



# 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

## Easter Sunday April 1, 2018



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## A Good Day to Die

Do you remember your own baptism? I wish I could; I was baptized as an infant, just a few days old. I envy the adults I have seen baptized at the Easter Vigil. Hopefully, they experience what St. Paul says in the Epistle we hear at the Vigil. For Paul, Baptism is a sign of dying and rising to new life. Sounds like Easter to me. So when Jesus died, He rose from the dead. Is Paul telling us that we will rise from the dead, too?

Yes, but that is not his main point. If all we think about is our physical death, and hope we go to heaven afterwards, we're missing the point. The new life starts with our baptism,

not just our physical death. That's why Paul says things like, "our old self was crucified" or "sinful body done away with...." (Rom 6:6) Baptism gives us a new life NOW. The water is both cleansing and a sign of dying (symbolic drowning) that help us see we are free from sin. We are dead to sin when we begin to live in Christ. The fictional Klingons have a saying "today is a good day to die" to express courage in battle. But real Christians might say that Easter is a good day to die: we have died to sin and begun a new life in Christ.

How do we experience this dying to sin? First, we identify the sinful are-

as of our life. Do I watch movies, video games, or TV shows that encourage promiscuity, lying, revenge, hatred or selfishness? What sins do I confess repeatedly and what can I do to avoid them?

Next we look for ways to act differently: Can I spend more time with friends/relatives who are examples of love? Can I spend less time entertaining myself and more time in prayer? Instead of complaining about what is wrong with the world, can I find ways to make it better? (If not the world, then my community or family.) These are a few of the ways we begin our new life in Christ.

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

### 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  
 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  
 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](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

Our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.  
Therefore, let us celebrate the feast.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

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# Easter SUNDAY

APRIL 1, 2018



## Blessed Easter! *Communion—Suffering—Redemption*

Dear parishioners,

Those three realities were addressed in the homilies during the Easter Triduum. If you weren't able to attend, I would suggest that you listen to them on-line if you want an idea of my thoughts on these foundational realities. In our life of discipleship we must all come to terms with these truths. Two of the truths are eternal, and one is temporal. Sandwiched between our life of Communion and Redemption is the reality of our personal suffering. It is in suffering, in the trials of life, that we come to know the depth of our faith and the quality of our character. Don't wait for trials to come to deepen faith or strengthen character—do that before the trials come your way. The Good News is that suffering and trials are temporary realities that can lead to personal transformation because of grace. St. Augustine shared these thoughts on the seasons of Lent and Easter:

“Because there are these two periods of time - the one that now is, beset with the trials and troubles of this life, and the other yet to come, a life of everlasting serenity and joy - we are given two liturgical seasons, one before Easter and the other after. The season before Easter signifies the troubles in which we live here and now, while the time after Easter which we are celebrating at present signifies the happiness that will be ours in the future. What we commemorate before Easter is what we experience in this life; what we celebrate after Easter points to something we do not yet possess.

This is why we keep the first season with fasting and prayer; but now the fast is over and we devote the present season to praise. Such is the meaning of the *Alleluia* we sing.

“Now therefore, brethren, we urge you to praise God. That is what we are all telling each other when we say *Alleluia*. You say to your neighbor, ‘Praise the Lord!’ and he says the same to you. We are all urging one another to praise the Lord, and all thereby doing what each of us urges the other to do. But see that your praise comes from your whole being; in other words, see that you praise God not with your lips and voices alone, but with your minds, your lives and all your actions.”

Let us join the angels and saints in praising God for all that He has done for our Redemption and the promises of Eternal Life. May we make these fifty days time of exceptional praise and gratitude to the God who calls us to communion, is with us in our suffering, and has promised us redemption in the life to come.

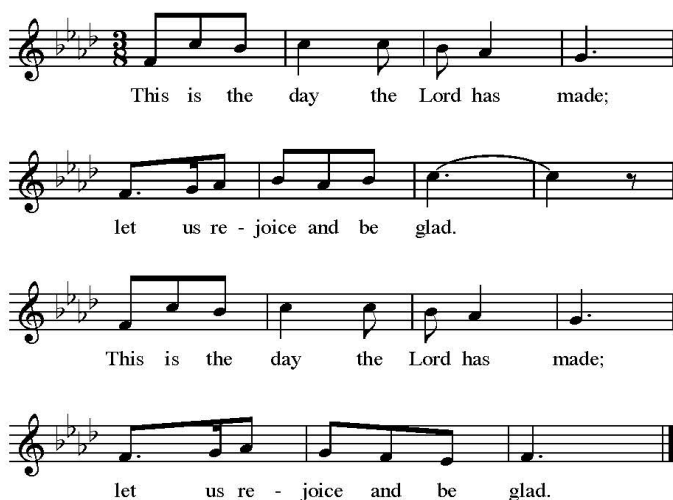
Blessed Easter,

*Fr. Tom*

### THIS IS THE DAY

Psalms 118

Marty Haugen



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## Next Week Ministry Schedule

