

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

HUMAN HISTORY AND DIVINE RESCUE

Today's reading from Second Chronicles is the conclusion of these two volumes, a brief summary of Judah's infidelity under a sequence of kings and the subsequent seventy years of exile in Babylon. This abbreviated sequence recaps the events treated in earlier chapters, concluding with Jerusalem being conquered and its inhabitants deported by to Babylon.

After the Babylonians were conquered by Cyrus and the Persians, Cyrus built the great Persian Empire that covered almost the entire ancient Near East. Unlike the earlier Assyrians and Babylonians, Cyrus did not rule by deporting and enslaving peoples he defeated. Instead, he organized his empire into regional governments and funded their construction projects, ruling over all with the title King of Kings (among others). In this spirit, Cyrus urged the exiles to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their temple and their native culture. In Jewish terms, Cyrus was a "messiah" (Hebrew), or a *christos* (Greek), someone anointed by God to carry out this divine mission.

The return from exile in Babylon was second only to the Exodus from Egypt as a founding narrative shaping the Jewish identity into which Jesus was born and in which his church took root and began to grow. If we read between the lines of the two New Testament readings from today, we can see the outlines of this same pattern of God bringing humanity from sorrow into joy: The Hebrews' slavery in Egypt and the Judeans' exile in Babylonia reveal a universal truth, that we belong to the God who is "rich in mercy," and we are assured that "when we were dead in our transgressions," God "so loved the world" that he sent Jesus to be the way of our redemption, our salvation.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called "Laetare Sunday," or "Rejoice! Sunday." Even if we feel overwhelmed by the darkness of sin (our own and others'), wondering whether God really is working on our behalf, we can put our faith in today's Word that it is so. For this, we can truly rejoice—we are more than halfway to Easter!

Today's Readings: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

© 2021, J. S. Paluch Company, Inc.

3/14/2021

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.*

MASS TIMES, SAINTS DAYS and INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 13 – 4:00pm

John Hagerty R.I.P. by Karen Hagerty

Sunday, March 14 – 10:30am FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saint Mary's Parishioners, Living & Deceased

Monday, March 15 – 8:00am

Communion Service

Tuesday, March 16 – 8:00am

Missouri Farmers by Jeff & Lisa Kuecker

Wednesday, March 17 – 6:00pm in the Evening

SAINT PATRICK Great missionary who brought the Faith to the people of what we now call Ireland. Some of his writings have been preserved. Died in 461.

Robert Bell R.I.P. by Marty Bell

Thursday, March 18 – 8:00am

SAINT CYRIL of JERUSALEM A great bishop and teacher. Died in 386

Jon Schroeder R.I.P. by Karen Schroeder

Friday, March 19 – 8:00am

SAINT JOSEPH Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Foster Father of Jesus. He is patron saint of workmen and carpenters. Because he was protector of the Holy Family he is honored as Patron and Protector of the Universal Church. Pope Francis has dedicated this year of 2021 to Saint Joseph.

Martha Anderson R.I.P. by Karen Schroeder

Saturday, March 20 – 4:00pm

Carl & Mary Arnett R.I.P. by Jeff & Lisa Kuecker

Sunday, March 21 – 10:30am FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saint Mary's Parishioners, Living & Deceased

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers Schedule	Ushers	Lector	Eucharistic Minister/ Server	After Mass Cleaning
Sat. March 13 th	Bill Wallpe Mike Ryun	Sandy May	Mike Deamos	Dwaine & Marlene Edwards
Sun. March 14 th	Marty Bell Chris Kaiser	Chris Kaiser	Emily Rhoad	Karen Schroeder/ Marty Bell
Sat. March 20 th	Bill Wallpe Mike Ryun	Peggy Singh	Howard Goring	Larry & Teresa Hoeppner
Sun. March 21 st	Marty Bell Chris Kaiser	Emily Rhoad	Hazel Nuelle	Greg & Karen Daniel Family

LENT REGULATIONS

As a reminder to all Catholics that Lent is a season of repentance the Church requires Catholics to observe Ash Wednesday and Good Friday as days of both Fast and Abstinence. And all the other Fridays of Lent as days of Abstinence. The Law of Abstinence obliges those Catholics the age of 14 and older not to eat any meat in any form. The Law of Fast obliges Catholics who are between the ages of 18 to 60 to limit themselves to one full meal, two light meals and nothing between meals.



