

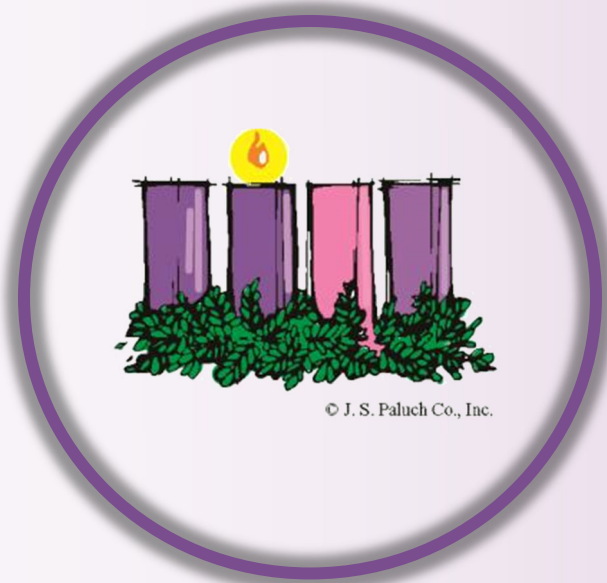
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

New Melle, Missouri

November 29, 2015

First Sunday of Advent

*"Be vigilant at all times
and pray that you have the strength
to escape the tribulations
that are imminent
and to stand before the Son of Man."*



Sacraments and Devotions

Celebration of the Mass

Weekend Masses in the Church

Vigil	4:00 pm
Sunday	7:30 am
	9:30 am
	11:15 am

Daily Mass

Monday through Friday 8:00 am, Chapel
Saturday 8:00 am, Church

Devotions and Prayers, St. Joseph Chapel

Rosary following 8:00 Mass
Rosary at noon on Wednesday
Tuesday after Mass-
 Perpetual Help devotions
Thursday after Mass-
 Respect Life prayers
Friday at 11:30 am- Chapel of
 Divine Mercy and Benediction

Reconciliation

Wednesday in church, 7:00 pm
Saturday after the 8:00 am Mass

Marriage

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

Baptism

Contact the parish office to register for
Baptism class and to arrange for the
Baptism.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Contact Shawn Mueller in the
parish office

Eucharistic Adoration

St. Joseph Chapel is open for adoration
24 hours daily from Monday after Mass
to Friday benediction. **Code: 145**

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Mailing address :
PO Box 100
New Melle, MO 63365

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

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

Website: www.ihm-newmelle.org

Parish Staff

Contact Information

Parish Office 636-398-5270

Pastor Fr. Tom Miller
Fr. Tom's cell phone; for emergency only
314-303-2428

askpadre@aol.com

Permanent Deacon Deacon Chris Ast
chrisast@archstl.org

Permanent Deacon Deacon Tony Falbo
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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

Prepare the way of the Lord



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Religious Education

Parish School of Religion (Grades 1 through 8)

September through May on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Confirmation Preparation (8th grade)

September through May on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Children's Liturgy of the Word

September through May on Sundays during the 9:30 am Mass

Adult Education

Wednesdays at 8:45 am and 6:10 pm.

This Week's Events

Birthright Christmas greeting cards will be available
after all the weekend Masses in the narthex.

Christmas quilt raffle tickets will be available
after all the weekend Masses in the narthex.

Sunday, November 29

9:30 am

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Monday, November 30

6:30 pm

Scouts, Founders Hall

6:30 pm

Scouts, trailer

7:00 pm

Bell choir rehearsal, church

7:00 pm

Pulse of the Parish Meeting, Grand Hall

Tuesday, December 1

9:00 am

Exercise Classes, Grand Hall Foyer

6:30 pm

Legion of Mary, St. Gianna

6:30 pm

Marian Council Christmas Dinner
for those with paid reservations

Wednesday, December 2

8:45 am

Sunday scripture Bible study, Weber Hall

6:00 pm

PSR, Founders Hall, Weber Hall

6:10 pm

Adult Bible Study, Grand Hall

7:00 pm

The Sacrament of Reconciliation, church

Thursday, December 3

9:00 am and 5:30 pm

Exercise Classes, Grand Hall Foyer

6:30 pm

RCIA classes, Weber Hall

7:00 pm

Choir Rehearsal, church

Friday, December 4

8:30 am

Quilters, Weber Hall

9:00 am

First Friday Breakfast at IHOP

Saturday, December 5

8:00 am

Mass followed by confessions, Church

JOIN THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER, 2015

Universal: That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all,
even those whose convictions differ from our own.

