentry  
GB: Jerry & Janet Hespen  
Serv: Maggie & Morgan Molitor  
Ush: Charles Hinkle, Stan Kostecki, George Stark, Dave DeBold, Joe Weber, Brian Corrigan

## This Week at Home



**Sunday, December 10—**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

K of C Breakfast with Santa  
Founders Hall, 8-11am

**Monday, December 11**

Boy Scouts, Trailer, 6pm  
Cub Scouts, Founders Hall, 6:30pm  
Bell Choir, Church, 7pm  
Reconciliation, 7pm

**Tuesday, December 12**

Legion of Mary, Weber Hall, 9am  
Exercise, Grand Hall foyer, 9am  
Contemporary Choir, church, 5:30pm  
Children's Choir, church, 7pm  
Marian Council Christmas Party, doors open at 6pm  
Reconciliation, 7pm

**Wednesday, December 13**

Catholicism, Weber Hall, 6:30am  
Sunday readings study, Weber Hall, 8:45am  
PSR, Weber Hall/Founders Hall/Trailer, 6pm  
Reconciliation, 7pm  
Stations of Advent, 7pm

**Thursday, December 14**

Exercise, Grand Hall foyer, 9am  
RCIA, Weber Hall, 6:30pm  
Choir, church, 7pm

**Friday, December 15**

Quilting, Weber Hall, 8:30—noon

**Saturday, December 16**

Reconciliation following 8am Mass  
Anointings after 4pm Mass

**Sunday, December 17—Third Sunday of Advent**

Anointings after Masses  
Church decorating—you're invited to help!

## Advent Schedule



**Reconciliation:**

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

**Christmas Parties:**

Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 10, 8-11am, Fndrs. Hall  
Marian Council, December 12, 6:00pm, Grand Hall  
Knights of Columbus, Dec. 19, 6:30pm, Grand Hall  
Youth Group, December 19, 5:30pm, Weber Hall

**Stations of Advent:**

Wednesday, December 13, 7pm in Church

**Anointing of the Sick**

After Masses on December 16/17



*Rest in Peace*



We offer our prayerful sympathy to the family of  
**Mary Ann Rhodes**  
sister to Rich and Bill Molitor,  
Flo Joerling and Loretta Bruns



## Christmas Masses

**December 24 at 4pm**

**Midnight Mass (carols begin at 11:30pm)**

**December 25 at 10am**

Please help us decorate Church next Sunday after 9:30am Mass.

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Monday, December 11</b>	
8:00am	Moiria Ryan +
<b>Tuesday, December 12</b>	
8:00am	Mary Barr + Jill Warner +
<b>Wednesday, December 13</b>	
8:00am	Ernst Family
<b>Thursday, December 14</b>	
8:00am	Joseph Limmer + Emily Linnerman-Schroer +
<b>Friday, December 15</b>	
8:00am	All Souls Gregory Kettler +
<b>Saturday, December 16</b>	
8:00am	Sally Ferguson +
4:00pm	Rick Hagan + Bonnie Schroer +
<b>Sunday, December 17</b>	
7:30am	Mark Kellems + Mary Fine +
9:30am	All Souls People of the Parish

AM 1460 KHOJ, Catholic radio  
For inspiration and encouragement  
in your spiritual life

## Marian Council Christmas Celebration

Tuesday, December 12: Grand Hall  
Doors open at 6pm  
Festivities commence 6:30pm  
(\$5 per person)



### Featuring:

2 wine tickets per person  
(additional tickets \$1 each)  
50/50 raffle

Snacks, Salad & Dessert

Dinner: Cuisine by the Knights of Columbus

Please bring personal care items  
and paper goods for St. Vincent de Paul

## Contributions: December 2/3

General Offertory:	\$13,152.20
Online – General Offertory:	\$4,108.00
<b>Total Offertory:</b>	<b>\$17,260.20</b>

*"Prepare the way of the Lord."*

MARK 1: 3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship life-style, begin grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that—it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.

