



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

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The difference between the good shepherd and the hired hand is the difference between life and death. Unlike a hired hand who only works for pay and would run away at the first sign of difficulty, Jesus is a good shepherd who willingly lays down his life for his sheep. The good shepherd draws the sheep near to him. They belong to him—not as a possession that can be discarded, but as precious ones who are assured that they can rely on his care and protection. The sheep owe their very lives to the shepherd. Without him, they will be scattered and left on their own in what is often a dangerous world.

No sheep with any sense would wander off and leave the fold. The shepherd provides food and safety. Away from the fold, the sheep risks death in the jaws of wolves or starvation in the desert. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and invites us to be good sheep. Jesus has experienced the best and the worst of all that life has in store. He has known the simple joys and the deep disappointments of life; he has known temptation, anxiety, and fatigue. Jesus walks ahead of us, leading the way. We may be tempted to wander away, lured by temporary pleasures and tempted by the illusion of something better over the horizon. In the noise of daily life, surrounded by messages that compete with God and God's ways, it is easy to become distracted from what is important and lasting. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, invites us to be good sheep who are so close to him that we hear and recognize his voice. As good sheep, we are called to follow the voice of the Shepherd, trusting that he will guide us to the best pasture, where we can thrive.

Today's Readings: Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

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 24 – 4:00pm

SAINT FIDELIS He was known as the ‘lawyer 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

Monday, April 26 – 8:00am Diocesan Day of Prayer for Those Harmed by Sexual Abuse

Communion Service

Tuesday, April 27– 8:00am

Martha Anderson R.I.P. by Michael & Sharon Cirillo

Wednesday, April 28 – 6:00pm in the Evening

SLANT PETER MARY CHANEL A missionary priest from France to the Pacific Islands where he was martyred in 1841.

Martha Anderson R.I.P. by Karen Schroeder

Thursday, April 29 – 8:00am

SAINT CATHERINE of SIENNA A mystic, peacemaker within the Church and renewer of religious life. Worked for the return of the papacy to Rome from Avignon in France. Died 1380

Charles J. Tortual R.I.P.

Friday, April 30 – 8:00am

SAINT PIUS V A Carmelite monk who as Pope worked to implement the reforms of the Council of Trent, which addressed the corruptions in the Church which had brought about the Protestant Revolt. Died in 1572.

Ian & Susan Pollard by Jeff & Charlotte True

Saturday, May 1 – 4:00pm

SAINT JOSEPH the WORKER The beloved carpenter of Nazareth who was chosen by God to be the husband of Mary and foster father of the boy Jesus. Patron Saint of all who labor, especially those who do manual labor. This year of 2021 has been dedicated by Pope Francis as a year to reflect on and honor Saint Joseph.

For all who labor- especially in difficult and dangerous jobs. And for those seeking employment.

Sunday, May 2 – 10:30am FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Jon Schroeder R.I.P. by Karen Schroeder

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers Schedule	Ushers	Lector	Eucharistic Minister/ Server	After Mass Cleaning
Sat. April 24 th	Lisa Kuecker Bill Wallpe	Howard Goring	Bob Brown	Lisa Kuecker & Terri Meyer
Sun. April 25 th	Marty Bell Chris Kaiser	Rhonda Smith	Emily Rhoad	Brent & Kathy Cooper
Sat. May 1 st	Lisa Kuecker Mike Ryun	Mike Esser	Bill Wallpe	Mike & Gloria Ryun
Sun. May 2 nd	Marty Bell Chris Kaiser	Karen Schroeder	Rhonda Smith	Bennie & Nancy Spain

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 18th

Parishioner Envelopes	\$1,160
Loose Cash Donations	\$ 20
Total Parish Support	\$1,180
Average Weekly Expenses	\$3,278

PARISH COUNCIL SELECTION NEXT SUNDAY

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 2nd.

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.