Evangelization: That pastors of the Church, with profound love for their flocks,
may accompany them and enliven their hope.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, November 28

8:00 am Mimi Ferguson +
4:00 pm Gus Tegeler +

Sunday, November 29

7:30 am Mary Fine +
9:30 am People of the Parish
11:15 am Bob Rapp +
Don and Cleo Schmidt +

Monday, November 30

8:00 am Billy Fuerst +
Shawn Grady +

Tuesday, December 1

8:00 am All Souls Intentions

Wednesday, December 2

8:00 am Bettogene King +
Gerrie Bader +

Thursday, December 3

9:00 am George Dudenhoeffer +
Ed Holstein +

Friday, December 4

8:00 am Holy Vocations

Saturday, December 5

8:00 am Joe Sinopole +
Leo and Anna Tevlin +
4:00 pm Walt Ketts +

Sunday, December 6

7:30 am Louise Seper +
9:30 am Helen Orf +
11:15 am People of the Parish

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6;
Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11;
Lk 3:1-6

SAINTS

Monday: St. Andrew

Thursday: St. Francis Xavier

Friday: St. John of Damascus; First Friday

Saturday: First Saturday

The Three Comings of Advent

There are three distinct comings of the Lord of which I know, His coming to humankind, His coming into humankind, and His coming against humankind.

—St. Bernard: *Third Sermon for Advent*

Scouting Units

Parish Rep (All Units) Jerry Hespen; 636-236-1955
Cub Pack Wesley Brandhorst; 636-327-0531
Scout Troop Chad Peters; 314-807-7177
Venture Crew Dana Hoffman; 636-734-8423

Budget and Finance John Wappelhorst
636-398-5786

Cemetery Committee Mark Keune
314-220-7075

Dinner Committee Richard Lalonde
636-798-2511

Knights of Columbus Mike Reel, Grand Knight
314-581-6797

Legion of Mary Nancy Hollenstein
636-798-2105

Marian Council Michelle Brothers, President
314-614-1114

Meals on Wheels Call the parish office
636-398-5270

Prayer Shawl Ministry Julia Kettler
314-616-0096

Pro-Life Committee Bill Winters
636-828-4133

Quilters Eleanor Sadlo
636-398-5595

Mary Ann Brakensiek
636-828-5776

St. Vincent DePaul For information or assistance,
call 636-398-5270, ex. 225

MEDITATION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL

[Jesus said,] "Be careful. . . . Be on watch and pray."

LUKE 21:34-36

Farmers hope for lots of rain right after they plant their corn. Once it sprouts and gets a good start, they hope for a "dry period." The reason is to force the corn's roots to grow downward in search of water, rather than stay on the surface. Unless the tap root of the corn grows downward to the "water level," the corn will wither and dry when the heat of summer sets in; it will have no way to draw up water. Our prayer life is like that. God usually gives us a good start. Then God lets a "dry period" set in to force our prayer roots to grow downward to the faith level, rather than stay on the surface at the feeling level. Why must prayer be primarily an exercise of faith rather than feeling?

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

THOMAS MERTON

Fr. Mark Link S.J. Vision 2000

Healed and Made Whole



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 7:00 PM until 8:30 PM Sunday through 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 or pray with 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.

Life is complicated and often in our journey of faith we find it difficult to make sense of our experiences. If there are things in your life that you have a difficult time wrapping your mind or heart around, please consider coming to talk to me in the Confessional. You don't need to celebrate the Sacrament. Just let me know that you would like to talk with me and I will be more than happy to listen to you. If you need 5 minutes or 50 to make sense of things I am willing to make the time to be with you. Like Our Lord, if there is one thing I desire for all of us, it is the gift of being healed and made whole.

