



# 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

## NOT WHAT WAS EXPECTED

Have you ever waited for something for so long you began to think it might never happen? Your graduation day, or the day of your marriage, or the birth of a child, perhaps. The Israelites had waited for centuries for the coming of the Messiah. Yet when Jesus, the long-awaited Anointed One came, many failed to believe in him. He wasn't what they expected. The Messiah was supposed to be a strong, powerful commander of armies, not humble, compassionate, and suffering. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples and explained all that he had said in his time with them, opening their minds to what had been written in the scriptures so that they could accept his suffering and death and rejoice in his resurrection.

While the disciples had come to believe that Jesus was the Messiah, his crucifixion and death had left them fearful and confounded. The news of the empty tomb and his appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus added to their confusion. It seems that at first, Jesus' presence with them did not alleviate their uncertainty. In fact, they were "startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost" (Luke 24:37). Jesus saw that they needed physical proof that it was he who stood among them. They needed to see the nail marks in his hands and feet, to see God's love in flesh and bone, in one who ate among them. Only when their fear and confusion had been quelled could they hear the story, the sacred story of how the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead. Only when they were filled with the peace of Christ would they be ready to witness, to share the sacred story with others. We, too, are invited to hear the sacred story and to perceive God's love for us in Jesus Christ.

Today's Readings: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

**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, April 17 – 4:00pm**

*Rev. Michael O'Brien R.I.P. pastor here at Saint Mary's 1972-1975 Died 1981*

**Sunday, April 18 – 10:30am THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER**

*Saint Mary's Parishioners, Living & Departed*

**Monday, April 19 – 8:00am**

*Communion Service*

**Tuesday, April 20 – 8:00am**

*Catherine Thaller R.I.P. by Darl & Ann Mattson*

**Wednesday, April 21 – 6:00pm in the Evening**

**SAINT ANSLEM** Abbot of a monastery in Normandy he became archbishop of Canterbury. Twice sent into exile for defeding the rights of the Church against the monarchy. Died 1109.

*For those working for the preservation of our planet from pollution and climate change.*

**Thursday, April 22 – 8:00am EARTH DAY**

**ANNIVERSARY OF THE DDECATION OF OUR PARISH CHURCH IN 1930**

**SAINT GEORGE** Tradition says he was a martyr. Legend portrays him as a knight, dragon slayer and spreader of the Christian Faith.

*For all the benefactors of Saint Mary's who have enabled the work of the parish.*

**Friday, April 23 – 8:00am**

*Ian & Susan Pollard by Jeff & Charlotte True*

**Saturday, April 24 – 4:00pm**

**SAINT FIDELIS** He was known as the 'layer of the poor' before becoming a Capuchin monk. Martyred for promoting the Catholic Faith in Switzerland in 1622.

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

**Sunday, April 25 – 10:30am FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS**

*Saint Mary's Parishioners, Living & Departed*

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers Schedule	Ushers	Lector	Eucharistic Minister/ Server	After Mass Cleaning
Sat. April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Bill Wallpe Mike Ryun	Bob Brown	Howard Goring	Larry & Teresa Hoepner
Sun. April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Marty Bell Chris Kaiser	Emily Rhoad	Hazel Nuelle	Greg & Karen Daniel Family
Sat. April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Lisa Kuecker Bill Wallpe	Howard Goring	Bob Brown	Lisa Kuecker & Terri Meyer
Sun. April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Marty Bell Chris Kaiser	Rhonda Smith	Emily Rhoad	Brent & Kathy Cooper

**APRIL STEWARDSHIP PRAYER**

When I am hesitant to welcome a stranger, when I hold back from the urging of my heart to volunteer at my parish, when I fail to be patient, I'm postponing God's work in and through me. We've all felt those taps on the shoulder (sometimes even a shove in the back) from the Holy Spirit, compelling us to act in ways that will form us, and others, into the people we were meant to be."

Terence Hegarty

### Weekly Collection from April 11th

Parishioner Envelopes	\$ 990
Loose Cash Donations	\$ 175
Total Parish Support	\$1,165
Average Weekly Expenses	\$3,278

### PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDATES INVITED

Each May we select two parishioners to join St. Mary's Parish Council, taking the places of those two members of the council who are coming to the end of their three year term of service.

A candidate for the council has to be a registered parishioner who is a faithfully practicing Catholic, financially contributing to the support of St. Mary's and involved in the life and work of the parish.

Candidates need to understand this is a three-year commitment: to attend the bi-monthly meeting of the Council and also work on one of the committees of the Council.

