



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

EDEN, REVISITED

Remember Eden? God created humans and all creatures in love, for love. The failure of humanity recorded in the book of Genesis is that from the beginning people have tended to desire, not to be like God, but to be gods. Instead of seeing the fingerprint of our creator in others, we tend to see them as competition. Where there is abundance, we see scarcity. We seek the things of this world rather than seeking and finding God's life and goodness in our midst. The writer of Isaiah paints a far better picture, which Christians have seen as a foretelling of the Christ, the Anointed One of God, Jesus.

Knowing Jesus as the One for whom the people of God have longed helps us to understand John the Baptist's strong words to the Pharisees and Sadducees in today's Gospel passage. They had the responsibility to lead the people toward right relationship with God and others, and instead had failed to produce the fruits of faithful living themselves. John did not prevent them from approaching him for the baptism of repentance, but asked them to turn their lives more faithfully to God and live accordingly. John understood himself as the forerunner of the One for whom the people had been waiting—the one upon whom the spirit of the Lord rests, the spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel and strength, knowledge and fear of the Lord.

In Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Lord. Not that Jesus has not already come, or that the Lord is not already in our midst; rather, we take this season to appreciate in a new and fuller way that God's coming as a child in Bethlehem and Christ's promised return are about the establishment of the kingdom of God—already in our midst and yet not known in its fullness until the Lord returns in glory.

Today's Readings: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

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 7th – 4:00pm

SAINT AMBROSE A highly talented man who was selected by popular demand as bishop of Milan while he was still a Catechumen studying enter the Church. Consecrated as bishop on December 7, 374. Famous preacher who brought Augustine to conversion. One of the four Great Doctors of the Latin Church. Died 397.

Martha Pollard R.I.P. by Virginia Graham

Sunday, December 8th – 10:30am The Second Sunday of Advent

Saint Mary's Parishioners Living and Deceased

Monday, December 9th – 8:00am

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY Celebrating the beginning of the life of Mary. Her nativity (birth) is celebrated by the Church on September 8. The Church believes she was without sin from the moment of her conception by her parents because she was predestined by God to be the mother of the sinless Messiah. Patroness of the United States of America. Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

Father Philip Henry Luebbert R.I.P.

Tuesday, December 10th – 8:00am

Martha Pollard R.I.P. by Mike Deamos and Family

Wednesday, December 11th - 6:00pm

SAINT DAMASUS, I As Pope he helped organize the Church after the Age of Persecution had ended. He organized the preservation of historical documents and erected churches and memorials to the martyred. Encouraged Saint Jerome to produce a translation of the Bible into Latin which was the language of the common people. Died in 384.

Mary Arnett R.I.P. by Jeffrey and Lisa Kuecker

Thursday, December 12th – 8:00am

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE This feast recalls the apparitions of Mary from December 9 to 12 in 1531 to the native convert, St. Juan Diego. Gifting him with the famous image which identifies her, the Blessed Mother, with the indigenous populace. Declared by Pope Pius XII as Patroness of all the countries of north and south America.

Martha Pollard R.I.P. by Audrey Abney

Friday, December 13th – 8:00am

SAINT LUCY Martyred in Sicily in 304. Patroness of those afflicted with diseases of the eye; she is celebrated with festivals of light, especially in Scandinavian countries.

Reverend Robert N Deming R.I.P.

Saturday, December 14th – 4:00pm

SAINT JOHN of the CROSS A monk and Spanish mystic who was an ally of Saint Theresa of Avila, working for a renewed and simplified form of monastic observance. Authored several spiritual books (Dark Night of the Soul; Ascent of Mount Carmel, and others) still in print. Declared a Doctor of the Church.