Our time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or chatting about life is not a quick fix for complicated issues that may have affected you for years or perhaps your whole lifetime. Rather, it is a new and hopeful beginning. It is never easy to change the habits, attitudes and behaviors that have often perpetuated the problems in our lives, but if we never begin it will never happen. If we don't strive to make daily, intentional changes, we will hinder and inhibit real healing and growth. Just like our bodies, our souls often need surgery to correct major health issues and then follow-up therapy to restore us to the best health possible. Without the therapy, the surgery is far less effective. Jesus longs to heal us and make us whole. There is so much He wants to give us in this life and prepare us for in the next.

Blessed Advent,

Fr. Tom

The following dates I know I will not be in the Confessional:

November 30, December 1, December 15

Other dates may occur and I apologize that I may not be able to provide earlier notice.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – What is Advent?

While our society often equates Advent with the Christmas shopping season, it is, of course, much more! In the season of Advent, which begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas, we relive the long period of expectancy between the promise of a Messiah and the Incarnation of Christ. "Christmas is not an event within history but is rather the invasion of time by eternity" (Hans Urs von Balthasar). *How are you preparing for the coming of the Lord?*

ADVENT REFLECTION TIME

Treat yourself to something special for the Advent Season. Come join Deacon Chris 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 immediately after the 7:00 pm Mass on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. A signup sheet is in the narthex.

**NEWS
FROM THE
RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT**

PSR Corner

We collected close to 200 Boxes of Joy from the parish to send to children in Haiti and Guatemala. Wow! Thank you to everyone who participated

Schedule note. No PSR on Wednesday, November 25th for the Thanksgiving Break.



What is Advent?

Preparation for Christmas

Advent is the season of preparing for Christ's coming, but what do we mean by Christ's coming? We mean, first of all, His birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Bethlehem. If we do not prepare well for the annual commemoration of our Lord's birth, then surely we will not understand the meaning of our Christmas celebration. No matter how many times, over a lifetime, we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, it always seems new to us. The mystery of the birth of God the Son in our human flesh can never be fully comprehended by us. We never cease to wonder at the great mystery of God's love for us.

Preparation for Christ's coming in the Church

We also mean Christ's coming to us in the Church or, better, His dwelling with us always in the Church. The Advent Season reminds us of the many ways, most of all, the Holy Eucharist, in which Christ, Who first came into the world at Bethlehem, now remains with us in the Church, until He returns in glory on the last day. Through our observance of Advent, we overcome the tendency to reduce the life of Christ within us to an idea or sentiment, and we come face to face with the truth that, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we are alive in the same Christ Who was born at Bethlehem and Who died for us on Calvary. As Advent brings us more fully into the company of Christ, it also strengthens us for the pilgrimage of this life.

Preparation for Christ's coming on the last day

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

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



THE ST. VINCENT DEPAUL GIVING TREE

This year's Advent Giving Tree will be put together after next weekend, a little later than usual. The angel gift tags won't be available until the weekend of December 5 and 6. Since the gifts will be given out on December 19, you'll have only one week to return them to church. So here's the timeline:

December 5: the Giving Tree with its angel gift cards will be standing in the narthex. Please feel free to take a tag, purchase the item and attach the tag to the OUTSIDE of the package.

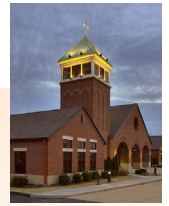
December 13: all gifts should be returned to the narthex, ready to be given to the person specified on the angel gift tag.

Please note: since the gifts will be handed out on Dec 19, anything brought in after that date will be too late to distribute.





NEWS FROM HOME



Stewardship

Nov. 29, 2015

St. Joseph Chapel "Heavenly Dusters"

Mary Hardesty

The collection figures for Sunday, Nov. 22 will be published next week.

Thank you for your generosity!

Try Electronic Offertory

Those who are pledging for the "Many Gifts. One Heart" new debt reduction campaign title. Pink debt reduction envelopes are included in the monthly envelope mailing.

There are options for giving. Use weekly envelopes or check out On-Line giving at www.ihm-newmelle.org

St. Vincent DePaul Society

Items needed for the pantry: detergent, bleach, sugar, razors, shave cream, spaghetti sauce, tuna, applesauce

Christmas Quilt Raffle

The IHM quilters have done it again. They've completed another gorgeous quilt, just in time for a



Christmas raffle.