To volunteer your name to be included in the drawing, contact the Parish office (660-584-3038). The drawing of names takes place at the 10:30am Mass on the first Sunday of May, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### "MEALS ON WHEELS" DRIVERS NEEDED

**APRIL 26 to 30**

Volunteers from our parish are needed to deliver hot meals from the Higginsville Senior Center to shut-ins during the last week of this month. It takes about an hour and a half on just one day of the week. The sign-up sheets are on the east table behind the pews.

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

Other weeks in 2021 when volunteer drivers will be needed are: June 21-25, August 16-20, October 11-15, December 6-10.

### APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

All children deserve to be raised in a safe and protective environment. Working together as Church we seek to prevent child abuse, provide safe environments in our parishes and parish schools, and promote the social and emotional well-being of children in all the families in our communities. Every instance of possible child abuse should be reported to the civil authorities.

### VIRTUAL AUCTION TO SUPPORT THE CATHEDRAL

Bishop Johnston invites the entire diocese to support the annual Spring Festival and Auction of our diocesan Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, April 22. The event will be online only. Proceeds will help pay down the debt of the cathedral and support its varied ministries. For more information go to [www.kcgolddome.org](http://www.kcgolddome.org).

### VATICAN ASSURES THAT CORONAVIRUS VACCINES ARE MORALLY ACCEPTABLE FOR CATHOLICS

"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.

### MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL FOR THOSE GREIVING SUICIDE

The families and friends of those who take their own life often suffer tremendous emotional and psychological pain. For that reason Bishop Johnston invites those who mourn a person who died by suicide to join him for Mass at the Cathedral in Kansas City on Sunday, April 25, at 9am or 11am. The Catholic Cathedral is in downtown Kansas City at 416 West 12 Street. To get there take I-70 west to the Broadway exit (beneath Bartle Hall) and go north a few blocks to the church with the gold bell tower.

### CATHOLIC WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Next Sunday, April 25, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is "Good Shepherd Sunday" which is traditionally kept as a day for the whole Catholic Church to pray for an increase in vocations to the religious life, in particular to the priesthood, in order to provide for the spiritual needs of the People of God. Please pray that young men and women when considering their future will try to discern if a life of religious service is the life that God is calling them to.

## **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*

“God’s word invites us clearly to ‘stand against the wiles of the devil’ (Ephesians 6:11) and to ‘quench all the flaming darts of the veil one’ (Ephesians 6:16). These expressions are not melodramatic, precisely because our path toward holiness is a constant battle. Those who do not realize this will be prey to failure or mediocrity. For this spiritual combat, we can count on the powerful weapons that the Lord has give us: faith-filled prayer, meditation on the word fo God, the celebration of Mass, Eucharistic adoration, sacramental Reconciliation, works of charity, community life, missionary outreach. If we become careless, the false promises of evil will easily seduce us. As the sainted Cura Brochero observed; “what good is it when Lucifer promises you freedom and showers you with all his benefits, if those benefits are false, deceptive and poisonous?”

*Gaudete et Exultate #162*

### **KNIGHTS PLANNING FOOD STAND IN MAY**

From the April meeting of the Knights – Plans are underway for the Food Stand at Moose’s Market on Friday and Saturday, May 21 and 22. All able bodied Knights should volunteer to take a turn staffing the stand. It usually takes three men working together to make things go smoothly. When there are enough volunteers a work shift lasts only two hours.

### **CONFIRMATION OF ADULTS JUNE –9**

If you are an adult who has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation and wish to be Confirmed, Bishop Johnston will confer that Sacrament at the Cathedral on Wednesday, June 9, at 7pm. To prepare for the Sacrament contact Father Hawkins immediately. Reservations for the service must be made prior to June 1

### **JUST JUMP IN AND LEND A HAND**

God bless the faithful who are sanditizing our church after each Mass. When you see they are short handed, please do not hesitate to put on a pair of disposable gloves, grab a spray can, some paper towels and lend a hand. We could use more help in every area. Just look at the list of Mass Assistants and you will see that often the work load is on the shoulders of only a few.

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@ombudsmanksj.org](mailto:crayon@ombudsmanksj.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.

## **HELP FOR MEN WITH UNWANTED SEXUAL BEHAVIORS**

Sex is a complicated matter for every human being. A 3-day confidential, intensive workshop for men striving to overcome and heal from serious unwanted sexual behaviors will be held the weekend of April 29 to May 1 at Savior Pastoral Center, 2601 Parallel Parkway, Kansas City, Kansas 66109.

Starting at 7am on Thursday and running to 3pm on Saturday. For more information or to register go to <https://centerforhealingkc.com/my-house/my-house-workshop>.

