



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

LOOKING BEYOND EXILE AND SUFFERING

The readings today remind us how close we are to Easter—only two weeks from now. They also remind us that the path to resurrection and Easter always includes suffering and death. The prophet Jeremiah spent his whole life proclaiming the word of God to kings who would not listen. As an old man, he saw Jerusalem defeated and the inhabitants taken into exile. Jeremiah himself suffered in being left behind, but in today's reading, he is looking beyond those sufferings to a time when the previously disobedient people would be transformed and live in harmony with God's law.

In the Gospel reading, friends of Philip come to him and ask about meeting Jesus. When Philip and Andrew take the request to Jesus, he begins a cryptic discourse on discipleship, transformation, and divine judgment. We never hear whether Philip's friends got to personally meet Jesus. Perhaps they simply blended in with the crowd.

Jesus says, "[W]hen I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." The narrator says that Jesus' words indicate how he will die; the readers already know Jesus will be crucified. Jesus also speaks of divine judgment driving out the world's rulers and of the need to be transformed, like a seed growing into a productive plant. He warns about loving our life and losing it. Unlike Jeremiah's detailed vision, Jesus only hints at what kind of transformed life his death will bring.

What if we, like Philip's friends, want to get close to Jesus? Does that mean that the discourse on death and judgment is addressed to us? If Jesus will draw everyone to himself as he is "lifted up," does being closer to him mean joining him on his cross? (Do we want to be *that* close to Jesus?) Do we want to be transformed? If we say "yes," the liturgy these next two weeks can show us the only way the Church knows to get closer to Jesus: to be willing to be "lifted up" with him in his suffering—and in our own.

Today's Readings: Jer 31:31–34; Ps 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15; Heb 5:7–9; Jn 12:20–33

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 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

Monday, March 22 – 8:00am

Communion Service

Tuesday, March 23 – 8:00am

SAINT TURIBIUS of MOGROVEJO A bishop from Spain who worked in Lima, Peru where he established the first seminary in the New World. Sought to alleviate poverty among the native people. Died in 1606.

by Jeff & Lisa Kuecker

Wednesday, March 24 – 6:00pm in the Evening

Communion Service

Thursday, March 25 – 8:00am

FEAST of the ANNUNCIATION This day being nine-months to Christmas Day (the typical length of human gestation) it is kept as the day on which the Archangel Gabriel visited Mary of Nazareth.

Communion Service

Friday, March 26 – 8:00am

Communion Service

Saturday, March 27 – 4:00pm Centennial of our parish's Knights of Columbus Council

All Knights of Columbus of Mildner Council 2244- Living & Departed

Sunday, March 28 – 10:30am PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION OF THE LORD

Saint Mary's Parishioners, Living & Departed

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers Schedule	Ushers	Lector	Eucharistic Minister/ Server	After Mass Cleaning
Sat. March 20 th	Bill Wallpe Mike Ryun	Peggy Singh	Howard Goring	Larry & Teresa Hoepfner
Sun. March 21 st	Marty Bell Chris Kaiser	Emily Rhoad	Hazel Nuelle	Greg & Karen Daniel Family
Sat. March 27 th	Lisa Kuecker Bill Wallpe	Howard Goring	Peggy Singh	Lisa Kuecker & Teri Meyer
Sun. March 28 st	Marty Bell Chris Kaiser	Rhonda Smith	Emily Rhoad	Brent & Kathy Cooper

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**

As guardian and protector of the Church- including our domestic churches- Saint Joseph offers us many virtues worthy of consideration and emulation. In doing so, we can strengthen family life in our own home and allow our family to be the place where our children learn what is most important in Life, just as Jesus himself must have done under the care of his foster father Joseph the carpenter of Nazareth.

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

**VISITING CONFESSOR HERE THIS SUNDAY
MARCH 21 - 3:00pm**

Spring begins this 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR COUPLES

Calling all couples. Before you know it Easter will be here. You are invited to participate in the Stations of the Cross for Couples, to prepare for Holy Week. It will be a virtual encounter on March 28, 2021 at 4:00pm. Zoom link will be made available as the date approaches. Save this date and time. There is additional information at <https://wwme4youandme.org/>

EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

For those who would like to make a dedication of Easter flowers the donation envelopes are available on the tables at the doors. Or just use any envelope and get the information in to the Parish Office by March 30th. Be sure to write (or preferably print) the name/s of those being honored and by whom.

Weekly Collection from March 14th	
Parishioner Envelopes	\$2,455
Loose Cash Donations	\$ 205
Total Parish Support	\$2,660
Average Weekly Expenses	\$3,278

CATHOLIC RELIEF COLLECTION THANKS!

Our mission to serve the most vulnerable continues. We feed the hungry, act as instruments of peace, empower communities and are a voice for the voiceless. We are inspired and encouraged by you. You- as a donor, partner, supporter, staff member or program participant are the reason we do what we do. We collected \$460 as a parish towards this worthy cause.