The quilt in all its glory is pictured here. Tickets will be offered after all the weekend

Masses on Nov. 28-29, Dec. 5-6, and Dec. 12-13.

The drawing will

take place on Friday, Dec. 18 at 9:00 am.

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

**For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven.**

...a time to die...

Please pray for the recently deceased

Frances Randolph, daughter of Virginia Randolph.

May she rest in the peace of Christ.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Marion Mueller
Patricia Prongue
Patricia Rudolf
Shirley McDonald
Ann Fitzgerald
Susan Van Booven
Terri Guernsey
Melissa Van Hoy
Dave Hendrix
Al Bamert
Ted Feldewerth
Jo-nell Falcon
Nancy Hollenstein
Alexander Wilmes
Charlie Grady
Frank Modder
Denny Steinmeyer
Tom Miller
Mildred Riley
Darryl and Clara
Bockting
Angel Owens
Ted Pivin
Rita Elfrink
Bob Cova
Judy Jacobs' mom
Rick Cobleigh
Tricia Woods
Joan Allen
Joan Martin
Chris Hanna
Rita Bendel's brother
Tom

Michael Candrl and
his family
Linda Candrl and her
family
Jackie Hackett
Virgil Gildehaus
Alice Molitor
Maxine Drinen
Tom Holstein
Mary Meyer and her
family
JoAnn Cwiklowski
Nancy
Jewel Kostecki
Shirley Sims
Cy and Catherine
Bamert
Lisa Clark
Tammy Boyd
Larry Hanna
Terry Hagan
Dave Gentry
Elaine Klein
Mary Alice Dickherber
Sue Orlet
Bob Blackford
Louise Fisher
David and Mary Karll
Ken Donaghue
Denny and Joan
Duvall
Jerry Schmitz
Bobbi Beeson

Charles and Kathy
Duckworth
Ed Hoeckelmann
Gerald Hailey
Virginia Randolph
Barb Pope
Bill Ulery
Sally Buck
Gerald Hailey
Pat Ryan
Monsignor Mank
Kim F.
Sylvia
Antonette
Imogene Freeman
Steven Albright
Jennifer
Frances Bussen
Tim
Bonnie
Yvonne Scott
Bob Berfanger
John Pellerito
Gerald Bussen
Bernie Lears
Kathy
Walt Reel
Mary Edington
Debbie
Norma Jean
Maschmann

Help decorate the Grand Hall for Christmas.

We have a very small

window this Year to get the Grand Hall decorated for Christmas and need a LOT of help! Please help **us Monday, November 30** to decorate the tree and the hall after Mass, or get there whenever you can! We need some people capable of climbing a ladder! We also need help **Tuesday, December 1** after morning Mass to set the tables. **There will be goodies!** Sign up sheets are in the Narthex to decorate the Grand Hall on Monday, Nov. 30 and to set the tables on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Do you have some time to help decorate the church for Christmas? If so, keep these dates and times open:



- ⇒ On Saturday, December 12 at 9:00 am, the wreaths will be prepped in the Sausage Sales area.
- ⇒ On Sunday, December 20 at 12:30 pm, the main body of the church and narthex will be decorated.
- ⇒ We can always use more hands! There are sign up sheets in the narthex or call Nancy at 636- 357- 3456.

New information on Legion of Mary: Meetings will now take place every Tuesday at St. Gianna Church. Meetings will begin at 6:45 on Tuesday evenings. For more information call Nancy at 636-699-6920.

What's Your Catholic IQ?

1. Advent is the liturgical season that prepares us for

- a) Christmas b) Easter c) shopping
d) Christ's baptism e) a new year's diet

2. Incarnation means

- a) all nations will bow to Jesus
b) carnations will be used to celebrate Christmas
c) God took on human flesh
d) the Virgin Mary is among us

3. Matthew 1:23 quotes the prophet Isaiah (7:14), saying: "...the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." Emmanuel means

- a) Thank you, Jesus b) God is with us
c) God is coming d) Jesus Christ is Lord

4. This solemnity celebrates the magi from the east giving homage to the infant Jesus.

- a) Holy Trinity b) Tres Leches
c) Immaculate Conception d) Epiphany

5. The Christmas Season ends with the feast of

- a) the Lord's Supper b) Thanksgiving
c) the Archangels d) the Baptism of the Lord

