

DECEMBER 5, 2021

2nd Sunday of Lent

2nd Sunday of Advent

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

Sacred Heart

S A R J S H

555 BAILEY ROAD • CRYSTAL CITY, MO 63019

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT:

"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,

MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.

EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED

AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW."

—LUKE 3:4-5

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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MISSION STATEMENT

We the parish family of Sacred Heart, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit seek to bring all to a fuller understanding of God's love by teaching, praying, witnessing for Christ and service to one another. Through the sharing of our time, talents, and treasures, we shall build up the body of Christ in our local parish, deanery, archdiocese and the world.

2 Staff & Parish Info

Pastoral Staff

Pastor, Rev. Mathew

Cheruparambil

E-Mail.....frmathew@archstl.org

Deacon, Jerry Stoverink Deacon

E-Mail.....j_dstoverink@sbcglobal.net

Director of Rel. Ed..... Karen Weber

Phone-636-937-4662, 314-623-1139

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Finance Council Chair, Steve Bacon

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Parish Leadership Chair,

Jim Sparling

E-Mail.....jimsparling@sbcglobal.net

Parish Offices

Rectory(636) 937-4662

Toll free St. Louis/fax(636) 931-5507

E-mailsh324cc@sbcglobal.net

Adoration Chapel(636) 933-0454

Parish Website: sacredheartcrystalcity-festus.weconnect.com

Parish Secretary

Office hours.....M-F 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Email.....shccsecretary@sbcglobal.net

Eucharistic Celebrations

Weekend: Saturday 5:00 pm; Sunday 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am

Weekday: Monday-Thursday 8:00 am; (Friday 8:00 am-Communion Service)

Holy Day: Day 8:00 am, 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
Sacraments

Reconciliation

Saturday at 4:00 pm or by appointment.

Baptism

Held on 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month following the 11:00 am Mass.

Baptism is an introduction to the Catholic way of life, attendance at Sunday Mass is an obligation which is not taken lightly. Baptism preparation will be held on the 1st Monday of each month. Call Fr. Mathew for Baptism preparation and Baptisms +(636-937-4662).

Marriage

Preparation class must begin at least six months in advance of date of marriage. Make an appointment with the priest .

Communion Calls

If you are unable to come to Mass for several weeks due to illness, contact the Parish Office for a visit.

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Open twenty four hours a day in the Convent Chapel. If interested contact the Parish Office (636) 937-4662.

PSR Classes

Held at school every Wednesday evening during school year from 6:45-8:00 pm.

Bulletin Deadline

Announcements must be turned in to Parish Office by Sunday evening.

Email.....shccsecretary@sbcglobal.net



Greeting from the Pastor

Second Sunday of Advent, already. A season to search or re-search for that manger and the one born in it who later became ‘the king of the world’, and who would return at the end of the world to claim his supremacy.

Beyond the usual peripherals of the season in which we lose, sometimes, the message and the treasure, let us take a joyous trip to the manger to see the Holy Child who came to recreate the world! How far away are we from the manger and how long are we to travel to find the treasure in it? Depends on the traveler! If you are willing to dive deep into the ocean of Christian life to gather the pearls of Catholic life, the manger will be just a breath away! For others, may be, miles away. All depends on the traveler!

The manger is a reminder. If only every family and every heart became a manger! The Holy Child of Bethlehem is still roaming around in this winter, looking for a place to stay. More doors seem to be shut to his face today than open to him. He is an immigrant; he is hungry and homeless; he is persecuted, beheaded, crucified, burnt alive, shot, trafficked... When he has no place among his own, what does it mean to celebrate his birthday!

The poor Martin the cobbler, warned in dream, waited for the Lord with gifts of a bowl of soup, and a pair of shoes. It was evening, and then night. He didn't come. But Martin had a few visitors during the day and in the late evening. Martin, though unwillingly, had to give away the gifts he had kept for his guest to the unexpected visitors. As he fell asleep in his couch, waiting for the guest, the Lord came to him in a dream. “I waited for you all day, till this moment. You didn't come”, the cobbler mumbled. “Well, I came, and you fed me with a bowl of soup, and you gave me a pair of shoes”, said the Lord.

