



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

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

Website: www.ihm-newmelle.org

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

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

Schedule of Holy Mass

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

Weekly Devotions and Prayers

Eucharistic Adoration:

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

Rosary:

Following 8am Mass Monday thru Friday

Perpetual Help Devotions:

Tuesdays following 8am Mass

Respect Life Prayers:

Thursday following 8am Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction:

Friday at 11:30am

First Saturday of the Month Devotions

8am Mass, Rosary, 15 minutes of meditation

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Wednesday in church, 7pm

Saturday following 8am Mass

Marriage: Contact the parish office

at least six months prior to the wedding

Baptism: Contact the parish office

to register for class and to arrange date

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:

Contact Shawn Mueller in the parish office

First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2017



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Watch Out!

In Advent, we celebrate our hope that the Lord might come more fully into our lives. The first reading from Isaiah voices the hope of sinners for a redeemer. As sinners, we too hope for forgiveness. Unlike Isaiah, we know that God has come to bring us back, when the Father sent his Son, Jesus, to save us. And God's power was manifest in the raising of Christ from the dead. Our faith in Jesus leads us to a new way of looking at the world. We can see what God is doing as well as remembering what God has done.

The Gospel reminds us to look constantly for signs of God's work. Jesus says simply, "Watch!" Like the gatekeepers in Jesus' short parable, we need to keep our eyes open for him. Just as we expect

people driving cars to turn off their cell phones and keep their eyes on the road, so we can stop looking for whatever makes us comfortable and watch for ways to love others as God loves us.

When we only look out for ourselves, we may miss the signs of God's presence around us. Instead of looking at the difficulties of life as obstacles, we can watch for them as opportunities to stretch our faith, to rely on God, or to show God's love to a friend. The recent re-translation of the prayers of the Mass can be an opportunity to stretch our faith and our understanding of the Eucharist.

The Corinthians were also watching for the Lord to come. Paul encourages them (and us) by his reminder that we

"are not lacking in any spiritual gift" (1 Corinthians 1:7). The Holy Spirit gives us all we need to help each other prepare for the Lord's coming. They were thinking of Jesus as coming in glory. Though we don't see the full glory of the Lord, part of that glory is His presence in the sacraments. In them we celebrate not just the coming of the Lord, but His working in the world. He shares His life with us in baptism, gives us His Spirit in confirmation and Himself in the Eucharist, heals us in reconciliation and the anointing of the sick, and calls us to make Him present to others in holy orders and matrimony. You could almost say His second coming is taking place now. Watch for it.

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Parish Staff

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

Weddings, Receptions, Events

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

Religious Education

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

Parish School of Religion

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

Confirmation Preparation

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word

September through May
 During the 9:30am Sunday Mass

Adult Education

Wednesdays at 8:45 and 6:10pm

Quick Contacts Directory

Prayer and Devotion

Eucharistic Adoration	
Shawn Mueller	636-398-5270
Legion of Mary	
Maria Romine-Kantor	314-614-0857
Prayer Chain	
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

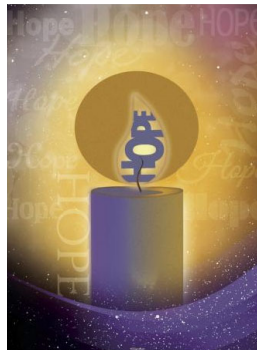
Art & Environment	
Mary Karll	636-433-5049
Budget & Finance	
Larry Graves	314-799-9804
Cemetery Committee	
Mark Keune	314-220-7075
Dinner Committee	
Jeff Comotto	636-798-2369
Golden Hearts	
Jackie Hackett	636-398-5605
Knights of Columbus	
Gary Potter	636-228-4755
Marian Council	
Michelle Brothers	314-614-1114
Meals on Wheels	
Jean Bammann	636-798-2718
Outreach	
Steve Farber	sfarber@farbermarketing.com
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

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.

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 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.

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

PS There will be a few nights where I am assisting at other parishes to help with their Reconciliation Celebrations. I will try to post a schedule on December 4th.

First Sunday of Advent

[Jesus says of his Second Coming,] "Be on watch, be alert, for you do not know when the time will come."

MARK 13:33

Arthur Tonne recalls an interesting footnote of history that occurred in the fifth century. It concerns a group of monks popularly known as the Sleepless Ones. A holy man, known simply as Alexander, recruited 300 monks and divided them into six groups. Each group took turns keeping "watch" for the Second Coming of Jesus. Day and night a group was always awake and praying, so as to be ready for the Second Coming of Jesus, the bridegroom and the final judge. The story of the Sleepless Ones invites me to ask, *If Jesus came ten minutes from now, how ready would I be?*

"It is by design that Jesus hid the last day from us, so that we'd be on the lookout for him every day of our lives."