6. The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is a holy day of obligation celebrated on

- a) May 1 b) July 4 c) January 1 d) December 25

7. The pope is the ___ of Rome.

- a) Presbyter b) Bishop c) Director d) Conductor

8. During the Advent and Christmas Seasons, Catholics may pray the ___ Mysteries of the Rosary on Sundays.

- a) Luminous b) Glorious c) Joyful d) Sorrowful

9. When the Holy Family fled to Egypt, they were

- a) chased by Herod's soldiers
b) sent back to Nazareth for being illegal immigrants
c) welcomed and taken in by the Jewish community in Egypt
d) sent to a detention center until their refugee status was processed

10. Jesus' first visitors were

- a) the shepherds
b) the little drummer boy and his guitarist
c) the innkeeper
d) Herod's soldiers

Answers on the next page →

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEK

December 5 4:00 pm

EM: Pat Noack, Jackie Barclay, Karen Wilson,
Bryan Potter, Mary Jean Hartenbach, Wilma
Zurweller

L: Kathy & Richard Lalonde

GB: Bill & Bernadine Pollihan

S: William Frederick, Janna Joerling

U: Jerry Braden, Larry Graves, Tom Zaleuke, Joe
Spiess, Stan Nikonowicz, **one more please**

December 6 7:30 am

EM: John Fiacco, Bill Key, Peggy Dupree, Jan
Kardasz, Mary Hardesty, Denise Pool

L: Michelle Greiwe, Lucy Smith

GB: Rich & Jolene Molitor

S: Paige & Genny Greiwe

U: Ed Rabbitt, Walt Reel, Frank Marquart, Larry
Gassei

December 6 9:30 am

EM: John & Karen Wappelhorst, Donna Cuddihee,
Maureen Blondin, Joan Marren-Slaughter,
Donna Wolff, Dave & Pam DeBold

L: Bill Winters, Kris Jenkins

GB: Rich & Judy Podhorn

S: Brody Stafford, Sarah White

U: Jim Blondin, Charles Hinkle, Curt Eccardt,
Stan Kostecki, Gary Struckhoff

December 6 11:15 am

EM: Pat Roche, Tim & Suzanne Michaelree, Pat
Foster, Kat Menne, Joan Falbo

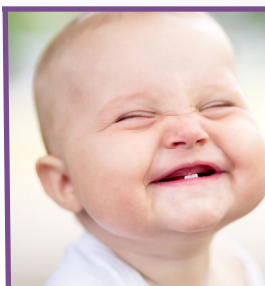
L: Chris Menne, Patrice Riley

GB: Sue & Zachary Bozich

S: Thomas Menne, Madison Skambraks

U: Todd Neihouse, Glen Taylor, **one more please**

**The liturgical ministry sign-up sheets for
Christmas may be found in the narthex.**



BIRTHRIGHT CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Pro-Life Committee will be selling
Birthright Christmas cards after all
Masses the weekends of
Nov. 28-29 and Dec. 5-6. Please consider
supporting Birthright when planning
your Christmas card purchases.

Please note:

December 27 is the cut-off date for making a contribution to be counted for 2015 so that statements can be printed in a timely fashion. Solemnity of Mary contributions (Jan. 1) are counted as a 2016 contribution. Year-end statements will be printed in early January so that you can pick up them up in Weber Hall.

Marian Council Party and Raffle

Tickets will be sold after all the weekend
Masses for the Marian Council Christmas
Party, Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30 PM in
the Grand Hall. Tickets are \$5.00 each and
include dinner with choice of entrée, 2 wine
tickets, and live entertainment. We will also
have a silent auction and installation of
new officers. All ladies of the Parish are
encouraged to attend. Reservation and pay-
ment deadline is Friday, Nov. 27, at 4pm.

The Marian Council is also
sponsoring the raffle of a
gorgeous \$350 sterling silver hinged,
filigreed Silpada bangle bracelet, plus a polishing
cloth. Chances are \$3 each, or 3/\$5.00. Only 200 tickets
will be sold. These can be purchased at Masses this week-
end or at the Marian council Christmas Party on Tuesday,
Dec. 1. The drawing will be held that night.
Questions— call Michelle, 314-614-1114.

