



St. Mary's Parish

www.stmarysinhigginville.org

401 W. Broadway, Higginville, MO. 64037

Phone 660-584-3038

Father Tom Hawkins, Pastor

Sunday Obligation Mass Times: Saturday, 4:00 pm, Sunday, 10:30 am

Mass or Communion Service: Mon. thru Fri.: 8:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:30 pm and after the 4:00 pm Mass, and by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage: Contact Pastor 9 months prior

Sacrament of Baptism: Registered parishioners call Pastor for class & date

BEGIN WHERE YOU ARE

In today's Gospel, those who listened to John the Baptist's prophetic preaching were quite troubled, and moved to ask "What should we do?" Although John had given dire warnings about what might happen if they did not sincerely repent, he did not suggest drastic actions. He recommended that people begin where they are, and work within their daily circumstances. Share generously. Treat people fairly. Be content with what you have. These were perhaps small steps turning them, in God's time, toward deeper change.

A first step for us might be to learn, however slowly, to listen to God speaking within the context of our lives. We can respond with small concrete actions and perhaps learn what God wishes to say through them. We can then listen anew for the next step.

Today's Readings: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

BEGIN YOUR DAY WITH CHRIST.

*Each morning members of our parish gather to read the scriptures,
pray for the needs of the world and the Church and spend time in quiet meditation.
Because Jesus Christ is in the Mass, it is the most important thing a parish does.*

"It is the source and summit of all Christian life." from #274 Compendium of the Catechism

Saturday, December 8 – 4:00pm

Saint Mary's Parishioners Living & Deceased

Sunday, December 9 – 10:30am THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

George Nuelle, R.I.P. by Josie McDermed

Monday, December 10 – 8:00am

Dale Parker, R.I.P. by Anita Parker

Tuesday, December 11 – 8:00am

Saint Damasus I. Pope who resisted the heresies of his day and helped build up the Church after the persecutions of the Roman Empire had ended. Encouraged Saint Jerome to translate the Bible into the common language of the time – Latin. Died in 384.

Dr. Jon Schroeder, R.I.P. by Karen Schroeder & Family

Wednesday, December 12 – 6:00pm in the evening

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe This feast celebrates the apparitions of Mary at the hill of Tepeyac in Mexico from December 9 to 12 to the native convert St. Juan Diego in 1531. Declared by Pope Pius XII to be patroness of the Americas.

Dale Parker, R.I.P. by Anita Parker

Thursday, December 13 – 8:00am

Saint Lucy Martyred in Sicily in the year 304. Because of her name which means 'Light' she is the patroness of those afflicted with diseases of the eye. She is very popular in the Scandinavian countries where her feast is celebrated as an important part of the pre-Christmas season and on this day young girls wearing a crown of lit candles sing carols in Saint Lucy's honor.

Father Ron Elliott and his Intentions – for his Birthday

Friday, December 14 – 8:00am

Saint John of the Cross A monk, mystic and poet, he labored with St. Teresa of Avila in founding the reformed Carmelite. Suffered much opposition. His mystical writings, such as "The Dark Night of the Soul" are still in print. Died in 1591.

