

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 MYSTERY IS THE MASTERPIECE

The Most Holy Trinity is the central truth and, indeed, mystery of our lives as believers in God. Even so, few seem to be able to talk about it. (Or is it "them"?) Must we be satisfied to take this truth as an inscrutable object of faith that we can easily ignore? Not at all! We are immersed in Trinitarian reality in many ways.

Please consider these clues to God as more than just Person of the Father. Remember the words of God in scripture when the world and all its wonders were coming to be. The formulas for each stage in creation begin with "Let us . . ." (Genesis 1:26). This is not merely the "Royal We." This is God as a plurality of Being. In Isaiah, the seraphim cry out "Holy, holy, holy . . ." (Isaiah 6:3). Ancient Middle Eastern superlatives come in threes, but why not consider it a sign of God's three-ness? And these Old Testament foreshadowings are nothing compared to our well-known baptismal formula, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Notice that "name" is singular, and yet refers to three persons. Finally, as Christ tells the Apostles in today's Gospel, they are to go out and teach in that same singular triple name.

The famous icon by the equally famous fourteenth-century iconographer Andrej Rublev is a depiction of the Trinity densely packed with symbolic content. The three "angels" sitting at a table are actually meant to be the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They relate to each other in loving gesture, each one to the other, often described as "dance-like." And yet this triangular circle seems incomplete. Indeed it is, because we must become one with this circle of life-giving love. As in a dance, we are drawn into the divine life in the Trinitarian embrace of abundant glory and harmony. Then we complete the movement by taking that love incarnated out to the world, revealing the mystery to our sisters and brothers through our own lives.

Today's Readings: Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Ps 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

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, May 29 – 4:00pm

SAINT PAUL VI Elected Pope in June of 1963, he sought to win disaffected workers back to the Catholic Church and played a significant role in helping with the preparation of Vatican II. He increased the number of cardinals significantly giving many countries their first Cardinal. He also wrote seven encyclicals, including *Ecclesiae Suam*. Died in 1978.

Josephine Beretta R.I.P. by Mary Grechus

Sunday, May 30 – 10:30am FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Saint Mary's Parishioners Living and Deceased

Monday, May 31 - 8:00am MEMORIAL DAY MASS IN THE PARISH CEMETERY

FEAST of the VISITATION A Marian Feast remembering the Blessed Mother having just been told that she is to be the mother of the Messiah journeying to visit her cousin who is pregnant and carrying in her womb John the Baptizer.

For All Departed Members of Saint Mary's and Departed Relatives and Friends

Tuesday, June 1 – 8:00am

SAINT JUSTIN, MARTYR His writings were an attempt to defend and explain the Christian Faith to the pagans of his time. They are an invaluable record of the organization of the early Church and a record of how the Mass of that time was like the Mass of our own day. He died for the Faith in 165.

Communion Service

Wednesday, June 2 – 6:00pm in the Evening

SAINT MARCELLINUS and PETER A priest and exorcist beheaded for their Christian Faith in 303.

Communion Service

Thursday, June 3 – 8:00am

SAINT CHARLES LAWANGA and COMPANION MARTYRS Twenty-one young men who were killed from 1885 to 1887 for refusing to participate in immoral actions with the king of their African tribe. They are the proto martyrs of Africa.

Communion Service

Friday, June 4 – 8:00am

Communion Service

Saturday, June 5 – 4:00pm

SAINT BONIFACE An Anglo-Saxon Benedictine monk working as a missionary in what we now call Germany. In 754 he was attacked and killed, along with thirty companions, by those trying to halt the spread of the Christian Faith.

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

Sunday, June 6 – 10:30am CORPUS CHRISTI

FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

Saint Mary's Parishioners Living and Deceased

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers Schedule	Ushers	Lector	Eucharistic Minister/ Server	After Mass Cleaning	Servers	Greeters	Offertory Gifts
Sat. May 29 th	Bill Wallpe Mike Ryun	Bob Brown	Peggy Singh	Larry & Teresa Hoepner			
Sun. May 30 th	Marty Bell Chris Kaiser	Rhonda Smith	Emily Rhoad	Brent & Kathy Cooper			
Sat. June 5 th	Gary Starke Bill Summerlin	Howard Goring	Mike Deamos			Peggy Singh	Gary & Teri Starke
Sun. June 6 th	Rick Rankin Mitch Bennett	Emily Rhoad	Hazel Nuelle		Ben Mason Luke Iles	Campbell Family	Bennie and Nancy Spain

FAITH STUDY IN ONE WEEKEND

Two Cursillo retreats will be held in July at Immaculate Conception Abbey in the northwest corner of Missouri (about 1 hour and 45 minutes from our parish). One Crusillo for men will run July 15-18. Another for women will run July 22-25.

