

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

The parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, located in South Saint Louis City, comprised of small neighborhoods filled with multi-generational families, strives to answer God's call to.....

- + COMMIT to live the Gospel;**
- +CELEBRATE Eucharist as a community;**
- +SERVE the needs of others;**
- + PARTICIPATE in parish life and ministries;**
- +STRIVE to be a sign of God's love!**

Contact Information

Rectory - 4092 Blow Street, St. Louis, MO 63116-2796
Website: www.ihm-stl.org

314-481-7543
Fax 314-481-6316

Parochial Administrator	Rev. Aaron Nord	314-481-7543	anord@ihm-stl.org
Deacon	Rev. Mr. Jim Murphey	314-481-7543	jmurphey@ihm-stl.org
Pastoral Associate	Mrs. Debbie Gartner	314-481-9385	dgartner@ihm-stl.org
St. Louis LifeTeen	Lauren Scharmer	314-288-8873	lauren@saintlouislifeteen.org
St. Vincent de Paul		314-289-6101 ext. 1187	

Celebration of the Holy Mass

Saturday 4:30 p.m. (Sunday Vigil)
 Sunday 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
 Weekdays Monday-Friday 8am Mass (Daily Chapel)
 1st Saturday of the Month 8:00 a.m. (Daily Chapel)
 Holydays As announced inside bulletin

Eucharistic Adoration

1st Saturday of the month following 8:00 a.m. Mass until 11:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Rectory. First time parents will need to attend one meeting prior to the baptism.

Sacrament of Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation is normally organized by the parish school or PSR program attended by the candidate. Others are invited to contact the parish priest for preparation to receive this sacrament.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Please schedule an initial meeting with the priest or deacon at least 6 months prior to the tentatively planned date for the ceremony.

Holy Orders and Consecrated (Religious) Life

Those discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life may contact the parish priest or the Archdiocese Vocations office at 314-792-6460.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Rectory to make an appointment with the parish priest.

Care for those who are homebound, hospitalized, or in nursing home. Please call the Rectory to arrange for Communion to be brought to any parishioner who is unable to come to Mass. Please inform the Rectory as soon as any parishioner is admitted to any hospital or nursing home.

Devotions

Perpetual Help Following Tuesday 8:00 a.m. Mass

Rosary Following weekday Masses

Becoming a Catholic

Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults/Youth or Catechumen Meetings are weekly from September thru May to discuss your questions and the Catholic Faith. Call the Rectory for information.

South City Deanery PSR

Catholic Religious Education for children attending public or private non-religious schools. Call 314-773-3070.


New Parishioners

Please register as soon as possible by calling the Rectory.

Bulletin items are due no later than 10 a.m. Monday for the following week's bulletin. (Holiday deadlines can change without notice.)

Mass for the Intentions Week

Mon.	12/28	8:00 a.m.	Robert Larkin
Tues.	12/29	8:00 a.m.	Shawn Oldani
Wed.	12/30	8:00 a.m.	John Wilson
Thurs.	12/31	4:30 p.m.	Adrian Kujawa
Fri.	1/1	9:00 a.m.	Harold Fleishmann
Sat.	1/2	8:00 a.m.	Our Parish Family
		4:30 p.m.	Ed & Kevin Magee
Sun.	1/3	7:30 a.m.	Our Parish Family
		10:00 a.m.	Michael Kalloren



LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

Pray for those who are sick and their caregivers. Pray for Gayle Mohr, Bob Spellmeyer (Brother in law of Kathy Schulte), John Leaders, Andrew Freeman (Grandson of Jim and Roxanne Wolfslau), Edna Walters, Jerry Brendel (husband of JoAnn, father of Jason), Edna Walters, Stacey Long, Sandy Ceriotti, Alene May (mother of Annette DeGreef), Evelyn Vetz, Steve Baum (nephew of Jean Provaznik), Bob Simmons, Frank Sandrowski, Dorothy Seper, Rosemary Young, Don Smith, Therese Shurig, Kathleen Moody (daughter of Charlie & Julie), Deacon Jack Burke (brother of Joan Mowery), Stephanie Hagan (wife of Barry), Anna Corson, Nick Corson Lammert and those parishioners who are homebound, living in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes, and all in our Prayer Book. May our Lord Jesus bring them comfort and healing.