Catholic IQ Answers:

1. **a)** Advent, the season before the Christmas Season, helps us prepare for the birth of Jesus. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas.
 2. **c)** Christmas celebrates the mystery of the Incarnation—when God took on human flesh. “The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness” and “[T]he Son of God became man so that we might become God” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 459 and 460, emphasis in original).
 3. **b)** Before the Incarnation, God spoke through signs and prophets. In Christ, however, God spoke to us face to face and lived among us.
 4. **d)** The visit by the three kings (the wise men or the magi), traditionally celebrated on January 6, revealed even more deeply that the child born to Mary was the Son of God.
 5. **d)** The Christmas Season lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, when we celebrate Jesus being baptized by his cousin, John, in the Jordan River.
 6. **c)** “[T]he Church confesses that Mary is truly ‘Mother of God’” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 495).
 7. **b)** As Bishop of Rome, the pope is the successor of St. Peter, the Apostle Jesus selected to be the rock upon which the Church would be built (Matthew 16:18).
 8. **c)** The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary invite meditation on the birth and early childhood of Jesus. Traditionally, they are prayed on Mondays and Saturdays.
 9. **c)** Biblical scholars contend that the Holy Family probably settled within the Jewish community in Egypt during their years as refugees.
 10. **a)** In terms of their social status, shepherds at that time were similar to the homeless population today.
- Adapted from Catechist Magazine

Enkindle - Infertility Support

The journey of infertility and miscarriage is a difficult one and sometimes it becomes too challenging for you and your spouse to travel alone. The Archdiocesan Office of Natural Family is offering a free half hour appointment to speak with a registered nurse and a licensed professional counselor in person or over the phone. To find out more about this program or to set up a complimentary phone or face to face half hour appointment, please contact the Archdiocesan Office of Natural Family Planning at 314-997-7675. The next date these are available is December 10.

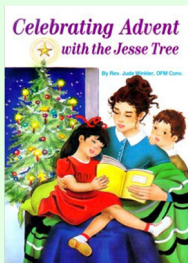
We want to offer you a safe place to talk about this journey. Through these conversations, we hope to offer education as well as compassion as you learn to live a balanced life with this cross. Faith tells us our life is ultimately in God’s hands. Along our way, He sends us instruments to help us carry our burdens. As you work toward acceptance of this challenge, our ministry is to offer hope while seeking peace.

Listen to **Catholic radio, AM 1460 KHOJ**. Hear engaging live call-in shows, daily Holy Mass, devotions, Catechetics and much more. For a program schedule please call [\(314\) 752-7000](tel:3147527000)

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 Lighthouse CD Rack: Church Narthex



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

The book includes a page on preparing for Christmas, and what the Jesse Tree is about. The rest of the book retells the stories of the Jesse tree.

Beautifully illustrated. 32 pages. Part of a larger series of children’s books – great set for the family.

From the Parish Library: Grand Hall



A good movie for the Feast of Christ the King. What price would you pay for freedom? In the exhilarating action epic FOR GREATER GLORY an impassioned group of men and women each make the decision to risk it all for family, faith and the very future of their country, as the films adventure unfolds against the long-hidden, true story of the 1920s Cristero War -the daring people’s revolt that rocked 20th Century North America. Superb cast and excellent production values. A must for people who believe that the real "Super Heroes" are not found in comic books but in the Grace, Faith and Courage of ordinary human beings who respond to the assault on their God Given Rights, and live and die for values that transcend their mundane needs and desires.

WHAT IS A DEACON?

A permanent deacon is a man ordained—like bishop or priest—to serve as Christ Jesus who “came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). The word deacon comes from the Greek word for service: diakonia.

Have you signed up to pray for vocations? The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. When it is your turn, Fr. Tom will give you the icon, a candle, and a load of information to ponder. When you return it the next week, another family will take it home and continue praying. **Let’s keep it going!**

Wanted: Bicycles for local children Sts. Joachim & Ann Care Service is looking for bicycle donations for needy children in the annual Adopt-A-Family Christmas program. Last year, more than 350 bikes were given out at Christmas. The Loyal Order of the Squirrels will refurbish, fix and clean the bikes that are donated. All bikes can be dropped off at the garage located behind the Care Service at 4116 McClay Road in St. Charles. [636-441-1302, ext. 266](tel:6364411302).