Dale Parker R.I.P. by Anita Parker

Sunday, December 15th – 10:30am The Third Sunday of Advent

Saint Mary's Parishioners Living and Deceased

MASS ASSISTANTS	THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEKEND	
	Saturday, Dec. 7	Sunday, Dec. 8	Saturday, Dec. 14	Sunday, Dec. 15
USHERS	Bill Wallpe Jack Carroll	Mitch Bennett Bennie Spain	Robert Beck Lisa Kuecker	Rick Rankin Ralph Luebrecht
SERVERS	Howard Goring	Ethan Thompson Grayson Thompson	Bill Wallpe	Ben Mason Spencer Trent
LECTORS	Carol Summerlin Peggy Singh	Charley Hare Chris Kaiser	Mike Deamos Gail Deamos	Rich Cole Marty Bell
COMMUNION	Josie McDermed Bill Wallpe Bob Brown	Rich Cole Kim Mason Rhonda Smith	Peggy Singh Gary Starke Terie Starke	Brent Schlotzhauer Beth Schlotzhauer Kristina Campbell
OFFERTORY GIFTS	Rory & Rhonda Ridinger	Brent & Beth Schlotzhauer	Mike & Gloria Ryun	Kirk & Shelly Sears Family
GREETERS	Peggy Singh Joan Stuerke	Roger Rinne Bill Summerlin	Josie McDermed Carol Summerlin	Mike & Gloria Ryun
SHUT-INS	Bennie & Nancy Spain		Colleen Stamer & Teresa Hoepfner	

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, Joe Crayon**, at 816-812-2500 or crayon@ombudsmankesj.org 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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve
Tuesday December 24th
4pm & 7pm

Christmas Morning
Wednesday December 25th
10am

BISHOP JOHNSTON'S

"HEALING OUR FAMILY SURVEY"

An email survey from the diocese is being sent to randomly selected Catholics throughout the diocese. If you use email, watch your inbox for the subject line "Bishop Johnston's Healing Our Family Survey". If you happen to receive the survey, your response will be appreciated.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

The prizes (\$20, \$15, \$10) going to the winners of this year's 'Keep Christ in Christmas' drawing contest for youth will be presented at the gathering after the Children's Christmas Pageant next Saturday, December 15.

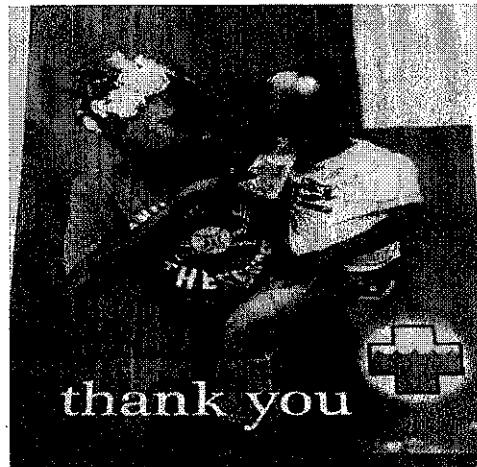
Thanks to all who participated. All drawings will be on display in the Parish Hall during the gathering after the pageant. And thanks to the Knights of Columbus for sponsoring this event. Winners were selected by popular vote at the December meeting of Knights.

<i>Younger Grades</i>	<i>Upper Grades</i>
First - Liam Thompson	First- Brodie Rankin
Second - Clair Frank	Second- Ethan Thompson
Third- Landon Hoeflicker	Third Place- Mia Bennett

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

Envelopes are available for those wanting to dedicate a Poinsettia used to decorate our church during the Christmas season. Dedications may be made to honor deceased or living, relatives and friends. Requested donation is \$12 for a large and \$6 for the intermediate.

The list will be printed in our Bulletin for Christmas. Please print your information clearly on the envelope. Envelopes may be returned in the Sunday Collection or through the mail. Dedications are needed by December 18.



A THANK YOU FROM WATER WITH BLESSINGS

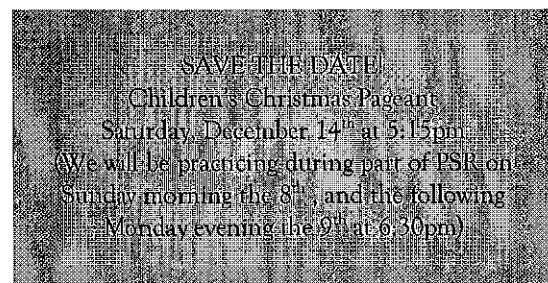
A handwritten note from Sister Lorraine reads:

"I chose this particular image for a thank you message to your parish, because it struck me that you have been like this loving big sister: sharing what you have with a helpless younger brother.

