HOLY INFANT CATHOLIC CHURCH

627 DENNISON DRIVE   BALLWIN, MO 63021   636-227-7440
FAX: 636-227-4548   WWW.HOLYINFANTBALLWIN.ORG

REV. EDWARD STANGER, PASTOR
REV. DONALD ANSTOETTER, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
REV. THOMAS VORDTRIEDE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
DEACON DANIEL HENKE
DEACON DANIEL RAIDT

PASTORAL STAFF
PATRICIA FOLEY   DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
CHUCK CHAUVIN   DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY
TIM CLAUDIN   DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

RELIGIOUS STAFF
SISTER ROSARIO DELANEY, R.S.M. SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
SISTER LAURENTIA CUSACK, R.S.M. CONVENT

PARISH OFFICE
BEATA GORDON   OFFICE MANAGER
MONICA SABATINO   OFFICE ASSISTANT
MARGE STEUDEMAN   OFFICE ASSISTANT
KRIS MISPAGEL   CHILD SAFETY COORDINATOR
MARY THIERET   ACCOUNTANT
MARY WINKELMANN   BULLETIN EDITOR
HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
CLOSED 12:00 - 1:00 P.M.

HOLY INFANT SCHOOL
248 NEW BALLWIN ROAD
PHONE: 636-227-0802
FAX: 636-227-9184
WWW.HOLYINFANTSCHOOL.ORG
SCHOOLOFFICE@HOLYINFANTBALLWIN.ORG
CONVENT
239 NANCY PLACE  636-391-1528

HOLY INFANT PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION
248 NEW BALLWIN ROAD
PHONE: 636-227-0802   EXT 3
PSR OFFICE@HOLYINFANTBALLWIN.ORG
YOUTH HOUSE
237 NANCY PLACE   636-227-7440
EXTENSION 128

MASS SCHEDULE
SUNDAY EUCHARIST
SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.   5:30 P.M.
SUNDAY: 7:00 A.M.   8:30 A.M.
10:15 A.M.   12 NOON

WEEKDAYS
MONDAY - FRIDAY: 6:00 A.M.
8:00 A.M.
SATURDAY: 8:00 A.M.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2014

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
A very special welcome to our friends and visitors who have come to pray with us today. We are glad you are with us and hope you find a warm welcoming community here at Holy Infant Parish. Today, we continue the season of Advent—a time of preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. May we join together in prayer as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas.

Please call us at the rectory office, (636) 227-7440, if we can be of help to you or if you would like to become a member of our parish.

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**MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

**LECTORS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20**
4:00 p.m. Ruth Trousdale  Matthew Dazey  
5:30 p.m.  Amy Zaitz  Susan Doering  

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**
7:00 a.m.  Marcia Critchell  Sandra McGrath  
8:30 a.m.  Ron McKenzie  Michael Metz  
10:15 a.m.  Nick Miskov  Mark Nealon  
12:00 p.m.  Adrienne Hill  Macy Hill  

**ALTAR SERVERS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20**
8:00 a.m.  No 8:00 a.m. Mass  Jaden Correnti  
10:00 a.m.  Lindsey Colona  Paul Dannegger  
4:00 p.m.  Lauren Dawson  Aiden Dillon  
Hannah Dillon  Meg Morrow  
5:30 p.m.  Josh Dazey  Grace Deister  
Madelyn Deister  Mary Kathryn Deister  

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**
7:00 a.m.  Jenna Duenwald  Kiera Dunne  Kevin Dunne  
8:30 a.m.  Patrick Dwyer  Caden Eames  
Molly Effer  Tommy Emms  
10:15 a.m.  Anna Facenda  Tomas Farrar  
Marco Fernandez  Kevin Flores  
12:00 p.m.  Trinity Flaton  Grace Johnston  
Daphne Kelley  Kevin Koch  

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20**
4:00 p.m.  Team 3  5:30 p.m.  Team 3  

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**
7:00 a.m.  Team 3  8:30 a.m.  Team 2  
10:15 a.m.  Team 3  Noon  Team 3  

**GIFT BEARERS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20**
4:00 p.m.  David and Brigid James  
5:30 p.m.  Jim and Lisa Murphy  

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**
7:00 a.m.  Zachary and Chris Fischer  
8:30 a.m.  Shannon Miller and Family  
10:15 a.m.  Chris and Kathleen Ferrari  