Photographs

Parishioners who had their free 8x10's mailed to the church will find them in a basket in the narthex. Please find yours and take it home.

Please note: It is getting much more difficult to find a priest to cover Masses when Father Tom is away. Recently we had made arrangements only to be notified on Sunday that the Monsignor had a conflict and would not be able to be here. **With that in mind, we have decided to adjust the time for the remaining Parish Missionary Disciples class dates. ONLY on the following dates we will have Mass at 7:30 instead of 8:00: Tuesday, December 15; Thursday, January 14; Thursday, February 11; Wednesday, March 9**



IHM Scouts Christmas Tree Lot

Located in the pavilion next to the chapel

The tree lot hours are as follows:

Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Sundays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Weekdays (Mon. through Fri.) from 5:00 to 8:00 PM



The lot will close Sunday, December 20, unless we sell all the trees before then.

Here's what we'll have for sale:

Wreaths		
	20"	\$20
	26"	\$25
Trees		
Balsam (Premium)		
	7-8'	\$55
	8-10'	\$65
	10-12'	\$90
Balsam (Field Run)		
	7-9'	\$50
Fraser		
	7-8'	\$65
	8-10'	\$85
	10-12'	\$95



**Come and support
our Scouts!**



Parish Office: 636-398-5270

Future Events

☒ **The next POP (Pulse of the Parish) Meeting** will take place on Monday, Nov. 30 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Grand Hall.

☒ **The Marian Council Christmas Dinner** will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 1 in the Grand Hall at 6:30 pm for those with paid reservations

☒ **First Friday breakfast** at IHOP in Wentzville— 9:00 am on Dec. 4.

☒ **December 8 is The Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation.** Mass will take place at 8:00 am and 7:00 pm in the church.

☒ **Breakfast with Santa**, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus; Sunday, December 13 in Founders Hall. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 to 11:00 am with Santa arriving at about 9:00.

☒ **The St. Vincent dePaul Society** will meet in the pantry on Monday, December 14 at 6:00 pm.

☒ **Pro-Life Meeting** will take place on Monday, December 14 at 7:00 pm in Weber Hall.

☒ **Crossroads** for young adults will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 15. Contact Julie Lassiter for more information, julie.r.lassiter@gmail.com

☒ **Men's Christmas Dinner**, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will take place at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, Dec. 15 in the Grand Hall.

☒ **First reconciliation** for PSR Grade 2 will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Mary Queen of Angels, a pro-life organization in O'Fallon that provides diapers, wipes, toiletries, formula, baby equipment, clothing, etc., is in **desperate** need of children's WINTER clothing in sizes 12 months through size 7/8 - we will not have enough outfits in these sizes to provide our moms with winter clothing for their children. Our address is 827 West Terra Ln., O'Fallon, MO 63366 Our hours are Tues/Thurs 10a-2p; Wed. 4-7p; Fri/Sat 9a-12p. We can be reached at 636-379-5070 . God bless.

MISSOURI LIFE CARAVAN is once again organizing buses for the Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Thursday- Saturday, Jan. 21- 23, 2016. The cost before Dec. 25 is \$165. For registration contact us at: [314-434-4900](tel:3144344900) .You can also download our registration form at www.missourilife.org . Registration deadline is Jan. 4, 2016.

Out and About

Breakfasts and Dinners

Oh, no! You may have to cook for yourself this week!

