

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

New Melle, Missouri



December 21, 2014

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Behold,
I am the handmaid
of the Lord.
May it be done to me
according to your word.*

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- Chaplet of
 Divine Mercy and Benediction

Reconciliation

Wednesday in church, 7:30 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
tony.2011@centurylink.net

Director of Religious Education/ PSR
Shawn Mueller
smueller@ihm-newmelle.org

Business Manager Laura Orf
lorf@ihm-newmelle.org

Secretary Marilyn O'Neill
secretary@ihm-newmelle.org

Office Assistant Sarah Aulbach
saulbach@ihm-newmelle.org

Young Adult Coordinator Julie Lassiter
julie.r.lassiter@gmail.com

Music Director Marilyn O'Neill
secretary@ihm-newmelle.org

Safe Environment Coordinator
Jeanne Smith
jsmith@ihm-newmelle.org

Parish Nurse Linda Ginther
lagg1787@gmail.com

Weddings, Receptions, Events

Hall Rental Information Pat Gentry
636-398-5270

Wedding Coordinators
Irene Caldwell 636-398-4311
Carolyn Schellert 636-398-5139

Event Coordinators
Joan Marren-Slaughter 636-398-5270
Mary Keune 636-398-5270

Welcome!

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 6:00 pm.

This Week's Events

Sunday, December 21

9:30 am

Children's liturgy during Mass

10:30 am Children's Bell Choir after Mass, in the church by the piano

7:00 pm

Reconciliation, church

Monday, December 22

8:00 am

Mass, church

6:30 pm

Scouts, Founders Hall

7:00 pm

Bell choir rehearsal, church

7:00 pm

Reconciliation, church

Tuesday, December 23

7:00 pm

Reconciliation, church

Wednesday, December 24

Thursday, December 25

The parish office will be closed today.

Friday, December 26

The parish office will be closed today.

8:30 am

Quilters, Weber Hall

Saturday, December 27

8:00 am

Mass followed by confession, church

Sunday, December 28

9:30 am

Children's liturgy during Mass

Holiday Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve Mass – 5:00 pm

Midnight Mass will begin at midnight;

prelude music will begin at 11:30 pm

Christmas Day Mass – 10:00 am

New Year's Eve Mass – 5:00 pm

New Year's Day Mass – 10:00 am

Join the Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December

Christmas, hope for humanity. That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will. **Parents.** That parents may be true evangelizers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 20

8:00 am Patricia Hubecky +
4:00 pm Carol Simon +

Sunday, December 21

7:30 am People of the Parish
9:30 am Rosemary Ralls +
Grant Smith, Sr. +
11:15 am Jim Weiskopf +

Monday, December 22

8:00 am Erma Guinn +
Ed Szostek +

Tuesday, December 23

8:00 am All Souls Intentions

Wednesday, December 24

8:00 am Special Intention
5:00 pm IHM Parishioners
Midnight IHM Parishioners

Thursday, December 25

10:00 am IHM Parishioners

Friday, December 26

8:00 am Helen Orf +
Joseph Sinopole +

Saturday, December 27

8:00 am Anna May Fuerst +
Johnny Tarkington +
4:00 pm Judy Ulery +
Randy and Lukas Schneider +

Sunday, December 28

7:30 am Ann Seper +
Jerome Kluge +
9:30 am Gail Willman +
Helen Orf +
11:15 am People of the Parish

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;
Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;
Lk 1:67-79

Thursday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29;
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14;
Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12;
Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;
Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab,
16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5;
Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

Parish Organizations

Scouting Units

Parish Rep (All Units) Jerry Hespen; 636-236-1955
Cub Pack Karen Williams; 636-699-7517
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

Carolyn Schellert, President
314-232-2042

Meals on Wheels

Bob Rapp
636-398-4776

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

The angel Gabriel was sent from God, to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin.....[who] shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus. Luke 1:26-38