WELCOME BACK!!

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADULT FAITH SHARING

Sessions begin with 6:00 PM Mass
and continue through Wednesday: March 31.
You can come to all of them or some of them,
whatever works in your schedule.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

REFLECTIONS FOR THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

It is hard to imagine that Jesus could have entered into the saving events of Holy Week without reflecting on various scenes from his own life when St. Joseph unknowingly helped his son prepare to submit to his passion and death. When the Lord beckons us to take up our own crosses daily – something we first learn to do in our own families – we might turn to St. Joseph for inspiration and assistance.

To be continued

Based on “Patron of the Church: St. Joseph’s Importance Today” by Michael R. Heinlein published in ‘Our Sunday Visitor’, Dec. 2020

VATICAN ASSURES THAT CORONA VIRUS VACCINES ARE MORALLY ACCEPTABLE

“The Vatican’s doctrinal office issued a note December 21 saying it is ‘morally acceptable’ for Catholics to take vaccines against the coronavirus, in what appears an unprecedented effort to convince believers to inoculate themselves to help end the global pandemic. “Addressing concerns that some of the new vaccines were developed using cell lines connected to tissue obtained from two abortions decades ago, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith said the ‘grave danger’ of spreading the coronavirus outweighs those concerns.”

VISITING CONFESSOR HERE NEXT SUNDAY MARCH 21 – 3:00pm

Spring begins this coming Saturday, March 20. For a thorough spring cleaning of your soul – there will be a visiting priest here at Saint Mary’s to listen to Confessions on Sunday, March 21 – the first full day of Spring.

This will be at 3pm in the afternoon and last for as long as- but only for as long as- penitents come into the Confessional. The visiting priest will be Father Joe Bathke, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Warrensburg and a priest of the Precious Blood Order.

DIOCESAN MASS FOR THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

This Friday, March 19, at 6pm in the evening, Bishop Johnston will preside at a solemn Mass in diocesan observance of the Solemnity of Saint Joseph at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph: 519 N 10th Street, Saint Joseph, Missouri. All are welcome but to reserve a place in advance phone: 816-232-7763

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES THIS WEEKEND– MARCH 13/14

When you give, you help fill the bellies of young children so they can study hard in school. You help prevent trafficking and provide welcome kits for survivors. Your donations help mothers and babies around the world receive nutritional care and health exams. Refugees find safety and receive emergency assistance and trauma counseling. Farmers learn innovative ways to plant and grow crops despite drought or disease. And women find dignity in opportunities for savings and training. For more than 75 years, CRS has been providing expertise and compassion to the very poorest of our brothers and sisters in more than 100 countries. And it’s because of you. Please consider donating to this worthy cause.

ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY ORGANIZING SUPPORT FOR “THE HOUSE OF HOPE”

The House of Hope, Inc. provides support, shelter, and services to families in our area affected by domestic violence or sexual abuse. The 24-hour crisis hotline is 888-259-6795. Emergency transportation, children services, advocacy services, support groups, legal referrals, and a SANE program (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) are available. No one should have to live in fear and feel they have no place to go.

During Lent, the Altar and Rosary Society is organizing a collection of personal supplies and hygiene items for men and women and children who take shelter at the House of Hope (in Lexington). Things like toothpaste, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, deodorant, wipes, shampoo, hand lotion in travel size, colors, color books for youth, stationary, pre-stamped envelopes, pens, pencils etc. Whatever might be of practical use. Plastic ‘shoe boxes’ for this are available on ‘the tables behind the pews’ or put the items in any box or plastic bag. The collection will run from to Palm Sunday (March 28).