Just for fun

- **Spirit of Christmas Banquet and Dinner Show;** fun, food, performers and musicians from 15 St. Louis area parishes; Dec. 4 and 5 at 7:00 pm and Dec. 6 at 1:00 pm at the Four Points Sheraton in Fairview Heights; \$35 per adult. Call 618-409-0015 for ticket information.
- **Annual Holiday Bake Sale at Friedens Peace United Church of Christ** in New Melle. Our **Annual Holiday Cookie, Candy and Cinnamon Roll Sale Sunday** will take place on **December 6 from 11:00 to 2:00 p.m.** As always, we will have an amazing assortment of homemade cookies to be sold by the pound, including our decorated sugar cookies, just in time for your Christmas entertaining. We will also be taking pre-orders for homemade cinnamon rolls!! Call the church office at [636-828-5980](tel:636-828-5980), leaving your name, phone number and how many dozen you would like, frozen and \$10 per dozen. DEADLINE To Order: Tuesday, December 1 before noon.
- **Fundraiser for the Marty Kothe family:** The Flint Hill Knights of Columbus, 2061 Grothe Rd., is sponsoring a chicken fry on Friday, December 11 from 5:00 – 7:00 to benefit Marty Kothe who has been challenged with serious recurring health issues. If you are unable to attend, donations are greatly appreciated. For additional information call 636-327-7386.

Opportunities

- **Evening of Recollection for Women:** Wednesday, December 2, at St Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. A priest of Opus Dei will give two reflections on some aspect of the spiritual life and will be available for confessions. The activity begins at 7:15-9:30pm. For more information, please contact Mary Schlueter [314-517-1277](tel:314-517-1277)
- **A Morning with Mary, Mother of Priests** (for women) presented by **Fr. Mark Chrismer, Saturday December 12, 2015** at St. Joseph Parish in Cottleville. **Free . SCHEDULE:** 8:00 am- parish Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe; 8:45 am - Women's conference on Spiritual motherhood for priests, Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction, Rosary and other prayers for priests. 10:30 am- Light reception, ending at 11:00 am. Please Register by **December 9-** -- by email to: smfpstl@gmail.com ;-- by phone: call [314-275-0890](tel:314-275-0890)
- **Invitation to Divorced and Separated Catholics:** The holidays can be difficult for divorced and separated families. Make your healing a priority in the new year by attending **The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide**, part of a new ministry to the divorced. The 12-week DVD program follows lay men and women on the journey to true healing, along with Catholic experts who address denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, the kids, the ex-spouse, spirituality, annulment and much more. Immaculate Conception – Dardenne parish is hosting the program beginning January 7, 2016. Contact Debi at debi-jo@att.net or 314.276.3859 for more information.
- **Advent Retreats:** IL Ritiro Franciscan Retreat Center Dittmer, MO is offering 2 different retreats during Advent. "Stations of the Nativity Retreat: Celebrating God in our Midst" December 3 & 5, 2015; Pre-Christmas Franciscan Hermitage Retreat scheduled for December 21 Beginning at 5:30 pm - December 23 Noon. These Retreats provides quality time during the Advent season to be spent in prayer communally and in quiet reflection. Call: 636-274-0554; Email: il.ritiro@gmail.com; website: www.il-ritiro.com
- **Advent Day of Prayer:** December is filled with a flurry of activities while our heart desires a time of quiet and peace. Join us for an **Advent Day of Prayer** at the Sanguis Christi Spirituality Center, 3522 Utah Street. St. Louis, MO on Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. The day will begin and end with prayer together. In between is your time to rest in the love of the Incarnated Jesus through solitude, reading, listening to healing music or a walk in nature. Lunch is provided and we ask a free will offering. The deadline for registration is Wednesday, December 2, 2015. For more information or to register, call Sr. Carol Orf at [314-560-1028](tel:314-560-1028) or email corf@cpps-ofallon.org

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: Would you not want a weekend away with your spouse just before or just after the holidays – just the two of you? For a time you will never forget, plan to attend a Marriage Encounter weekend on December 4-6, 2015 or in 2016 on February 5-7 or April 22-24. To find out more, apply at www.stl-wwme.org or call 315.649.7317.

*Your ways, O Lord, make known to me;
teach me your paths, guide me in your truth
and teach me, for you are God my savior,
and for you I wait all the day.* *Psalms 25*

Planned Giving Tip

Did you know that you can easily name IHM as a beneficiary of your insurance policy?

The majority of gifts to sustain our parish come from our friends, like you, who name us in their will or trust document.

When considering a planned gift to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, please contact Michael Weisbrod, Gift Planning Officer at the Roman Catholic Foundation, at (314) 918-2893 or michael.weisbrod@rcfstl.org to learn of the various ways to attain your goal.