

3rd Sunday of Advent

"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!" St. Teresa of Avila

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

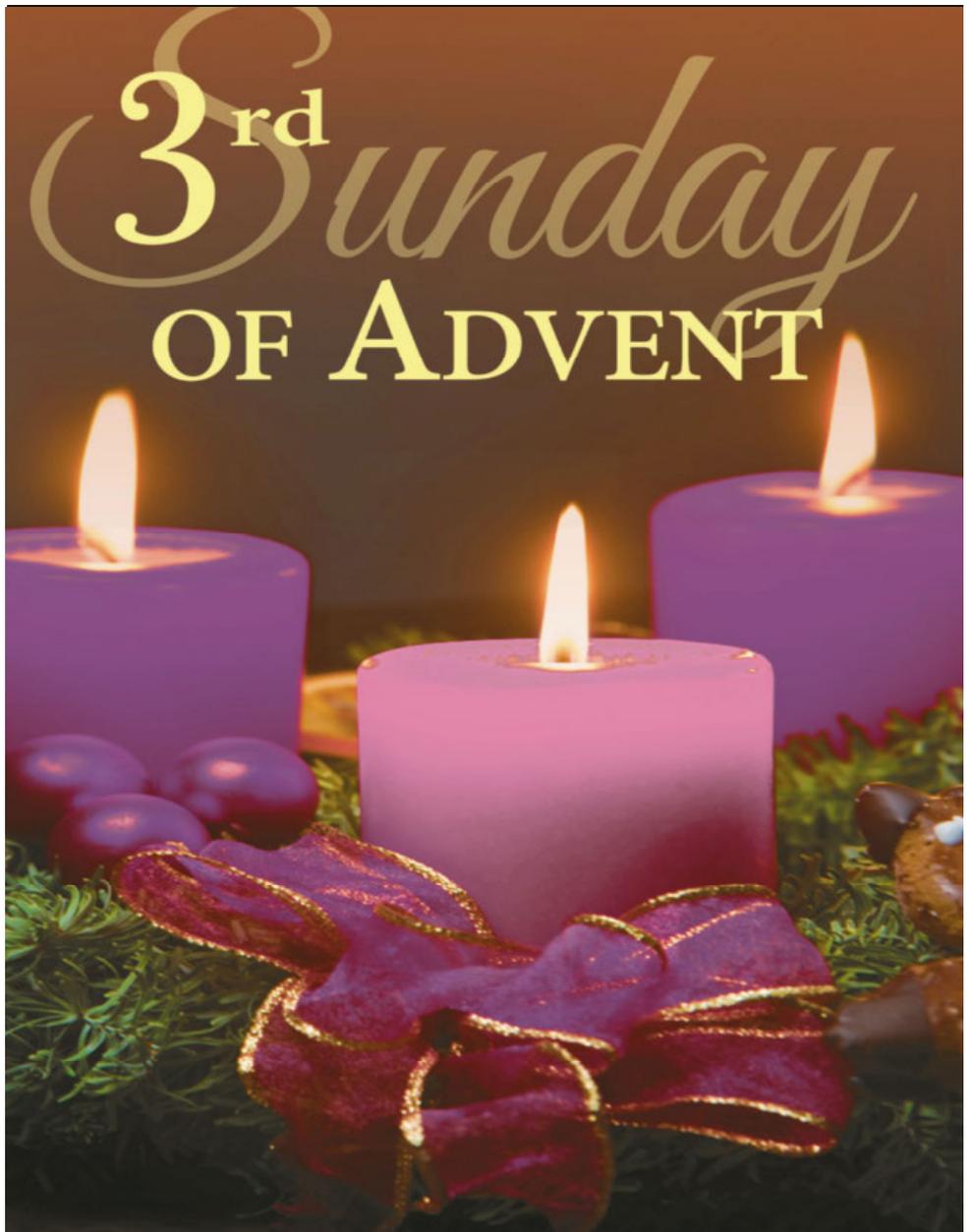
St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)

Sacred Heart

P A R I S H

555 BAILEY ROAD • CRYSTAL CITY, MO 63019



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

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Finance Council Chair, Steve Bacon

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Parish Leadership Chair,

Jim Sparling

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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: sacredheart
crystalcity-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 sev-
eral weeks due to illness, contact the Parish
Office for a visit.

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Open twenty four hours a day in the Con-
vent 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

The very first Christmas was a meeting point. People of Israel were waiting for an intervention from above; they had been longing and waiting for their redemption, their savior. God the Father was waiting too. He was waiting to meet His people at some point. God made a downward journey, while man's was an upward journey. God and man met at a certain point called Christmas.

