

St. Mary's Parish

www.stmarysinhigginville.org

401 W. Broadway, Higginsville, 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

YOUR HOLY FAMILY

Families come in all shapes and sizes. When asked to describe your family, you might begin by telling people about a parent, sibling, or extended family members. You might even describe what you have learned from a genealogical study. You are unlikely, however, no matter how wonderful your family may be, to describe your family as "holy." And yet, this is our primary call. Each of us as people of God, and each of our families, is called to be holy. We are called to live as God's people in the world, to communicate God's love and presence through the way that we live together and in relationship with others. Every family, no matter what their circumstances, is called to be a holy family. Even Mary, Joseph, and Jesus faced challenges and trials. And yet they rose to the occasion, listened to and followed God's will, and were assured of the love of the Lord through it all.

Have you ever found yourself at a crossroads? One direction may be momentarily advantageous or easy, another more challenging but right or good. It is not always easy to know which direction to choose. Discerning our path of life necessarily involves prayer, the guidance of others whom we trust, and the promptings of the Holy Spirit within us. The example of the Holy Family is that they followed the will of God, trusting in God's abiding presence even when they knew that doing so involved risk and uncertainty. Mary trusted the voice of the angel, although the message was beyond comprehension; Joseph listened to the voice of the Lord in dreams and proceeded, assured of God's guiding spirit in the midst of troubling circumstances. This is what our families must do as well. Being Christian people in today's world is not always easy, even when we know it is right. This is the meaning of holiness. This is what it means to be a holy family.

Today's Readings: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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 28th – 4:00pm

FEAST of the HOLY INNOCENTS The children of Bethlehem executed by order of King Herod in an attempt to destroy the child visited by the Maji.

Thomas Graham R.I.P. by Virginia Graham

Sunday, December 29th – 10:30am The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saint Mary's Parishioners Living and Deceased

Monday, December 30th – 8:00am

Dale Parker R.I.P. by Anita Parker

Tuesday, December 31st
New Year's Eve
6:00pm – Saint Mary's Parishioners, Living and Deceased

Wednesday, January 1st
New Year's Day - Solemnity of Mary 'The Mother of God'
Day of Prayer for World Peace
9:00am – For Peace in the World and God's Blessing on the New Year

Thursday, January 2nd – 8:00am

SAINT BASIL the GREAT A hermit monk who was so famous for his holiness and learning that he became bishop of Caesarea. His writings are the source for Eucharistic Prayer IV. Died in 379.

SAINT GREGORY NAZIANZEN Patriarch of Constantinople noted for his outstanding teaching abilities and eloquence. Basil and Gregory are two of the four great doctors of the Eastern Church. Died in 389.

Communion Service

Friday, January 3rd – 8:00am

FEAST of the MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS A day celebrating and reflecting upon the significance of name "Yeshua" given by the angel Gabriel, at the command of God, to Mary and Joseph. Yeshua (in English idiom 'Jesus') means 'Yahweh rescues' or 'God saves.'

Communion Service

Saturday, January 4th – 4:00pm

SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON An American wife and mother of five children. During her widowhood became a convert to Catholicism. Founded the first congregation for women religious in the United States, the Sisters of Charity, devoted to education of the poor and teaching in parochial schools. Died 1821.

Martha Pollard R.I.P. by Sandra Sanders

Sunday, January 5th – 10:30am Epiphany Feast of the Three Kings

Saint Mary's Parishioners Living and Deceased

MASS ASSISTANTS	THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEKEND	
	Saturday, Dec. 28	Sunday, Dec. 29	Saturday, Jan. 4	Sunday, Jan 5
USHERS	Lisa Kuecker Bill Wallpe	Robert Quarti Mike Ryun	Gary Starke Bill Summerlin	Marty Bell Volunteer Needed
SERVERS	Mike Deamos	Amanda Daniel Cate Cooper	Mike Deamos	Luke Iles Olivia Cowherd
LECTORS	Bob Brown Sandy May	Karen Schroeder Volunteer Needed	Carol Summerlin Peggy Singh	Charley Hare Chris Kaiser
COMMUNION	Barbara Beck Carol Summerlin Joan Stuerke	Madison Bennett Kristina Campbell Beth Schlotzhauer	Josie McDermed Peggy Singh Rhonda Ridinger	Mike Ryun Karen Schroeder Rich Cole
OFFERTORY GIFTS	Gary & Terie Starke	Bennie & Nancy Spain	John & Cheryl Spiegelhalter	Josh and Sarah Thompson Family
GREETERS	Lisa Kuecker Peggy Singh	Roger Rinne Mike Ryun	Carol Summerlin Lisa Kuecker	Bill Summerlin Steve Lock
SHUT-INS	Marty Bell & Josie McDermed		Father Tom	