Isaiah 7:14 is a fascinating prophecy. "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son--and his name shall be called Emmanuel." God would give a sign. He would be "God with us". The house of David from the time of Ahaz on would be waiting for this son. A virgin birth? When the Hebrew term was translated into Greek and Aramaic, the word specifically chosen meant "virgin". This was to be the sign as high as the heavens. This was the Jewish understanding of the Scripture through the centuries. It even gives the name...Emmanuel, God is with us. No one else made a claim to fulfill this prophecy, until Jesus. Many have appeared throughout history, declaring that they were from God, messengers to be heard. What are the certain tests or standards of these claimants? Test One. Has any one of the claimants been pre-announced or foretold? Fulton J. Sheen

4th Sunday of Advent & Merry Christmas!

Dear parishioners and guests,

If you are reading this on the Fourth Sunday of Advent our time for Christmas is nigh! With only a few days to go before the Solemn Feast of the Incarnation we prepare our hearts and homes for such a mighty guest. May these remaining days be filled with ever-growing anticipation. The Gospel of this Sunday presents us with the beautiful and familiar scene of the Annunciation. May our lives be as receptive of that of the Blessed Mother. May our *yes* to God open us to the power of God touching and transforming our lives.



For those reading this on Christmas Eve or day:

On behalf of all of the staff I wish you and your families a very Blessed and Merry Christmas! As we gather to celebrate Christmas let us reflect upon the uniqueness of our faith as Christians. We celebrate the mystery of God made flesh. While we joyfully reflect upon that first Christmas when the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph received the newborn Christ, we are reminded by the Gospel of St. John that Jesus is God's eternal Word. The Word was with God in the beginning and all that is came to be through God's Word and the working of the Holy Spirit.

Alone among the religions of the world we as Christians celebrate the profound intimacy of our God who became like us in all things but sin. We celebrate our faith in one God who is a community of Persons that overflows with abundant creative life and love. Our creation is the fruit of that abundant creative love. No necessity, no hidden desire or motive, no need "caused" creation other than the overflowing nature of Trinitarian love. God creates us to share in His life, and gave us revelation and faith to form that life. It's hard to grasp or even begin to appreciate a love like that because all of our "loves" bear some weight of need and necessity. In God's love there is no need or necessity but only desire for the beloved. Ever so slowly we pray that such love will transform us humbly and subtly into the likeness of the One who loves us.

As Catholics we not only share in the profound intimacy of our God with our brothers and sisters of Christian belief, we also acknowledge that God comes to us in the Eucharist. Few experiences are meant to be more intimate than holding the Lord in our hands, being fed by His Body and Blood and experiencing the mystery of communion upon our reception of Him. May we accept the invitation to come to the altar, to open our ears to God's loving truth in Scripture, to praise the Father for the gift of His Son, to offer ourselves in union with Jesus, and to implore the Holy Spirit to give us the Body and Blood of Jesus while forming us into active members of the Body of Christ. Like the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph we are privileged to welcome, behold and receive the Son of God. We received Him in humility and cradle Him in gratitude. O Come let us adore Him!

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Tom and the Staff of IHM

"It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal."

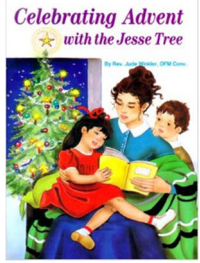
Saint John Paul II



NEWS
FROM THE
RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT

At the December 17th class, parents were asked to pick up report cards at the end of class and have a brief exchange with the catechist. Note: There will be no classes on December 24 and December 31. We will be back on January 6.