"Your contribution of \$6,105 means that 102 mothers will soon be Water Women for 208 families-well over 2,000 people drinking clean water because of your generosity.

"I close with a prayer for blessings in abundance for all of you. As you have been a faithful blessing for so many families over the past years, so may you be richly blessed with all spiritual gifts."

In Christ - Sister Lorraine



THANKS TO THE DOERS

There are those who look on from the sidelines and those who Do. Thanks to the four volunteers who did all the work to get our church ready for Advent: Karen Schroeder, Rhonda Smith, Nancy Spain & John Spiegelhalter. Much appreciated by all of us.

DECEMBER STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

“The promotion of the practice of stewardship is important for the mission of the Church and for the spiritual well-being of each individual Christian. Everyone benefits from the sacrificial gift one makes of his time, talent and treasure.” - Pope Benedict

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE

At the November meeting of the Parish Council the Bookkeeper reported that the Total Parish Income for this fiscal year, July 1, 2019 to November 20, 2019 is \$74,769. Our expenses for the same period are \$55,188 resulting in a positive difference of \$19,582. Thanks to all our contributors; they keep us here.

LOOSE CHANGE COLLECTION THANK YOU

Thanks to those who contributed \$241 to our Loose Change Collection last weekend. We are donating it to the House of Hope (shelter for abused spouses and children) to help those who will be spending Christmas there.

ADVENT GIVING TREE PRESENTS DUE BY NEXT SUNDAY- DECEMBER 15

Again this year those who would like to do so are invited to provide a Christmas Present for a child served by the Higginsville Community Food Pantry. On our Advent Giving Tree are i.d. tags that describe a child's age, gender and a few possibilities. If you take a tag you don't have to buy everything on the list – those are suggestions. You are welcome to do only one gift or more if you want to.

A gift should be new, wrapped as a Christmas present and with the I.D. tag firmly attached- so the right gift gets to the right child.

The gifts should be here at the church by Sunday December 15.

SANTA WILL BE IN TOWN ON TUESDAY

The beautiful six car Holiday Express Train will be visiting Higginsville this Tuesday, December 17th, stopping at the old train depot in downtown at 4:00pm. This is free and open to the public.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

DIOCESAN GOAL REACHED

As of November 24th, 45 households of Saint Mary's have donated \$11,085 to this year's Annual Catholic Appeal. The diocesan goal for our parish is \$9,000 which puts us at 124% of the way to our goal!

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETS

THIS SUNDAY

The December meeting of the Building Committee is this Sunday, December 8, after Mass in the Lower Meeting Room.

Members of the parish who have volunteered to serve on the committee: Marty Bell, Mike Esser, Howard Goring, Chris Kaiser, Nick Rankin, Mike Ryun and Brent Schlotzhauer. Brent Schlotzhauer is the committee's liaison with the Parish Council.

The Building Committee is scheduled to meet six times a year on the second Sunday of: February, April, June, August, October & December.

Anyone who wants to help with the committee is invited to do so.

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

“I regret that human ideologies can lead us at times to harmful errors. There is the error of those Christians who separate the demands of the Gospel from their personal relationship with the Lord, from their interior union with Him, from openness to his grace. Christianity thus becomes for them a sort of NGO stripped of the luminous mysticism so evident in the lives of Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Teresa of Calcutta, and many others. For these great saints, mental prayer, the love of God, and the reading of the Gospel in no way detracted from their passionate and effective commitment to their neighbors in need: quite the opposite.”

Gaudete et Exultate #100



Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Florence Kruczek (*right*), 91, and de Lourdes Okoniewski, 87, each entered religious life in the 1940s, barely out of high school. For decades, prayer and teaching filled their days. Yet a lifetime of serving others has only increased their own gratitude. "I get up each morning and say, 'O Lord, thank you for the gift of another day,'" says Sister Florence.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

For Sisters Florence and de Lourdes—and 30,000 other senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious—service is a way of life. Most ministered in Catholic schools, hospitals, parishes, and social service agencies, usually for little or no pay. Today, hundreds of religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious offers vital support for necessities, such as medications and nursing care. Please be generous.

