

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Christmas celebrates the Incarnation, the "en-flesh-ment" of God as a human person. In Jesus, God is bodily present in the human story. Today we honor the Holy Family, helping us to see that God is active in daily family life. God is near at hand, amidst the tensions, joys, and uncertainties of family life. As our Gospel passage describes, even with family miscommunications and with limited understanding of Jesus' mission, the Holy Family persevered in their life together. Like many family conflicts, there was no immediate or clear resolution of the issues raised by Jesus and by Mary. God's intentions for the family, and for Jesus, were still unfolding. They continued to stay connected with each other and with God. Within the turbulence of family life, they trusted God to actively sustain and guide them into an uncertain future. We are invited to follow their example.

Today's Readings: Mic 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

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 29 – 4:00pm

Saint Thomas Becket Archbishop of Canterbury assassinated in his cathedral by order of Henry II on December 29 in 1170 for defending the rights of the church and opposing the King's power.

Harold McDermed, R.I.P. by Josie McDermed

Sunday, December 30 – 10:30am FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Saint Mary's Parishioners, Living & Deceased

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY "MOTHER OF GOD"

Day of World Prayer for Peace

Monday, December 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE

4:00PM

For God's Blessing on the New Year

Tuesday, January 1, 2019, NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:00AM

For World Peace

Wednesday, January 2 - No Service this Evening

Wednesday Mass on recess

Saint Basil the Great hermit noted for his learning. Became a bishop, considered one of the four great doctors of the Eastern Church. Died 379.

Saint Gregory Nazianzen Patriarch of Constantinople Noted for his knowledge of Sacred Scripture. Another of the four great doctors of the Eastern Church. Died 390.

Thursday, January 3 – 8:00am

Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus A devotion promoted by Saint Bernadine of Siena (died 1444) who also promoted the use of 'IHS' (Jesus is Salvation).

Teresa Genser, R.I.P. by Robert & Barbara Beck

Friday, January 4 – 8:00am

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton A widow and mother of five children, she founded the Sisters of Charity, the first congregation of women religious in the USA devoted to teaching in parochial schools and the education of the poor. Died 1821.

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

Saturday, January 5 – 8:00am

Saint John Neumann Missionary priest from Bohemia became bishop of Philadelphia. Known for his holiness and learning. Promoter of Catholic schools. Died in 1860.

Teresa Beck Genser, R.I.P. by Robert & Barbara Beck

Sunday, January 6 – 10:30am EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – FEAST OF THE MAGI

Saint Mary's Parishioners, Living & Deceased

MASS ASSISTANTS	THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEKEND	
	Saturday, December 29	Sunday, December 30	Saturday, January 5, 2019	Sunday, January 6, 2019
USHERS	Jack Carroll Gary Starke	Eugene Quiranti Bennie Spain	Gary Starke Bill Summerlin	Marty Bell Eugene Quirante
SERVERS	Howard Goring	Cate Cooper Luke Iles	Bill Wallpe	Ben Mason Amanda Daniel
LECTORS	Mike Esser Howard Goring	Rhonda Smith Rich Cole	Bob Brown Peggy Singh	Emily Rhoad Karen Schroeder
COMMUNION	Joan Stuerke Carita Trent Josie McDermed	Rich Cole Marty Bell Karen Schroeder	Barbara Beck Bob Brown Rhonda Ridinger	Hazel Nuelle Rich Cole Emily Rhoad
OFFERTORY GIFTS	Jack & Sheila Carroll	Bill & Karen Kohne	Ralph & Lois Luebrecht	Eric & Raygen Lockard
GREETERS	Josie McDermed Lisa Kuecker	Hazel Nuelle Steve Lock	Barbara Beck Sandy May	Bill Summerlin Steve Lock
SHUT-INS	Marty Bell, Josie McDermed		1 st Friday, Father Tom	

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

A Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 31 – NEW YEAR'S EVE
4:00PM

Tuesday, January 1 – NEW YEAR'S DAY
9:00AM

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

"Nor can we claim to say where God is not,
because God is mysteriously present in the life
of every person, in a way that He himself chooses,
and we cannot exclude this by our presumed
certainties. Even where someone's life appears
completely wrecked, even when we see it
devastated by vices or addictions, God is present
there. If we let ourselves be guided by the spirit
rather than our own preconceptions, we can and
must try to find the Lord in every human life.
This is part of the mystery that a Gnostic mentality
cannot accept, since it is beyond its' control."