April 7  
4:00pm

EM: Vanita Joerling, Ed Etzkorn, Karen Wilson,  
Bryan Potter, Jackie Barclay, Carole Baker,  
Mary Jean Hartenbach, Pat Roche  
Lec: Chuck Kettler, Nancy Ast  
GB: Flo Joerling, Joyce Brakensiek  
Serv: William Fredrick, Sophia Hake  
Ush: Bill Pollihan, Tom Zaleuke, Bob Gray,  
Larry Graves

April 8  
7:30am

EM: Walt & Jean Reel, Jan Kardasz, Bob Leeker,  
Carole Rabbitt, Peggy Dupree  
Lec: Karen Wappelhorst, Elizabeth Vehige  
GB: Tim & Kathy Feldewerth  
Serv: Maybelle Hahn, Connor Kuebler  
Ush: Larry Koch, Rich Molitor, Gary Potter,  
Larry Gassei

9:30am

EM: Janet Hespen, Maureen Blondin, Kat Menne,  
Mary Hannig, Steve Williams, Kris Jenkins,  
Walter & Nancy Hollenstein  
Lec: Jackie Dunn, Nancy Meyers  
GB: Youth Group  
Serv: Brianna, Morgan, Jordan Dale  
Ush: Youth Group

11:15am First Communion Mass

EM: Patrice Riley, Julie Lassiter  
Lec: Carrie Strunk, Cher Buescher  
GB: Lyons Family  
Serv: Maggie Thater, Will Lassiter, Connor Kuebler  
Ush: Stan Nikonowicz

## Easter Sunday

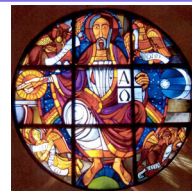
[Peter and John ran to Jesus' tomb.]  
Peter entered and found it empty.  
John also entered; he saw and believed.

JOHN 20:8

Pat Barnes came upon an elderly lady selling flowers on a busy city street. The lady's face was old and wrinkled but radiant with an Easter smile. Taking a flower, Pat paid her and said, "How happy you look this morning." The flower lady replied, "Why not? Everything is beautiful." Pat was startled by her reply, because she was dressed so shabbily and seemed so frail. Pat said, "You surely wear your troubles well!" Again, the flower lady's reply startled Pat: "When Jesus died on Good Friday," she said, "that was the worst of days. Then, three days later—Easter! So when troubles come my way, I simply wait three days. Then everything gets all right again."

How could I better handle my troubles? "We are Easter people; and Alleluia is our song!" St. Augustine

## This Week at Home Easter Blessings to all!



**Sunday, April 1**

No IHMformation Station today

**Eucharistic Adoration will be in Church this week**

**Monday, April 2**

SVDP, 6pm

Boy Scouts, Founders Hall/Trailer, 6:30pm

Women's ACTS meeting, Grand Hall, 6:30pm

**Tuesday, April 3**

Legion of Mary, Weber Hall, 9am

Fitness Class, Grand Hall foyer, 9am

Contemporary Group practice, church, 5:30pm

Children's Choir, church, 6:45pm

KC officers, Founders Hall, 7pm

Finance Council, Weber Hall, 7pm

**Wednesday, April 4**

Sunday readings study, Weber Hall, 8:45am

PSR, Weber Hall/Founders Hall/Trailer, 6pm

Bible Study, Grand Hall, 6pm

Reconciliation, 7pm

**Thursday, April 5**

Fitness Class, Grand Hall foyer, 9am

RCIA, Weber Hall, 6:30pm

No choir practice tonight

**Friday, April 6**

Quilting, Weber Hall, 8:30—noon

**Saturday, April 7**

Reconciliation, 8:45am

SVDP Pantry open 9-10:30am

Luke 18 Retreat, Grand Hall/Founders Hall

**Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8**

KofC Breakfast, Founders Hall, 8-11am

Contemporary Group sings at 9:30 Mass

First Communion, 11:15 Mass



## Diaper Drive

**Through Easter weekend**

**Drop off packages of diapers  
on the table in Weber Hall**

Sponsored by the Permanent Deacons  
in the Archdiocese of St. Louis  
in conjunction with the Respect Life office.



