

First Sunday

OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 2, 2018

*There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars.
When these signs begin to happen,
stand erect and raise your heads
because your redemption is at hand.*

Luke 21:25, 28



**"BE VIGILANT AT ALL TIMES"**

This phrase from the Gospel is another instance of the Lord calling us to be prepared for His visitation of the world. He is talking about His Second Coming, but we can also

consider our preparation for the celebration of His Incarnation and Nativity as we journey through the season of Advent. The gospel discusses how we are often tempted to be involved in earthly affairs and to be consumed by the anxieties of daily life. We certainly must take care of the mundane tasks each day and provide for our families and ourselves. However, we must also constantly watch for the daily revelations of God in our lives. Every moment can be a moment of grace, in which we recognize the presence of God in another person, situation, or activity. As we begin the holy season of Advent, let our prayer be centered on being in the world but not of it. Let us challenge ourselves to wait with eager expectation for the coming of the Lord in the midst of difficulties and trials. Let us take concrete steps each day to be ready when our Savior comes to us in the vulnerable form of a

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Advent by Candlelight Sun. 6:00 p.m. FKC
St. Vincent DePaul Mtg. Tues. 7:00 p.m. LOM
RENEW at St. John the Baptist Wed. 10 a.m.
Game Day Thurs. 1 - 4:00 p.m. RMR
Prayer/Rosary Evening Thurs. 7:00 p.m. Ch

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Boy Scouts Tues. 7:00 p.m. Cafeteria
 Quilters Tues. 10:00 a.m. RMR
 Judy Hudson's Exercise Tues. 8:30 - 11 a.m. Café
 Chair Yoga Wed. 8:45 a.m. Sch.
 Choir Practice Wed. 7:00 p.m. Church
 For Choir Rehearsal see Leona Ernst
 at Weekend Mass
 Spirit & Truth Thurs. 7p.m. School
 Balance Class Fri. 9 a.m. School

Mass for the Intentions Week

Mon.	12/3	8:00 a.m.	Carol Koester
Tues.	12/4	8:00 a.m.	Apollona Larkin
Wed.	12/5	8:00 a.m.	The O'Shaughnessy Family
Thurs.	12/6	8:00 a.m.	Robert Vogel
Fri.	12/7	8:00 a.m.	Joseph Murphy
Sat.	12/8	4:30 p.m.	Anthony H Sanders
Sun.	12/9	7:30 a.m.	Our Parish Family
		10:00 a.m.	Cookie Bayer

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

Pray for those who are sick and their caregivers. Pray for: Bernard Wahoff, Raul Garcia, Ted Shear (husband of Therese), Helen Perzinskas, Sharon Oldani, Kathleen Moody (daughter of Charlie & Julie), Tom Bishop, Tom Ceriotti (husband of Sandy), Linda McKern, Melba Floyd, Marilyn Harris, Judy Bruegger, Delores Berger (mother of Cindy Wright), Marilyn Haller-Krohn (mother of Nancy Tucker), Deacon Jack Burke (brother of Joan Mowery), Stephanie Hagan (wife of Barry), Marguerite Mann (mother of Shar Merkel), Betty Hartmann (wife of John), Ryan Grybas (nephew of Rosalyn Oldenburg & Cindy Schmaltz), Kathleen Wiese (daughter of Audrey and sister of Mike Smith), Anna Corson, Nick Corson Lammert, Kathy Dilport, and those parishioners who are homebound, living in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes, and all in our Prayer Book. May our Lord Jesus bring

ON-LINE DONATIONS

Give To IHM

to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish are now 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 via e-mail.



Weekly Offering

COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF:
November 11th & 18th, 2018

Envelopes: \$7,750.00

Loose: \$966.00

Parish Maintenance: \$727.00

- 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!



ATTENTION ALL LADIES!

Parishioners and non-parishioners

***Come,
Celebrate the Holiday Season
with Us!***

**Immaculate Heart of Mary
Ladies' Sodality Christmas Party!**

**Wednesday, December 12th
Father Keaney Center
6:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:00 p.m.)**

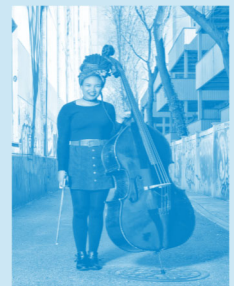
Cost: \$15.00

Menu:

*Roasted Pork Loin & Chicken Marsala
Potato Casserole
Vegetable Medley
Ravioli with Sauce
Italian Tossed Salad
Hard Rolls and Butter
Variety of Desserts and Beverages*

Entertainment:

Tonina Saputo, the daughter of Ladies' Sodality member Tina Saputo, is a singer, songwriter, bassist, music journalist, and poet. Her sense of rhythm and melody, along with her extraordinary voice, makes her performances a thrilling experience for all listeners.