Gaudete et Exultate #12

to be continued

PLASTIC SHOVEL REMINDER

God bless our snow shovelers. Hopefully, they
will remember that any shovel, scraper, chipper, etc.
can be used on the cement 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Mary Grechus - Mary Wallace
Bill Wallpe – Martha Pollard – Mike Deamos

YEAR'S END

*Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning,
but a going on with all the wisdom that
experience can instill in us.*

*** Hal Burton

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Thanks to everyone who helped with our
Christmas services.

And ' Thanks' from all of us to Howard Goring
who for many years has served as the volunteer
Chairman of Saint Mary's Parish Cemetery
Committee. Howard announced several months ago
that he would like to hand over the chairmanship at
the start of 2019 but remain active with the
committee and the operation of the parish cemetery.
Thanks for all he has done.

And thanks to Chris Kaiser and Larry Apprill
who will become co-chairs of the cemetery
committee.

Donations to Saint Mary's Cemetery Fund for the
maintenance of the cemetery are always welcome.

I hope that, in whatever way may work for you,
you are able to keep all the Twelve Days of
Christmas until Epiphany, January 6, and find some
comfort and joy in doing so.

With Best Wishes for a Peaceful and Blessed
New Year!

Peace, Blessings, Joy!
and Love in the Lord!

Father Tom Hawkins

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

Those who gather on Wednesday evenings for a
simple supper and Faith Study are on Christmas
Break until Wednesday, January 9.

This group of parishioners always welcomes
interested newcomers. The format is simple –
usually a short video followed by an open
discussion.

Everyone welcome. Mass available at 6:00pm.

BIG REVEAL THIS SATURDAY NIGHT

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 this 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.

KNIGHTS DUES NOW DUE

Knights of Columbus dues for 2019 can be paid to Steve Bell, Financial Secretary or Ian Pollard, Membership Chairman. 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.

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 jknewkirk65@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".

MEALS ON WHEELS – DATES FOR 2019

The Senior Center has released the delivery schedule for 2019. Our parish is asked to deliver Meals on Wheels – Monday through Friday: January 28 to February 1, March 25 to 29, May 20 to 24, July 15 to 19, September 9 to 13, November 4 to 8 and December 30 to January 3.

Thanks to Terie Starke who is our volunteer coordinator of this. About three weeks in advance, Terie sets out a sign-up sheet on the 'east table behind the pews'.

Volunteers work as two teams of two starting at 10:30am. It takes about one hour to complete a route.

If you have questions (or are willing to volunteer on an 'as-needed' basis) call Terie at 660-584-3900.

Thanks to all who help with Meals on Wheels.

CATHOLIC APPEAL – CONTINUES TO GROW

All Catholic adults are invited to contribute to the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal in support of the various works of our diocese. As of December 21, households of Saint Mary's Parish have given or pledged \$11,166 toward our parish's goal of \$9,050. So we have reached and surpassed the goal set for us by the diocese. Thanks to all who took part.

The diocese reports that overall – 4,584 households have given/pledged \$1,434,683.08 toward the diocesan goal of Two Million Dollars.

When making a gift, make sure they know it is coming from Saint Mary's Parish in Higginsville (there are multiple Saint Mary parishes throughout the diocese).

ALTAR SOCIETY 2019

MEMBERSHIP DUES INVITED

Everyone (women and men) who would like to support the work of Saint Mary's Altar and Rosary Society are invited to pay 'Dues' for the new year of 2019.

\$5 is the suggested amount. Any donation will be gratefully accepted. You can find envelopes for this in the pews and 'on the tables behind the pews'. Or put it in any envelope and send it to the Parish Office through the Sunday collection basket or by regular mail. Thank You.

PSR ON CHRISTMAS BREAK

There are no Parish School of Religion Classes this Sunday, December 30. Classes resume Sunday, January 6.