Daily Mass will be  
In Church this week

**Monday, April 2**

8:00am William Price +  
Fred Schellert +

**Tuesday, April 3**

8:00am Gertrude Windisch +  
Gerard Wehrle +

**Wednesday, April 4**

8:00am All Souls  
parents of infant D.C. Mueller

**Thursday, April 5**

8:00am Cleo Schmidt +

**Friday, April 6**

8:00am Holy Vocations to the  
Priesthood and Religious Life

**Saturday, April 7**

8:00am Chuck Reckamp +  
4:00pm Jerome Kluge Sr. +  
Fr. Tom Miller Family

**Sunday, April 8**

7:30am People of the Parish  
Josephine Seper +  
9:30am Jack Tersteeg +  
Louise Fisher +

**Readings for the Week**

Mon: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15  
Tue: Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18  
Wed: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35  
Thu: Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48  
Fri: Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a; Jn 21:1-14  
Sat: Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-15ab, 16-21; Mk 16:9-15  
Sun: Acts 4:32-35; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24;  
1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31



**Attention Crafters!**

There are some tables available for the upcoming craft show in conjunction with the IHM Sausage Dinner on Sunday, April 29. The booth space is 9x6 for \$35, show is 10:30—5pm.

Contact Lisa Murphy for an application:  
lisamurphy318@gmail.com or 636-332-0155

**Contributions: March 17/18**

General Offertory: \$9,895.00  
Online—General Offertory: \$6,175.45  
**Total Offertory: \$16,070.45**

**Contributions: March 24/25**

will be reported next week

*"Think of what is above, not of what is on earth."*  
COLOSSIANS 3:2

On this day we thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died and rose for us. We celebrate and sing "Alleluia." Let's try to keep the joy of this Easter season in our hearts throughout the year! Pray daily and listen for how He is calling each of us to joyfully use our gifts to fulfill His salvation plan.

*We pray that our Easter celebration will help us to become more grateful and willing to make sacrifices to help build God's kingdom on earth.*



**Heavenly Duster Purificators**

Easter Week break

Pat Roche

**Needed at the Pantry:**

*canned fruit: applesauce, mandarin oranges, peaches, pears, fruit cocktail; cake and brownie mixes, tuna helper, hamburger helper, cold cereal, dry spaghetti, pasta sauce, sloppy joe sauce, toilet paper, bisquick*

Today as we celebrate the feast of Easter we find the challenge of also seeing and believing the resurrection that comes through our own lives of self-sacrifice which brings new life to others.

**Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will show the love of the Risen Christ by bringing your love to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.**

**New Parishioners since January**

Marty & Monica Reed and Mabel

Bob & Sue Pruett

Sue Roethler

Mike Koper

Betty Heppermann

Greg & Becky Karrenbrock and Ava

Fred & Ava Maechling

Dan & Shelley Mueller, Jacob & Nicholas

**WELCOME!!**

**WELCOME!!**



## Our Lady of Grace

The next time you stop by the church office, take a look at our collection of Marian plates that are displayed on the wall. This one is entitled “Our Lady of Grace” and we’d like to tell you a little about this Marian feast.

Let’s go back to the year 1830, to a convent of the Daughters of Charity in Paris, France, and a young novice who would later be canonized—Sr. Catherine Laboure. On July 18, in the community’s motherhouse, Sr. Catherine beheld a lady seated on the right side of the Sanctuary. When Sr. Catherine approached her, the heavenly visitor pointed to the altar as the source of all consolation.

On November 27, Catherine saw Our Lady standing on a globe, with dazzling rays of light streaming from her outstretched hands. Framing the figure was an inscription: “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.” Then Mary spoke to Catherine: “Have a medal struck upon this model. Those who wear it will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck.”

Use of the Medal spread from country to country and now blankets the world. Everywhere, the Medal is still drawing down from God blessings for body and soul.

Our Lady of Grace (feast day April 4) who gave the Miraculous Medal to Sr. Catherine, brings to the world a message of hope for those who trust in her maternal care.