A good conscience is a continual Christmas. -Benjamin Franklin



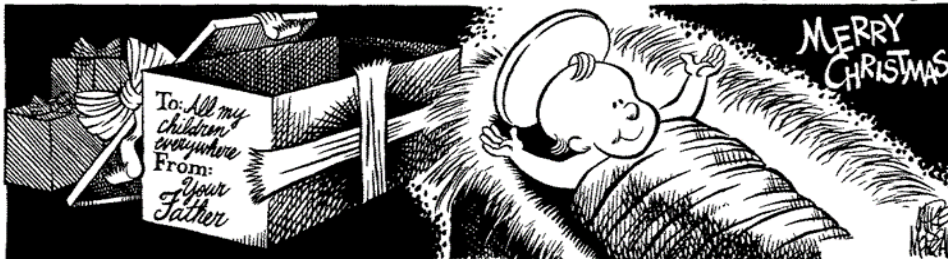
B.C.



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FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE

by Mike Morgan



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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Dave Hendrix
Al Bamert
Ted Feldewerth
Charlie Grady
Janet Hespen's Dad
Jane Holstein's sister
John, who has had
back surgery
Ann Fitzgerald
Keri and Jesse Knopp
and their unborn baby
Marion Mueller
Patricia Rudolf
Shirley McDonald
Diane Bocklage
Jack Hitt
Steve Geldien
Terri Guernsey
Maria Miller

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



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ECHOING MARY'S DECISION

The angel Gabriel today confronts Mary with a mystery. The mystery of salvation in Christ is not a mystery that is solved, but a reality beyond our comprehension that we must choose to enter into. In the liturgy of the Eastern Church, everyone waits to see if Mary will enter into the mystery: God waits, Adam and Eve and all the souls of the dead who long for paradise wait, angels wait for new heavenly companions. And there is much rejoicing when her decision is "yes." We have less dramatic choices offered to us, but the mystery of our salvation in Christ is by no means "solved." We may understand it a bit better due to Mary's "yes." We may be a bit closer to it through the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But it still remains a mystery to which we all must give our own "yes." Soon we will be singing "O come, let us adore him." May our Advent prayer, our echo of Mary's "yes," continue then, so we may enter into the mystery of our salvation in Jesus Christ, God among us.

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NEWS FROM HOME



Stewardship

December 21, 2014

St. Joseph Chapel "Heavenly Dusters"

Mary Ann Brakensiek

The "Heavenly Dusters" schedule can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex.

The "Heavenly Dusters" schedule needs to be updated. Please call the office if you have changed your information.

Collection figures for Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014

General Offertory: \$12,188.69

Online Donations: \$1,933.00

Total: \$14,121.69

Try Electronic Offertory

Those who are pledging for the "Many Gifts. One Heart" new debt reduction campaign should mark their envelopes with the correct 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.ilm-newmelle.org

St. Vincent DePaul Society

Items needed for the food pantry: Jelly, chili beans, canned meats, Coffee, sugar, oil, bleach, trash bags, Kleenex, paper towels, shave cream.

Memorial tribute and healing cards are available. The order forms can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

*May your Christmas
be blessed!
from
Father Tom
and
the parish office staff!*



What's Your Catholic IQ?

During this fourth week of Advent, we look forward to the Feast of Christmas. Since people often rejoice by singing, this week's puzzle is all about Christmas music. Can you identify the songs from these short descriptions?

1. A dozen 24-hour Yule periods
2. O approach, y'all devoted happy and victorious.....
3. Miniscule hamlet in the far east
4. Befell during the transparent bewitching hour
5. O greetings of ease and happiness.
6. O sacred darkness, the asterisks are brilliantly shimmering.
7. Fantasies of a colorless December 25th
8. Harmony on the planet, kindness to Homo sapiens.....
9. Ooh, celestial body of marvel, celestial body of strength.
10. Ourselves bid yourselves a joyous Noel and a cheerful neoteric 365 days...

Answers on the next page →

CATHOLIC MEN FOR CHRIST

8TH ANNUAL ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE

Date: Saturday, February 7, 2015

Time: 7 AM doors open; 8:30 AM Conference begins; Conference concludes with 4:00 PM Vigil Mass

Location: Peabody Opera House, Downtown St. Louis

Theme: The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. - Luke 10:2.