**For Reservations:
Grace Orf**

PARISH NEWS



BIRTHRIGHT CHRISTMAS CARDS ON SALE THIS WEEKEND!

Immaculate Heart of Mary's Pro-Life Committee will be selling Birthright Christmas Cards **this weekend, December 1st & 2nd after the 4:30 p.m., 7:30 a.m., and the 10:00 a.m. Masses.** Proceeds will benefit Birthright, a Pro-Life Ministry of the Archdiocese.

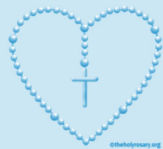


\$10 GIFT CARDS CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE GENTLEMEN OF PETER AND PAUL SHELTER

Several years ago we began collecting \$10 gift cards to give the gentlemen at our Christmas party. It has turned into a loved tradition. Each man receives a Christmas bag with the gift card, a cap, and candy. Their appreciation is heart-warming. **Directly across the street from the shelter is a Dollar Tree Store**, so the men are able to purchase items that they want.

You may put your gift cards in an envelope – Attn: Debbie, and place in the collection basket, drop off at the Rectory or mail to the Rectory. I will be collecting until **Monday, December 17th**. In advance,

COMING TOGETHER AS A PARISH FAMILY



This Thursday, December 6th, at 7:00 p.m. in Church, we will come together as a community in loving support of the **Landwehr Family**, whose son, **Jason**, passed on November 7th, at the age of 20.

If you do not pray the Rosary regularly, that is okay. We will have pamphlets and extra rosaries. Please come and encourage family and friends to join you.

If unable to attend, please keep the

DAY OF RECOLLECTION...

**With Archbishop Carlson
Saturday, December 8th**

Retreats provide the soul with renewed graces, certainly needed in today's world, to keep us faithful and striving for sanctity. This year, treat yourself to a day away from the hustle and bustle and prepare for the God who waits for you.

Join Archbishop Robert Carlson and the clergy and parishioners of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis for an Advent Day of Recollection on **Saturday, December 8th**. The day begins at **9:30 a.m. with a special Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. The first of two spiritual conferences led by Archbishop Carlson will begin at 10:30 a.m. Each conference will be followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day will end with evening vespers at 4:30 p.m. and the celebration of Mass at 5:00 p.m. All conferences and prayer will be held in the Cathedral Basilica, with a hot lunch provided for all in Boland Hall.

This special gathering is free to all (good will offerings to help offset the cost of lunch will be gratefully accepted). **Though a free event, organizers request advance registration to properly prepare worship materials and set up for lunch.** To register or

2019 CALENDARS

Calendars are at the doors of Church. **Thanks again to Kutis Funeral Homes**, for making these available **free of charge** to Immaculate



CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

During the Christmas Season you will have the opportunity of providing a poinsettia plant that will be placed in the Sanctuary of our Church as a memorial for your loved ones.

A suggested offering of \$8 may be placed in the flower envelope at the entrances of Church and placed in the Collection Basket or dropped at the Rectory by **Sunday, December 16th**. The names of your loved ones will be placed at the image of the



Dear Parishioners,

Having begun a new liturgical year, the Advent season invokes the waiting of Israel for the coming of the Messiah as well as the Church's constant vigil looking forward to His Second Coming, when all will be brought to completion. In the first Reading from Jeremiah, we hear: "The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, I will raise up for David a just shoot; He shall do what is right and just in the land" (Jeremiah 33:14-15). The "just shoot" that will rise from the stock of David will be the Lord Jesus, and the promises made to Israel will be fulfilled in His Coming, and ultimately in His Death and Resurrection, when Israel and all of humanity will be reconciled to God. The words of St. Paul and our Lord foretell the Second Coming, when we are told to "stand erect and raise[our] heads because [our] redemption is at hand" (Luke 21:28). If we have remained vigilant, as our Lord has encouraged us, and not have been taken up in the pleasures of this world, there is no need to cower in fear at our Lord's coming, for He will bring us to Himself, and we will witness the end of evil and suffering.