Starting Thursday evening at 6:30pm and running through Sunday evening. If your Faith (or your knowledge of the Catholic Faith) needs a boost or brush-up try a Crusillo weekend.

For more information contact Marty Bell [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

WEEKEND JULY 16-18

During this season of gardening, plan to take some time to tend to the garden of your marriage. The mission of Marriage Encounter is to help couples enter more deeply into their sacrament of union through a weekend experience designed to enhance the skills need for living a loving relationship in all the circumstances of life. The next in-person weekend experience will be at Savior Pastoral center in Kansas City, Kansas. For more information visit www.wvme4youandme.org. To apply email Tony Zimmerman tonybarbz@prodigy.net or call 816-741-4066

Weekly Collection from May 23rd

Parishioner Envelopes	\$ 1,200
Loose Cash Donations	\$ 125
Total Parish Support	\$ 1,325
Average Weekly Expenses	\$3,278

MEMORIAL DAY MASS - 8:00AM

AT THE PARISH CEMETERY

Weather permitting – our morning Mass on Memorial Day, this Monday, May 31, will be at the Shrine of the Cross in Saint Mary's Cemetery at 8:00am. You are welcome to bring a lawn chair.

Mass will be offered for all our departed relatives and friends.

Our parish cemetery is on Saint Mary's Road about 1 ½ miles east of Higginsville off Hwy T.

IF there is inclement weather, Mass will be in the church.

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

“Discernment is necessary not only at extraordinary times, when we need to resolve grave problems and make crucial decisions. It is a means of spiritual combat for helping us to follow the Lord more faithfully. We always need it, to help us recognize God's timetable, lest we fail to heed the promptings of his grace and disregard his invitations to grow. Often discernment is exercised in small and apparently irrelevant things, since greatness of spirit is manifest in simple everyday realities. It involves striving untrammelled for all that is great, better, and more beautiful, while at the same time being concerned for the little things, for each day's responsibilities and commitments. For this reason, I ask all Christians not to omit, in dialogue with the Lord, a sincere daily 'examination of conscience.' Discernment also enables us to recognize the concrete means that the Lord provides in his mysterious and loving plan, to make us move beyond mere good intentions.”

Gaudete et Exultate #169

REMINDER TO YOUTH LEADERS CHILDREN'S

SAFETY AUDIT DUE AT DIOCESE- JUNE 1

The Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection wants the youth directors of every parish to complete the children's safety training audit form as soon as possible. Send it to ocyo@diocesekcsj.org. The deadline is June 1. 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.

FOR MEN SEEKING A ROLE OF SERVICE IN THE CHURCH

Adult men who are practicing Catholics are invited to consider a vocation as a Deacon in the Catholic Church. Permanent Deacons are empowered by ordination to preach, baptize, witness marriage, and perform other official functions as a member of the clergy. The preparation program is spread out over several years.

The Diocesan Deacon Office is now organizing a formation class to begin in January or February 2022.

If interested, fill out an inquiry form online and a program director will contact you. Go to <http://kcsjatholic.org/office-of-the-diaconate> or telephone 816-714-2302

CATHOLIC SUMMER CAMP FOR YOUTH

During the weeks of June, the diocese is sponsoring four Monday through Saturday overnight camps for Catholic Youth at Maur Hill Mount Academy in Atchison, Kansas. For information go to www.campsavio.com

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous support in last week's Peter's Pence Collection! As a parish, we collected \$350. Our contributions, combined with those from our brothers and sisters around the world, provide essential support for the Holy See's activities and help Pope Francis relieve the victims of wars, oppression, and natural disaster around the world. If you missed the collection, it is not too late to give. Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.

WHEN THEY ARE GONE - THEY'RE GONE

The current Missalette we are using runs to the end of July. We have set out all that we have. There are no more.

The idea of putting the Missalettes on the tables and letting people take home a copy was that they would put their name on it and use it in the coming months. It seems, some have been picking up a new one every weekend, so the supply has been run low.

When the stock of Missalettes on the tables is depleted, that is it. That is all we have. Please do not carry off the Missalettes that are now in the pews, we have had to spread them out quite thin.