Speakers: George Weigel, Tim Staples, Terry Barber and Monsignor James J. Ramacciotti.

The Catholic Men for Christ Conference has a newly designed "user friendly" website. Find conference details and complete your online registration at catholicmenforchrist.org.

CATHOLIC WOMEN FOR CHRIST

6TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2015

Time: 7:45 AM doors open; 9:00 AM Keynote, 4:00 PM Concluding Mass

Location: St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, MO

Theme: If you are what you should be, you will set the world on fire." - St. Catherine of Siena.

Speakers: Teresa Tomeo, Syndicated Catholic talk show host and motivational speaker and Brenda

Sharman, Founding National Director of Pure Fashion.

For more details and registration, please visit

catholicwomenforchrist.org

CATHOLICS COME HOME

Do you know anyone, a family member or friend, who has fallen away from the Church? Do you wish and pray they would return? During the season of Advent we are asking you to identify them by placing their FIRST names or INITIALS on the printed copy of praying hands located on the table in the narthex. Place the paper in the basket. Please commit to praying one "Our Father", one "Hail Mary" and one "Glory Be" each day of Advent. We will join you in praying for them to return to church. Prayer is powerful and God hears each of us. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to inspire them to return to Church and God during this Holy time of the year.



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By the year 800, when anointing was defined as the proper office of priests, very complicated rituals began to take shape. Perhaps this was to reassure the laity, who had memories of an earlier practice, that the new way was not only better, but impossible for a layperson to conduct. Blessings and sprinkling of holy water, the singing of as many as seven psalms, penance, anointing of all the senses, viaticum, all capped off by the clothing of the sick person in penitential garments, were part of the rite. This proved unwieldy, and creative spirits got to work. By the 1500s people made distinctions between visiting the sick, anointing, and viaticum.

The attempt of the Church to be faithful to the image of a healing Christ has some complicated history, including centuries when the celebration was rare. Most sick people had no access to the rites at all; only monastics or the well-off had much hope of this care. Today, those unhappy days are long behind us, and the care of the sick is an essential task in every parish's life. As Christmas approaches almost everyone comes in contact with someone who is a candidate for pastoral care. You live out the best of our tradition when you arrange for a sick person to receive Holy Communion or the sacrament of the sick and the consolation of regular contact with the faith community. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

ANSWERS TO CATHOLIC IQ

1. The Twelve Days of Christmas
2. Oh Come All Ye Faithful
3. O Little Town of Bethlehem
4. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
5. O tidings of comfort and joy... "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"
6. O Holy Night
7. I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
8. Peace on Earth, goodwill toward men... "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"
9. Star of Wonder
10. We Wish You a Merry Christmas



CHECK IT OUT

...for youth and young adults

YDinner—YDisciple

Group Meeting- in the Grand Hall on
Wednesday, January 7, 2015,
from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.



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

...a time to die...

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Catherine Marquart,
Sister-in-law of Frank and Rosemary Marquart;
and Patti Kendrick,
cousin of Dianne Sudbrock.
May they rest in the peace of Christ.



Do you get emails from the "Church of IHM New Melle"?

Constant Contact has been a great, powerful and inexpensive way to communicate with members of the parish regarding upcoming events, obituary notices, general news and more. As always, such email addresses are blind copied to respect privacy, and there is also an option to unsubscribe on the email itself. But given this gift of communication, would you like to be added to the list? Just send an email to the parish office at smueller@ihm-newmelle.org

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE- Wednesday, Dec. 31, 7 pm-1 am; Doors open at 7pm
St. Paul KC Hall - 1270 Church Road St Paul, MO

Open bar from 7:30pm-12:30am; Open bar and appetizers included!

This year's entertainment: DJ

Tickets in advance: \$30 per person and \$35 per person at the door!