If someone has been left off the prayer list or if you would like to add someone, please contact the rectory office.



WE PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN THE ARMED FORCES. WE HOLD THEM IN OUR HEARTS AND AWAIT THEIR SAFE RETURN.....

Lance Cpl. Andrew Ceriotti, U.S. Marines
 Pvt. David Walters, U.S. Army
 LT. Benjamin D. Stolarski, U.S. Navy
 Spec 4 Ian R. Larson, U.S. Army
 P2 Derek Ryan, U.S. Army
 Sgt. Lou Bollasina, U.S. Army
 A1C John Pipes USAF
 Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Clark U.S. Force
 Todd Bruemer, U.S. Navy
 M.K. 2 Brett Winkelmann, Coast Guard
 Cpl. Matthew T. Straub, U.S. Marines
 Sgt. Victor A. Will, U.S. Army
 Sgt. James A. Will, U.S. Army
 Tech Sgt. James Dobrynski, U.S. Air Force
 SSGT. Steve Appelbaum, U.S. Air Force
 Lance Cpl. Troy Smith, U.S. Marines





COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF:

December 13, 2020

Envelopes: \$ 4682
Loose: \$256
Parish Maintenance: \$275

Due to early bulletin submission, the December 20th collection was not available. It will be posted in the January 3rd bulletin.

- Thank you to all who make our IHM Parish Family strong & caring!
- Thank you to all who give of their time and talent, helping out in so many ways!
- Thank you to all who give back to God so generously with your **hard-earned** donations



Solemnity of Mary

Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm on December 31
 Feast Day Mass at 9:00 am on January 1

Rectory office will be closed December 31
 and January 1.

PARISH NEWS



ST. PATRICK'S CASSEROLES

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Because of Covid-19 we stopped the casserole program. We are going to try to start again in February, 2021.

Have you ever wondered what the priest means when he says, "You can pick up your casseroles in the back of church"? The Ladies Sodality has sponsored a program with St. Patrick's Center to make casseroles for them. We take around 30 casseroles on the 3rd Thursday of February, April, June, August, October and December to St. Patrick's Center. When I say we I mean ladies and gentlemen from the parish and even some that have moved from the parish make the casseroles for us. Everyone is welcome to participate. The Ladies Sodality supplies the containers, some of the ingredients and the recipe. You would supply the hamburger, onions, celery and the cheeses. One of the committee women would call and ask if you could do a casserole for that month. You are under no obligation to say yes for that month if you have a lot going on, she will try you the next time. All you have to do is put the recipe together, freeze it and bring it up to the IHM hall. Then we take the casseroles to St. Patrick's Center. Right now, you would maybe only have to make a casserole two or three times a year. But we are asking for your help, if you would like to be on the list to make a casserole or if you have any questions about the program, please call one of the St. Patrick's casserole committee ladies listed below.

Janet Sullivan 631-9158
Marilyn Murphy 631-8999
Eileen Schindler 329-6033

Everyone must wear a mask entering and exiting the church. Parents with children nine and under may determine when the child is old enough to attend Mass and can abide by the safety guidelines.

We ask you to please sit in the open pews away from the aisles.

Please use your own best judgement concerning when you will return to Mass. Do not jeopardize your health.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the rectory.



2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you would like your 2020 Contribution Statement mailed to you, please drop a **LONG #10 self-addressed stamped envelope in the Collection Basket** or send an email to dgartner@ihm-stl.org. Statements will be sent out starting the second week of January.