**Please pray for all the sick and suffering, including:**

Connie Burbes, Tracey Fiacco, Steve Dunn

**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 Chain Requests:** Rita Langford at 636-398-4654 or email [ritalangford4@gmail.com](mailto:ritalangford4@gmail.com).

AM 1460 KHOJ, Catholic radio

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

## What’s your Catholic Catechism IQ?



### MYSTERY OF CHRIST’S LIFE

- Many things about Jesus of interest to human curiosity are not recorded in this.
  - Protevangelium of James
  - Poem of the Man God
  - The Gospel
  - Revelations to Anne Catherine Emmerich
- Christ’s whole life is a mystery of redemption as well as this, \_\_\_\_\_ meaning a restoration.
  - Re-committal
  - Re-capitulation
  - Re-renewal
  - Re-run
- What we had lost in Adam, that is, being in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God, we might recover in Christ Jesus.
  - Humanity, Divinity
  - Grace, Mercy
  - Image, Likeness
  - Blue, Print
- Jesus is “Our Advocate with the Father,” who “Always lives to make \_\_\_\_\_” for us.
  - Peace
  - Trails
  - Food
  - Intercession
- By His incarnation, He, the Son of God, has in a certain way \_\_\_\_\_ Himself with each man.
  - United
  - Divided
  - Withdrawn
  - Entrusted

### JESUS’ INFANCY AND HIDDEN LIFE

- The coming of God’s Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 30 years
  - Centuries
  - the years from Abraham
  - the rebuttal of Scout leadership
- God makes everything converge on Christ: all the rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the “First \_\_\_\_\_”.
  - Noel
  - Friday
  - Covenant
  - Book of the Bible
- God announces Him through the mouths of these men who succeeded one another in Israel.
  - Priests
  - Prophets
  - Kings
  - Rulers
- This man is the Lord’s immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare His way.
  - the Olympic Torch-Bearer
  - Malachi
  - John the Baptist
  - Elijah
- When the Church celebrates the season of \_\_\_\_\_ each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah:
  - Advent
  - Christmas
  - Lent
  - Easter



## Spring Sausage Dinner—April 29

Mark your calendars! Your help will be needed to fill the 400+ volunteer spots! The sign-up sheets are in the narthex! Save the date and plan to donate some time—and pies—to help your parish. Start looking for trinkets and treasures for the Country Store, too. Everyone should have received their letter and raffle tickets in the mail. If you need more tickets, we have a supply of them in the church office and in the narthex.



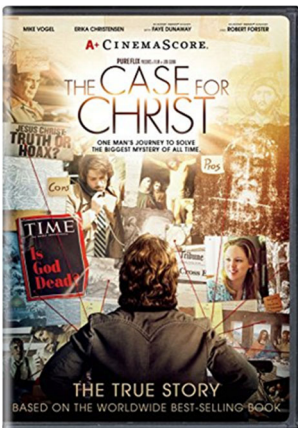
## St. Paul Library / Lighthouse CD Resources

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 Parish Library – Stoltz Grand Hall

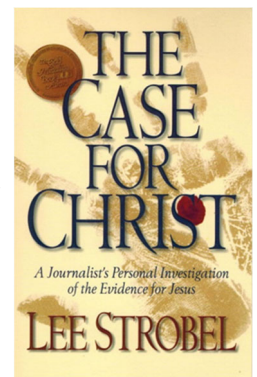
#### The Case for Christ (Movie)



(From a Review on Amazon) Wow what can I say, this movie was realistic, practical, believable and yet also supernatural. Unlike many Christian films that often have cheesy plots, ideas, or delivery, this movie was the kind of movie that can rock someone, even an unbeliever, to the core. I pray regularly for God to portray His truth on the Big Screen in Hollywood, and lately some gems like this movie have come forth. Such an upgrade from what we have seen many "Christian" movies be in the past. Sure it's based on a true story so that may have helped, but really I believe the execution of the movie was captivating, inspiring and very moving emotionally. It confronts the reality that an "unbeliever" may think they are basing their beliefs on facts, but the reality is they are still having "faith" in many things that they cannot see or prove. So the idea that a believer is the only one having "faith" is a lie. Even someone who believes in God wholeheartedly, and has ministered the gospel to 1000s of lives, I was incredibly inspired, encouraged and motivated to more adequately share the love of Jesus with others after watching this movie. The fact that there is simply so much hard evidence of Christ's death, burial and resurrection, more so than any other major event in history, should speak volumes to any person who doubt Jesus even existed, let alone was God in the flesh.

