

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

MIRACLE OR MAGIC?

It can be easy to just say, "Oh yes, this is the story of the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, when everybody decided to share the bits of food they had." But how much of it is really about feeding the crowds? "Jesus said to Philip, 'Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?' He said this to test him, because he knew what he was going to do." It must have been very hard to trust Jesus, especially when the disciples often didn't understand him. This year has been challenging for us, too, to trust that God will provide, and also challenging for us to ask for help.

In the Rule of Saint Benedict, there is a chapter called "The assignment of impossible tasks." It says, in essence, that when your superior tells you to do something impossible, it is fine to talk to them about it, but in the end you may still be asked to do this task. In what situations are we called to trust? When are we asked to act in faith or to do the impossible task?

Miracles are seldom as obvious as the multiplication of loaves and fishes. Many years ago, I over-heard a family conversation in a restaurant at the end of a long holiday weekend. At the register was one of those collection jars saying, "For just fifty cents a day you can feed a child." The little girl asked her folks about it and they explained it. She said, "I have money left from my weekend, could I put it in the jar?" The parents said yes and let her go on the adventure for herself. She came back and sat down, and they chatted some more. She said, "If fifty cents feeds a child for a day, then I was able to feed one for three days, because I had \$1.50 left from the weekend." When we follow this child's example and go beyond the minimum, when we give all we can, we know we are doing the right thing, and we have understood the test that Jesus posed to Philip so long ago.

Today's Readings: 2 Kgs 4:42-44; Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18; Eph 4:1-6; John 6:1-15

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, July 24 – 4:00pm

SAINT SHARBEL MAKHLUF A monk devoted to the Virgin Mary, he spent the last 23 years of his life as a hermit teaching by example the value of poverty, self-sacrifice and prayer. Died in 1898.

Saint Mary's Parishioners Living and Deceased

Sunday, July 25 – 10:30am SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly

Jeffrey Campbell R.I.P. by Scott and Kristina Campbell

Monday, July 26 - 8:00am

SAINTS JOACHIM and ANNE Although they are not mentioned in the Bible, an old tradition says that these are the names of the parents of Blessed Virgin Mary of Nazareth

Communion Service

Tuesday, July 27 – 8:00am

Martha Anderson R.I.P. by Karen Schroeder

Wednesday, July 28 – Wednesday Evening Mass is on Summer Break

Thursday, July 29 – 8:00am

SAINT MARTHA Martha along with her sister Mary and her brother Lazarus were personal friends to Jesus who visited them and apparently stayed with them at their home in Bethany. Martha is famous for once being criticized by Jesus for being overly busy. She is the patron saint of hospitality and of those who want to 'slow down and smell the roses' before it's too late.

Dale Parker R.I.P. by Anita Parker

Friday, July 30 – 8:00am

SAINT PETER CHRYSOLOGUS Bishop of Ravenna, Italy. He was a famous preacher which earned him the nickname 'Golden Words' (Chrysologus). 170 of his sermons have been preserved. Died in 450

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

Saturday, July 31 – 4:00pm

SAINT IGNATIUS of LOYOLA Originally a professional soldier. While convalescing from a wound received in battle, he read The Bible and a Book on the Lives of the Saints which caused a profound conversion in him. While studying at the university of Paris he formed a group of like-minded men in the 'Compania de Jesus' (the battalion of Jesus) commonly called in the Jesuits, devoted to mission work and education. Died in 1556. In our vicinity, Jesuits founded and still operate Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Rockhurst University in Kansas City and Creighton University in Omaha. Just three of their 27 institutions of higher learning in the United States. There are others throughout the world.

Saint Mary's Parishioners Living and Deceased

Sunday, August 1 – 10:30am EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Jeffrey Campbell R.I.P. by Scott and Kristina Campbell

| St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers Schedule | Ushers | Lector | Eucharistic Minister | Servers | Greeters | Offertory Gifts |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sat. July 24 th | Lisa Kuecker Bill Summerlin | Gail Deamos | Peggy Singh | Mike Deamos | Barbara Beck Sandy May | Bill & Carol Summerlin |
| Sun. July 25 th | Rick Rankin Chris Kaiser | Marty Bell | Beth Schlotzhauer | Ben Mason Luke Iles | Hazel Nuelle | Brent & Beth Schlotzhauer |
| Sat. July 31 st | Gary Starke Bill Wallpe | Peggy Singh | Terrie Starke | Howard Goring | Lisa Kuecker | Charles Hare |
| Sun. Aug. 1 st | Chris Kaiser Rick Rankin | Karen Schroeder | Rich Cole | Ben Mason Brodie Rankin | Scott & Kristina Campbell | Rick & Kalani Rankin Family |

INQUIRY PHASE FOR MEN TO BE ORDAINED A DEACON

Years ago, when Rev. Ron Elliott first came to Saint Mary's as administrator of the parish, he came as a married Deacon. It takes about two years of preparation to qualify for the diaconate. Our diocese is now beginning an inquiry phase for men who may be interested in a vocation as an ordained Catholic deacon. There will be discernment sessions throughout this summer and fall. If you would like to find out more, visit: www.kcsjatholic.org/office-of-the-diaconate/ to view requirements. Or phone the Diaconate Office at 816-714-2302

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.