**KNIGHTS TAKING DOWN COMMUNITY
NATIVITY- THIS SATURDAY JAN 4 at 9am**

Knight of Columbus and any other volunteers who want to help, will take down the Community Nativity Scene (located at Hwy 13 and FF) starting at 9am. Trucks will be needed to transport the figures.

Again, thanks to John Knox Village for permitting the display to be set on their property.

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.

SCAM TEXT MESSAGE

Several Parish members have received a scam text message using Father Tom's signature. He does not own a cell phone and hasn't requested any donations. If you have received such a message you are encouraged to contact your phone service provider and notify them of this scam.

**COLLECTION FOR HEAT AND HUNGER
NEXT WEEKEND**

Our 'Loose Change Collection' the first weekend of January will go to the "Heat and Hunger Fund" administered by the Ministerial Fellowship of Higginsville to assist those in need living within the confines of the C-1 School District with utility bills. For those who would like to use one, there will be a special envelope in the pews. The 'Heat and Hunger' payments are made directly to utility companies not to individuals.

Persons seeking assistance can telephone 584-5556 and leave their contact information. A volunteer will then get in touch with them to evaluate the situation. Assistance is limited to up to \$150 per household within a calendar year. The Heat and Hunger Fund assists approximately 200 families each year.

To help your neighbors in need donations to the Heat and Hunger Fund may be sent anytime throughout the year to; The Heat and Hunger Fund, c/o Dr. Greg Fine, Treasurer, First Baptist Church, 1907 Peach, Higginsville, MO 64037.

WORKSHOP LUNCH- THANK YOU

Thanks to those who cooked and served the Christmas Lunch on Friday, December 20th, to the workers and staff of the Lafayette County Workshop. This was a combined effort of the Knights of Columbus from Lexington and Higginsville. Those from Council 2244 headquartered here at Saint Mary's : Corbin Bell, Marty Bell, Steve Bell, Gloria & Mike Ryun, and Brent Schlotzhauer. From Council 4300 of Lexington: Bill Christophene, Paul Beale, Alan Meyer and Bennie Spain. The cost of the lunch was shared by the two councils. Their efforts were much appreciated by the workers and staff of the Workshop.

KNIGHTS FREE THROW CONTEST RESULTS



The Knights hosted their first Annual Free Throw Championship *Faith in Action* on Dec 14th. Josh Thompson reported a total of 35 participants and gave the finalist for each age group- 7yr Nolan Stoner, 8yr Parson Stoner, 9yr Brody Willis, 10yr Ada Stoner, 11yr Grayson Thompson, 12yr Lynn Dyer, and 13yr Olivia Cowherd. Everyone who participated had a great time and they hope to do this again next year. Congrats to the winners and thanks to the Knights of Columbus for bringing together the youth in our community.

ACA DIOCESAN GOAL REACHED

As of December 22nd, 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! Thanks to all who have donated.

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.

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** 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.**

SAINT MARY'S DELIVERS MEALS ON WHEELS THIS WEEK

Date	Volunteers	
Monday Dec. 30	Gary & Terie Starke	Father Tom & Dwaine Edwards
Tuesday Dec. 31	Darrel & Juanita Rinne	Gary & Terie Starke
Wednesday Jan. 1	Holiday no deliveries made.	
Thursday Jan. 2	Rory & Rhonda Ridinger	Ralph & Lois Luebrecht
Friday Jan. 3	Rory & Rhonda Ridinger	Josie McDermed & Gretchen Cowherd

This takes about one hour on just one day of the week.

If you would like to volunteer (either to be a regular driver or on an as needed basis) please call Terie Starke at . Terie is the Meals on Wheels volunteer co-coordinator for our Parish. Thanks to all who help with this.

When there is snow or ice which causes the schools to close, the Senior Center also closes and there are no meals prepared or delivered. When in doubt, telephone the Senior Center at 660-584-7040.