#### The Case for Christ (Book)

Lee Strobel writes in the Introduction to the book regarding one's views about Jesus, "Maybe you too have been basing your spiritual outlook on the evidence ... you... gleaned long ago... But is your conclusion really the best possible explanation for the evidence? If you were to dig deeper... what would you find? That's what this book is about. In effect, I'm going to retrace and expand upon the spiritual journey I took for nearly two years. I'll take you along as I interview thirteen leading scholars and authorities who have impeccable academic credentials." Lee Strobel has written books such as *The Case for Faith*, *The Case for a Creator*, *The Case for the Real Jesus*, *God's Outrageous Claims*,



## ✝ Rest in Peace ✝

We offer our prayerful sympathy to Tim and Kathy Feldewerth on the death of his brother  
**Ted Feldewerth**

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

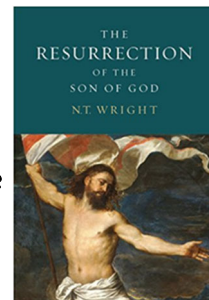
## Join the Holy Father's prayer intentions for April: For Those who have Responsibility in Economic Matters

That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.



## PSR corner

The month of *April is traditionally dedicated to several themes: the Blessed Sacrament / Resurrection / Holy Spirit*. Phil Robertson of Duck Dynasty, who is a part time preacher once said about the resurrection. “If you travel back in time from the present to 2000, to 1500, to 1000 to 100 to 0, what event happened....so that now we even mark our time back to this event?” “It must have been something pretty big.” Consider mentioning this line to your children and starting a discussion.



## Mysteries, Marvels and Miracles in the Life of the Church: The Resurrection of Jesus—Miracle of Miracles



*“If Christ has not risen your faith is vain” (1 Cor 15:14).*

The text from St. Paul above is enshrined in the Resurrection Mosaic at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Louis. A priest friend once joked to me that if seated in the bishop’s chair, the angle of viewing this mosaic precludes one from seeing the “If” --- thus all that one would read is, “Christ has not risen your faith is vain.” Now, where would we if this “if” of the Resurrection never took place? Christianity stands or falls with the historical fact of the Resurrection. There are some really good authors who have written books exploring the facts of the Resurrection. I think of Peter Kreeft, Lee Strobel, Gary Habermas, N.T. Wright and Josh McDowell. Years ago I put together a memory aid that includes some of

the arguments (in very brief form) that these authors have made. I think it can be a helpful summary of background data to this central teaching of the Catholic-Christian faith.

### Memory Aid: E.A.S.T.E.R

**E-Empty Tomb.** This may sound too simplistic at first, but a basic question is, “How do we explain the empty tomb?” It would have been impossible for Jesus’ disciples to have believed in their Master’s resurrection if his corpse still lay in the tomb. But it is equally incredible to suppose that the disciples could have stolen the body and perpetrated a hoax. Would the corpse of Jesus motivate a band of disciples to preach and die for their belief. Furthermore, it would have been impossible for Christianity to come into being in Jerusalem if Jesus’ body were still in the grave. The Jewish authorities would certainly have produced it as the shortest and most complete answer to the whole affair.

**A-Apearances of Jesus.** How do we explain the testimony, witness and life after the event, of all those who saw, touched, and conversed with the risen Lord? Can one really shake this off as hysteria, mass hallucination? What of Paul who changed the course of world history by his going to the ends of the earth witnessing to his vision of the Risen Lord?

**S-Scriptural record.** Whether one likes it or not, the miracle of the Resurrection in Scripture is presented as a historical reality. Simon Greenleaf, founder of the Harvard Law School and author of the book *Treatises of the Laws of Evidence*, put the Scriptural record of the Resurrection to the historical test. His verdict? In the affirmative...Christ IS risen, your faith is NOT vain---but solidly established as any fact of ancient history.

**T-Transformation of Apostles.** It is one thing to say you saw something miraculous; it is another to be willing to die for such a belief. How then do we explain all the apostles and disciples of Christ who were martyred for their witness to the resurrected Christ? The band “Apologetix” sings, “*Why O why would someone die if it was just a hoax? Why then take the awful risk to tell us Jesus rose? Simple men from Galilee would not have spoken lies, to get enrolled in history books as martyrs for Jesus Christ.*”

**E-Eyewitness of women.** We mentioned the eyewitness testimonies of apostles and disciples to the Risen Christ. Of special mention, however, is the eyewitness testimony of women, who, at the time, would have been a somewhat embarrassing detail for the evangelists to record were it not in fact the truth. The cultural milieu of the first century did not place high emphasis on women’s testimony that we take for granted today. Yet here, it is women who serve as primary witnesses to the Resurrected Lord.