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**RECENT BAPTISMS**

**Welcome to God’s Family**

Gavin D’Souza,  
Son of Vivek and Smita D’Souza

Lucy Marie Hagenhoff,  
Daughter of Mark and Michelle Hagenhoff

Natalie Mae Miller,  
Daughter of Joseph and Theresa Miller

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**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Richard Beauchamp  
Michelle Berken  
Edward Burwell  
Tony Catlett  
Fr. Jack Dempsey  
Joan Duncan  
Jill Durbin  
Eduardo Fernandez  
Samantha Gaylord  
Sharon Girth  
Rosemary Girth  
Don Giovani  
Michael Haenni  
Alvina Kaullen  
Dennis Kish  
Fern Lampe  
Bill Linhoff  
David Londe  
Alberta Mackowiak  
Lauren McClary  
John R. McEachan  
Sonia Mercado  
Angelina Nocifora  
Kim Ploudre  
Toodie Pohl  
Sam Taylor  
Michael Thompson

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**IN MEMORY OF**

DONNA WULFF, MOTHER OF BOB WULFF  
JOYCE (D’ALLIEGRO) HATTON,  
SISTER OF JOANN MIRIANI

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**Wedding Banns**

JOSEPH KRISPIN  MARY PHILLIPS

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**Early Bulletin Deadline**

The deadlines for the coming holiday bulletins are:

- December 21—past due.
- December 28—due on Tuesday, December 16.
- January 4—due on Friday, December 19.

Please submit by 8:00 a.m. to:
bulletineditor@holyinfantballwin.org.
MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Is 61:1-2A, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
7:00 a.m.  James H. Smith
8:30 a.m.  Living and Deceased Members of Holy Infant Church
10:15 a.m.  James Rapp
12:00 p.m.  Jeanne Heck
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17A; Ps 25:4-5AB, 6, 7BC-9; Mt 21:23-27
6:00 a.m.  Ruth Denzer
8:00 a.m.  Laverne G. Scheffler-Tabbert
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
6:00 a.m.  Martha Miller
8:00 a.m.  Raymond Chappell
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17
Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4AB, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
6:00 a.m.  Ken Quarternik
8:00 a.m.  Christiane Naylor
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18
Jr 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
6:00 a.m.  Purgatorial Society
8:00 a.m.  Intentions of Caroline Kijowski
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25A; Ps 71:3-4A, 5-6AB, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
6:00 a.m.  Joe Larussa
8:00 a.m.  Josephine Borcic
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20
Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4AB, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
8:00 a.m.  No Mass
10:00 a.m.  Steve Matichek
4:00 p.m.  Living and Deceased Members of Holy Infant Church
5:30 p.m.  Liz Yetke
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14A, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
7:00 a.m.  James Smith
8:30 a.m.  Joseph Blassie
10:15 a.m.  Judy Bentley
12:00 p.m.  Bob Boyd

Dear Parishioners,

Thanks to all who so generously supported our Holy Infant Christmas Giving Tree this year. It was great to see such a strong and generous response. In the name of the many families in need who will benefit from your loving spirit of generosity and support – thank you very much!

Thanks to all who attended the “Bless the Holy Infant Jesus” Prayer Service this past Sunday. Students from our grade school acted out the gospel story. Following a reflection from Fr. Vordtriebe, families were invited to bring the baby Jesus from their family nativity scene forward for a special blessing. It was a very prayerful evening. Thanks to Colleen Gratzer and all who helped to organize this special event.

Thanks to everyone who supported our outdoor “Live Nativity”. Our Holy Infant Youth Group did an outstanding job in helping to make this yearly event a memorable one. Special appreciation to all of our Confirmation teams who actively participated in this year’s event helping to make it a meaningful experience for our guests and visitors.

This coming Monday, December 15th, I will be joining with many Holy Infant parishioners and work at the Food Pantry at our sister parish, St. Wenceslaus, 3014 Oregon Avenue in South City. Holy Infant Parish helps to provide food, supplies, and volunteers for this Food Pantry. All of the donations received over the Thanksgiving holidays were donated. Thanks to everyone who regularly support this valuable ministry.

All of the children in our Parish School of Religion and our full time School were given the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas during their regular class times these past several weeks. If you are interested in celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this season of grace, there are opportunities every Saturday afternoon in church beginning at 3:30 until all confessions are heard. Also, confessions will be heard beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 14th and Sunday, December 21st.