To purchase in advance: Julie Osvath - [314-303-0134](tel:314-303-0134) or Mary Harig - [636-578-7140](tel:636-578-7140)

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

December 27

4:00

EM: Pat Noack, Bryan Potter, Jackie Barclay,
Ann Zaleuke, Nancy Ast, Bernadine Pollihan
L: Kathleen Ditch, Gerard Knott
GB: Stan & Barb Nikonowicz
S: Jennifer Bossert, Janna Joerling
U: Larry Graves, John Bossert, Joe Spiess, Tom
Zaleuke

December 28

7:30

EM: John & Karen Wappelhorst, Peggy Dupree,
Loretta Bruns, Jan Kardasz, Bill Key
L: Kris Jenkins, Mary Hardesty
GB: Walt & Jean Reel
S: Andy & Daniel Vehige
U: Ed Rabbitt, Larry Gassei, Rich Molitor, Gary
Potter

December 28

9:30

EM: Maureen Blondin, Doug Norton, Bob
Leeker, Laura Orf, Michelle Greiwe, Donna
Cuddihee, Walter & Nancy Hollenstein
L: Judy Podhorn, Claudia Riley
GB: Bob & Irene Caldwell
S: Paige & Genny Greiwe, Madison Skambraks
U: Chris Molitor, Shawn Sweetin, Terry
Schneider, Dave DeBold, Jim Blondin, Justin Molitor

December 28

11:15

EM: Tim & Suzanne Michaelree, Pat Foster, Katie
Wibbenmeyer, Mary Keune, Kat Menne
L: Linda Ginther, Tim Beerman
GB: Mike & Cindy White
S: Emma Wibbenmeyer, Elli Russell
U: Todd Neihouse, Glen Taylor

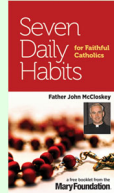
**LITURGICAL MINISTERS, PLEASE NOTE:
THE SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR NEW YEAR'S
ARE IN THE NARTHEX.**

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 Lighthouse Catholic CD – Pamphlet Rack: Narthex During

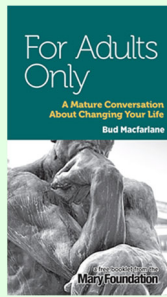
From the Lighthouse Catholic CD – Pamphlet Rack: Narthex



About This Booklet

Already the most popular Catholic booklet of its kind in America, **Seven Daily Habits for Faithful Catholics** was adapted from a spectacularly successful article by Fr. John McCloskey (the "convert-maker" who helped notorious abortionist Bernard Nathanson convert to Catholicism). It provides seven traditional ways to spend more time on a daily basis with Jesus and His mother, along with practical advice on how to approach and implement spiritual habits amidst our distracting secular culture. Its power to transform lives is profoundly simple. Any person who adopts one or more of these habits will grow closer to Jesus. Our Lord does the transforming. Even devout Catholics will discover habits they'll want to add to their daily lives.

About This Booklet This 24-page extended length booklet is designed to persuade a fallen-away Catholic who harbors strong negative feelings about religion to return to the practice of the faith through the Sacrament of Confession. While never confrontational in tone, the booklet implicitly presents to the reader a direct challenge to reconsider foundational truths – something non-practicing Catholic rarely encounter. The mere act of beginning to read this booklet is therefore a rare opportunity for a reader to respond to God's grace and reconsider his or her entire life path.



CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART

Christmas! 'Tis the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial fire of charity in the heart. —Washington Irving

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

DONATIONS FROM RESTAURANT-

Bob Evans Restaurant in Wentzville will donate 15% of their proceeds to hospitalized children and the Special Olympics on the second Thursday of the month. **The next date for this generous donation will be January 8.** If you have a meal at Bob Evans that day mention the Knights of Columbus and the restaurant's generosity and they will make the donation.

