

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

EARTH-MOVING

Transforming the human landscape, like the task of smoothing the desert hills and valleys, is an enormous undertaking, truly the work of God. Yet God looks for partners in this transformation. John the Baptist, and Jesus afterward, called followers to participate in God's work, and to begin with repentance. We the Church respond to this call today, and acknowledge our ongoing need for God's mercy and forgiveness. Our Advent preparation for Christmas includes opening our hearts to God's forgiveness, so that Jesus might come to take residence there.

We join in God's earth-moving project by repenting of how we block God's path with resentments and fears. When we are brought low in our lives, we seek God's help, and God will enlist the help of others. When we realize that we reside on mountains of advantage or privilege that place others in valleys, we are to repent and to change how we live. When we bring healing and justice to others, we are sharing in God's earth-shaking work, and preparing a straight pathway for our God.

Today's Readings: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

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 15 – 4:00pm

Intention of the Celebrant

Sunday, December 16 – 10:30am THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - GAUDETTE

Saint Mary's Parishioner, Living & Deceased

Monday, December 17 – 8:00am

Missouri Farmers by Jeff & Lisa Kuecker

Tuesday, December 18 – 8:00am

Bill Wallpe & his Intentions

Wednesday, December 19 – No Service this evening

Wednesday Mass on Recess

Thursday, December 20 – 8:00am

George Nuelle, R.I.P. by Pete Beck

Friday, December 21 – 8:00am

Saint Peter Canisius Durtch Jesuit, Catechist and Missionary. Founded several colleges. Died 1597.

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

Saturday, December 22 – 4:00pm

Tom Graham, R.I.P. by Virginia Graham

Sunday, December 23 – 10:30am THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saint Mary's Parishioners, Living & Deceased

MASS ASSISTANTS	THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEKEND	
	Saturday, December 15	Sunday, December 16	Saturday, December 22	Sunday, December 23
USHERS	Robert Beck Lisa Kuecker	Robert Quarti Mike Ryun	Pete Beck Bill Kohne	Knights of Columbus
SERVERS	Bob Brown	Amanda Daniel Olivia Cowherd	Mike Deamos	Knights of Columbus
LECTORS	Mike Deamos Gail Deamos	Cecile Quaranti Rhonda Smith	Sandy May Carol Summerlin	Knights of Columbus
COMMUNION	Barbara Beck Bob Brown Gary Starke	Kim Mason Rhonda Smith Bennie Spain	Terie Starke Mike Deamos Carol Summerlin	Knights of Columbus
OFFERTORY GIFTS	Robert & Marcia Heggsted	Brett & Rebecca Hoeflicker Family	Gary & Terie Starke	Knights of Columbus
GREETERS	Carol Summerlin Barbara Beck	Hazel Nuelle Kristina Campbell	Carol Summerlin Joan Stuerke	Knights of Columbus
SHUT-INS	Mike Deamos, Marty Bell		Rich Cole, Teresa Hoepner	

THANKS TO THE GIFT GIVERS

Thanks to those who provided the abundance of beautifully wrapped gifts requested by children in families serviced by the Community Food Pantry. The presents have been boxed up and shipped to the North Pole to be added to Santa's sleigh the night before Christmas so he can distribute them on his rounds. Thanks to all who took part.

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

The heresy of Gnosticism does not understand that a person's perfection is measured not by the information or knowledge they possess, but by the depth of their charity. "It can be present within the Church, both among the laity in parishes and teachers of philosophy and theology in centers of formation. Gnostics think that their explanations can make the entirety of the faith and the Gospel perfectly comprehensible. They absolutize their own theories and force others to submit to their way of thinking. A healthy and humble use of reason is order to reflect on the theological and moral teaching of the gospel is one thing. It is another to reduce Jesus' teaching to a cold and harsh logic that seeks to dominate everything."

Gaudete et Exultate #39

to be continued

LOOSE CHANGE FOR CHRISTMAS TREES

THANK YOU

The collection at the end of Masses on the first weekend of December 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 9, 2018-- \$2,610

Loose Cash -- \$110

Total Parish Support -- \$2,720

Retired Religious -- \$565

Average Weekly expenses -- \$3,278

PLASTIC SHOVEL REMINDER

God bless our snow shovelers. Hopefully, they will remember that any shovel, scraper, chipper, etc. can be used on the **ce**ment sidewalks but since the front stairs and side ramp are not actually cement but covered with a composite material only plastic shovels should be used on the front stairs or side ramp – and never any sort of chipper. Thank you.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

For anyone who missed it in my letter last weekend –

In our United States our unhealthy Christmas custom is put all the pressure on one Day – December 25. Because [supposedly] that is Christmas – just 24 hours in which you have to rip open all the presents and race from family gathering to family gathering and then the next day have a feeling of let down.

People in other parts of the World think that Christmas lasts Twelve Days and that every one of them is Christmas. Not some more so and some less so. For Europeans and South Americans and in Canada there is Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and the First Day of Christmas and the Second Day of Christmas for a total of about two weeks! And it is all Christmas. But not a Christmas of stress and over exhaustion.

It takes just a little planning to make the Spirit of Christmas last for the whole Christmas season (Christmas Eve to Epiphany, 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. And can make everything much more peaceful.