NEW BEGINNINGS WOMEN'S CENTER IN WARRENSBURG

The New Beginnings Center is helping pregnant women choose Life. Confidential free services offered include: Pregnancy testing; First trimester ultrasound; Childbirth education; Peer counseling; Baby and maternity clothing; Parenting classes; STD testing and treatment; Abortion recovery.

How you can help: Pray, Volunteer, Donate new baby items, and Help get the word out. New Beginnings Women's Center 208 E Gay Street in Warrensburg. Phone 660-429-3800. Their website is nbwburg.org and email address newbeginningswburg@gmail.com.

LOVE THOSE LABELS

No, we are not talking about designer labels found on women's clothing. We are on the lookout for Best Choice labels found on grocery items. Whenever you see one, please snag it and put it (or at least the barcode) in the wood box in the front vestibule of the church. Our Altar and Rosary Society redeems Best Choice labels for money to support their many projects. Thanks to all who participate.

BENEDICTION AT THE END OF MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

Next Sunday is the Feast of Corpus Christi, which is its old Latin title. In English- the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Which honors the intense Catholic belief that Jesus Christ really is present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. It is not just a symbol it is a reality.

In conjunction with the celebration of Corpus Christi, Masses next weekend will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. During which incense will be used. Any one with serious breathing problems who might be affected by that is welcome to leave the church early.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

At Catholic Charities KCSJ can help you prepare for a job search, find employment, and advance in your career. Part of our mission is to extend the tools and resources necessary to help vulnerable populations find and keep work. In our Job Skills classes, we provide employment preparation, resume development, job search strategies, interview coaching, networking opportunities/job leads. For more information contact Brent Morris bmorris@ccharities.com 816-659-8232

REFLECTIONS FOR THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

“Saint Joseph is titled a “just” man.

His Witness of faithful service in the face of doubts and difficulties reminds us that we are not masters of the universe. A hard lesson some of us have learned during this year of pandemic crisis.

We too can resign ourselves to God’s will and give ourselves in service for others as we embrace our own cross and help other people carry theirs.

This is what it means to be “just”- to do what is right no matter the cost and live like Saint Joseph.

“Saint Joseph, Protector of the Holy Family, help me face the unexpected changes and challenges of my life with a calm and faithful spirit in imitation of your trust and spirit of acceptance.” *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

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE

According to the Finance Report made at the May meeting of the Parish Council, our Parish Income for June 1 to May 19 of 2021 has been \$152,576. Our Parish Expense for the same period has been \$141,461. For a Difference of \$11,115. Thanks to all our contributors. Every employed adult should be contributing to the support of their church in proportion to their means. People who regularly attend Mass at a church should be registered and contributing members of that parish. Registration Forms are available at the doors. If you have not been getting mailings from the parish, you are not registered with us. We invite you to become a registered and supporting member.

PANDEMIC DISPENSATION ENDS NEXT WEEKEND

Happily, the public health situation has improved to the point where at the start of June, Bishop Johnston will lift his special dispensation from regular attendance at a Sunday Mass each weekend.

The Sunday Eucharist is the fundamental practice of Catholic spirituality. Attentively listening to the scripture readings, taking part in the great prayer of the Mass in union with the Church throughout the world and throughout the ages; and personally, inviting Christ into one’s life is the essential foundation on which a practicing Catholic builds their faith and shapes their life decisions.

To deliberately miss Mass without good reason is to deliberately miss an encounter with Christ.

From the Pastor’s desk
Dear Parishioners,

May 30th

Many thanks to Josh Thompson who concluded his term as President of our Parish Council at the May meeting on May 19th. And welcome to Mike Esser who has been selected as President of the Parish Council for the next 12 months.

And thanks to all the members of our Parish Council who work to keep Saint Mary’s Parish sailing smoothly along.

This Monday is Memorial Day so in conformity with our long-standing parish tradition our 8:00am Mass that morning will be in the Parish Cemetery – unless there is inclement weather and Mass will be in the church.

Related to our parish cemetery – a few weeks ago the parish received a Certificate of Deposit left to us by Martha Anderson for the Parish Cemetery Fund. Thanks to Martha whose mortal remains rest there. May her bequest inspire others.

On Monday, I will be heading up to Immaculate Conception Abbey for the annual week of Retreat with the priests of our diocese. So, Monday will be the only day this coming week there will be a Mass. On the other days of the week there will be a Communion Service. Thanks to those who help with that.

Peace and Blessings, Joy and Love in the Lord!