SAINT AUGUSTINE

Next Week Ministry Schedule

December 9
4:00pm

- EM: Wilma Zurweller, Donna Cuddihee, Carole Baker, Karen Wilson, Pat Noack, Ann Zaleuke, Bernadine Pollihan, Jennifer Fredrich
Lec: Pat Barnard, Jerry Knott
GB: Rita Langford, Flo Joerling
Serv: Bridget Goins, Isabelle Scheer
Ush: Bryan Potter, Chris Cuddihee, Tim Wilson, Joe Spiess

December 10
7:30am

- EM: John & Karen Wappelhorst, Emily Cooksey, Dianne Dickherber, Rich Molitor, Kris Jenkins
Lec: Chuck Kettler, Elizabeth Vehige
GB: Tim & Kathy Feldewerth
Serv: Connor & Sydney Jaeckle
Ush: Walt Reel, Larry Koch, Ed Rabbitt, Gary Potter

9:30am

- EM: Lisa Murphy, Walter & Nancy Hollenstein, Mary Hannig, Judeen Kutsko, Laura Orf, Steve Williams, Patrice Riley
Lec: Kat & Chris Menne
GB: Michelle, Paige & Genny Greiwe
Serv: Brody & Ashlyn Stafford, Lannah Montgomery
Ush: Curt Eccardt, Alan Raymond, Terry Schneider, Gary Struckhoff, Chris & Adam Molitor



Our culture rushes frantically toward Christmas. Hustling, bustling . . . no time for rest, no time for quiet . . . and certainly no space for Holy. While the rest of the world hurls itself mindlessly toward the holidays, we as Christians are called to contemplative walking. Walking toward Christmas as we contemplate what is happening. Please join with us on

Wednesday, December 13 at

7pm in church to quietly journey through the Christmas season, as we prepare ourselves for the arrival of our Lord with **Stations of Advent**.

This Week at Home



Sunday, December 3—First Sunday of Advent
Jonah Team will pray with you after
9:30am Mass

Monday, December 4

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

Tuesday, December 5

Legion of Mary, Weber Hall, 9am
Exercise, Grand Hall foyer, 9am
Contemporary Choir, church, 5:30pm
Children's Choir, church, 7pm
KofC officers, Founders Hall, 7pm
Reconciliation, 7pm

Wednesday, December 6

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

Thursday, December 7

Exercise, Grand Hall foyer, 9am
RCIA, Weber Hall, 6:30pm
Choir, church, 7pm
Youth Group outing this evening

Friday, December 8—Immaculate Conception Holy Day

Masses in church at 8am and 7pm
Church office closed

Saturday, December 9

Reconciliation following 8am Mass

Sunday, December 10—Second Sunday of Advent

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

Ladies!

Interested in helping our priests be successful in their ministry? If so, we need you! We are forming a group of prayer warriors from four parishes that are interested in meeting once a month for about an hour to pray the Rosary for the Sanctification of our priests. Parishes are ICD, St. Pat, St. Gianna and IHM. For more information please call Mary Stassi at 636-357-1387 or email pinegrovefarm76@yahoo.com.



Birthright Christmas Cards

The Pro-Life Committee will be selling Birthright Christmas cards after all Masses this weekend. The cards come 10 in a package for \$5. Please consider supporting Birthright when planning your Christmas card purchases.

Quilt Chances on Sale

December 2/3

\$2 each or 3 for \$5

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 4	
8:00am	Larry Randolph +
Tuesday, December 5	
8:00am	Bernie Kulawiec + Teresa Price +
Wednesday, December 6	
8:00am	Archie & Josephine Ferguson + Charley & Dorothy Fendler +
Thursday, December 7	
8:00am	William Odlum + Edward Bennett +
Friday, December 8	
8:00am	Roland Tajkowski +
7:00pm	intention of Joe Bukowski
Saturday, December 9	
8:00am	David Lozano + Br. Louis Ernst +
4:00pm	All Souls intention of Doug Draugelis
Sunday, December 10	
7:30am	People of the Parish Mimi Ferguson +
9:30am	intention of Aubriella Orf Iris & Ben Bader +

Contributions: November 18/19

General Offertory:	\$8,157.58
Online—General Offertory:	\$5,010.00
Total Offertory:	\$13,167.58

Contributions: November 25/26

General Offertory:	\$8,488.00
Thanksgiving:	\$901.00
Online—General Offertory:	\$1,397.00
Total Offertory:	\$10,786.00

*“Take heed, watch and pray;
for you do not know when the time will come.”*
MARK 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. Our lives are so busy, many of us are planning our time—our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to what God is saying to you.

We pray that we don't take our time on Earth for granted, and to look at each day as a gift from God.