CHRISTMAS DECORATORS – THANK YOU

Thank you to the great team of volunteers who decorated our church for Christmas: Marty Bell, Rich Cole, Virginia Graham, Eric Hill, Teagen Hill, Chris Kaiser, Kim Mason, Hazel Nuelle, Roger Rinne, Chris Schlotzhauer, Beth and Brent Schlotzhauer and their niece Ainsley, Rhonda Smith, Nancy and Bennie Spain. Thanks to all of them for their gift of beauty to our parish. (And the two new trees for the corners of the sanctuary purchased with the December Loose Change Collection fit right in. Thanks to those who donated to that.)

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY – THIS SATURDAY NIGHT

For those reading this on Saturday – this evening is our ‘Whole Parish Christmas Party’. We hope you will come down to it.

We will begin after Mass with a Consecration of our parish families to the Holy Family. This will be led by the Knights of Columbus.

Then we will go downstairs for a ‘Birthday Party for Jesus’ with games for children including a piñata filled with candy.

For adults there will be ‘Vino and suds’ in the Lower Meeting Room. Serving as ‘bartenders’ and gatekeepers will be Knights of Columbus.

For everyone there will be lots of ‘Walking Tacos’.

BRUNCH NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 6

Celebrate the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas at the Knights Brunch next Sunday, January 6, following the 10:30am Mass. No tickets to buy but donations invited.

UN-DECORATORS WANTED NEXT SUNDAY

Volunteers will be needed to stay after Mass next Sunday, January 6, to take down and carefully put away the Christmas decorations. Let’s enjoy the Knights Brunch and then meet in the church to pack things away until next Christmas. All help welcome.

KNIGHTS TAKE DOWN COMMUNITY NATIVITY – JANUARY 12

In two weekends – on the Saturday after Epiphany, January 12, the Knights of Columbus will take down the Community Nativity Scene. Gather at the site, Hiway 13 and FF at 9:00am. Trucks and flatbeds to haul the figures will be needed. All help welcome.

MAKE YOUR MARRIAGE A PRIORITY

How about a New Year’s Resolution to go with your spouse to a Marriage Encounter Weekend. Your marriage is the foundation of your family. It is the visible “school of love” that your children attend and the “domestic church of your family’s faith”. Make a resolution to invest in your marriage in 2019. A Marriage Encounter will help you and your spouse discover new ways to make your marriage a priority. The next weekend in our area will be March 1 – 3, 2019. For more information, or to apply for a weekend, visit www.wyme4youandme.org, or phone or email Tony & Barb Zimmerman at 816-471-4066, tonybarbz@prodigy.net.

POINSETTIA DEDICATION

Ethel Ruehter in memory of Frank G. Ruehter

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 23, 2018-- \$1,836

Loose Cash -- \$151

Total Parish Support – 1.987

Christmas -- \$2,282

Average Weekly expenses -- \$3,278

WHEN YOU ARE NOT WELL YOU ARE DISPENSED FROM THE SUNDAY OBLIGATION

The Flu season is reported to have started spreading across the country, so everyone is encouraged to get vaccinated. But if you do get sick – please stay home and take care of yourself. The Church dispenses from the Obligation to attend Sunday Mass all persons who are ill and parents who have to take care of ill children.

WHEN YOU ARE IN THE HOSPITAL

Federal laws that protect patient privacy do not allow hospitals or nursing homes to notify churches when a parishioner has been admitted. If you want the parish to know of your hospitalization, you or a family member must personally call the Parish Office: 660-584-3038. So please remember this when needed – even if during the admission process a hospital may ask you what is your religion that does not mean they will notify your parish. Your notification is the only way we can become aware of your need.



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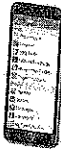
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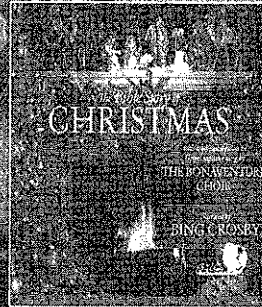
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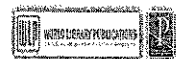
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