Children wait for their parents, parents wait for their children, spouses wait for each other, friends wait, and dogs wait for their masters. Who does not? Our life is a waiting. We wait for flights, roadside assistance, doctors, at restaurants for food ... Major portion of our given time on earth is wasted waiting for one thing or another! But it is worth when we are safe home, when doctors bring good news, when food arrives, when children or parents or spouses at last come home.

The people of the Old Testament waited long for the Savior. Many generations passed. "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5). Waiting was worth. Christian life is an upward journey to meet God who condescended to meet us. God doesn't mind being a loser. He travels the longer leg of our journey; He takes the bigger risk to embrace us. Advent is moving forward to that meeting point where God embraced us. Christmas today is the memory of that first meeting of God and human. Every Christmas is an occasion to renew that embrace of God. If you are too far from that place of meeting, well, you may have to hurry a little.

It's always good to have someone to wait for, or who would wait for you. If you have no one waiting for you or you have no one to wait for, there is the Lord. That is the meaning of Christmas. "At night my soul longs for You, Indeed, my spirit within me seeks you diligently" (Isaiah 26:9). Lord, we are waiting for the time that warmed the chill of the night, for that season that bridged the gap between you and us. We need you today more than ever. Come Lord, Jesus, come.

With love,

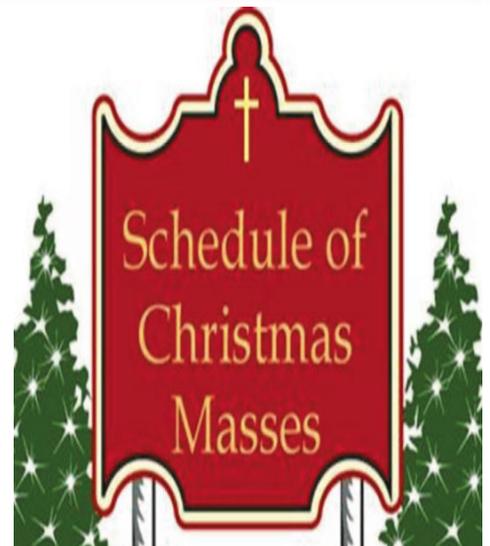
Fr. Mathew

Christmas Mass Schedule

As we begin to make plans for our Christmas celebrations with friends and family, it is also appropriate to make plans to spend time with the Lord and his people in the celebration of the Eucharist on Christmas Day. Masses are scheduled as follows:

Christmas Eve:
5:00pm & 10:00pm

Christmas Day:
8:00am & 10:00am



"Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world."

- Pope Francis, Angelus, 2018



ADVENT WREATHS

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple, and one is rose, but white candles can also be used. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over, and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.



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

The Gift of Treasure will be posted in
next week's bulletin.

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stuffers. Check out the website
www.shopwithscrip.com to see
what is offered or stop by the certifi-
cate desk in the west sacristy before
or after Mass.



Holy Water

Question:

What is holy water and how do I explain the reason that it is placed at the entrances of churches to my non-Catholic friends?

Answer:

Holy water is a sacramental, a reminder of the life of the Church expressed and celebrated through the sacraments. God's grace is mediated through word and gesture (the outward signs). This comes to us through Jesus (instituted by Christ) as he entrusts to the Church his saving mission (to give grace). In turn the Church, through the sacraments, shares that grace and mission with us.

On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on our foreheads to remind us of our origins, humbly created from the dust. But by blessing ourselves with holy water, we are reminded of our destiny! We are baptized sons and daughters of God. This is also a call to conversion, to live more fully our baptismal call to live as disciples of Jesus. We see holy water whenever we renew our baptismal promises. This will occur during the Easter liturgy as well, reminding us that we are indeed on a journey of faith and renewed in Christ. Blessing ourselves with holy water reminds us that we are baptized into a community faith, and always in need of turning from sin and toward God. Holy water is a visible sign of our baptism!

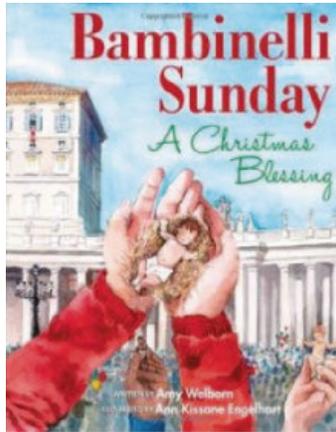
Office Assistant Position

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 judgment, 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.