If you feel the weather conditions make it unsafe to be on the road please use your better judgement.

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.

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

"Welcoming refugees and strangers is found in the Old Testament: 'You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you yourselves were strangers in the land of Egypt' (Exodus 22:21). 'When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress him. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt' (Leviticus 19:33-34). This is not a notion invented by some Pope, or a momentary fad. In today's world too, we are called to follow the path of spiritual wisdom proposed by the prophet Isaiah to show what is pleasing to God. "Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own kind That your light shall break forth like the dawn." (Leviticus 7-8)

Gaudete et Exultate #103

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT FIRST BAPTIST

The Choir of First Baptist Church invites everyone to 'Celebrate God's Gift of Salvation this Christmas!' with a concert next Sunday afternoon, January 5, at 3:00pm. First Baptist is at 1907 Peach Street in Higginsville.

WHAT TO DO WITH UNNEEDED WINTER COATS

If you have a winter coat you no longer have need of, a place to donate is 'The Free Coat Closet' maintained year-round at First Presbyterian Church, 111 Fairground Avenue in Higginsville. Coats should be clean and in good condition. Before dropping off, telephone the church: (660)584-3372.

Coats and other donations of clothing for young children can be made to the 'Baby Grace' program which supports mothers and children in need. It is operated out of Grace Methodist Church at 16 W 15th Street (use the Walnut Street entrance). Before dropping off telephone the church: (660)584-2211.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 22nd-- \$2,710

Loose Cash -- \$288

Total Parish Support -- \$2,990

Average Weekly expenses -- \$3,278

THANKS TO THOSE WHO DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS

Thanks to those who did all the work to make our church beautiful for this Christmas Season: Marty Bell, Steve Bell, Rich Cole, Gretchen Cowherd, Olivia Cowherd, Fr. Tom Hawkins, Mary and Roger Rinne, Gloria and Mike Ryun, Brent and Beth Schlotzhauer, Chris Schlotzhauer, Bennie Spain, Rhonda Smith, and John and Cheryl Spiegelhalter. Many thanks to each of them.

Help will be needed to take it all down and put it away after Mass next Sunday, January 5. All help is welcome.

COMMUNION MINISTERS FOR SHUT-INS

Visiting the sick is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. During the first week of each month Father Tom visits shut-ins and takes Holy Communion to them. On the weekends of other weeks of the month volunteers take Communion to them. If you are willing to visit the sick and bring them Holy Communion, contact Josie McDermed:
to volunteer.

BRUNCH THIS SUNDAY

Celebrate the Fifth Day of Christmas and the Feast of the Holy Family with Brunch following the 10:30am Mass this Sunday, December 29th. This is hosted by the Knights of Columbus. There is no charge but you are invited to make a free will donation.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

December 29

Dear Parishioners,

Best wishes for a peaceful and good New Year.

Next Saturday, January 4, all adults of our parish are invited to a New Year's / Epiphany party. There will be wines and beer with various snacks.

This event is completely free- no tickets, no donations and no reservations. All are welcome. Just to share the Joy of the Christmas Season.

Yes it will still be Christmas. Or more specifically the end of Christmas Season – the Feast of Epiphany.

Children may also attend but this is primarily a social gathering for adults.

So many people to thank for having made Christmas better for others this year - those who donated Christmas gifts for children served by the local food pantry, those who donated Christmas gifts for spouses and children spending Christmas at the House of Hope (shelter for abuse victims), those who proved the Christmas lunch at the Sheltered Workshop for workers and staff, and those who did the work of getting our church ready for Advent and Christmas Masses. So much generosity is the spirit of Christmas and how it's truly defined. May God bless each one of them and may more and more people follow their good example.

If there is anyone who didn't get something done for others this Christmas – it is not too late. We will be taking up a collection for the Heat of Hunger Fund next weekend.

May all your Days of Christmas and the New Year be blessed.

Peace, Blessings, Joy!

And Love in the Lord!

Father Tom Hawkins

ADULTS OF SAINT MARY'S

are invited by

The Altar and Rosary Society

Fun Committee

Knights of Columbus and

Parish Council

NEW YEAR'S and EPIPHANY PARTY

Saturday, November 4 – at 5:30pm

On the lower level of the church



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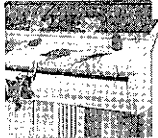
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