*We pray that we respond to the call to live holy lives  
and invite others to do the same.*



## Heavenly Duster

Carol Ostermeyer

## Purificators

June Spiess

## Needed at the Pantry:

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

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

## Christmas Dinner for the Men of the Parish

Tuesday, December 19: Grand Hall  
Doors open at 6:30pm,  
Dinner served at 7:30pm

Open to all men of the parish.

RSVP by signing up in the Narthex

## IHM Youth Ministry

### COME ON TEENS, JOIN THE FUN!

Upcoming dates:

- \*\* Sunday, December 17: 10:30am to 3pm our IHM youth group will provide babysitting service for IHM parents.
- \*\* Tuesday, December 19: 5:30pm to 7pm Youth Group Christmas gathering (bring your favorite cookies), then over to the men's Knights of Columbus Christmas Party to help with cleanup from 7-8:30pm.
- \*\* January 17-21: Still openings for teens to go on the Pro Life Trip!



### Free Babysitting! ATTENTION Moms and Dads!

Our IHM Youth Group will have babysitting available for parents to go get their shopping done or you could take some time to get things done at home.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17: 10:30am—2pm**

Please reserve your child's spot  
no later than December 14.

Please call 314-369-6521.

### Youth Group Change for Miles

Our Youth Group will be traveling to Washington DC to represent our parish at the Pro Life March in January. If you are able to help us on this journey, we are asking for your change so that we can all help make a change "for life." In the back of church there is a large glass jug marked "Change for Miles" for you to drop your donation in. Thank you to our wonderful parish family for your help!



*Please pray for all the  
sick and suffering*

Wayne Rellergert, Ed Rabbitt

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

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

**Prayer Chain:** We have a very active group of parishioners who pray for all those who have requested prayers, so your intentions are being remembered to God thru the **Prayer Chain**. If you have a prayer intention, or would like to join them in praying for others' intentions, please call Mary Jean Hartenbach at 636-398-4677 or email [mjhartenbach@gmail.com](mailto:mjhartenbach@gmail.com).



Our parish family joyfully welcomes

**Rowan David Smock**

son of Kyle and Caitlin (Corrigan) Smock

**Eisley Grace Tharp**

daughter of William and Hayley (Ridall) Tharp

**Ivan Walter Clifton**

son of Alec and Rebecca (Farwig) Clifton

### Join the Holy Father's prayer intentions for December: For the Elderly

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generation.



### Readings for the Week

Mon:	Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tue:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Wed:	Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thur	Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Fri:	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Sat:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sun:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Want to give your spouse a gift that says you truly love them and want to make the most of your marriage? Give your spouse a gift certificate for a **Marriage Encounter Weekend** as a Christmas present! You will never regret these 44 hours of growth. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends are **February 2-4** and **April 20-22** in St. Peters. Simply click [www.stl-wwme.org](http://www.stl-wwme.org) or call 314-649-7617.



## What's your Catholic Catechism IQ?

It is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, under (now saint) Pope John Paul II, who wrote, "The Catechism is offered to every individual who asks us to give an account of the hope that is in us (cf. 1 Pet 3:15) and who wants to know what the Catholic Church believes." Every adult Catholic is asked to prayerfully "digest" the Catechism. These questions (which will cover the whole CCC during this year) can help break it down in small bites.



### THE CREEDS

1. Early on, the Church wanted to gather the essential elements of its faith into summaries, intended especially for candidates seeking this.
2. Professions of faith summarize what Christians believe, on account of what is usually their first word in Latin, they are called this.
3. Symbolizing the fullness of faith by the Apostles, it is customary to reckon the Articles of Faith as this number.
4. Two Creeds hold a special place in the Church's life. The Nicene Creed, and this Creed, which the CCC follows.
5. Formulated in 325 and 381 AD, the Nicene Creed draws its great authority from the fact that it stems from the first two Ecumenical \_\_\_\_\_.