SUMMER REGIONAL EVENTS YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

The One Call Institute (OCI) seeks to form young people and their advocates to live the call of the Gospel through the ministries of music, prayer and social justice. This OCI Regional event will lead participants in breaking open what it means to "live the call of the Gospel". Through ministerial formation, faith sharing, music, and prayer we will engage young people and their adult advocates to examine how they personally and communally respond to their baptismal call to discipleship. *You are the Body of Christ* will take place in Independence MO at Nativity of Mary August 5-7 of 2021. Learn more and register at www.onecallinstitute.org/regionals the registration fee is \$25 which covers meals and tuition.

JULY STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

In living a life of stewardship, our starting point is the recognition that everything is a gift from God. Our nation's founders realized this when drafting the Declaration of Independence as they included this reference to God. *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"*. As Stewards of the Church, the 4th of

July reminds us of the importance of Religious Freedom. By David Kissell

THE CONCLUSION OF 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*

"It is my hope that these pages will prove helpful by enabling the whole Church to devote herself anew to promoting the desire for holiness. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us a fervent longing to be saints for God's greater glory and let us encourage one another in this effort. In this way, we will share a happiness that the world will not be able to take from us."

Gaudete et Exultate #177

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING AWARENESS WEEK, JULY 25-31

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated this week to promote Natural Family Planning which is the approved means of regulating human reproduction without the use of chemicals or devices which interfere with the marital act. NFP is used by married couples to achieve as well as avoid pregnancy. No drugs, devices, or surgical procedures are used. This is the birth-control method endorsed by the Church. In our diocese there are three approved programs of instruction in Natural Family Planning.

- Fertility Care Center of Kansas City: 816-858-0198 or www.fertilitycarekc.com
- Couple to Couple League of Greater Kansas City: 913-894-3558 or www.cclkc.org
- Natural Family Planning International: 816-453-7797 or email nfpintl.ck@gmail.com

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL - SEPT 26

Married couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary during 2021 are invited to a special Mass (at 9am or 11am) at the Cathedral in downtown Kansas City on Sunday, September 26.

The celebration includes the presentation by Bishop Johnston of a small gift.

This is also for any couples not able to be physically present but would like to receive an acknowledgement.

If you are celebrating your Golden Wedding Anniversary this year and would like to take part – a reservation must be made through the Parish Office 660-584-3038 before the end of August.

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE MINISTRY

The diocesan Human Rights Office regularly hosts training and informational sessions for volunteers and donors interested in helping individuals and families within the local immigrant community who need assistance. For information contact Raiza at guevaara@diocesekcsj.org or phone 816-756-1850, ext. 521.

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.

Weekly Collection from July 18th

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Parishioner Envelopes | \$ 3,965 |
| Loose Cash Donations | \$ 104 |
| Total Parish Support | \$ 4,069 |
| Average Weekly Expenses | \$ 3,278 |

“CHOCOLATE FOR BODY AND SOUL”

An online spiritual study for women, sponsored by the Precious Blood Renewal Center in Liberty, will gather from 6:30pm to 8pm the evenings of September.

God’s grace is rich, extravagant and luscious. What better metaphor for God’s grace than chocolate! This chocolate-themed study series is designed to help participants learn more about God’s abundant grace while building relationships with other women.

Learn more at programs@pbrenewalcenter.org

D.R.E. WANTED

We are still looking for a Director of Religious Education to organize and manage our Parish School of Religion classes for youth on Sunday mornings.

Summertime is usually used by the D.R.E. to plan the class year and order books and materials. This is a part time position which on average takes about 4 hours a week. The D.R.E. must be a practicing Catholic, going to a Sunday Mass every weekend, with a good knowledge of Catholicism and an ability to work with students and teachers. Starting salary is \$18 per hour.

PANDEMIC DISPENSATION HAS ENDED

Happily, the public health situation has improved to the point where at the start of June, Bishop Johnston lifted 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.

MISSION APPEAL BY VISITING PRIEST THIS WEEKEND

This weekend, July 24 and 25, Father Gianantonio Baggio will be here for the annual Mission Appeal. Father Johnny, as he likes to be called, is from Italy and a member of the Congregation of the Missionaries of Saint Charles, popularly called the Scalabrinians.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

This Sunday, July 25, has been designated by Pope Francis as the first annual day to honor Grandparents and the Elderly. The theme for the day is the words of Jesus “I Am with You Always”, expressing the closeness of the Lord Jesus and the Church to every older person especially those isolated by the restrictions of the pandemic. If you are aware of an elderly person who is isolated and alone, this is a good time to reach out and check on them.