Last year due to the pandemic we collected only about 5 boxes. Let us see if we can do at least 30 boxes this year!

NEW MISSALLETES AVAILABLE and ONCE YOU TOUCH IT, IT IS YOUR’S

For those who want one, you can pick up the new Missalette, the booklet with the Sunday Mass Readings for Lent and Easter. To prevent contagion – once you take a Missalette **do not leave** it behind. Take it home and bring it back with you on succeeding Sundays.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS –FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00PM

By reflecting deeply on the death of Jesus we prepare for the sacred events of Holy Week and help prepare our own self to face our death. Which is why it is a Catholic custom to pray The Stations of the Cross, especially during Lent.

Here at Saint Mary's, we will pray the Stations on the Friday evenings of Lent at 7:00pm.

As you enter the church for the stations, pick up a booklet with the prayers. Because of the pandemic take the booklet with you when you leave and bring it back on future Fridays to pray the Stations. Remember to also bring your Missalette for the Benediction Service at the end of the Stations.

Many people find The Stations of the Cross (which is a form of guided meditation) deeply meaningful and helpful.

Because Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament includes the use of Incense, anyone with breathing problems is welcome to leave before Benediction.

HARVESTERS FOOD

DISTRIBUTION THIS THURSDAY

The monthly distribution of free food from Harvesters in a great blessing for anyone in need of food assistance. That will be this Thursday, March 18. As happens the third Thursday of each month.

Food give-away starts about 9:30am and stops at 11am. There is usually an abundance of fresh vegetables and fruit. Sometimes canned goods and sometimes meat. It depends on whatever the warehouse sends. There are no requirements but participants have to get a number (starting at 8am) and are served in sequence. Participants no longer have to bring boxes to carry the food – because of the pandemic people stay in their cars and the packaged foodstuffs are place directly into the trunks of the car. Trunks should be cleared out so there is space for the food supplies. This will be at First Assembly of God Church, 1050 W 19th Street in Higginsville. Just east of Walmart.

Able-bodied volunteers are need to do the distribution. Volunteers begin work at about 8am when the food arrives by truck from Kansas City; it needs to be unloaded and arraigned. 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 Higginsville Ministerial Fellowship, Rev. Dale Felder at [REDACTED] All help welcome!

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.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD – KANSAS CITY

Healing hearts in the heart of the nation. Are you or a loved one suffering from abortion? Find hope and allow God to heal your heart by attending a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat. The next retreat that will take place in Kansas City will be on April 23-25, 2021. For more information or to register, please call Teresa O'Donnell at (816)679-4973 or email rvkcmo@gmail.com (please note: you might have to check your Spam folder for the guaranteed email reply) or visit www.rachelsvineyardkc.org.

GAUDETE ET EXULTATE

(Rejoice and Be Glad)

The Apostolic Exhortation

of Pope Francis about Holiness in today's world.

For Personal Meditation or Family Discussion

“The prayerful reading of God's word, which is ‘sweeter than honey’ yet a ‘two-edged sword’, enables us to pause and listen to the voice of the Master. It becomes a lamp for our steps and a light for our path. As the bishops of India have reminded us, ‘devotion to the word of God is not simply one of many devotions, beautiful but somewhat optional. It goes to the very heart and identity of Christian life. The word has the power to transform lives’.”

Gaudete et Exultate #156

WEDNESDAY LENT DEVOTIONS

Choose what works for you

- 5:00pm – Quiet Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
- 5:30pm – Rosary
- 6:00pm – Evening Mass
- 6:30pm – A simple supper and Lent Program
- 7:00pm- Lent Study *Jesus' Passion: The Story of Redemptive Suffering*

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COLLECTION

THANK YOU

Thank you for those who donated last weekend to the Catholic Charities Collection \$630 was given in total. This organization empowers at risk people to create a pathway out of poverty by alleviating their immediate crises to create stability; then providing robust support to lift them to dignity and self-reliance.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETS THIS

TUESDAY –MARCH 16

So as not to conflict with our Wednesday Lent Offerings, this month the Parish Council will meet this Tuesday – March 16.