LITURGY CAMP

Registration for the 2015 Liturgy Camp is now available. A flyer and registration form have been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. We have several new events planned for this summer's camp including a tour of some of the churches in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Space is limited so be sure to reserve a spot for your student, child or parishioner today. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis and is open for students 8th grade – Senior in High School. Please consider sending your student, parishioner, or child to this year's Liturgy Camp. If you have further questions about the camp please contact Amy Buehrle in the Office of Sacred Worship, 314.792.7231

Liturgical Ministers: Christmas

December 24

5:00 pm

EM: Donna Cuddihee, Bryan Potter, Ed Etzkorn, Dave Hendrix, Judy Hendrix, Vanita Joerling, Chris Richter, Pam DeBold, Dave DeBold, Pat Roche
L: Emily Jaeckle, Michelle Greiwe
GB: Jamie Joerling, Vanita Joerling
S: Jessica Spivey, Daniel Vehige, Andy Vehige
U: Joe Spiess, Jerry Braden, Chris Cuddihee, Jordan Hespen **two more needed please**

December 24

Midnight

EM: Ann Zaleuke, Carol Rabbitt, Ed Rabbitt, John Grady, Kat Menne, Donna Wolff, Bob King
L: Suzanne Michaelree, Tim Michaelree
GB: Eric Bogart, Jean and Bill Bammann
S: Liam Grady, Jennifer Bossert, Megan Tersteeg, Andy Vehige
U: Larry Graves, Stan Kostecki, Gary Struckhoff, **one more needed please**

December 25

10:00 am

EM: Patrice Riley, Walt Reel, Jean Reel, Carolyn Schellert, Theresa Risch, Jim Risch
L: Patrice Riley, Chuck Kettler
GB: Flo Joerling, Carolyn Schellert
S: Adam Molitor, Connor Jaeckle, Daniel Mallinckrodt
U: George Stark, Curt Eccardt, Chris Molitor, Larry Gassei

PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Oh, *Adonai*, dearest Lord,
Compassionate God of justice,
so many areas of my life seem imprisoned
but you promise me real freedom
and peace in my life.

Renew my spirit and free my soul.
Please, open my heart
which you have bathed in the longing of Advent.

I am awe-struck as your glory fills the earth
and I want to follow you in caring for others.
Grant me the grace to see
how you shine your light on the poor
who have such a special place in your heart.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

[http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/
CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/Daily-prayers-4.html](http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/Daily-prayers-4.html)

Parish Office: 636-398-5270

Future Events

- ☒ **Children's Bell Choir rehearsal** today after the 9:30 Mass; by the piano
- ☒ **Baptism class**, originally scheduled for Monday, Dec. 22 has been cancelled
- ☒ **The parish office will be closed on Thursday, December 25 (Christmas) and Friday, December 26.**
- ☒ **Annual Ecumenical Epiphany Concert**; here at IHM; 2:00 pm. Please bring finger food to share. All are invited, free of charge!
- ☒ **Blood Drive**, Thursday, Jan. 8 from 2:30 to 6:30 pm in Founders Hall
- ☒ **Marian Council Meeting**, open to all women of the parish; Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 6:30 pm in Weber Hall
- ☒ **Baptism Class**; Monday, Jan. 19 at 7:00 pm in Weber Hall. Please call the parish office to register.
- ☒ **New Parishioner Wine and Cheese Party**; Friday, Feb. 6 at Father Tom's house; more information will follow
- ☒ **Knights of Columbus Horse Races**; Saturday, Feb. 21; more information to follow

Christmas Prayer

Let Your goodness Lord appear to us, that we
made in your image, conform ourselves to it.

In our own strength
we cannot imitate Your majesty, power, and wonder
nor is it fitting for us to try.

But Your mercy reaches from the heavens
through the clouds to the earth below.

You have come to us as a small child,
but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts,
the gift of eternal love

Caress us with Your tiny hands,
embrace us with Your tiny arms
and pierce our hearts with Your soft, sweet cries.