REFLECTIONS FOR
THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

When we recite the Litany of Saint Joseph one of his titles is “most faithful”. One way to understand ‘Faith’ is that it is ‘Trust’. When we have Faith in God, we place our trust in God and God’s plan for our life. We often get in trouble when we ignore God’s plan and go our own way.

Joseph must have had a simple, robust faith which gave him the strength to bear the difficulties which came with caring for and providing for Mary and Jesus.

Parents of today face their own unique difficulties and challenges in care for and providing for their families. One of those challenges is setting an example for their children as a person who places their trust in God.

We are called to recognize, as Saint Joseph’s life attests, that for people who put their faith and trust in God all things work for the good.

So let us take Saint Joseph as our model in acknowledging that we have nothing to fear if we let God guide us.

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

OUTPACE POVERTY 5K RUN/WALK

This annual fundraising event of Catholic Charities will be Saturday September 18 at Frank A Theis Park near the Plaza. Gather with friends and family to help alleviate poverty in our diocese. Proceeds from the event will benefit the programs and services of Catholic Charities of Kansas City- Saint Joseph. The morning is geared toward family teams, corporate team building, running clubs or simply anyone looking to support our efforts to help the poor. There are several ways to participate and/or volunteer. For more information, visit OutpacePoverty.org.

To learn more about the mission and service of Catholic Charities visit their website at www.catholiccharities.-kcsj.org

**TO FIND OUR PARISH MASS ON THE
INTERNET**

Go to YouTube.com then search for Saint Mary’s
Higginsville MO

There is also a link from our parish website:
www.stmarysinhigginsville.org

From the Pastor’s desk
Dear Parishioners,

July 25th

This weekend we have a visiting priest – Father Johnny – here to make the annual appeal for support of the Missions.

Please make him feel welcomed.

If Sunday by Sunday, you have read the quotes we have run in our church bulletins from Pope Francis’ “Gaudete et Exultate” [‘Rejoice and be Glad’], you have read an entire Apostolic Exhortation. Congratulations. This weekend we have the last installment in the series.

It is probably the first papal document that you have read. Think of it as a pep talk from the Pope encouraging people to seek holiness and containing some practical advice about just how to do that.

Next weekend we will begin running Pope Francis famous second encyclical letter, “Laudato Si”. That title is from the opening words of a prayer by Saint Francis of Assisi – “Praise be to you, my Lord!”.

This encyclical letter written in 2015 was the Pope’s appeal to the world to take serious action in the face of the looming ecological crisis. As so many climate catastrophes are now unfolding it deserves to be better known.

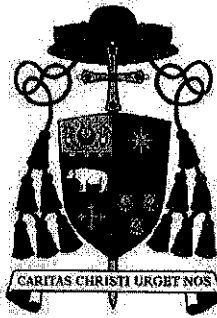
The Pope’s exhortation on holiness was written in a very informal style. An encyclical letter it is a much more serious, scholarly, philosophical and theological document but if you got through the exhortation, you should be able to do the same with the encyclical. Which will start appearing in bite-size chunks next weekend.

Peace and Blessings, Joy and Love in the Lord!

Father Tom Hawkins

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP JOHNSTON

“An overwhelming majority of Americans support the Hyde Amendment and laws that prevent government-funded abortion. Many in Congress are now trying to remove the Hyde Amendment from the current federal budget. Congress needs to hear from a significant number of our faithful in the next two weeks. Please join my fellow members of the U.S. Bishop’s Pro-Life Committee in sending a strong message that billions of taxpayer dollars should not be used to pay for abortion. Sign the petition at www.notaxpayerabortion”



Office of the Bishop

July 13, 2021

Dear Father,

An overwhelming majority of Americans support the Hyde Amendment and laws that prevent government-funded abortion. Many in Congress are now trying to remove the Hyde Amendment from the current federal budget. Congress needs to hear from a *significant* number of our faithful in the next two weeks.

Please join Archbishop Naumann, my fellow members of the U.S. Bishop's Pro-Life Committee, and priests from across the country in sending a strong message that billions of taxpayer dollars should not be used to pay for abortion.

Encourage members of your parish to sign the petition at www.notaxpayerabortion.com, then prayerfully consider taking one of these additional steps this weekend, July 17 & 18:

- Talk about taxpayer-funded abortion in a homily.
- Include a message about taxpayer-funded abortion in the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass.
- Post a copy of the flyer below on a parish bulletin board.
- Include a parish bulletin announcement, "Stop your tax dollars from going to abortion: NoTaxpayerAbortion.com".
- Write an article for your parish website, promoting www.notaxpayerabortion.com.

Additional ready-to-use resources can also be found on both the USCCB website at www.respectlife.org/no-taxpayer-abortion and on the diocesan Respect Life Office website, www.respectlifekcsj.org.

The success of this effort, and countless lives, depend on each of us doing our part.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ James V. Johnston, Jr.

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph

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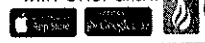
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