

# St. Mary's Parish

[www.stmarysinhigginville.org](http://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

## WAITING AND HOPING

The people had been searching and waiting for generations for the Anointed One of God. They knew in their hearts that they needed someone to bring them back, to close the divide that had grown between God and God's people. John's baptism of repentance prepared them for the advent, or coming, of the Christ. John's message of repentance and the demands of faith, of justice, and care for the poor and oppressed, while comforting to the weak and vulnerable, was challenging to those in positions of power. Like prophets before him, he refused to ignore the promptings of God to speak God's word. And like many prophets who preceded him, John was imprisoned and eventually martyred.

We can relate to the people who went out into the desert to be baptized. They heard John's urgent call to repentance and his declaration that the Messiah was coming soon. They heard him express God's care for those who needed it most. They were compelled to hear and respond. Their lives were changed, as their hearts were opened to the reality of God's love to which John so powerfully gave witness.

We too ache for God's healing and peace. We wait for God to break into our lives with love. Who among us has not at times felt weak, feeble, afraid? Take heart, you are not alone. God is with you. God is ready to save us from the darkness of sin and lead us to joy in the presence of God's mercy. This is the message of Advent, and of the whole of the gospel: God desires so deeply to be with us that God came to be one with us in Jesus Christ.

Today's Readings: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

**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 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. Died 1591.

*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*

**Monday, December 16th – 8:00am**

*Martha Pollard R.I.P. by Ian Pollard and Family*

**Tuesday, December 17th – 8:00am**

*Lisa Ruehter by Sheila Carroll*

**Wednesday, December 18th - 6:00pm**

*Martha Pollard R.I.P. by St. Mary's Choir*

**Thursday, December 19th – 8:00am**

*Martha Pollard R.I.P. by Audrey Abney*

**Friday, December 20th – 8:00am**

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

**Saturday, December 21st – 4:00pm**

SAINT PETER CANSIUS A Dutch Jesuit. A leading voice in the Church's response to the Reformation in Germany, he founded several colleges. Died 1597

*Saint Mary's Parishioners Living and Deceased*

**Sunday, December 22nd – 10:30am The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Martha Pollard R.I.P. by Darrel & Juanita Rinne*

MASS ASSISTANTS	THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEKEND	
	Saturday, Dec. 14	Sunday, Dec. 15	Saturday, Dec. 21	Sunday, Dec. 22
USHERS	Robert Beck Lisa Kuecker	Rick Rankin Ralph Luebrecht	Pete Beck Bill Kohne	Knights of Columbus
SERVERS	Bill Wallpe	Ben Mason Spencer Trent	Bob Brown	Knights of Columbus
LECTORS	Mike Deamos Gail Deamos	Rich Cole Marty Bell	Mike Esser Howard Goring	Knights of Columbus
COMMUNION	Peggy Singh Gary Starke Terie Starke	Brent Schlotzhauer Beth Schlotzhauer Kristina Campbell	Gail Deamos Howard Goring Barbara Beck	Knights of Columbus
OFFERTORY GIFTS	Mike & Gloria Ryun	Kirk & Shelly Sears Family	Peggy Singh	Knights of Columbus
GREETERS	Josie McDermed Carol Summerlin	Mike & Gloria Ryun	Barbara Beck Lisa Kuecker	Knights of Columbus
SHUT-INS	Colleen Starner & Teresa Hoepfner		Knights of Columbus	

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Adult Parishioners - New Year & Epiphany Party  
January 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 After Mass around 5:15pm

### **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT THIS SATURDAY**

For those reading this bulletin on Saturday, December 14- the Children's Christmas Pageant will be after Mass. Starting about 5:15pm. Everyone is invited to stay.

### **KNIGHTS HOLY HOUR, ROSARY AND MASS NEXT SUNDAY**

Next Sunday, December 22, will be the quarterly 'Knights Mass' at which all leadership roles are filled by the Knights of Columbus. Starting one hour before Mass there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a Rosary led by the Knights. All Knights are encouraged to take this opportunity to spend some time in Prayer.

### **ADVENT GIVING TREE PRESENTS DUE THIS 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.

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

### **SNOW SHOVEL BRIGADE BEING FORMED**

When there is a significant snow prior to a weekend Mass the parish pays to have the parking lots plowed. We depend on volunteers to shovel the sidewalks and the stairs. If you are willing to help shovel when needed, please let the parish office know 660-584-3038. Remember to use only plastic shovels on the stairs and east ramp.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS-AFTER-MASS NEXT SUNDAY**

Lots of help is needed to get our church decorated for Christmas. Including manpower to haul the manger (very heavy), set up Christmas trees and relocate statues. A lunch of salad and pizza will be served after Mass next Sunday, December 22, downstairs in the Lower Meeting Room before the work begins. All help is needed and very much welcome.

### **COLLECTION COUNTERS**

Please sign the Collection worksheet if you are the collection counter for that weekend. There have been times when people switched weekends, and the secretary has a question, but doesn't know who to contact because no name or initials was listed.