George Nuelle, R.I.P. by Kyle & Kate Nuelle

Saturday, December 15 – 4:00pm

Intention of the Celebrant

Sunday, December 16 – 10:30am

Saint Mary's Parishioner, Living & Deceased

MASS ASSISTANTS	THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEKEND	
	Saturday, December 8	Sunday, December 9	Saturday, December 15	Sunday, December 16
USHERS	Bill Wallpe Jack Carroll	Mitch Bennett Bennie Spain	Robert Beck Lisa Kuecker	Robert Quarti Mike Ryun
SERVERS	Bill Wallpe	Ben Mason Luke Iles	Bob Brown	Amanda Daniel Olivia Cowherd
LECTORS	Howard Goring Peggy Singh	Rich Cole Charley Hare	Mike Deamos Gail Deamos	Cecile Quiranti Rhonda Smith
COMMUNION	Bill Kohne Karen Kohne Howard Goring	Nancy Spain Mike Ryun Janet Hoeflicker	Barbara Beck Bob Brown Gary Starke	Kim Mason Emily Rhoad Bennie Spain
OFFERTORY GIFTS	Karen Hagerty Jane Perrine	Eric & Laura Hill Family	Robert & Marcia Heggested	Brett & Rebecca Hoeflicker Family
GREETERS	Josie McDermed Sandy May	Bill Summerlin Steve Lock	Carol Summerlin Barbara Beck	Hazel Nuelle Christina Campbell
SHUT-INS	1 st Friday, Father Tom		Mike Deamos, Marty Bell	

RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS GIFTS AVAILABLE – in the Religious Goods Cabinet or Donnelly Catalog.

GAUDETE ET EXULTATE

(Rejoice and Be Glad)

The recent Apostolic Exhortation
of Pope Francis about Holiness in today's world.
For Personal Meditation or Family Discussion

"Thanks be to God, throughout the history of the Church it has always been clear that a person's perfection is measured not by the information or knowledge they possess, but by the depth of their charity. Gnostics do not understand this, because they judge others based on their ability to understand the complexity of certain doctrines. They think of the intellect as separate from the flesh, and thus become incapable of touching Christ's suffering flesh in others, locked up as they are in an encyclopedia of abstractions. In the end, by disembodiment of the mystery, they prefer 'a God without Christ, a Christ without the Church, a Church without real people'."

Gaudete et Exultate #37
to be continued

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of abuse or observe or suspect sexual abuse: Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-392-3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18) and contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911 and after reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Jenifer Valenti, at 816-812-2500 or JennifeValenti@att.net, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the diocese of Kansas City/St. Joseph. The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at 816-392-0011.

LOOSE CHANGE FOR CHRISTMAS TREES

THANK YOU

Last weekend's 'Loose Change Collection' at the end of Masses was announced as going to pay for two new 9ft. artificial Christmas Trees which we will use during the Christmas Season as part of our Altar area decorations.

Those two trees cost a total of \$269.98. Last weekend's 'Loose Change Collection' came to \$675.42. So we have more than paid for the trees. Thanks to all who donated.

The 'Loose Change Collection' is a reminder that every donation makes a difference. And once more you can see that.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 2, 2018--\$2,741

Loose Cash -- \$175

Total Parish Support -- \$2,916

Collection for Christmas Trees: \$675.42

November EFT - \$3,220

Average Weekly expenses -- \$3,278

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Last Call – we would still like to find a volunteer to direct a Children's Christmas Pageant; which is scheduled for the last Saturday of this month, Saturday, December 29.

In many countries, especially in the mountains and villages of Europe, there are 'little Christmases' that happen during Advent. This past Thursday, it was the Feast of Saint Nicholas, known for his love of children and the poor. I hope you remembered to put out your wooden shoes.

This week I hope you have your crown of candles ready to go on Saint Lucy's Day when in the Scandinavian countries children surprise their parents with breakfast in bed and the singing of carols. It is also Father Ron Elliott's birthday.

It takes a little work to make the Spirit of Christmas last for the whole Christmas season. This year we have the traditional Twelve Days of Christmas running up to Epiphany on Sunday, January 6. The most efficient way to do it is for a family to not open all the presents on Christmas Eve and Day but spread the gifts out over the Days of Christmas. For example – if you have four gifts to open, you open one every three days; with the last one opened on Epiphany. If as a family you are going to do this, you need to come to an understanding about it in advance. But it really works and it does prolong the excitement and the fun of Christmas.

Peace, Blessings, Joy!

And Love in the Lord!

Father Tom Hawkins

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

THIS TUESDAY

ALL WOMEN of the parish are invited to make a reservation for 'Ladies Night Out' at the Christmas Party of Saint Mary's Altar and Rosary Society to be held this Tuesday, December 11.