**R-Rise of Christianity.** How do we explain the rise of Christianity? How do we explain the Christian yeast working in the dough of the world apart from its link to Christ? “Christianity without the resurrection is like a car without an engine; it gets you nowhere.” If the Resurrection didn’t happen it would be a greater miracle to try and explain the history and growth of Christianity.





8th grade through 12th—  
**Come join us!**

**Attention 8th grade participants and 9th through 12th grade facilitators (and parents)**



Our parish will be holding a Luke 18 retreat on **April 7 beginning 9am and ending April 8th** at the conclusion of 9:30am Mass. The overnight format offers the opportunity to experience God's love at a more personal level. We have a fun and exciting weekend planned. The focus of the Luke 18 is an introduction for 8th grade Confirmation students to continue their faith journey into the next level which involves the Youth Group of IHM parish. You are strongly encouraged to be a part of the weekend. The Retreat is put on by the Youth Group of IHM and provides an interactive environment to encourage the 8th graders to be themselves and to provide a greater understanding of the special love that God has for each of them.

**Please contact Janet Hespén, IHM Youth Minister for registration or further information**  
Voice or text: 314-369-6521; email: [janethspn@outlook.com](mailto:janethspn@outlook.com)

*Upcoming Youth Group Meeting*

held in the Grand Hall 6:30 to 8:30pm: **April 5**

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He is risen, alleluia, alleluia! This is the central belief of the Christian: Jesus Christ rose from the dead and conquered death so that we could spend eternal life with Him. Stop and think today. Do you believe in the Resurrection? If not, consider why not. Because of Christ's Resurrection we can be people of hope and joy. In the first reading today, Peter repeatedly mentions how they were witnesses to the life and great works of Christ while he walked the earth. In the Acts of the Apostles, the early disciples are absolutely on fire with zeal for the truth that Christ has risen. Let's get busy sharing that same message and living convicted lives of boldness, paying no attention to the attacks from the world. This is a truth worth dying for. May Jesus Christ be praised!

[archstl.org/dynamic](http://archstl.org/dynamic)

- |                          |                             |
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**Catholic IQ Answers**



**Koinonia Retreat Weekend for Divorced or Separated Catholics (DASK)** and other Christians will be Friday thru Sunday, April 27-29 at Todd Hall Retreat Center, 320 Todd Hall Center Drive, Columbia, IL 62236. Cost \$110 includes room (double occupancy), and six meals. Call Jean at 314-704-1870 or Carol at 314-775-1253 for brochure and registration. \$50 deposit will reserve a space.

**MONTHLY RECOLLECTION FOR WOMEN:** Wednesday, April 4 from 7:30—9:30pm at St. Cletus Parish in St. Charles. A priest of Opus Dei will give two meditations and confessions. For more information, please contact Mary Schlueter 314-517-1277 or Maureen Branson 314-322-9711.



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Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

Dear Faithful of the Archdiocese of St. Louis,

During this Lenten Season, we prepared ourselves for the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and sought to strengthen our relationship with God through prayer and sacrifice. It is in that light that I write to you today.

The annual Collection for Retired Priests will be taking place today, Easter Sunday. This collection serves to provide support and care for our retired priests who have sacrificed so much for our parishes and communities. The Collection for Retired Priests is an opportunity to give back to those who give so much.

Through spiritual milestones and decades of service, our priests have been there when you, your family and your fellow parishioners have counted on them. And while they continue to serve in the name of God, in retirement it is they who count on you for prayers and support. Your individual contributions help meet the needs of our aging priests including physician services, hospitalization, nursing home care, vision care and disability.

Please help to ensure that this care is available for retired priests now and in the future by contributing to the Collection for Retired Priests. You can also contribute online by visiting <http://giving.archstl.org/Product/archbishops-collection-for-retired-priests-pmb>. The Archdiocese and our priests are so deeply grateful for your support.

Please know our retired priests are praying for you and your families during this Easter Season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverent Robert J. Carlson  
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Thursday, April 5th, 6:30pm, *Young Adult Mass*—St. Charles Borromeo



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