On a final note, just a friendly reminder that one of the best ways to spend some time in prayer during Advent is to attend daily Mass. We offer Mass here every day Monday through Friday at 6:00 a.m. in the Chapel, and at 8:00 a.m. in the church Monday through Saturday. In addition to that, we have an open-door policy at church every day. Our Adoration Chapel is open 24/7 so that individuals and families either on their way to or from shopping and errands can stop for a few minutes and have a quiet visit with God. The Lord knows we all need a chance – if only for a few minutes – to catch our breath and remember who and what the Lord has called us to be.

Advent Blessings to you and your families!

[Signature]

Jonah Prayer Ministry

Jonah Prayer Teams are available next weekend after the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday and after the 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Masses on Sunday.

The teams will be by the baptismal font. You can ask for prayer for yourself, friend, relative, or any other concerns or need that you have. All prayer is confidential.
**Holy Infant Parish Calendar**

**Sunday, December 14**
- Knights of Columbus Food Drive, Upper and Lower Lobbies
- Mike Kelly Tournament, 1:00 p.m., Parish Center
- Ladies’ Advent Tea, 1:30 p.m., Upper Cafeteria
- Advent Adoration and Reconciliation, 7:00 p.m., Church

**Monday, December 15**
- Quilters, 9:30 a.m., Lower Cafeteria
- PSR Classes, 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.
- Baptism Preparation, 7:00 p.m., Holy Infant Room
- Book Club, 7:30 p.m., Lower Cafeteria
- Women’s CRHP Team 35, 7:30 p.m., Adult Ed Room

**Tuesday, December 16**
- First Grade Nativity Play, 1:00 p.m., Parish Center
- Day School Christmas Concert, 7:00 p.m., Church
- St. Vincent de Paul Society, 7:00 p.m., Lower Cafeteria
- Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary, 7:00 p.m., Holy Infant Room
- Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions, Evening Prayer and Rosary, 7:15 p.m., Chapel

**Wednesday, December 17**
- Joyful Hope Prayer Group, 6:30 p.m., Adult Ed Room
- Divorce Care, 7:00 p.m., Holy Infant Room
- RCIA, 7:00 p.m., Rosario Hall
- Rosary, Intentions for World Peace, 7:00 p.m., Chapel
- CRHP Continuation Committee, 7:30 p.m., Lower Cafeteria

**Thursday, December 18**
- Holy Infant Seniors Board, 10:00 a.m., Holy Infant Room
- Book Club, 1:00 p.m., Holy Infant Room
- Stephen Minister Training, 7:00 p.m., Rosario Hall
- Stephen Minister Supervision Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Upper Cafeteria
- Evangelization Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Holy Infant Room
- School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., School Board Room
- Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m., Church

**Friday, December 19**
- All School Liturgy, 8:00 a.m., Church
- Legion of Mary, 9:30 a.m., Holy Infant Room

**Saturday, December 20**
- Anointing Mass, 10:00 a.m., Church; reception follows in Upper Cafeteria. No 8:00 a.m. Mass
- Daughters of St. Paul selling books and media after all Masses

**Sunday, December 21**
- Daughters of St. Paul selling books and media after all Masses
- Advent Adoration and Reconciliation, 7:00 p.m., Church
- Men’s CRHP Teams 7 and 8 Bible Study, 7:30 p.m., Holy Infant Room

**Stewardship Tithe for the Poor**

Each quarter, three percent of our offertory collections will be tithed to the poor and needy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
<th>Quarter to Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/01/14 - 12/31/14</td>
<td>$ 604</td>
<td>$ 7,867</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Stewardship**

**Through November 30, 2014 (Week 22)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Year-to-date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Received</td>
<td>$ 20,143</td>
<td>$ 366,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Received - Electronic</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 281,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Donations</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 2,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Donations</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Day Collections</td>
<td>$ 550</td>
<td>$ 5,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Year Contributions</td>
<td>$ 51</td>
<td>$ 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Earned:</td>
<td>$ 34,048</td>
<td>$ 749,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income:</td>
<td>$ 54,792</td>
<td>$ 1,403,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Required:</td>
<td>$ 65,639</td>
<td>$ 1,444,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over/(Under) Budget</td>
<td>$ (10,847)</td>
<td>$ (40,168)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Repair Fund</td>
<td>$ 695</td>
<td>$ 28,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 1,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Assistance Fund</td>
<td>$ 155</td>
<td>$ 3,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Collections:</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 38,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$ 161</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of Families Enrolled in Faith Direct - 506**

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**St. Vincent de Paul Society**

**November 23, 2014**

People helped: 11  Receipts: $ 945  Expenses: $ 2,442

**Families helped with:**
- Shelter: 1  Food: 2  Thrift Store: 1  Utilities: 3
- Transportation: 3  Medical: 2

To help, please make your check payable to “St. Vincent de Paul Society”, put in an envelope marked “SVDP” and drop it in the collection. For help, please call us at (314) 289-6101 voice mail box 2265. Leave us a message.