Your parish, home, manger... let us not separate them this year. Let them be the manger. Distance between them is not much, then. Let us brace up during this advent with the memories of the birth that divided time, that made all the difference in the world. He is the reason for the season; blessed is the one who finds that pearl in the manger of one's heart.

With love,

Fr. Mathew

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

We will be having an Advent Penance Service on Saturday, December 11 from 10:00am-11:00am. There will be multiple priests available for confessions. Please consider this opportunity to prepare the way for our Lord.



There will be a Christmas Concert today, December 5 in the Church at 3:00pm. The Festival Choir will be performing. Come join us for some Christmas cheer.



Hail Mary

Full of Grace
The Lord is with Thee
Blessed art Thou Among Women
And Blessed is the
Fruit of thy womb
Jesus

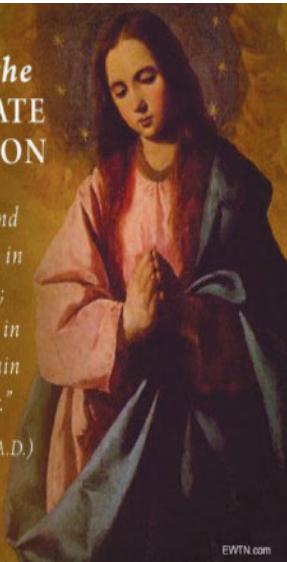
Holy Mary
Mother of God
Pray for us Sinners
Now and at the hour of our death
Amen



FEAST of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

"Thou alone and
Thy Mother are in
all things fair;
there is no flaw in
Thee and no stain
in Thy Mother."

- St. Ephraim (370 A.D.)



EWTN.com

Mercy Community Blood Drive
Hosted by: Sacred Heart Parish
Monday, December 20th, 2021
2 – 6 p.m.

The drive will be held in the
Gymnasium 200 Brierton Lane |
Crystal City, MO 63019
Appointments preferred. Walk-ins
welcome.

**Sign up sheet will be at the exits
of the church.**

To make an appointment, call 314
-251-GIVE (4483)
or visit us online at Mercy Blood-
Donor.net

All donors will be required to
bring a state-issued form of ID.
We politely request that masks
must be worn during the donation
experience. **All donors will re-
ceive a t-shirt.**



Your Gift of Treasure

Week of November 21, 2021

Envelopes Mailed.....	580
Envelope Gifts.....	\$5,629.00
Number of Envelopes.....	115
Online Gifts.....	\$2,778.00
Number of Online Donations.....	52
Loose.....	\$161.00

Scrip Program November 21, 2021

Number of orders.....	12
Amount of Orders.....	\$2,030.00
Amount earned this week.....	\$50.86
E-Scrip Revenue.....	\$0
Amount earned YTD.....	\$807.66

Week of November 28, 2021

Envelopes Mailed.....	579
Envelope Gifts.....	\$6,685.00
Number of Envelopes.....	108
Online Gifts.....	\$1,992.00
Number of Online Donations.....	49
Loose.....	\$120.00

Scrip Program November 28, 2021

Number of orders.....	10
Amount of Orders.....	\$2,030.00
Amount earned this week.....	\$64.43
E-Scrip Revenue.....	\$0
Amount earned YTD.....	\$872.09

Christmas

Question:

With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it's easy to stray.

Answer:

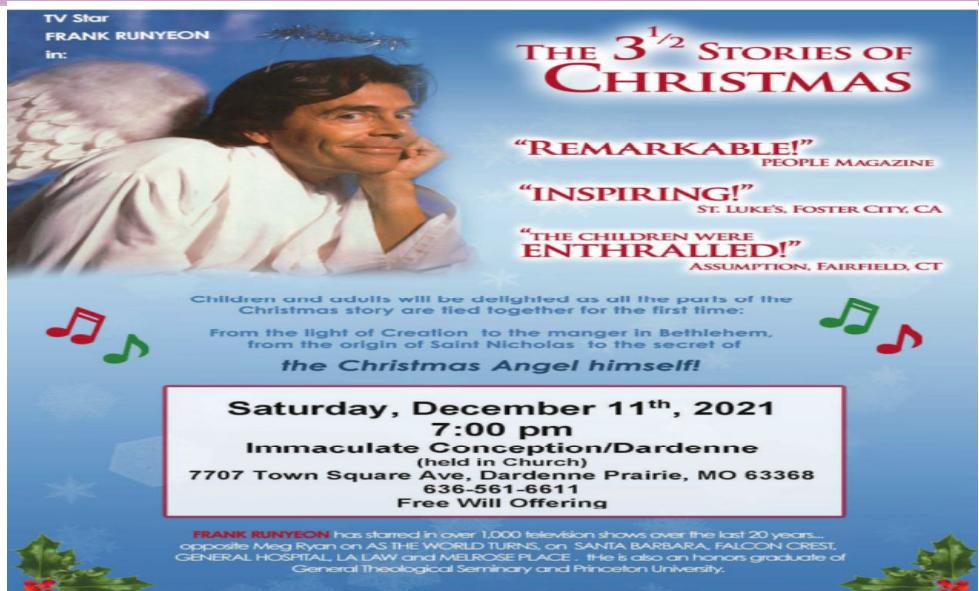
Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord.

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but as Advent begins, do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord's coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthrone the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas. Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the home-bound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family. Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready.

Parish & Community Events

Office Assistant Position

Our Parish Office is searching for a part-time Office Assistant. The position will be Monday and Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm; possibly an additional day could be added as the work load designates. Qualifications for this position include experience with Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, and Publisher). The candidate must be able to multi-task, have organizational skills, positive disposition, a high degree of judgement, initiative, and discretion. Must have strong verbal and written communication skills, have a willingness to learn new software programs, be self-motivated and a team player. Send resume and cover letter to: sh324cc@sbcglobal.net or mail to: Sacred Heart Parish, 555 Bailey Road, Crystal City MO 63019.



National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Visitors Center

The Christmas Stories in Matthew and Luke – Two - part Series

Presenter: Mark Etling, PhD.

Tuesdays, Dec 7 & 14, 10 am – 12 Noon

The story of Christmas in our time is filled with joy and wonderment about the birth of Jesus.

Mary and Joseph are visited by angels; the birth of the Child is announced to shepherds by the heavenly choirs; astrologers from the East come to worship Jesus because they have seen his star; his life is threatened by the treachery of King Herod. Yet in their original context the Christmas stories are risky, even dangerous tales of treason against the Roman Empire, and the beginning of the restoration of God's sovereignty in Israel. In this two-part series we will explore the dramatic stories of Jesus' birth as told in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

Cost: \$20 for series; \$10 per session,

For more information, call 618-394-6281.

December 5, 2021 2nd Sunday of Advent

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (Philippians 1:9-10)

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or, are you just fulfilling your "obligation" to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them, learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less "stuff" and spend more time with those you love.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

God's Personal Assistants

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

Personal assistants are masters of stewardship — overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up — whoever he or she is — it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do: sing, speak, pray, mingle, what-have-you. It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key.

God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants — what He needs — to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over, and over again.

We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor. We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up — however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us — everything is ready for Him to do His job.

Parish & Community Events

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Adoration of the Lord Sacred Heart Adoration Chapel is OPEN and volunteers are needed.

"One need not say much to pray well, we know that Jesus is there in the tabernacle; let us open our hearts to Him, let us rejoice in His Sacred Presence. That is the best prayer."

We have **SEVERAL OPENINGS**. Please call Terri Wolk at 314-620-7527 for more information.

Openings for the following hours are needed to be filled ASAP. This is a great way to give your time and talent to your Parish and The Lord!

Monday:	5:00am
Tuesday:	8:00am
Thursday:	11:00pm
Friday:	12:00am
Saturday:	7:00pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm
Sunday:	4:00am



Christmas Flowers

We are once again inviting you to donate towards decorating our Church for Christmas.