Almost 94 percent of donations directly aid senior religious.

retiredreligious.org

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

To donate by mail: Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

Amount: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

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Data Preference (Please check one.)

- Yes, I agree that the data I provided to complete this transaction may be used for that purpose and used and stored for United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR), records and to evaluate interest in RFR web pages.
- No, the data I provided may only be used to complete this transaction and may not be stored for United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR), records.

Please check with your employer about matching gifts.

National Religious Retirement Office • 3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington DC 20017-1194 • Telephone (202) 541-3215 • Fax (202) 541-3053

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 1st-- \$2,048
Loose Cash -- \$135
Total Parish Support -- \$2,183
Average Weekly expenses -- \$3,278

KNIGHTS HOSTING CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR SHELTERED WORKSHOP

The Knights of Columbus of Lexington and Higginsville are combining forces to host a Christmas Lunch of turkey and all the trimmings for the workers and staff at the Lafayette County Sheltered Workshop, where several of our parish members work.

This will be on Friday, December 20, at noon at the Workshop.

To volunteer to cook, serve, clean-up or make a donation- telephone Bill Christophene at 816-616-8145.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP 'FAITH IN ACTION'

This Sunday, December 8, from 1pm to 3pm there will be a Free Throw competition at the Senior Center here in Higginsville. It is free to all participants and open to 2nd Graders through 8th Grade. Top competitors ages 9 through 14 will have a chance advance to the State Championship.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Please consider donating towards the religious retirement fund. Hundreds of US religious communities lack adequate retirement savings. The number of religious able to serve in compensated ministry is rapidly diminishing. Rising costs are a monumental challenge to funding eldercare. The total cost of care for senior women and men religious in the United States has exceeded \$1 billion annually for each of the last 11 years. Therefore your donation will be much appreciated.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

December 8

Dear Parishioners,

Thanks to the four wonderful volunteers who got our church ready for Advent after taking down and putting away our Harvest decorations: Karen Schroeder, Rhonda Smith, Nancy Spain & John Speigalhalter.

It was a lot of work for a group that size but as you can see they did a great job.

Come Sunday, December 22, following Mass we will be taking down the Advent things and decorating for Christmas. A larger group of people will be needed to accomplish the task.

Our Children's Christmas Pageant is this coming Saturday- December 14 after the 4pm Mass at about 5:15pm (or as soon as the cast can be costumed and corralled). Thanks to Kristina Campbell & Rebecca Hoeflicker for organizing this for our parish. Everyone is invited.

Ordinarily this Sunday, December 8, is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics celebrating the Immaculate Conception of Mary. That is how Catholics speak of the beginning of Mary's life when she was conceived, in the ordinary human way, in her mother's womb but without Original Sin as predestined by God's grace to be the sinless mother of the Messiah.

Since this year December 8 falls on a Sunday, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception has been transferred to Monday, December 9. It will be a feast day of Mary but not a Holy Day of Obligation.

The priority of the Sunday Mass over even a day in honor of Mary emphasizes the importance that the Sunday Mass has in Catholic spirituality.

So the Feast of the Immaculate Conception this year will not be this Sunday and it's not a Holy Day of Obligation.

Monday, December 9, will be our parish's patron feast because technically our parish is dedicated to "The Immaculate Conception of Mary" but commonly called simply "Saint Mary's".

That day we will have our regular 8am morning Mass for all who want to take part. Always a good way to start any day!

Peace, Blessings, Joy!
And Love in the Lord!
Father Tom Hawkins

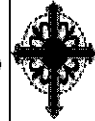


JACKSON COUNTY AUDIOLOGY

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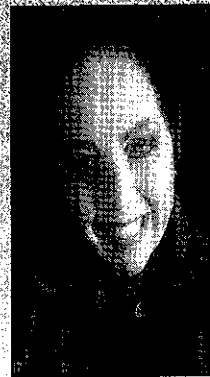


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