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**St. Vincent de Paul Society**

For the poorest among us, a Christmas “wish list” might be as basic as a roof overhead, a bed to sleep in, a decent meal, and for the children, a toy or two. The Vincentians seek to serve the poor in their moment of need, but our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, also sought to change lives, offering a hand up in addition to a “handout”.

Your donations fund a Christmas party for our needy families. We will have food, gifts for the children, a “rob your neighbor” game for the parents, and gift cards for the parents to shop for presents for their children. So far, we have 35 special guests invited to our Christmas party.
**ANointing of the Sick**

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be held on Saturday, December 20 at a 10:00 a.m. Mass. Following Mass, there will be a reception in the upper cafeteria.

Anyone who is ill (chronic or acute), experiencing the frailty of old age, facing surgery, or having emotional or mental problems is invited to join us for this celebration.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, "This sacred anointing of the sick was instituted by Christ our Lord as a true and proper sacrament of the New Testament. It is alluded to indeed by Mark, but is recommended to the faithful and promulgated by James the apostle and brother of the Lord" (CCC 1511; Mark 6:13; Jas. 5:14-15).

The anointing of the sick conveys several graces and imparts gifts of strengthening in the Holy Spirit against anxiety, discouragement, and temptation, and conveys peace and fortitude (CCC 1520)."

**Pauline Books and Media**

The Daughters of St. Paul from Pauline Books and Media on Watson Rd. in Crestwood will be visiting Holy Infant on Saturday and Sunday, December 20-21. The Daughters of St. Paul are religious sisters whose mission is to communicate the Gospel with media, in the spirit of St. Paul.

Their publications of Catholic books, music, and DVDs—both for children and adults—will be available for perusal and purchase after the weekend Masses. For more information or special order requests, call Sr. Laura at (314) 965-3512.

**Mass Schedule Christmas and New Years**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24th</th>
<th>Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25th</th>
<th>December, 31:</th>
<th>January 1:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m. Mass</td>
<td>7:00 a.m. Mass</td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:10 p.m. Mass (Parish Center)</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. Mass</td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m. Mass</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Advent**

**Adoration and Reconciliation**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available Sunday, December 14 and Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. until all are heard.

Starting at 7:00 p.m. on those evenings, there will be Eucharistic Adoration in the main church concluding with Benediction at 8:00 p.m.

Please join the Holy Infant community for this opportunity of prayer and Reconciliation as we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord.

**Safe Environment Program**

Anyone who works with, volunteers, or comes in contact with children must be compliant with the Safe Environment Program of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis set forth by the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops).

Compliance includes attending a Protecting God’s Children Workshop, completing a Missouri Background Check, and reading and signing a Code of Ethical Conduct form. Additional background checks may be necessary if you have lived out of state in previous years.

To register online for a Protecting God’s Children Workshop and electronically sign the Ethical Code of Conduct please visit [www.archstl.org](http://www.archstl.org) and click on the Protecting God’s Children link in the center of the page. You will be redirected to the VIRTUSOnline.org site to complete the registration process. Additional information regarding background checks will be given at the workshop. If you have questions or need assistance with this process, please contact the parish office or the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Program at the number below.

**Missouri Background Checks are updated every even numbered year. Please call Kris Mispagel (227-7440) if you would like to be removed from the list of active volunteers.**

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"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths!"
PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thank you to all adorers and visitors who have given their precious time with our Lord Jesus Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament.

WILL YOU PLEASE HELP?

There is a need for faithful adorers to commit to a holy hour. The hours in need are:

**Wednesday:** 1:00 a.m.  **Saturday:** 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.  **Sunday:** 2:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

There is also a need for substitutes any day or time. Is the Lord inviting you to be His faithful companion for an hour during the private time? Please prayerfully consider committing to an hour of Eucharistic Adoration. Please contact: Teresita La’O (636) 391-1997 or Ricardo La’O (314) 520-7088 if you can help or would like more information.