Downstairs in the Parish Hall. COVID 19 safety precautions are required that means face masks and social distancing.

Members of the Saint Mary's Parish Council are: Josh Thompson, Presiding President; Kristina Campbell- Parish Secretary and Bookkeeper; Carita Trent- Social Outreach; (Volunteer Needed) -Director of Religious Education; Josie McDermed- Altar Society; Marty Bell – Knights of Columbus; Mike Esser- Liaison to the Building Committee; Rhonda Smith-Adult Education; Steve and Kristin Vetter-Representing Youth Groups. At Large Members are; Mike Esser, Lisa Kuecker, Karen Schroeder, Peggy Singh, Josh Thompson and Carita Trent.

KEEPING THE LORD'S DAY STUDY GUIDE AVAILABLE

Bishop Johnston's Pastoral Letter "Keeping the Lord's Day", directed to all the people of our diocese is available in a 3-lesson guided study for use by families or small groups. Filled with scripture reflections, beautiful sacred art, suggestions for celebrating Sunday and the full text of Bishop Johnston's pastoral letter, this booklet offers a concise way to unpack God's beautiful gift of Sunday rest and the sacred nature of each Christian Sabbath.

Study booklets are available in both English and Spanish at the minimum cost of \$5 for 25 booklets. More information, including a preview of the booklet can be found at www.discipleshipkc.org/study-guide-intro/. Orders can be placed via email marquis@diocesekcsj.org.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS THIS

SUNDAY – MARCH 14

If you are reading this notice on Saturday – remember to change your clock and spring' forward one hour by tomorrow morning when Daylight Savings time kicks in.

Members of the Altar and Rosary Society are reminded that as long as Daylight Time is in effect, meetings will be at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month. (But no meeting in June, July, and August)

MARCH STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Gracious Father, in your wisdom you have entrusted us with your beautiful creation. Aware of your presence, I give you thanks for another day to do your will. Help me to keep in mind the need of others and show me how to respond appropriately. May my hands and feet give service to those in need for your sake.

LENT– FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

We are again collecting food supplies for the local Community Food Pantry. Items requested are:

SUNDAY	SUGGESTED ITEM
March 14	Hamburger/Tuna Helper
March 21	Spaghetti/Macaroni/ Ramen Noodles
March 28	Boxed Potatoes/ Mac & Cheese

Weekly Collection from March 7th

Parishioner Envelopes	\$1,795
Loose Cash Donations	\$ 108
Total Parish Support	\$1,903
Average Weekly Expenses	\$3,278

Saint Mary's

Since 1879 serving Catholics throughout central Lafayette County in Missouri

401 W. Broadway Higginsville, MO 64037-1946

THE PASTOR'S LETTER

March 14, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

This coming Wednesday is Saint Patrick's Day- celebrating the life of the great missionary. Patrick was actually from Roman Britain and learned to speak Irish the hard way – by being kidnaped as a boy by Vikings and sold by them into slavery in Ireland. He had to learn the language to survive.

Patrick had not been very religious up to that point, but his years of hardship and separation from his family made him learn to depend on God.

Against all odds and at great peril, he eventually managed to escape and get back home. When he grew into manhood he studied to become a priest. In a vision he heard the people of Ireland calling him to come help them.

Being able to speak the Gallic language was a great advantage but there was still plenty of opposition and danger to contend with. Yet eventually Patrick did have great success. It's another example of God making something good come out of suffering and disaster.

On every Saint Patrick's Day anyone who wants to be Irish can be. I hope you'll put on some green and enjoy doing so this Wednesday.