Christmas flower envelopes are available at the exits of Church. Make a flower donation in any amount in the memory of a loved one. Names of those being remembered will be published in the bulletin. Help make the Church bloom for Christmas.



Angel Tree Drive

The Sacred Heart Society of St. Vincent de Paul will once again have their "Angel Tree" to collect underwear and socks for children in need for Christmas. Take an Angel ornament from the tree with the size of clothing requested and bring the unwrapped socks or underwear back to church and place in the baskets under the tree. The clothing will be given to children at the Jefferson County Toys & More distribution. The collection will be held the weekends of December 5 and 12. Thanks again for your generous support.



Christmas Toy Drive

We will have our Annual Toy drive the weekend of December 4-5. Toys are needed for children (0-16 years of age). Toys collected will be distributed through the Jefferson County Toys & More Program. Please remember to make this year's Christmas very special for those less fortunate.



SAVE THE DATE Advent Lessons & Carols

Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France (Old Cathedral)

Sunday, December 12, 2021, 3:00 pm
Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Presiding

Music provided by the combined choirs of
the Basilica of St. Louis, King of France (Old Cathedral)
and the Shrine of St. Joseph

Free and open to the Public

The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary #1230 is having their annual hats, gloves & scarves drive. We will be collecting New hats, gloves & scarves to be given to the Jefferson County Toy Distribution Drive held in mid-December. The items can be dropped off at the Knights of Columbus #1230 Club Room located at 316 N Adams Festus from now until December 14th. If you have any questions you can contact Cheryl Beffa 314-799-5008.



Dynamic Catholic, Alive! - Baptism of Repentance

We should be grateful that we have been baptized and claimed for Christ. The Holy Spirit has come into our hearts and Christ has washed away the stain of original sin. As a result, we are able to enter into heaven and attain union with God in eternal beatitude (CCC 1213-1216). The work is not done, though. We still suffer from concupiscence, our natural inclination to sin, and must face trials and temptations in our spiritual journey of life. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit guides us to repent and to turn away from our sins. He enables us to accept our adoption as sons and daughters of God who walk in the light of Christ. What is holding you back from fully embracing your status as a child of God? How can you more fully repent and experience the grace of God working in your life?

archstl.org/dynamic

Ministry Schedules



December 11th and December 12th

Altar Servers

5:00pm Server Needed
7:30am Tom Stoverink
9:00am Brooklyn Buckner
11:00am Luke Wren

Eucharistic Ministers

5:00pm Deacon Jerry
7:30am Cathy Johns
9:00am Dan Nicholson
11:00am Sharon Pierce

Lectors

5:00pm Diane Stoverink
Shirley Perry
7:30am Russ Hackmann
Carolyn Hackmann
9:00am Fran Nicholson
Jeff Buckner
11:00am Jessel Matlock
Joe Govro

Scrip

5:00pm Sue Boyer
Cathy Johns
9:00am Vickie Eisenbeis
11:00am Ruth Burger

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day Vigil Mass Tuesday, December 7th

Altar Servers

6:00pm Gene DeClue

Eucharistic Ministers

6:00pm Laurie Roubidoux

Lectors

6:00pm Sue Cresswell
Sue Cresswell

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day Mass Wednesday, December 8th

Altar Servers

8:00am None Needed
12:00pm Tom Stoverink

Eucharistic Ministers

8:00am Deacon Jerry
12:00pm Julia Hagan

Lectors

8:00am Diane Stoverink
Diane Stoverink
12:00pm Shirley Perry
Shirley Perry



Monday, December 6

8:00am Ramon Augusto

Tuesday, December 7

8:00am Leon Wulfers
6:00pm Barbara Boyer

Wednesday, December 8

8:00am Augusta & Leo Werner
12:00pm Barb Boyer

Thursday, December 9

8:00am Dorothy Weiss

Friday, December 10

8:00am Prayer Service

Saturday, December 11

5:00pm Prayer Shawl Recipients

Sunday, December 12

7:30am People of the Parish
9:00am Angie Zander
11:00am John Cheruparambil



Readings for the week of December 5, 2021

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
 Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/
Lk 5:17-26
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/
Mt 18:12-14
 Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/
Lk 1:26-38
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/
Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Observances for the week of December 5, 2021