Father Tom Hawkins

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.

Saint Mary's

On the World Wide Web at: stmarysinhigginville.org

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May 20, 2021

Dear Member of Saint Mary's Parish Community,

As the Covid pandemic continues this is going to those sheltering at home, especially those not able to keep in touch with our parish by computer.

IF ANYONE DOES NOT WANT TO RECEIVE THESE LETTERS-JUST LET THE PARISH OFFICE KNOW.

This coming weekend (May 22/23) we are discontinuing the COVID restrictions and returning to normalcy at Sunday Masses.

Yesterday evening (Wednesday, May 19) our Parish Council went over the latest information from the Bishop's Office and in conformity with national 'opening up' guidelines and in conformity with state and local health department regulations most things at Saint Mary's will be back to 'Normal'.

What that means is - you will **not have to** wear a face mask. You are welcome to wear one if you want to. Free masks will continue to be available at the doors. (I intend to continue, at least for awhile, wear a face mask while distributing Holy Communion.)

When you come into the church there will again be Holy Water at the doors which you may use to bless yourself and remind yourself of your commitment to live as a baptized member of Christ's Body.

There will also be hand sanitizer at the doors - which you are encouraged to use on entering the church.

The pews will no longer be taped off to keep family units separate.

The hymnals will be back in the pews and we can return to singing at Mass.

Some missalettes will be back in the pews but we will continue to offer missalettes for people to take and have for their own personal use.

We will return to exchanging the Sign of Peace during Sunday Masses - - - in whatever way you feel comfortable with.

At Communion we will return to coming down the middle aisle (rather than down the side aisles as we have been).

At the end of Mass people will not have to wait to be dismissed by the ushers.

As was our parish custom previously, everyone is encouraged to keep a spirit of prayerful silence before Mass. But at the end of Mass you are welcome to hang out and visit with others. And please greet any visitors present.

You will not have to leave down the kneeler when exiting your pew because we will no longer sanitize after each Mass.

The Parish Council is leaving it up to the Altar Society if they want to resume hosting a lunch following a funeral.

The Parish Council is leaving it up to the Knights of Columbus if they want to resume hosting a brunch on Sundays.

Come the weekend of May 29/30 the ushers will resume passing the collection baskets during the Offertory.

As directed by the bishop - we are not yet permitted to resume offering Holy Communion by a shared chalice. Communion will be by Consecrated Bread only.

We would like to return to having youth serve Mass on Sundays. Any youth interested in doing that should contact the Parish Office (584-3038) and ask to be added to the schedule. Adults will continue to serve at the Altar on Saturday.

The Parish Office is reactivating the lists of volunteers. Lectors, Ushers, and Communion Ministers will again be scheduled as previously. Contact the Parish Office if you want to opt out. Or if you would like to newly volunteer and opt in.

Our parish has been very blessed in that we have had no deaths from COVID. Some of our parishioners did contract the disease and thankfully recover but they did not pick it up at Saint Mary's. We were able to keep it out. Thanks to all who helped do that. So although we are returning to "normal" we don't want to get sloppy about it. Realistically - the pandemic is not over. There are still hundreds of Americans who die from COVID every day. High standards of hygiene are needed and if you are sick stay home. If you have not yet been vaccinated, I encourage you to do that for your own sake and the welfare of everyone who comes into contact with you.

Come the first weekend in June the Bishop's special dispensation from the Sunday Obligation will end. For those who worry about coming to Mass and being too close to other people - remember downstairs in the Parish Hall our Mass is viewable by video and there is plenty of space to spread out.

I know from conversations I have had there are some people who have been traumatized and terrified by the pandemic. If you are an elderly person or have special health needs and really, truly, feel that you cannot without great anxiety return to Sunday Mass, as your pastor I hold you justifiably excused.

Otherwise, if you want to take Holy Communion at Mass you should be striving:

1) to live your life in imitation of Christ, 2) keep the Ten Commandments, and 3) abide by The Precepts of the Church.

The Sunday Mass is an obligation. Holy Communion is a privilege.

During the Easter Season we have several times read words of Jesus about wanting to share his Joy with his followers. May our parish's return to a fuller celebration of Sunday as a sacred day of solemn prayer and personal rest help to bring lasting Joy into your life and family.

Peace, 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

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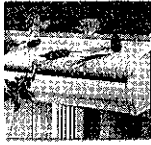
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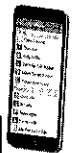
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