We begin at 6:00pm with wine and a delicious dinner (a meal you don't have to cook!) Followed by a hilarious Game of Bingo in which winners have the option of 'stealing' presents from others. Please bring a wrapped surprise gift for the Bingo Contest.

We will also put out a donation basket for the Heat and Hunger Fund.

Cost of dinner - \$12. A reservation needs to be made by this Sunday, December 9. There is a sign-up sheet on the 'east table behind the pews'.

NOTICE: THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

MEETS THIS SUNDAY

The bi-monthly meeting of the Building Committee will be this Sunday, December 9, following the 10:30am Mass in the Lower Meeting Room.

ADVENT GIVING TREE - GIFTS

DUE HERE BY THIS SUNDAY

Those providing a Christmas Present for a child served by the Community Food Pantry - please

remember the gifts should be here by this weekend. The gifts should be wrapped with the identifying tag firmly attached and here at the church before Monday morning, December 10.

On Monday morning the good people who attend weekday Mass will transport the presents to the Food Pantry at Salem Church, 15th and Main. Thanks to all who are taking part.

COLLECTION FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS

THIS WEEKEND

The annual collection in support of elderly Nuns and Monks will be this weekend, December 8 and 9.

There are envelopes in your bi-monthly packet or generic envelopes on the tables behind the pews?

COMMUNITY NATIVITY SCENE

THANK YOU

Thanks to the Knights of Columbus who last Saturday set-up the Higginsville Community Nativity Scene and also the nativity scene in the yard of our church. The men involved were: Larry

Apprill, Steve Bell, Rich Cole, Howard Goring, Rev. Dale Felder - President of the Ministerial Fellowship, Fr. Tom Hawkins, Chris Kaiser, Mike Rym, Brent Schlotzhauer, and John Spiegehalter. The Nativity Scene is located on the south west corner of Hiway 13 and FF. Thanks to John Knox Village for allowing the use of the property. And thanks to Barbara Beck who inspired the idea and obtained the permission of John Knox's Board of Directors.

Plans are to take down the scene on the first Saturday of January, January 5, starting at 9:00am. All help will be welcome.

**FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT THIS SUNDAY
AFTERNOON AT THE CONFEDERATE
CHAPEL - 3:00PM**

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

A way to honor a living or deceased relative or friend is to make a donation in their name to the poinsettia plants that will grace our church during the Christmas Season.

Envelopes for this are in the pews (or you can use an envelope of your own). Very clearly write the name/s of the person/s and your own name and the size plant you wish. Supply this information to the Parish Office by Sunday, December 16. Plants are small \$6 and large \$15.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

For the convenience of families, rather than

assign assistants for the Christmas Masses, we ask for volunteers to be Readers, Greeters, Ushers, Altar Servers and Communion Ministers.

Our Masses on Christmas Eve, Monday,

December 24, will be at 4:00pm and 7:00pm in the evening. On Christmas Morning, Tuesday, December 25, at 10:00am.

If you would like to assist at a Mass, please notify the Parish Office of your choice: 660-584-3038. A sign-up sheet is on the table behind the east pews. Thank you.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

THIS SUNDAY

There will be two Advent Penance Services in our area this Sunday, December 9, with opportunity for private Confession. One will be at Immaculate Conception in Lexington (107 N. 18th Street) and one at Saint Mary's in Carrollton (211 E. Shanklin).

Both will begin at 3:00pm. Our pastor, Father Hawkins, will be hearing Confessions at the one in Carrollton.

Confessions before Christmas will be heard on Saturday, December 22, at 11:00am and before and after the 4:00pm Mass that day. And always by personal appointment.

FOOD PANTRY CHRISTMAS BASKETS

A 'Christmas Basket' from the Food Pantry will be delivered to homes on Saturday, December 22. Volunteers will be needed Friday evening.

December 21 to fill grocery sacks. Adult volunteers will be needed Saturday morning, December 22, to make deliveries to homes.