LENT- FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

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

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

THANKS TO THE PARISH FAMILY

The individuals who helped organize the Drive by Fish Fry 2 would like to thank the entire church. It takes several volunteers, monetary donations, homemade desserts and participants partaking in the actual meals! Our Parish sold a historical 385 meals in total to the community making the best of a very hard and challenging time. *THANK YOU SO MUCH!*

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Immanuel Lutheran School in Higginsville offers a Christ-centered education for children age 3-8th grade. Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now open for all families. Immanuel Lutheran School will be hosting an Early Childhood Open House for families of children ages 3-6 on March 23rd at 6:30pm. For more information, please contact ILS at 660-584-2854, ilswildcats.office@gmail.com, or www.wildcats4jesus.com. Thank you!

DRIVE THRU SOUPER SUPPER

MARCH 24th

We are hosting the last Souper Supper this Wednesday, March 24th. The menu will be pork tenderloin, green beans, baked potato, French bread and a cookie. Feel free to donate financially to the cause or contribute homemade cookies towards the dessert portion of this event. If you have questions, please contact Janet Hoeflicker [REDACTED] Rhonda Smith [REDACTED]

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.

THANKS FOR THE DESSERTS

Thanks to all those who donated desserts for the Fish Fry. Cake pans and sheet pans have been washed and are available for pickup in the Lower Meeting Room of the Parish Hall.

SCOTT HAHN SPEAKING IN ST. JOSEPH

Readers of the writings of Scott Hahn, Catholic apologist, may want to know that he will be speaking at the Cathedral in Saint Joseph (519 N 10th Street) on Saturday, April 10. The event is free but space is limited so registration must be done at <https://stpaulcenter.com/stjoseph>.

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

“Meeting Jesus in the Scriptures leads us to the Eucharist, where the written word attains its greatest efficacy, for there the living Word is truly present. In the Eucharist, the one true God receives the greatest worship the world can give him, for it is Christ himself who is offered. When we receive Him in Holy Communion, we renew our covenant with Him and allow Him to carry out ever more fully his work of transforming our lives.”

Gaudete et Exultate #157

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*

PALM SUNDAY – NEXT WEEKEND

To try to slow the spread of the pandemic we will not be able to have our usual outdoor Palm Procession to begin Masses.

Simply come into the church as on an ordinary Sunday and pick up a palm frond if you want one. As with everything else during this pandemic- to prevent the spread of the disease once you touch the piece of palm it is yours – do not leave it in church. Thank you.

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.

DIOCESE SEEKS FEED BACK

ABOUT NEW MAGAZINE

The second issue of the new quarterly “Catholic Key Magazine” should have arrived at your home. The diocese is now seeking feedback. If you have an opinion to offer, write to Ashlie Hand, Editor or Father Ken Riley, Vicar General at The Catholic Center PO Box 419037 Kansas City, MO 64141-6037

Or reach them by telephone at The Catholic Center at 800-246-1850

Saint Mary's

401 W. Broadway Higginsville, MO 64037-1946

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THE PASTOR'S LETTER

March 21, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

CONGRATULATIONS to our Knights of Columbus, Mildner Council 2244, who this month celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of their founding on March 27 in 1921.

If this was an ordinary year the Knights would host some sort of get-together but because of the pandemic that is not possible.

So - in celebration the Knights will be showing, after Masses this weekend, 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 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. This will be in the church for those who want to stay. Lasts some 20 minutes.

Our second Drive By Fish Fry (Friday, March 12) was another big success with 385 meals served. As you may recall the first one (on the first Friday of Lent) had been a run-away success with demand far exceeding the 200 meals it was planned to serve. So this time additional supplies were laid-in for 400 to guarantee everyone who wanted a meal would get one.

Thanks to all who did the work: Dorothy Bell, Marty Bell, Bernie & Rich Cole, Marlene Edwards, Virginia Graham, Howard Goring, Janet & Roger Hoeflicker, Brian Iles, Chris Kaiser, Eric Lockard, Owen Lockard, Ben Mason, Kim Mason, Hazel Nuelle, Bob Quarti, Rick Rankin, Nick Rankin, Gloria & Mike Ryun, Brent Schlotzhauer, Karen Schroeder, Rhonda Smith, Josh Thompson, Carita Trent, Spencer Trent, and Nina Withrow.

These two Fish Fries have proved to be a real help to our parish Knights of Columbus who, due to various Knights events being cancelled by the pandemic, have been experiencing a big gap between their Income and Expenses. So the profits of these two Fish Fries going to the Knights can be seen as a gift from the parish to the Knights in celebration their Centennial.

Thanks to everyone who helped and everyone who came.

Peace and Blessings, Joy and Love in the Lord!

Father Tom Hawkins



JACKSON COUNTY AUDIOLOGY

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

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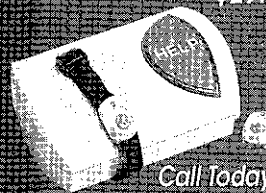
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