### **ACA DIOCESAN GOAL REACHED**

As of December 9th, 46 households of Saint Mary's have donated \$12,340 to this year's Annual Catholic Appeal. The diocesan goal for our parish is \$9,000 which puts us at 136% of the way to our goal!

When making a pledge please be sure to note that you are a member of Saint Mary's Parish in Higginsville (there are a lot of different 'Saint Mary' Parishes all throughout the diocese)- the diocese does keep track of this.

### **HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION -**

#### **THIS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19**

Free food will be available this Thursday, December 19, at the Harvesters Food Drop at the First Assembly of God Church, 1050 W 19<sup>th</sup> Street in Higginsville.

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 with handles work very well.

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.

The work takes about six hours, is not easy but serves a real need in our community. Wear comfortable clothes. Bring your lunch if desired.

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

All help welcome!

### **ASSISTANTS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES**

To accommodate different families Christmas schedules, we do not schedule Assistants for the Christmas Masses, but seek volunteers for Readers, Altar Servers, Communion Ministers, Ushers, Greeters and Offertory Gifts. If you would like to help at one of the Christmas Masses, the sign-up sheet is on the east table behind the pews. Thanks!

**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*

"Another harmful ideological error is found in those who find suspect the social engagement of others, seeing it as superficial, worldly, secular, materialist, communist, or populist. Or they relativize it, as if there are other more important matters, or the only thing that counts is one particular ethical issue or cause that they themselves defend. Our defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm, and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned, and the underprivileged, the vulnerable, infirm, and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection. We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in a world where some revel, spend with abandon, and live only for the latest consumer goods, even as others look on from afar, living their entire lives in abject poverty."

*Gaudete et Exultate #101*

**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 this Saturday.

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. Please take drawings home after the gathering.

<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**

**NEEDED BY THIS WEDNESDAY – DEC 18**

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.

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@ombudsmankcsj.org](mailto:crayon@ombudsmankcsj.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 24<sup>th</sup>*  
*4pm & 7pm*

*Christmas Morning*  
*Wednesday December 25<sup>th</sup>*  
*10am*

**COMMUNITY NATIVITY – THANK YOU**

Thanks to those Knights of Columbus who set up the Community Nativity: Marty Bell, Steve Bell, Rich Cole, Father Tom Hawkins, Mike Ryun, Brent Schlotzhauer, and John Spiegelhalter.

And thanks to John Knox for again allowing the scene, sponsored by the Ministerial Fellowship of Higginsville, to be set on the corner of their property at the junction of Hwy 13 and FF.

Plans are to take the scene down on the first Saturday of January, January 4. All help is welcome.

### WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 8th-- \$2,278

Loose Cash - \$110

Total Parish Support - \$2,388

Average Weekly expenses -- \$3,278

### KNIGHTS HOSTING CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR SHELTERED WORKSHOP THIS FRIDAY

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 this 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.

### WEAFs ON BREAK

Wednesday Evening Adult Faith Study is on break until the Wednesday after Epiphany, January 8. Anyone and everyone is invited to be part of this small group of adults which gathers most Wednesday evenings to do some form of Faith Study led by Roger Rinne. This is completely free. Mass is available in the church at 6:00pm. Supper is in the Lower Meeting Room after Mass. The evening's program starts at 7:00pm and is over at 8:00pm. All are invited. Some people come at 6pm, some at 6:30 pm some at 7pm. Come and go as it works for you.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT CONFEDERATE CHAPEL THIS SUNDAY

Everyone is invited to hear a Christmas program by "The Flashbacks", a Gospel & Country trio, this Sunday afternoon, December 15, at 2:00pm in the chapel at Confederate Park. Confederate Park is on the north side of Higginsville. This is open and free to all.

Refreshments of assorted cookies and apple cider will be served following the performance.

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

December 15

Dear Parishioners,

It's a wonderful tradition in our Parish that during the Christmas Season (Christmas Eve to Epiphany) our church looks like something from a Christmas postcard but to make that happen it is a ton of work which means it takes a ton of willing workers.

If you can help, please stay after Mass next Sunday and after a lunch of pizza and salad there will be plenty to do. All help welcome.

Thanks to Chris Kaiser of *Kaiser-Weigers Funeral Home* for providing 2020 Catholic calendars for those who would like them. Free for the taking- on the tables at the doors. Help yourself! And don't wait until they are gone.

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

*Father Tom Hawkins*

### RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION

#### THANK YOU

Thanks to those who donated \$565 to the annual collection in support of retired Religious Sisters and Monks. "Thank you" hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to the aging religious," says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week's second collection.

### GRIEF AND THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Many older people missing their departed loved ones experience the pains of absence and grief during the festive times of the year. As a help, copies of an old article "Surviving the Holidays When Someone You Love Has Died" are available 'on the tables behind the pews'.

### CATHOLIC CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Thanks to Chris Kaiser of *Kaiser-Weigers Funeral Home* for providing 2020 Catholic calendars for those who would like them. Free for the taking- on the tables at the doors. Help yourself! And don't wait until they are gone.



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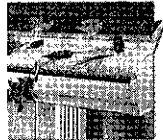
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