A sign of addiction is when something has taken hold of your life and you no longer have any control over it but it controls your actions and is causing problems with your family relationships, your work or other aspects of your personal life.

When you think you have an addiction (to drugs, sex, alcohol, or anything else) you are the one who needs to take action to regain control.

The diocesan program “My House” is designed to assist those who are struggling with unwanted sex activities.

The name for the “My House” program comes from the worlds of Joshua the Old Testament: “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” [Joshua 24:15]

The “My House” phone (816-808-6544) is answered by a licensed counselor who does a free confidential telephone interview with the caller to evaluate their situation and their level of need and then directs them to an appropriate resource. This may include individual counseling or a support group. One can also visit “My House” online at [www.myhouseksj.org](http://www.myhouseksj.org).

A person with any form of addiction should seek help from a qualified resource. If not sure where to seek help – telephone Catholic Charities 800-875-4377 and ask for referral advice.

## REFLECTIONS FOR THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

The Gospel of Luke (chapter 3) relates how each year the parents of Jesus took him to the temple of Jerusalem for Passover. When he was 12, Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem unknown to his parents who traveled a day with the caravan before realizing he was missing. Then for three anxious days Joseph and Mary searched the city before finding him.

That three day search may prefigure his three days in the tomb after his death but it had to cause his parents great anxiety.

All children cause their parents anxiety in one way or another. We want our children to be able to take reasonable risks and learn and grow. But we also want them to be safe from things that would permanently harm them.

No doubt Saint Joseph and the Blessed Mother had to work at restraining themselves in their dealings with their exceptional child.

As in the home of the Holy Family, certain guiding principles eventually form the morals by which children will live as adults. One of those principles has to be loving consistency – not just in words but in lived example. To be inconsistent in such essentials as ‘now we go to church’ and ‘now we don’t’, depending on whatever is convenient, will teach children to grow up doing only what they want to do.

*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

## EARTH DAY IS WEDNESDAY – APRIL 22

The theme for Earth Day 2021 is “Restore Our Earth”, which focuses on natural processes and emerging green technologies that can restore harmony with the world’s ecosystems.

Since the first Earth Day in 1970, incredible environmental goals have been achieved and many faith communities have been a strong part of this movement from the very beginning. At the same time our beautiful planet continues to suffer pollution and global climate change is causing suffering for many people.

The beauty of our World is one of God’s gifts to us and we here in the United States have been blessed to receive one of the most resource abundant portions of the planet. As we celebrate Earth Day may it be our moral imperative to place people and the preservation of our planet over profit and pollution.

From the Pastor’s desk  
Dear Parishioners,

April 18<sup>th</sup>

One of the nicest events we have here each year is the ‘Seder’ or ‘Passover’ we have on the Wednesday of Holy Week. It helps those who take part better understand what was happening at the Passover meal which was Jesus’ Last Supper with his first disciples and the First Mass in the History of the Christian Church. It was again this year, a beautiful event. Thanks to Rhonda Smith who organized it, assisted by Virginia Graham and Hazel Nuelle.

Before the pandemic hit and brought so many things to a halt we were blessed to have volunteers along with myself who regularly took Holy Communion to Shut-ins in our parish. The fear of spreading the COVID virus brought a stop to that, including at Meyer Care which bared everyone from entry starting back in March of 2019.

Happily, early this month I got a call from Meyer Care saying that they would permit me to have a Communion Service for Catholic residents in their Gathering Room on the morning of the First Friday of April, April 10. (Meyer Care is still not permitting the visitation of individual rooms.)

It was great seeing those who came to that Communion Service and the plan is to start doing similar Communion Services on the First Friday of each month at 10am. So the next one should be May 7. If you have Catholic relatives or friends at Meyer Care please let them know of this.

And I would hope that Catholics who live on the John Knox side of the complex could also take part but that will be up to the administration of the building. Please check with them.

Congratulations to Austin Trent this year’s recipient of ‘The Kenneth Bell Memorial Scholarship’ administered by our parish council of Knights of Columbus. Austin is the son of Carita and Paul Trent and intends to pursue studies to become a Fireman, EMT and Paramedic. May God bless Austin and keep him safe as he pursues his goals of public service. The Scholarship will be presented at the Knights Mass on Sunday, May 23.

This coming Thursday, April 22, is the Anniversary of the dedication of our parish church back in 1930. Photos from that dedication are on the west wall of the Parish Hall. Our Mass on Thursday morning will be for all our Benefactors who founded our parish, built this church (and the two buildings previous to it) and over the generations have help keep us here and the lights turned on.

Peace and Blessings, Joy and Love in the Lord!

*Father Tom Hawkins*



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