Everyone is encouraged to visit. Please encourage relatives, friends or neighbors to come.

THIS IS JESUS CHRIST WHOM WE VISIT.

PLEASE DO SIGN IN on the attendance sheet at the bookcase, whether you are coming for your committed hour OR if you have just “dropped in” for a short visit. We want to know how many people come to pray and check if the Blessed Sacrament has company all the time.

ALTERNATIVE WAY TO SIGN UP:

Signing up as a group of 2, 3, 4, etc. is welcome.  You will be alternating each time. Example:  A group of 4 will only have to visit once a month perpetually.

IF YOU CAN NO LONGER FULFILL YOUR COMMITMENT, PLEASE NOTIFY US.  THANK YOU.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR ADORATION HOURS

The Blessed Sacrament will not be exposed on the following dates and hours:

From December 24 at 12 Noon to December 25 at 7:00 p.m.

From December 31, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. to January 1, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND FAITHFUL DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

HOLY INFANT PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Register now at: [www.holyinfantballwin.org](http://www.holyinfantballwin.org) or contact Nicole Dresser at (516) 652-7193 or [nicolemdresser@gmail.com](mailto:nicolemdresser@gmail.com). Photos are taken in the upper cafeteria.

SESSION DATES:

Monday, Dec. 22 and Tuesday, Dec. 23  2 p.m.- 9 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 27  9 a.m.- 2 p.m.  
Monday, Dec. 29 and Tuesday, Dec. 30  2 p.m.- 9 p.m.

ANGEL CORPS

Angel Corps provides Angel Care for Holy Infant Parishioners—Eucharistic visits to the homebound, nursing homes or assisted living, and compassionate visits to the hospitalized.

Ask an Angel to bring the Eucharist to you or a homebound loved one. Call the parish office at (636) 227-7440.
Knights of Columbus
PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER TAX CREDIT

The Knights are dedicated to Pro-Life movements, including those institutions aiding mothers who choose to have their babies, avoiding abortion. Missouri has a unique vehicle for this worthy work of charity: The Pregnancy Resource Tax Credit. Here is an example of how it works:

Donate $100 to one of the pregnancy support groups listed below. That support group will send you a form to complete and return for their verification. They will forward it to the state and you will receive a certified form stating your tax credit eligibility. Attach that to your Missouri tax return. You will receive a 50% tax credit for your donation. Additionally, itemized deductions allow a charitable deduction for the same $100 donation on both your federal and Missouri tax returns.

If you are in the 15% federal tax bracket, you will receive a 15% federal tax deduction on your donation. On your Missouri return you will receive a 6% deduction. That $100 donation only cost you $29 ($100—$50 Missouri tax credit; $15 federal itemized deduction; $6 Missouri itemized deduction)! You are limited to a maximum annual donation not to exceed whatever your total tax liability to the state is in that year or $50,000 per year—the smaller of the two.

St. Louis pregnancy support agencies currently certified by the state to participate in the program are: Birthright Counseling, (314) 962-5300; Good Shepherd, (314) 854-5700; Catholic Charities, (314) 367-5500. Call the one you choose for confirmation of your donation to their pregnancy resource activity.

This tax credit has to be approved annually by the legislature. Any such donations made up to June 2015 are covered by the current law.不要将这些机构视为不需要的。通过他们的工作，我们能够为那些需要帮助的个人提供支持，避免堕胎。在这个过程中，我们也可以为自己感到自豪，因为我们正在为一个更加美好的未来而努力。

The History of the Advent Wreath?

The Advent Wreath is an old tradition within our Catholic Faith. Its origins are uncertain, but it is believed to originate in Germanic and Nordic pagan traditions regarding a candle-lit wheel where prayers were said during the long winters to the “god of light” to bring longer and warmer days.

By the Middle Ages, the Catholics were using the Advent Wreath in preparation for Christmas. Lutherans have also used the Advent Wreath since the 1600s. All components of the Advent Wreath have rich symbolism:

Evergreens = Symbolize continuous life.
Laurel = Perseverance against persecution and suffering.
Holly and yew = Immortality. Life eternal with God.
Cedar = Strength and healing.
Holly (prickly) = Christ’s crown of thorns.
Circular shape (unending) – Eternity of God.
Pinecones = Life and resurrection.
Four candles = Four weeks of Advent. Each candle also represents a millennium. A total of 4,000 years from Adam & Eve until Christ’s birth.
Purple Candles = Prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works.
Rose Candle = Lit on Gaudete Sunday as a symbol of rejoicing because Advent is now half over and we are getting closer to Christmas.