IHM Boy Scout Troop 179 will once again be holding its annual Super Bowl Pizza Sale Fundraiser. These pizzas are fresh, 14" and made by our Scouts themselves. All proceeds go towards helping our Scouts earn their way to Summer Camp and other activities. We will be taking orders for pizzas from now until Feb 3, 2021. Pizzas will be available for pick up in the cafeteria between 2:00 and 5:30 PM on Saturday Feb 6th Orders can be placed with a Scout at the back of Church, or by calling John Ebert at 314-258-0613.

As always, thank you for your continued

I though you should know – December 27, 2020

Merry Christmas! I am so grateful to everyone whose help put blessings into our celebration of Christmas: if the first place, to our wonderful ministers of hospitality, our greeters and ushers, and to their fearless leaders Elizabeth and Barry. Then also to our extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, our lectors and Karen and John and Jeanne and everyone helped us to receive Jesus and his message on Christmas. Thank you, too, to Greg and Annette for helping us pray with music, and for Kevin and Debbie and Deacon Jim for a thousand and one little tasks behind the scenes. God bless you!

Here's the last installment of our "Peace on Earth" homily series from last week" We have also put in this bulletin the prayer passages that were handed out in church on the weekend of December 20th.

Christmas is close. This is the week when we will hear the joyful Gospel of Christmas, the story of Jesus' birth and angels singing to shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth *peace to those on whom his favor rests.*" So, *let's take a moment, right now, to seek God's peace. Would you mind closing your eyes, sitting back for a moment, and following along with this next part?*

Let us remember that we are in the Holy Presence of God. <Pause> Let's look back on the last day, the last 24 hours, and whatever was good in that day, let's give God thanks for it in our heart. <Pause> Let's look back on the last day, the last 24 hours, and whatever was bad in that day, wherever we sinned or missed the mark, let's ask God to forgive in our hearts. <Pause> Let's look to the days ahead, to the weeks ahead, and whatever we would like God to bless, whomever we would like God to help, let's bring him those people and those situations now in our heart. <Pause> Now, if you can, if you can, tell God in your heart, "I love you." <Pause>

Ok, you can open your eyes now, if you want. Thank you for taking time to pray.

Here at Immaculate Heart of Mary, we have been preparing for Christmas by learning to pray well. The scripture readings we heard this week have a lesson for praying well that is like God's voice: quiet but very powerful. Do you remember how our Gospel reading began? "The angel Gabriel was sent from God". We have a beautiful picture of that scene here in our sanctuary: Mary in prayer, and "the angel Gabriel ... sent from God". Here's what we should notice: God went first. Yes, Mary was in prayer. Yes, Mary's attention to the Lord in prayer was important. Yes, Mary's free response to the Lord was crucial. But the Lord went first, the Lord took the initiative, the Lord sent the angel. First, the Lord acts and speaks good news and assurance of his favor and invites. Then, Mary responds with faith, hope, and love. The Lord went first.

The same message was in our first reading. King David—like Eddie, Clark Griswold's brother-in-law—wanted do for the Lord, "something <wink> really nice". But the Lord stops David. He stops David from building the Lord a house. The Lord says: "Should you build me a house to dwell in? It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you." The Lord goes on to say to David, "[I will] establish a house for you." David's well-meaning plan to do "something really nice" and for the Lord and build him a house had everything backward. As it had always been in David's life, in this matter of building a house, the Lord would go first.

The same is true of our spiritual life. The Lord goes first, the initiative lies with the Lord, the Lord's actions are more important than our actions, the Lord's plans are more important that our plans, and the Lord's words are more important than our words. Apply that insight to your prayer life, and you can see how important it is that you find some way in prayer to listen to the Lord. The Lord really does love you, and so he is eager, joyful, waiting to hear you speak in prayer. Your words matter to him like a child's conversation matters to a good father. And yet, and yet, and yet, so much of the power and the peace in your prayer comes when you little by little find a way not only to talk, but also to listen to the Lord.