"MEALS ON WHEELS"

Monday, April 26 th	1. Howard Goring & Virginia Graham
	2. Dwaine & Marlene Edwards
Tuesday, April 27 th	1. Father Tom & Josie McDermid
	2. Darrel & Juanita Rinne
Wednesday, April 28 th	1. Gary & Terie Starke
	2. VOLUNTEER STILL NEEDED
Thursday, April 29 th	1. Gary & Terie Starke
	2. Rich Cole & Gretchen Cowherd
Friday, April 30 th	1. Jessica Davenport & Father Tom
	2. VOLUNTEER STILL NEEDED

KNIGHTS PLANNING FOOD STAND IN MAY

From the April meeting of the Knights- Plans are underway to have a 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.

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 GRIEVING SUICIDE

There is terrible emotional and psychological pain suffered by families and friends of those who take their own life. 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 this 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.

WEDNESDAY EVENING FAITH SHARING FOR ADULTS

Everyone is invited to take part in our Wednesday evening group studying the parables of Jesus. This will run through May 12th. Mass is available at 6pm in the church. A light supper is served at 6:30pm in the Lower Meeting Room. This is free and open to all.

CATHOLIC WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

This 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*

"Throughout our life's journey, the cultivation of all that is good, working at progress in the spiritual life and growth in Love are the best counterbalance to evil. People who imagine they can remain neutral, who are satisfied with little, who decline the ideal of giving themselves generously to the Lord, will never hold out against the maneuvers of Satan. It's even worse if they fall into defeatism because if we start without confidence, we have already lost half the battle and we bury our talents. Christian triumph is always by means of the cross, a cross which is at the same time a banner of victory, held high with aggressive tenderness against the assaults of evil."

Gaudete et Exultate #163

MONDAY IS THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN DAY OF PRAYER FOR THOSE HARMED BY SEXUAL ABUSE

The Diocese of Kansas City- St. Joseph invites the faithful to pray for victims and survivors of childhood sexual abuse, particularly those who have been abused by someone in the Catholic Church, and for their families, friends and our entire community. We pray for ongoing efforts in the healing and reconciliation of those who have suffered this betrayal of trust. We pray for continued success of the Church's prevention efforts in making safer environments for our children and educating adults to support awareness of sexual abuse.

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.

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 words 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.myhousekcsj.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**

Saint Joseph serves as a model for any family truly wishing to build up the 'domestic church' in their own home as they face the daily ups and downs of life together.

When trust might be lacking or when it is hard to communicate, we can emulate Saint Joseph who offers a model of acting upon God's direction.

If we were to approach our family difficulties with the spirit of faithful acceptance that Joseph exhibited in his response to God's will, our own homes could begin to look more like the 'domestic church' we want them to be – peaceful and prayerful.

What actions can we take to make God's word and the spirit of Christ more present in our home?

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

**DIOCESE SURPASSES ANNUAL
CAMPAIGN GOAL**

The diocese is celebrating that the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal (begun last October) with a goal of \$1,800,00 has now raised \$1,838,000 in gifts and pledges. 5,577 households from all of the diocese participated with an average of \$330. In the first months of the campaign we here at Saint Mary's did our part by surpassing our assigned goal of \$9,000. 43 households of Saint Mary's pledged \$10,985 which is 122%. Thanks to all who participated.

As happens each year- the next Annual Catholic Appeal will begin this coming October.

DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

The Communications Office of the diocese is looking for input as it updates its tools to more effectively communicate with people throughout the diocese. If you would like to take part – the five page survey is available for pickup 'on the tables at the doors' of the church or contact the Parish Office and we will mail you a copy.

Completed surveys need to be returned by May 9. Mail them to:

Catholic Diocese of KC-St. Joseph
Attention : Communications Office
PO BOX 419037
Kansas City, MO 64141-6037

**From the Pastor's desk
Dear Parishioners,**

April 25th

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 barred 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.

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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