### I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER

6. God is the first and the last, the beginning and the end of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. To Israel, His chosen, God revealed Himself. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is \_\_\_\_\_."
8. The fundamental revelation of God's Divine name was to Moses in the theophany at the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. God reveals His mysterious name, YHWH which means this.
10. God, who reveals His name as "I AM," reveals Himself as the God who is always there, \_\_\_\_\_ to His people.

**"Advent is the spiritual season of hope."**

(Pope Benedict XVI)

Come Lord Jesus; fill our hearts and souls with great love for You, as we faithfully pray with hope and joy, preparing ourselves for Your glorious coming.

## 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**.

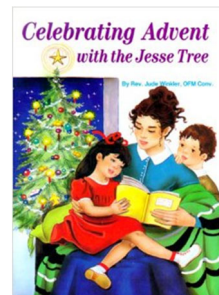
### From the Lighthouse Catholic CD – Pamphlet Rack



In this inspiring talk, renowned preacher and retreat master Fr. Larry Richards illuminates how the true joy of Christmas is found in the greatest gift ever given – the gift of Jesus Christ to the whole world. With humor, compassion, and clarity, Fr. Larry gets to the heart of the true meaning of Christmas and helps us to better appreciate the immensity of God's love for us as His children.

*"Fr. Richards challenged me to enter into the Christmas story with my eyes opened ... not just be celebrating Jesus' birth, but by participating in his life."*  
Maureen - Spencer, NY

What is the one of the best ways to have your children know and understand the Old Testament? The Season of Advent and the use of the Jesse Tree. See how biblical places, persons and events prepared the way for the most incredible event in world history, God becoming man in the person of Jesus Christ. If God were to enter the stage of world history, it makes sense that he would prepare the way and announce His coming. This is what the Old Testament-Scriptures did and do. One cannot know the value of an "ending" of a great story unless they know its beginnings. This is the value of the Jesse Tree. This small children's book can get you underway to greater reading and discovery.



Marian Council is selling See's Candy as a fundraiser: \$20 per pound for Milk Chocolate, Dark Chocolate, Assorted Chocolate, Nuts & Chews, Toffee-ettes or 1½ lb. peanut brittle. Christmas-wrapped 4 oz. boxes are \$7.50. It's great for hostess gifts, Christmas and corporate gifts. Contact Jackie 314-761-6127 or Michelle 314-614-1114 to place your order. Proceeds benefit local families, charities and the parish.

## PSR Corner

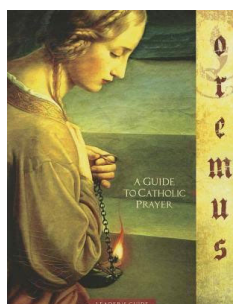
### What is an Advent Wreath?

We recently spoke of the Jesse Tree. Now we ask, What is an Advent wreath? The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western church. It is usually an evergreen wreath with four candles, sometimes with a fifth, white candle in the center. Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, the lighting of a candle can be accompanied by a Bible reading, devotional time and prayers. An additional candle is lit during each subsequent week until, by the last Sunday before Christmas, all four candles are lit. Many Advent wreaths include a fifth, Christ candle which is lit at Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The custom is observed both in family settings and at public church services.



### Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer

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



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

#### Oremus—Let Us Pray

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

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

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
**Thursday, January 4 2:30 pm – 6:30 pm**  
**Founders Hall #8 West Highway D**  
To schedule an appointment,  
call The Blood Center at 866.448.3253  
or online at [www.bloodcenterIMPACT.org](http://www.bloodcenterIMPACT.org)  
Use group sponsor code 9118 to schedule online.  
*Please eat & hydrate well before donating*  
*MUST bring photo ID to donate*  
Last date to donate elsewhere: 11/9/2017  
[www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org)

**Mississippi Valley  
REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER**

1. Baptism (#186)
2. Creeds (#187)
3. 12 (#191)
4. The Apostles' Creed (#193)
5. Councils (#195)
6. Everything (#198)
7. One (#201)
8. Burning bush (#204)
9. 1 Am Who Am (#206)
10. Present (#207)

### Catholic IQ Answers



### Did you miss last week's homily?



It's on the website! [www.ihm-newmelle.org](http://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!