And that's why I want to propose to you, invite you, even challenge you, to bring scripture, reading some of the bible, into your prayer this week. The bible is the Lord's word. Taking time for personal scripture reading is a powerful yet simple way to start listening to the Lord. So, let me give you a four quick tips on praying with scripture, then we'll

practice it, and we'll be done.

First tip: faith. The difference between reading scripture or studying scripture and praying with scripture is faith. It is wonderful to read scripture, and even if you don't have faith, you can gain wisdom from studying scripture. But when we pray with scripture we approach scripture with faith, with the humble trust that the mysterious Creator of heaven and earth who made the furthest galaxy and shaped the interior of the atom, knows me, spoke in history, and so has provided in these words that I am about to read some message or instruction or encouragement for me.

Second tip: slow. It is ok to go slow. You only need to read a little. There is no pressure to finish. It is not a race. If you spend your whole prayer time with one line—you win! If you think about only one word—huzzah! Take your time and enjoy the words. Read some out loud a few times, and share with God what you are noticing and thinking about as you hear them.

Third tip: humble. The bible is a deep well. You and me? We are mostly beginners. So it makes a lot of sense to start with and to return often to the parts of the bible that are easier to read and apply, like the Gospels.

Fourth tip: remember. Really, this is the big one, the one I hope you remember. Remember that the Lord is already paying attention to you. In prayer, you give him the joy of paying attention to him. As you read, try to remember, and to say yes to, the Lord's loving attention to you.

Ok, let's practice. Would you take out the colored card in the back of the pew in front of you? No need to fear COVID: we are completely changing out the cards after each mass. On the front of the card is today's Gospel; on the back, a gospel for Christmas and some more ideas for reading scripture. Not only can you take these cards home to keep or to share with a friend, but it will even help us out, because that is fewer that we have to gather up and recycle. Please find the side that says "The Annunciation". We are going to practice praying with scripture right now. Everyone ready? Ok, let's pray.

"Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God." <Pause>

"The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail full of grace! The Lord is with you!" <Pause>

Did any word or phrase stand out for you? If so, stop and think about it, and then talk with God about it. If no, keep reading slowly, quietly, to yourself. Let's listen for the Lord speaking in prayer. <Quiet time>

Luke, chapter 1, verses 26-38

The Annunciation

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."

But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Then the angel departed from her.

Luke, chapter 2: 1-14

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear.

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

More: Luke, chapter 2, verses 15-20 | John, chapter 1, verses 1-14 | Mark, chapter 1, verses 1-8 | Mark, chapter 1, verses 1-15 | Mark, chapter 1, verses 16-20.

-Fr. Aaron Nord



Donations
are greatly
Appreciated!

**Saint Vincent DePaul Christmas
Basket Donations are needed!**

Our Saint Vincent DePaul Society prepares numerous Christmas baskets for our neighbors who are going through difficult times. Your food donations or cash donations allow our SVDP volunteers to spread Jesus' love and compassion, as well as provide for families in need.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Spiritual Leadership

Joseph is a model of spiritual leadership. Humility and obedience are not things that are praised in our culture today. But, remember, our goal is not possessing more things on earth, rather our goal is eternal life with God! Spiritual warfare is real. Through silence, we are able to discern God's will for us and our families. Studies show that when dad takes his faith seriously, so do his children. Men, the best thing we can do for our families is to be the men God is calling us to be, to be the spiritual leaders for our families. The best gift we can give our families is to teach them how to pray. archstl.org/dynamic





Saint Sylvester I

Saint of the Day for December 31

Saint Sylvester I's Story

When you think of this pope, you think of the Edict of Milan, the emergence of the Church from the catacombs, the building of the great basilicas—Saint John Lateran, Saint Peter's, and others—the Council of Nicaea, and other critical events. But for the most part, these events were planned or brought about by Emperor Constantine.

A great store of legends has grown up around the man who was pope at this most important time, but very little can be established historically. We know for sure that his papacy lasted from 314 until his death in 335. Reading between the lines of history, we are assured that only a very strong and wise man could have preserved the essential independence of the Church in the face of the overpowering figure of the Emperor Constantine. In general, the bishops remained loyal to the Holy See, and at times expressed apologies to Sylvester for undertaking important ecclesiastical projects at the urging of Constantine.