Bambinelli Blessing-

There is a custom from Italy called Bambinelli Sunday as told in the story Bambinelli Sunday by Amy Welborn when families gather at church to bless the infant Jesus from the family nativity set before Christmas; The infant Jesus is then wrapped and placed under the Christmas tree. On Christmas morning, it is the first gift to be unwrapped and placed in the manger!

You are invited to come to church on Wednesday, Dec. 15th, at 7pm with the PSR children and have your infant Jesus blessed during our Bambinelli blessing prayer service.



Christmas Country Church Tour

The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Saint Mary's of the Barrens Church) in Perryville, Missouri, will again be participating in the Christmas Country Church Tour along with 30 other churches and chapels. The tour will take place December 16 and 17, from 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. All of the participating churches welcome visitors to view their Christmas decorations and to spend a few moments in silent prayer during the Advent season. Here at the Shrine, a tree will be decorated with prayer petitions from local students. There will be live music both nights. Light refreshments will be served in the Visitor Center, where unique Nativity sets will be on display. If you have any questions, please call the Association of the Miraculous Medal at 1-800-264-6279, or visit our website at www.amm.org. We hope you will plan to visit.



December 12, 2021 3rd Sunday of Advent

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (Philippians 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.



Every person is made in the image and likeness of God.

The Well That Never Dries Up

Depending on how your mood is today, the words of Paul will hit you differently. "Rejoice always," he tells us. Well, if your football team is poised to win this weekend or next, maybe you're really feeling this vibe. But if you've got a long slog at work ahead of you this week and a to-do list that only seems to grow and never shrink, it may make you grumble. "Rejoice always? Always? When I'm tired? Cranky? When I'm sick of doing and giving? Thanks, Paul. I'll be sure to scribble that phrase on a Post-It and stick it to my dashboard for when some entitled punk inevitably cuts me off on tomorrow's morning commute."

When we feel this way, we know it's time to head back to the well. Think of all the places in Scripture where God compares His love, His mercy, His salvation to water. And not just any water — living water, water that moves. God's strength is not a stagnant puddle sure to evaporate and disappear. It's water you can keep coming back to. It's water that never dries up.

Which is good news for us, because we never stop failing to do what we should, never stop failing to feel the joy and the compassion and the selflessness we are called to. We need a source of living water if we are going to 'rejoice always.' To be everyday stewards, we need a well that never empties.

The fountain of salvation never dries up. There is always more there for us to draw from. It's a sign of His commitment — so let us, in turn, be committed to Him.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**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.



“O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.”



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.



O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation,
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

**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! – Gaudete Sunday

Rejoice! On Gaudete Sunday we remember the joy that is coming soon to the world: Jesus Christ. Where do we find our joy in life? If we seek it in anything but Christ, we are missing out because true joy comes from the knowledge that God loves us and has come to save us from sin and death. As John the Baptist preached, true joy comes by way of repentance. Our desire for holiness and pursuit of genuine freedom from sin and death inspire us to renounce evil and to open a place for Christ to enter our hearts, minds, and souls. When we are open to experiencing the grace of Christ, we can receive mercy, forgiveness, healing, consolation, and peace along with joy. (CCC 523-524, 719-720)
archstl.org/dynamic

Ministry Schedules



Liturgical Schedule

December 18th and December 19th

Altar Servers

5:00pm Carolyne Argana
7:30am Shayne Hoffmeister
9:00am Zander Street
11:00am Evie Mahue

Eucharistic Ministers

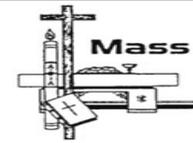
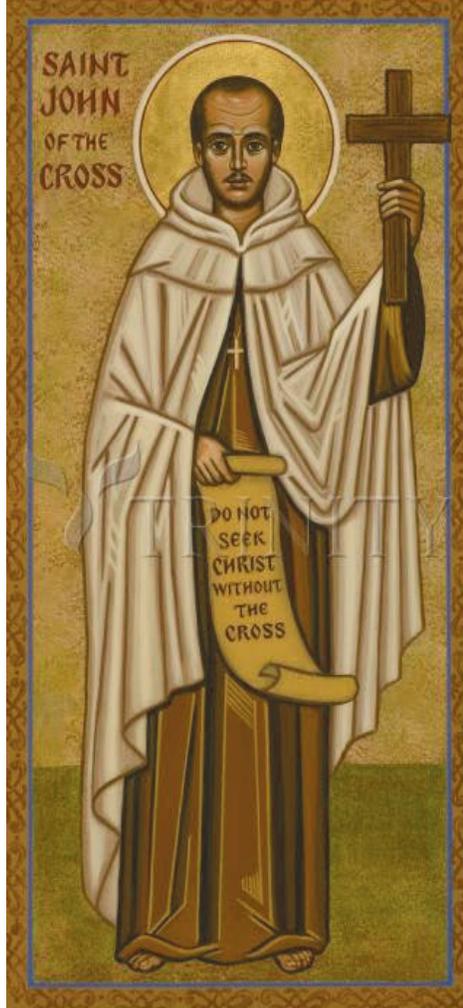
5:00pm Mary Ann Roesch
7:30am Deacon Jerry
9:00am Laurie Roubidoux
11:00am Linda Runzi