St. Bernard of Clairvaux
(1090-1153)

Out and About

Opportunities

- **WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS;** Please join Fr. Bill Debo from Hermann, Mo. on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land Feb. 3 - Feb. 12, 2015. We will visit Nazareth, Cana, Mt. Carmel, Mt. Beatitudes, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Jordan River, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Mt. of Olives and much more. All accommodations are in first class hotels. Please call Travel Tyme 636-391-1000
- **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:** Couples –Do you want to give each other something REALLY special for the holidays this year? How about a gift filled with romance and excitement? Make reservations to attend one of the Marriage Encounter weekends in 2015 on February 6-8 or April 24-26. Just pick up the phone for more information and call 314.469.7317 or see the web page at www.stl-wwme.org.
- **YOU ARE NOT ALONE. YOU CAN SURVIVE AND THRIVE AFTER DIVORCE.** Decide to start the new year with hope and healing by attending **The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide** program. The 12-week DVD program features Catholic experts, and lay men and women who have been where you are. Topics include denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, the kids, the ex-spouse, spirituality, annulment and much more. Immaculate Conception Parish – Dardenne is hosting the program beginning January 8, 2015. There is a \$25 fee which will cover all materials needed. (*Scholarships are available for anyone who cannot afford the fee*). Contact Debi at debijo@att.net or 314-276-3859 for more information.
- **EXPERIENCE THE LORD'S CONSOLATION AND HOPE:** Our Infertility Support Group gathers each year for celebration of the Mass and fellowship on or around St. Valentine's Day. The Mass this year will be celebrated by Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Chapel of the Cardinal Rigali Center, 20 Archbishop May Drive, St. Louis, MO 63119. Light refreshments followed in the Sister Ebo room. If you would like more information, please contact the Archdiocesan Office of Natural Family Planning [314.997.7576](tel:314.997.7576) or e-mail melissa.barnason@mercy.net or orlucy.harris@mercy.net.
- **CARMELITE SISTERS- Sequela Christi: December 30, 2014** from 2:00 pm -8:00 pm; An opportunity for young women (10th grade and older) to volunteer with Seniors at St. Agnes Home with the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus, hear a spiritual talk, and share in the prayer and recreation of the Sisters. **Lenten Holiness Retreat: "A Heart for Worship" - March 6-8, 2015** for young women ages 17-29 who desire to grow in holiness and spend time with Carmelite Sisters D.C.J. More information available at www.carmelitedcj.org/retreats.asp; To register contact Sr. Mary Michael, Carmel DCJ: [314-965-7616](tel:314-965-7616) or vocations@carmelitedcj.org; Location of both events: 10341 Manchester Rd. Kirkwood, MO 63122

Benefits and Faith Events

- **PRO-LIFE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED** Mary Queen of Angels is in desperate need of financial assistance. Checks must be made out to "Mary Queen of Angels" and mailed to 827 West Terra Ln., O'Fallon, MO 63366. We can be reached at [636-379-5070](tel:636-379-5070) or [636-634-7243](tel:636-634-7243).
- **16TH Annual St. Louis Marian Conference;** Jan. 9-10-11, 2015 at HILTON ST. LOUIS at the Ballpark. A Catholic Event for the Entire Family. Confirmed speakers are: Bishop Robert J. Hermann, DD; Fr. Charles Becker; Msgr. John J. Hickel; Fr. James Kubicki, SJ; Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ; Fr. Tom Sullivan, CPM; Dale Ahlquist; Deacon Jack Sullivan; Kaye Park-Hinckley; Annie Karto. For more details please call [314 423-1075](tel:314-423-1075)

Just for Fun

- **RECOMMENDED HOLIDAY VIEWING** – Take a moment to sit back, put up your feet, and enjoy The Forsaken on Tuesday, December 30 on EWTN at 5:30 pm. This thirty minute documentary, featuring the Archdiocese of St. Louis mission program Pan y Amor, will open your eyes to the lives of children who have been rescued from living on the streets of Cochabamba and La Paz, Bolivia. Prior to being rescued, these children barely survived and often went to sleep hungry and on the streets. This is a show you don't want to miss!!