Reflection

It takes deep humility and courage in the face of criticism for a leader to stand aside and let events take their course, when asserting one's authority would only lead to useless tension and strife. Sylvester teaches a valuable lesson for Church leaders, politicians, parents, and others in authority.



We are glad you are with us, celebrating the birth of Jesus! You are always welcome at Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We wish a very Merry Christmas to our Parish family, your family, friends and all visitors. May you experience the love and simplicity that the birth of our Lord offers each of us. Our Missions statement declares that we strive to answer God's call; commit to living the Gospel. Celebrate Eucharist as a community. Serve the needs of others. Participate in parish life and ministries and strive to be a sign of God's love. Our prayer is to succeed as disciples in these endeavors of Christian commitment and love.

You are important to our parish. We are here to love and serve you. Please contact us if we may be of assistance. Debbie: 481-9385 Parish office: 481-7543

Debbie Gartner

JOKE OF THE WEEK





ROSES FOR EXPECTANT MOMS!!!

If you are expecting a child, we as a Parish would like to pray for you throughout your pregnancy. There are red roses on the table in front of the Blessed Mother's statue in the back of Church. Please write the parents-to-be names and due date on the card attached to one of the roses asking for prayers until the delivery. After baby(ies) arrive, please call Kathy at 314-832-6553. We will then share your blessing in our bulletin.

Keep the following couples in your prayers:

Jessica & Patrick	December
Teresa & Mike	January
Shannon & Andrew	March
Michael & Kat	July

Congratulations to Jesse and Ken on the birth of their daughter, Vivienne Elyse.

God Bless,
Immaculate Heart of Mary Pro-Life

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS

December 26/27th

4:30 p.m. Rita Springer
7:30 a.m. Glenn Mertens
10:00 a.m. Kevin O'Sullivan

SOLEMNITY OF MARY VIGIL-December 31st

4:30 p.m. Betty Bollasina

SOLEMNITY OF MARY-January 1st

9:00 a.m. Joyce Huelsmann

January 2/3rd

4:30 p.m. Art Benjamin
7:30 a.m. Mike Kuhlman
10:00 a.m. Becky Will

January 9/10th

4:30 p.m. Darlene Kustra
7:30 a.m. Howie Hirschfield
10:00 a.m. Judy Hudson

Table of Plenty



We are in desperate need of volunteers for our Table of Plenty program.

If you are able to help by taking food to those who are unable to leave their home, please contact the rectory office at 314-481-7543.

ON-LINE DONATIONS



to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish available through our website!

Please click on the **Give to IHM** button on our homepage (www.ihm-stl.org) to set up your donation. One-time and recurring (weekly, monthly and yearly) options are available.

All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law, and your on-line donation will be confirmed by a receipt from the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Thank you for your generosity to our parish!

March for Life 2021 – Registration Now Open

MISSOURI LIFE CARAVAN is now accepting registrations for our bus trip to the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. **Thursday- Saturday, Jan. 28- 30, 2021.** Until all life is protected, we will travel to D.C. to meet with our representatives and peacefully protest against the Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion. This trip is open to anyone ages 7 and up (chaperones not provided). We depart from several locations in the St. Louis area and we do not stay in hotels as we sleep on the buses. Seats are limited because of COVID-19. The cost is \$230.

For more information, to register or to sponsor a rider go to www.missourilifecaravan.org. Contact us at: 314-434-4900 or mrl.eastern@yahoo.com.



7-Session Virtual Enrichment Experience

Mon/ Thur Evenings: January 18-February 8, 2021
Starting at 7:00 p.m.

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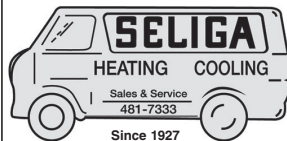
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