Peace, Blessings, Joy!

And Love in the Lord!

Father Tom Hawkins

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

DUE THIS SUNDAY

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 today Sunday, December 16.

PSR NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer help is needed for the PSR classes. If you can help a Sunday or two it would be rewarding for our students. If you want to volunteer contact Karen Daniel at 816-838-0577.

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.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

NEXT SATURDAY AT 11:00AM

For those who want to go to Confession before Christmas, Confessions will be available next Saturday morning, December 22, at 11:00am.

Confessions will last for as long as – but only for as long as – people come into the Confessional.

Confessions are also available anytime 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.

CHRISTMAS DECORATORS NEEDED

NEXT SUNDAY

We will be taking down Advent and put up Christmas after Mass next Sunday, December 23. Volunteers needed.

After Mass there will be a salad and pizza lunch in the Lower Meeting Room and then we will get our church ready for the Christmas Season. All help welcome. Men will be needed to do the heavy lifting and moving.

Depending on how many show up it takes two+ hours.

Many people say we have the most beautiful church in the area during the Christmas Season but it takes a lot of loving labor by a lot of helping hands.

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 Ryun 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.

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.

**'WEDNESDAY FAITH STUDY' ON
CHRISTMAS BREAK UNTIL JANUARY 9**

HARVESTERS FOOD PICK-UP

THIS THURSDAY

Anyone in need of food is welcome to the Harvesters distribution the third Thursday of each month. That will be: this Thursday, December 20. Food give-away starts about 10:00am and ends about Noon. There is usually an abundance of fresh vegetables and fruit. No canned goods. No meat.

There are no requirements but participants have to get a number and are served in sequence. It works best if people bring large boxes to take the food home. Plastic laundry baskets work very well.

This will be at First Assembly of God Church, 1050 19th Street, Higginville. Just east of Walmart.

Twenty-five able-bodied volunteers are needed to do the distribution. Volunteers begin work at about 8:30am when the food arrives by truck from Kansas City; it needs to be unloaded and arranged. Clean-up lasts until about 1pm.

The Ministerial Fellowship is inviting members of all congregations and all the community to join in this effort.

For more information contact the President of the Higginville Ministerial Fellowship, Rev. Dale Felder at 660-584-6289.

All help welcome!

COLLECTION FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS

THANK YOU

Thanks to those who donated last weekend to the annual collection to support of elderly Nuns and Monks. \$565 was given.

FUN COMMITTEE MEETS THIS MONDAY

TO REVIEW PARTY PLANS

There will be a meeting of the 'Fun Committee' this Monday, December 17, at 6:00pm in the Upper Meeting Room, to review plans for the Parish Christmas Party coming up on Saturday, December 29. Anyone who wants to lend a hand is invited. Enter by the back door of the church. The 'Fun Committee' is composed of: Lisa Kuecker, Chairman; Kim Mason, Hazel Nuelle, Mary Rinne, Karen Schroeder, Rhonda Smith and Nancy Spain.

YOUTH PLANNING THIS SUNDAY

Youth are to meet at the Bowling Alley on Mains Street, Higginville at 12Noon for their planned Bowling Party.

The youth have adopted a family for Christmas and will be shopping during PSR class.

KNIGHTS HOLY HOUR BEFORE

MASS NEXT SUNDAY

The Knights of Columbus are instituting a Holy Hour of Prayer before the quarterly Knights Mass beginning next Sunday, December 23, at 9:30am. Everyone is invited to take part. Knights are encouraged to bring their families early for Mass and spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

"The chivalric character of the Knights of Columbus and the Church's long tradition of spiritual combat resonate with men today – especially as threats from the world and the devil are so keenly felt. Eucharistic adoration in the form of a regularly scheduled Holy Hour is a simple, direct, and meaningful way to address these needs."

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS DRAWING

CONTEST BIG REVEAL DECEMBER 29

Thanks for all the great drawings submitted to this year's 'Keep Christ in Christmas' contest sponsored by our Knights of Columbus. They were all wonderful.

At their December meeting, the Knights voted for their favorites but it was a tough decision.

All the drawings will be on display at the Whole Parish Christmas Party on Saturday evening, December 29, and the winners will be announced and the prizes will be presented at that time. \$20 – First Place; \$15 – Second Place; \$10 -- Third Place. There will be prizes for older (Fifth Grade and up) and prizes for younger contestants.

RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS GIFTS

AVAILABLE -- SHOP EARLY

In addition to the items for sale in the Religious Goods Cabinet in the vestibule, various religious gifts (rosaries, pictures, statues, thoughtful books for serious readers, and many other items) can be purchased from the Donnelly catalog through the Altar and Rosary Society.

Items are sold at cost, plus shipping. Contact the Parish Office to place an order. This is a service of the Altar and Rosary Society who make no money from this. So save yourself a trip to Kansas City and remember to shop early.

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.



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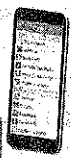
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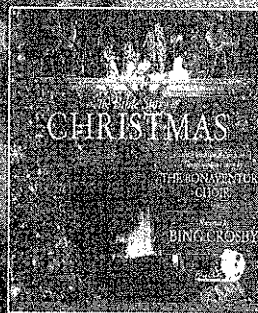
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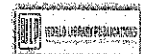


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