The general symbol of light symbolizes the light of Christ, People walking in darkness have seen a great light (Isaiah 9:2).

Blessing for the Advent Wreath

O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth thy blessing upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the Coming of Christ, and may receive from thee abundant graces. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

That’s our faith – rich in Sacred Tradition – based in Sacred Scripture! See you next time!

God Bless,
Deacon Daniel Raidt

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

No less than His contemporaries in Palestine adored and implored Him for the favors they needed, so we should praise, thank Him, and implore Him at Adoration.

—Pope Pius XII
Catholic Men for Christ 8th Annual Conference

Date: Saturday, February 7, 2015
Location: Peabody Opera House
Time: Doors open at 7:00 a.m.; Conference begins at 8:30 a.m. Conference concludes with 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass.
Theme: The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Luke 10:2.
Speakers: George Weigel, Tim Staples, Terry Barber and Monsignor James J. Ramacciotti.

The Catholic Men for Christ Conference has a newly designed "user friendly" website. Find details and complete your online registration at www.catholicmenforchrist.org.

Catholic Women for Christ 6th Annual Conference

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2015
Location: St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles
Time: Doors open at 7:45 a.m.; Keynote at 9:00 a.m.; Mass at 4:00 p.m.
Theme: If you are what you should be, you will set the world on fire." (St. Catherine of Siena.)
Speakers: Teresa Tomeo, Syndicated Catholic talk show host and motivational speaker and Brenda Sharman, Founding National Director of Pure Fashion.

For more details and registration, please visit www.catholicwomenforchrist.org.

Thank You

I wanted to take the opportunity to say a very loud thank you for all the support that you gave to the Kairos Prison Ministry last month! The inmates at Menard were collectively very appreciative of and inspired by the Agape love that was poured out in typical Holy Infant style. Your dozens of cookies (110 dozen), placemats, posters, notes from our Parish School, confirmation groups and high schools, and most importantly your many prayers, were deeply felt by the inmates on this retreat at the Menard penitentiary.

If you want to learn more about this ministry, give me a call. Also, in December, I will write a post in the Men’s Px90 blog, detailing some of our experiences with this Kairos Prison ministry. Thanks again!

Mark Dischert
(314) 974-6566  mdisch1234@gmail.com

Recommended Holiday Viewing

Take a moment to sit back, put up your feet, and enjoy The Forsaken on Tuesday, December 30 on EWTN at 5:30 pm. This thirty minute documentary, featuring the Archdiocese of St. Louis mission program Pan y Amor, will open your eyes to the lives of children who have been rescued from living on the streets of Cochabamba and La Paz, Bolivia. Prior to being rescued, these children barely survived and often went to sleep hungry and on the streets. Emmy award winner Chuck Neff does an extraordinary job of capturing the struggles of these innocent children and their quest for a brighter future. This is a show you don’t want to miss!!

Volunteer…Change a Life

Do you have a little time to give? Are you looking for a way to be involved in work that helps young mothers and their babies? We are looking for a volunteer who can show care and compassion to women who find themselves dealing with an untimely pregnancy. Tri-County Birthright in Eureka has been assisting women in a non-judgmental, loving way for more than 35 years now. Be a part of this powerful ministry. We will train you and fully prepare you to work with these women and their families by sharing resources and just ‘being there’ for them.

There are many ways to volunteer if interested. We are in need of one-on-one counselors who might be able to give one morning (9 a.m.-12 p.m.) or an afternoon (12 p.m.-3 p.m.) per week. If interested, call Tri-County Birthright at (636) 938-4221 or email at eurekabirthright@att.net. You can meet with the Director, Denise Smith, get your questions answered and find out if you are a good fit for this work. Who knows…the life you change may be your own.

Anyone for Caroling?

St. Louis Christmas Carols Association is looking for anyone who would like to have a little fun and help a worthy cause at the same time this Christmas. Gather a group of children, grandchildren, friends, and/or relatives and serenade your neighbors with song.

If you’re planning a party, make part of it a caroling party. You select your time, the date, and the place where you would like to carol. The Carols Association provides the song sheets, the identifying logo, and the canister for collecting donations. All money collected provides help to over 50 children’s organizations in the St. Louis area. For supplies or for more information, contact Dolores Kaemmerer at (636) 391-7743.
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