Heavenly Duster Purificators

Judy Hendrix

June Spiess

Needed at the Pantry:

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

As we begin Advent we are called to “Be watchful! Be alert!” as we stand in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives.

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

Advent Schedule



Reconciliation:

Mondays/Tuesdays/Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm
Saturdays after morning Mass, 8:45am

Immaculate Conception Holy Day:

Friday, December 8, Masses at 8am and 7pm

Christmas Parties:

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



Christmas Masses

December 24 at 4pm
Midnight Mass (carols begin at 11:30pm)
December 25 at 10am

**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.



Please pray for all the sick and suffering

In the hospital: Wayne Rellergert

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 mjhartebach@gmail.com.



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!



Monthly Recollection for Women

Women's recollection on Wednesday, December 6, 7:30-9:30pm at St. Cletus Parish. A priest of Opus Dei will give two meditations, confession. Info: 314-517-1277.

*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
and feminine hygiene products for Birthright*

*IHM
Youth Ministry*

COME ON TEENS, JOIN THE FUN!

Upcoming dates:

- ** Thursday, December 7: Movie night. Going to see "Let There Be Light". Meet at D & DD at 4:15pm
- ** 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!

Readings for the Week

- Sun** Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37
- Mon** Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11
- Tue** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
- Wed** Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt 15:29-37
- Thu** Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Fri** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98: 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- Sat** Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

What's your Catholic Catechism IQ?

It is the 25th 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.



MAN'S RESPONSE TO GOD

1. The adequate response to the _____ of God is faith.
2. He was the model of faith in the OT. In the NT she perfectly embodies the obedience of faith.
3. The term for the free assent to the whole truth that God has revealed.
4. Before faith can be exercised, man must have the interior helps of whom?
5. Believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through this.

CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITH

6. Since God is the author of all truth, there can never be any real discrepancy between faith and this.
7. Nobody is to be forced to embrace the faith against the will. The act of faith is of its very nature a _____ act.
8. To show that the assent of faith is not a blind leap, God willed that external proofs be given as motives of _____.
9. Hebrews 11:6 states that without this it is impossible to please God.
10. While faith is an entirely free gift from God, we can make shipwreck of our faith and _____ this priceless gift.



Our parish family joyfully welcomes
Karlie Grace Vermette
daughter of Justin and Sarah (Tomaro) Vermette

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

Celebrating Advent with the Jesse Tree



What is 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 Covenant-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.

CATHOLIC MEN FOR CHRIST CONFERENCE 2/3/2018

CATHOLIC WOMEN FOR CHRIST CONFERENCE 3/10/2018

PRAY ABOUT IT

catholicmenforchrist.org

catholicwomenforchrist.org

REGISTER NOW!

Limited Seating Available
Touhill Performing Arts Center (UMSL)

Catholic Men for Christ Conference—February 3

*Featuring Curtis Martin, Fr. Godwin Olugbami,
Dr. Scott Sullivan and Michael Cumbie*
Visit 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 to register

PSR Corner

Upcoming Dates:

December 6th is the Feast of St. Nicholas.

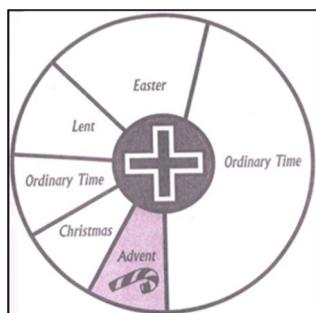
December 8th is a Holy Day, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Masses are at 8am and 7pm in church.

December 20 is the 2nd graders First Reconciliation. It is also time to pick up report cards.

December 27 and January 3rd is our Christmas break and thus no class.



The Season of Advent



CCC 524 When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* which means "coming." Advent then, is a time of preparation and expectation for the Church, not only for the coming of Christmas, (Christ's Mass), but also for the Second Coming of Christ, whether this coming takes place during our life, or for certain, at the time of our death. The themes followed by the Church

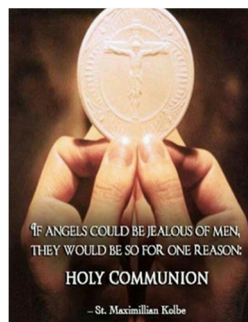
during the season of Advent are often called "The Last Things"-- mainly, Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell. The color of the season is typically violet as during Lent, signifying both royalty and penance. During this season of "coming" the Church emphasizes different ways or dimensions of the Coming of Christ. These are often called His coming in history, in mystery, and in majesty.

In history, the Lord became incarnate in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary; the Word was made flesh; He was born at Bethlehem as one of us.

In mystery, Christ comes to us each day by His grace. He lives in our souls. He is present in every sacrament.

In majesty, Christ will come at the end of our lives and at the end of the world; He will raise the dead and judge the world.