If you want to volunteer telephone the church office at Salem UCC - 660-584-3603.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

At the December meeting of the Knights the winners were selected in this year's 'Keep Christ in Christmas' drawing contest. The pictures of all participants will be on display during the 'Whole Parish Christmas Party' the evening of Saturday, December 29 and the winners will be announced and the prize money will be presented that evening.

The Knights are going to sponsor a "Consecration to the Holy Family" program for all families of our parish. On the weekend of December 22/23, Knights Steve Bell and Mike Ryan will briefly explain this at Masses and distribute Prayer Cards along with an invitation for all families to take part.

The Consecration will be done in church, Saturday evening, December 29, before the Parish Christmas Party.

On the Sundays when there is a 'Knights Mass', the Knights are going to start doing a Holy Hour prior to Mass. The Holy Hour will begin at 9:30am and include the recitation of the Rosary and quiet time praying before the Blessed Sacrament.

Everyone is invited to participate. This will commence on Sunday, December 23.

Because of the Parish Christmas Party on the evening of Saturday, December 29, the knights are transferring their next Brunch from December 30 to Sunday, January 6th - which will be Epiphany the last of the traditional Twelve Days of Christmas. So it will be sort of a celebration of the close to the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Knights Dues for 2019 can be paid to Steve Bell or Ian Pollard. Dues for Regular and Honorary Life Members are \$25. Life Members dues are \$10.

Please make check payable to Knights of Columbus Council 2244.

All men of the parish are encouraged to be a Knight and all Knights are encouraged to actively fulfill the pledges they made when received into the Order.

BISHOP'S VISIONING PROCESS:

PRAYER REQUEST

From the Diocese - "Please pray for Bishop Johnston and his Team working to create a plan providing a vision, priorities and goals for our diocese. Announcements of the results and the steps to implement them will be forthcoming early in the new year. For more information check: www.kcsj catholic.org/visioning-process."

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS DRAWING CONTEST BIG REVEAL DECEMBER 29.

DIOCESAN TRAINING FOR READERS

Those who read the Scriptures at Mass are invited to a diocesan workshop at St. Bernadette Parish (near the stadiums) on Tuesday, January 15, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. If you would like to attend notify the Parish Office so we can register you. Registration fee is paid by Saint Mary's Parish. This is for new and experienced readers.

CURSILLO WEEKENDS IN 2019

Need a boost to your Faith or a bit of renewed inspiration? Then try a Cursillo Weekend. A Cursillo is a short, inspirational introductory course to the Catholic Faith in the form of a weekend Retreat.

There will be a Cursillo for Men, February 21 to 24 and one for Women from March 28 - 31 at The Sisters of Saint Francis in Independence.

Contact Marty Bell at 660-221-2391 for information.

Or Judy Newkirk at 816-806-1997 or James Newkirk at 816-807-7700 or email jknwtkirk65@gmail.com.

There will also be a Cursillo for Men, October 10 - 13 and one for women October 31 - November 3 at Savior of the World Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. But obviously, the ones held in Independence are much more convenient.

Now is the time to plan to go and block those days off on your calendar. More information and application forms are available "on the tables behind the pews".

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Mary Grechus - Mary Wallace
Bill Walipe - Emma Kaiser

DIRECTOR WANTED FOR

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

It would be nice to begin the 'Whole Parish Christmas Party' on Saturday, December 29, with a Children's Christmas Pageant but so far no one has offered to organize one.

Time is about to run out to get a pageant organized. So if you are a parent, grandparent or just a volunteer willing to take this on contact our director of Religious Education, Karen Daniel (660-237-4932).

We have a script or as Director one can do something new or totally different.



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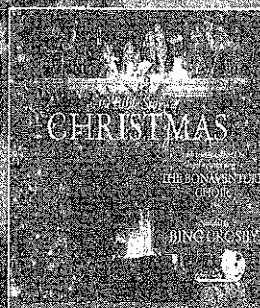
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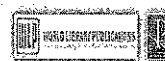
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