Another March celebration will be on March 27 which is the Centennial (One Hundredth Anniversary) of the founding of our parish's Knights of Columbus Council.

If this was an ordinary year the Knights would host some sort of get-together but because of the pandemic that won't be possible.

So, in celebration of their Centennial the Knights will be showing a film recently produced by the National Office of the Knights of Columbus about the hero for which they are named - Christopher Columbus the great explorer.

In these days when we are all supposed to bend over backwards to be politically correct there has been some hash criticism leveled at Christopher Columbus and his role as the discoverer of America.

Some think he should have just stayed home and not disturbed the blissful lives of the native American peoples.

It is no doubt a complex history and things could have been done better but this film by the Knights would like to help set the record straight. For those who want to view it, the film will be shown after Masses next weekend, March 20 and 21. This will be in the church for those who want to stay aafter Mass. Lasts some 20 minutes.

May God bless you and keep you and your's safe and well.

Peace and Blessings, Joy and Love in the Lord!

Father Tom Hawkins



JACKSON COUNTY AUDIOLOGY

CHARLES E. HARE, M.S., CCC/A

THE SCOTTSDALE CENTER, 17020 EAST 40 HIGHWAY, SUITE 9
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI 64055 PHONE: (816) 373-7900

◆ OPTIMAL HEARING ◆ UNBEATABLE SERVICE ◆



Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.

For further information, please call the Parish Office.

Please support the advertisers in your bulletin, and thank them for their continued support. They make your bulletin possible.

Thank You

Say Good-bye to Clogged Gutters!

INTEREST FREE FINANCING AVAILABLE
Please Ask For Details

Receive a \$25 Garden card with FREE in-home estimate

All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product demonstration will receive a \$25 Garden card. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a partner, both parties must be present. Participants must bring a photo ID, be able to read and understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previously participated in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Offer may not be extended, transferred, or scheduled. If a participant is unable to attend, they may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if deemed necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail or e-mailed within 30 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount or other offer sponsored or controlled by LeafGuard. Offer is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Expires 10/31/12.



LeafGuard® is guaranteed never to clog or we'll clean it for FREE*

- Seamless, one-piece system keeps out leaves, pine needles, and debris
- Eliminates the risk of falling off a ladder to clean clogged gutters
- Durable, all-weather tested system not a flimsy attachment

ENGLERT **LeafGuard**
Get it. And forget it.®

Call today for your FREE estimate and in-home demonstration.

CALL NOW 816-336-1009

*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we'll clean your gutters for free.



FINDaPARISH.com

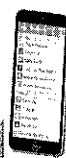
Check It Out Today!

The Most Complete Online National Directory of Catholic Parishes

ONE PARISH

Download Our Free App or Visit www.MY.ONEPARISH.com

Grow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish!



Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!

Sign up here:

www.jspaluch.com/subscribe

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.



catholicmatch[®] Missouri



CatholicMatch.com/myMO

If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

- ✓ Ambulance Solutions as Low as \$19.95 a month
 - ✓ Police ✓ Fire
 - ✓ Friends/Family
- FREE Shipping
FREE Activation
NO Long Term Contracts



CALL NOW! 800.809.3352

MDMedAlert

This Button SAVES Lives! As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!
GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection Nationwide, No Land Line Needed
EASY Set-up, NO Contract
24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad" and Present It The Next Time You Patronize One of Our Advertisers

Thank You

Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin. I am patronizing your business because of it!

Protecting Seniors Nationwide

Medical Alert System

\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly

- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self-Installation



Call Today! Toll-Free 1-877-801-8608



MASTER SHIELD[®]

GUTTER PROTECTION

(816) 688-2288

Leave Your Gutters To The Experts

End Cleaning & Clogs-Guaranteed

FREE LABOR & \$100 GIFT CARD WITH PURCHASE

Micromesh-Design go2.MasterShield.com/church2