Mary Queen of Angels is seeking a volunteer to assemble donations of baby cribs to ensure all the pieces/parts are included prior to distributing to our moms. Please contact Susan Cooke at 636-634-7243 or [maryqueenofangels@mail.com](mailto:maryqueenofangels@mail.com).



## *The 2017 Season of Advent with Blessed Solanus Casey*

America has a new "Blessed" in the beatification of Solanus Casey. During these weeks of Advent 2017, let's peer into the life of this newly beatified and seek his intercession for our lives and our nation.

From <https://www.ncronline.org/news/people/detroit-caseys-and-capuchins-celebrate-blessed-solanus>



Left: Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, concelebrates the beatification Mass of Blessed Solanus Casey November 18 at Ford Field in Detroit.

DETROIT — On Nov. 18, 2017 a cold and relentlessly rainy Saturday here, the Catholic Church beatified Fr. Solanus Casey, Detroit's most beloved and famous Capuchin friar, moving him a big step closer to canonization. Casey, who died in 1957 at 86, was a Wisconsin native, the son of Irish immigrants. Because of struggles in Capuchin seminary classes taught almost exclusively in German, he'd been ordained a "simplex priest" in 1904. That meant he was denied the priestly faculties of preaching homilies and hearing confessions. Consequently, priestly assignments meant mostly simple jobs: serving as the monastery door-

keeper, training altar boys, moderating the Ladies Altar Society.

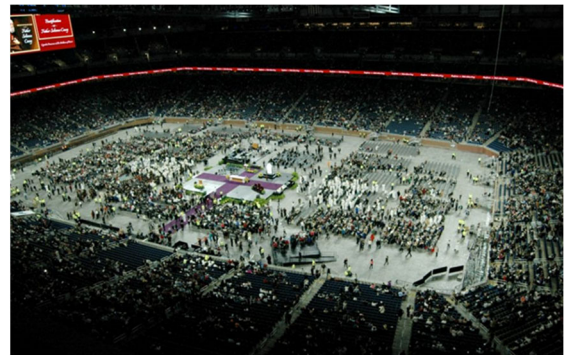
Nonetheless, in New York, Detroit and in Huntington, Indiana, where he served, people found a readiness to listen and a deep faith in the priest who answered the door. They also found that when Casey prayed for their intentions, prayers were answered with amazing frequency. As the years went by, healings were reported, dangerous surgeries averted, alienated people mysteriously reconciled.

By his beatification, six decades after his death, it was clear that many Solanus stories from the 1930s, '40s and '50s had never dimmed or died. Detroit, which had unofficially "canonized" him during his lifetime, remembered his unflagging support for the Detroit Tigers, his love of hot dogs with onions, his sense of humor, his devotion to his large Irish family.

In addition, the Motor City never forgot that during the Depression when the city's automobile factories closed, Casey helped to start the Capuchin's soup kitchen to feed the hungry. The kitchen is still operating today.

The beatification rite preceded the liturgy for which Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and papal delegate, was the presider. After Detroit Archbishop Allen Vigneron read a formal request for beatification, an apostolic letter from Pope Francis was read.

Then Amato held up the decree declaring that Venerable Fr. Solanus Casey would now be known as "Blessed Solanus Casey." Applause rocked the stadium where, on any other day, the only heroes are those who score touchdowns or field goals. More than 60,000 people gathered to celebrate the beatification of Capuchin friar Fr. Solanus Casey at Ford Field in Detroit Nov. 18. (William E. Odell)



**NAR-ANON SUPPORT GROUP:** Weekly meetings on Saturdays, 10:00 am in the Trailer at IHM.  
This group is for Family and Friends of Addicts. For questions, please call Ann at 314-578-4737



of Wentzville, 10 E. Pitman Ave., is requesting help with their **Christmas Wish List**. Items include: diapers (sizes newborn, #4, #5 and #6), crocheted baby blankets, pacifiers, baby wipes, baby wash, baby shampoo, diaper cream, bibs, socks, newborn through 2T clothing, baby bath linens, teething toys, and more. Call 636-327-8170 for the complete list of needs

and giving and exact drop-off details and deadlines. Thanks for considering this request to help moms who have chosen LIFE for their babies!