The classic book or video based on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" is a fitting book to read or 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."



Birthright

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!



For those of you that don't know me, my name is Megan Tersteeg and I have been a member of IHM parish my entire life. I am currently a freshman at Drury University in Springfield MO studying pre-med. In December I will be taking part in a medical mission trip to Nicaragua through a nonprofit organization called Project HOPE.



Project HOPE was established in 1998 as an inter-denominational service organization dedicated to meeting the immediate physical needs of impoverished people, while sharing with them the Good News of Jesus Christ. The organization has grown over the years with nearly 1,000 people traveling with Project HOPE each year. The majority of Nicaraguans do not have the resources for private care and depend on inadequate public health care. Many are left without hope as they are not able to pay for the needed care. While in Nicaragua, I will have the opportunity to work side by side with the Project HOPE physicians to help these families.

Each of the participants on the mission trip are asked to bring a piece of luggage that is filled with much needed hygiene items for the families in the village. I wanted to reach out to you to see if you would be interested in becoming a part of this mission by donating some of these much needed items. I have placed a piece of luggage in the narthex for the collection of these items. I will be leaving on my trip on December 30th and collecting items until Christmas Eve.

Thank you for your time and please keep these families in your prayers.

Suggestions for your gifted hygiene items

- Toothpaste, tooth-brushes, dental floss
- Soap
- Brushes/combs
- Cotton balls
- Nail clippers
- Peroxide
- Band aids
- Foot powder
- Vitamins (adult and children)
- Pain relief (ibuprophen, acetaminophen, aspirin, etc.
- Eye drops
- Skin lotions/creams
- Shoe strings
- Shampoo (in a plastic bag)
- Deodorant
- Toilet paper
- Makeup and nail polish
- Alcohol
- Hydrocortisone cream
- Antibiotic ointment
- Anti-fungal foot ointment
- Sanitary napkins/pads
- Ear drops
- Sunglasses
- Sewing kit
- Baby wipes

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.



National Night of Prayer for Life

Each year, the National Night of Prayer for Life takes place from 9pm December 8 to 1am December 9.

It was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (then celebrated on December 9) that Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and the unborn, first appeared to St. Juan Diego. The National Night of Prayer for Life bridges these two feasts to honor Our Blessed Mother and prays through Her intercession for the establishment of a Culture of Life, protection for the Church from persecution and asks Our Lord to REVIVE OUR LAND. All are invited to join with other Catholics, Christians and pro-life individuals throughout the St. Louis area and across the country to pray for life!

During the HOUR OF UNITY, 11pm—Midnight CST., we will be united across the country in prayer to end abortion and restore God's blessings of Life and Religious Liberty in America.

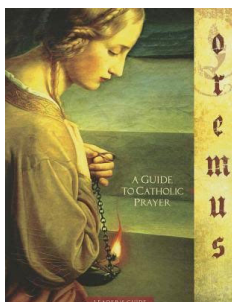


An amazing testimony from one whom God has “Left to Tell” her story, Immaculee Ilibagiza is coming to Wentzville, MO, five minutes up the road at St. Gianna Church in December for a mini-retreat, entitled

FORGIVENESS, HEALING, & HOPE

Witness to the life-saving power of faith and the Rosary, as she huddled with seven other women in a cramped bathroom for 91 days while killers lurked outside the door during the Rwandan Genocide. Don’t miss this rare opportunity to EXPERIENCE Immaculee’s powerful journey through remarkable personal testimony, inspirational music and prayer.

Visit www.Immaculee.com to register for this mini-retreat on Friday/Saturday, December 8/9, before it sells out. Cost for one is \$57, for two \$76.



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.

What can I get my spouse for Christmas? Give each other something really special this year. How about a gift filled with romance and excitement? Your special gift is a weekend to remember—a Marriage Encounter weekend. The next weekend is February 2-4 in St. Peters, MO. You can find out more by calling 314-649-7317 or clicking on www.stl-wwme.org.

- 1. Revelation (#142)
- 2. Abraham & Mary (#144)
- 3. Faith (#150)
- 4. The Holy Spirit (#153)
- 5. Grace (#155)
- 6. Reason (#159)
- 7. Free (#160)
- 8. Credibility (#156)
- 9. Faith (#161)
- 10. Lose (#162)

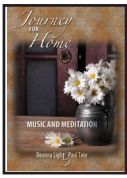
Catholic IQ Answers



There will be a **EUCHRE TOURNAMENT** sponsored by St. Joseph/Josephville Knights of Columbus on the second Saturday of each month now through March 2018. The next tournament is **Saturday, December 9** at 7pm at **1410 Josephville Road, Wentzville**. These tournaments are open to the public. Cost is \$10. Keep your partner. For more information call Ralph Orf at 636-485-5306.

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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



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