Lectors

5:00pm Denise Yount
Gene DeClue
7:30am Penny Halley
Pat DeClue
9:00am Elizabeth Steffen
Elizabeth Steffen
11:00am Carrie Loukas
Michelle Malaway

Scrip

5:00pm Irma Pratte
7:30am Pat DeClue
9:00am Marilyn Ash
11:00am Carrie Loukas



Mass Intentions

Monday, December 13

8:00am Ramon Augusto

Tuesday, December 14

8:00am Active Auxillary
Legion of Mary

Wednesday, December 15

8:00am Augusta & Leo Werner

Thursday, December 16

8:00am Larry (Homer) Garrett

Friday, December 17

8:00am Prayer Service

Saturday, December 18

5:00pm Robert Gibbs

Sunday, December 19

7:30am Karen Eisenbeis
9:00am People of the Parish
11:00am Robert Peery

Readings for the week of December 12, 2021

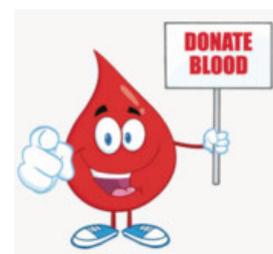
Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/
Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/
Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14
[Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/
Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Saturday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/
Lk 1:39-45

Observances for the week of December 12, 2021

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Tuesday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday: 3rd Wednesday of Advent
Thursday: 3rd Wednesday of Advent
Friday: 3rd Friday of Advent
Saturday: 3rd Saturday of Advent
Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

UPCOMING Events

Tuesday,	December 14	
8:45am	Legion of Mary	RMR
3:30pm	RCIA	RMR
Wednesday,	December 15	
6:45pm	PSR Class	SC
Thursday,	December 16	
8:45am	Quilters	ANN
6:30pm	Quilters	ANN
Sunday,	December 19	
11:00am	PSR Mass w/Family	CH
6:30pm	Festival Choir Practice	CH



Please pray for the repose of the souls of Greg Miller, Betty Stackley, and Rodney Underwood, all 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
Amber Alford
Martin Ames
Agnes Baker
Matt Bequette
Mary Breitbarth
Lucy Brindley
Marian Charleville
Clare Coleman
Galena Coleman
Francis Coleman
Wendell Coleman
Jacintha Davis
Diana DeClue
Karen Dettmer
Angie Dill
Mylissa Dornself
Chris Doscocil
Joe Douglas
Leanne Doza
Glen Elsworth
Joe Elsworth

Marilyn Emily
Kristine Fears
Tim Fears
Sergeant Robert Paul Figge
Jacob Finch
David Friesner
Dorothy Hendrix
Traci Hendrix
Steve Jennings
Joanne Johnston
Carol Kaltenbronn
Donna Keathley
Carol Kestermont
Joshua Lucas
Beth Mahn
Holly Martin
Nadine McConnell
Carol Turgeon- Miller
Joshua Miller
Doris Moeller
Cerita Munshaw

Megan Newly
Ruth Nichols
John & James Norris
Jax Okenfuss
Jeff Osia
Ashley & Jimmy Perrot
Tim Perry
Susan Peterein
Miranda Pfaff
Carolyn Pool
Kathleen Portell
Prosser Family
Coletta Reecht
JoAnn Reeves
Donna Riedy
Millie Ritcher
Kathy Robertson
Steve Roth of Iowa
Linda Schmitt
Jeanette Smock
Joe Sonnenshein

Pat Spillers
Janene Spresterbach
Louise Spresterbach
Patricia Swader
Juanita Swyers
Donna & Francis Tricamo
Larry Turley
Wayne Turley
Sharon Varagona
Merrily Varone
Leah Broyles Vogt
Al Walker
Patty & Greg Ward
Lucille Warden
Rose Weeks
Stella Weidenbenner
Bobby Wilde
Jordan Winkel
Chuck Yount

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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