### March for Life 2018—Registration Now Open!

MISSOURI LIFE CARAVAN is now accepting registrations for our bus trip to the annual March for Life in Washington, DC **Thursday—Saturday, January 18-20, 2018**. Join us and thousands of others from across the U.S. for this huge pro-life gathering in our nation's capital. This trip is open to anyone ages 7 and up (chaperones not provided). We depart from several locations in the St. Louis area and we do not stay in hotels as we sleep on the buses. The cost if received by December 22 is \$190. The cost after December 22 is \$205. For registration and bus information contact us at 314-434-4900 or [mrl.eastern@yahoo.com](mailto:mrl.eastern@yahoo.com). You can also download our registration form at [www.missourilife.org](http://www.missourilife.org). Registration deadline is January 2, 2018.

### Invitation to Divorced and Separated Catholics

The **Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide** is a DVD program featuring Catholic experts, and lay men and women on the journey to healing. Topics include denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, the kids, the ex-spouse, spirituality, annulment and much more. Immaculate Conception Parish, Dardenne will be hosting the program on Thursdays from 7-9pm, beginning January 11, 2018 and ending April 5. Contact Debi at [debijo@att.net](mailto:debijo@att.net) or 314-276-3859 for more information.

### Trivia Night

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

### Christmas Country Church Tour

The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Saint Mary's of the Barrens Church) in Perryville will again be on the Christmas Country Church Tour along with 31 other churches and chapels. The tour will take place December 14 and 15, from 2—9pm. All of the churches welcome visitors to view their Christmas decorations and to spend a few moments in silent prayer during the Advent season. A tree will be decorated with paper garland made of prayer petitions from local students. Hear live music on both nights. Light refreshments will be served in the Visitor Center where you can also view unique Nativity sets on display. If you have any questions, please call the Association of the Miraculous Medal; at 1-800-264-6279, or visit our website at [www.amm.org](http://www.amm.org). We hope you will plan to visit us! (A map of participating churches is on the bulletin board in the narthex.)

### Adoption Records Law

**ATTENTION: Missouri Birth Parents and Adoptees:** Missouri adoption law is changing! On January 12, 2018, adult adoptees (ages 18 and older) will be granted access to their original birth certificate. Birth parents have the right to protect their confidentiality under the new law, but they must act before January 1st. For more information, contact the Missouri Bureau of Vital Records by phone at 573-751-6387 OR by email at [vitalrecordsinfo@health.mo.gov](mailto:vitalrecordsinfo@health.mo.gov). Visit the Bureau's website at [www.health.mo.gov/data/vitalrecords/adopterightsact.php](http://www.health.mo.gov/data/vitalrecords/adopterightsact.php) for more detailed information about the new law.



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#### Catholic Men for Christ Conference—February 3

*Featuring Curtis Martin, Fr. Godwin Olugbami,  
Dr. Scott Sullivan and Michael Cumbie*  
Visit [catholicmenforchrist.org](http://catholicmenforchrist.org) to register.

#### Catholic Women for Christ Conference—March 10

*Featuring Sr. Virginia Joy—Sisters of Life,  
Mary Beth Bonacci and Gloria Purvis*  
Visit [catholicwomenforchrist.org](http://catholicwomenforchrist.org) to register





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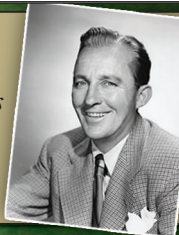


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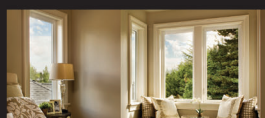
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