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent
 Monday: St. Nicholas, Bishop
 Tuesday: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 Wednesday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Thursday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
 Friday: Our Lady of Loreto
 Saturday: St. Damasus I, Pope
 Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 7
 8:45am Legion of Mary RMR
 3:30pm RCIA RMR
 6:00pm Holy Day Vigil Mass CH

Wednesday, December 8
 8:00am Holy Day Mass CH
 12:00pm Holy Day Mass CH
 6:45pm PSR Class SC

Thursday, December 9
 8:45am Quilters ANN
 6:30pm Quilters ANN
 6:00pm SVDP Meeting ANN

Saturday, December 11
 10:00am Advent Reconciliation CH
 11:00am

Sunday, December 12
 6:30pm Festival Choir Practice CH

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Holy Day of Obligation**

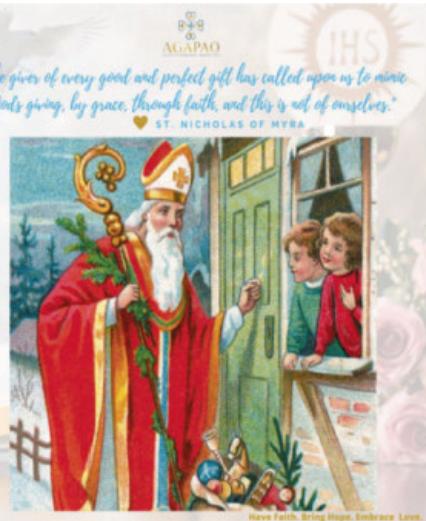
**Office will be closed Wednesday
December 8th**

News and Notes

7

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Roberta Mahue of our Parish.



Pray For Our Sick: Your prayers are requested for the sick of the Parish. Please remember the many people who are suffering with cancer and various other illnesses in the hospitals, the Nursing Homes, as well as at home and **also remember** all those of the parish who are pregnant that they will have a safe delivery and a healthy baby. **Prayer Requests:**

Gina Allen	Joe Elsworth	Carol Turgeon- Miller	Linda Schmitt
Amber Alford	Marilyn Emily	Joshua Miller	Jeanette Smock
Martin Ames	Kristine Fears	Doris Moeller	Joe Sonnenschein
Agnes Baker	Tim Fears	Cerita Munshaw	Pat Spillers
Matt Bequette	Sergeant Robert Paul	Ruth Nichols	Janene Spresterbach
Mary Breitbarth	Figge	John & James Norris	Louise Spresterbach
Carolyn Bridges	Jacob Finch	Jax Okenfuss	Betty Stackley
Lucy Brindley	David Friesner	Jeff Osia	Patricia Swader
Marian Charleville	Lori Hassel	Ashley & Jimmy	Juanita Swyers
Clare Coleman	Dorothy Hendrix	Perrot	Larry Turley
Galena Coleman	Traci Hendrix	Tim Perry	Wayne Turley
Francis Coleman	Shari, Bert &	Susan Peterine	Merrily Varone
Wendell Coleman	Andrea Horn	Miranda Pfaff	Leah Broyles Vogt
Jacintha Davis	Steve Jennings	Carolyn Pool	Al Walker
Diana DeClue	Joanne Johnston	Kathleen Portell	Patty & Greg Ward
Karen Dettmer	Carol Kaltenbronn	Prosser Family	Lucille Warden
Angie Dill	Donna Keathley	Coletta Reecht	Rose Weeks
Mylissa Dornself	Carol Kestermont	JoAnn Reeves	Stella Weidenbenner
Chris Doskocil	Joshua Lucas	Donna Riedy	Bobby Wilde
Joe Douglas	Beth Mahn	Millie Ritcher	Jordan Winkel
Leanne Doza	Holly Martin	Kathy Robertson	Chuck Yount
Glen Elsworth	Nadine McConnell	Steve Roth of Iowa	

PLEASE NOTE: If a name has been on for a long time, it may be taken off to make room for others who are seriously ill.


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