The vigil of Advent, as it focuses upon the waiting for the Second Coming, it is marked by various traditions and signs that raise our minds to reflect on the time before He walked among us. One relatively new tradition, at least in the life of the Church, is that of the Advent wreath. The circle of evergreen symbolizing eternal life is crowned with four candles that are lit as the weeks pass until the Church celebrates the Birth of our Lord. Each candle symbolizes the passing of time as well as the vigilant heart of the People of God that keeps their lights lit waiting for the Coming of the divine Bridegroom. As this tradition has become more engrained within the Church, some of the faithful have brought the practice into their homes, lighting the candles on a wreath and reciting prayers before the evening meal. The Advent calendar has also been a way for families to keep watch for the coming of Christ-

some image that pertains to preparing ourselves for the Lord.

In whatever tradition we might employ, may it bring us to enter into this penitential season with a desire to prepare us to receive the light of the divine Child into our souls, our homes, our parish and our communities. While the "glitz" can call us to ready ourselves for the celebrations, sometimes it can distract us. May our Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph pray for us during this season, that we may welcome the Lord with pure hearts and with an eagerness to do His Will.

In the Hearts of Jesus & Mary,

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

Joke of the Week



SENIOR MOMENTS

GAME DAY

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

This Thursday, December 6th at 1:00 p.m. in the Rectory Meeting Room. For our Christmas Game Day, please bring a snack, appetizer or sweet to share. We will have fun playing games and enjoying each other's company. Come on your own or invite family or friends!

AT THE SHELTON LUNCH AT SCHLAFLY BREWERY

The December Coffee Matinee features Zoe Vonder Haar ***That's Christmas!*** **Wednesday, December 19th**, the shuttle will leave from IHM **promptly at 8:15 a.m.** Return approx. 3:00 p.m. The morning will begin with coffee and doughnuts at 9:00, Concert at 10:00. (We have good seats!). Following the Concert, lunch at Schlafly Micro Brewery, in Maplewood. **All inclusive cost is \$50.** For reservations, include the information below and a check made out to: **SGSM**, mail to Immaculate Heart of Mary, 4092 Blow St., 63116 **Attention: Sheldon Trip.**

Name _____

Phone # _____ Parish _____

Emergency Name & Phone # _____

You will be called and confirmed when your check and form are received. This trip fills quickly! Any questions, call Debbie 314-481-9385.



BLESSING OF YOUR ADVENT WREATH

On this first Sunday of Advent I am sharing an Advent wreath blessing that you may use throughout Advent.

Loving God,
your Son, Jesus Christ,
is the Light of the world.
Bless our family as we light this wreath
and enter into the season of Advent.
May its candles remind us to share Christ's light
through our words and deeds.
Amen
(light the candle of the Advent wreath)

GOD IS WITH US IN GOOD TIMES AND DIFFICULT TIMES

Life is good. Everything seems to be going well, so we thank God for His blessings. The surgery went well, my test results came back ok, my family is close, and my bank account is in good shape. These things are defi-

thanks to God and display their faith." Or the other spectrum; "So where is their God when they fumble or strike out." If we perceive God's Presence only in the good times, we are limiting our capacity to see His holy Presence in our daily lives. He walks with us in the good times and the difficult times. God is with us as we navigate through our difficulties. He is in our hearts, in the people in our lives and nature. His love surrounds us. When we realize that retirement isn't what we thought it would be, the doctor gives us bad news, we suffer through pain or illness, move away from our homes, worry about finances, or have difficulty praying: these are times the Holy Spirit is powerfully at work. Being Christian isn't a fairy tale where everything goes our way. Our faith tells us; God is with us through it all, in the living and growing.

I am continually inspired by parishioners who overcome or find peace in their obstacles, God is there providing His wisdom and grace. Being open to His Presence, allows them to become aware that they are not alone. They share with me how He removes their worry and fear. One of the ladies said, it was almost as if she knew Jesus was crying along with her as she mourned the death of her husband. She felt comfort in the midst of her sorrow.

He is with us every step of the way; guiding us where we need to grow and leading us to the peace and joy we desire. *"Lord, may we always remember to give you thanks and please help us to be acutely aware of Your Presence, especially in our difficult times. Amen."*

If you are going through a difficult time and need someone to listen, please give me a call. Debbie 481-9385

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AFTER THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

I recently came across this powerful prayer. I pray it may bring comfort to those who are in pain. Please feel free to share with someone you may know who is hurting.

"God of compassion, there is such a hole in my heart! Today should be a day of joy, but I feel only the emptiness and loss of someone so beloved. While the world celebrates around me, I remember Christmas celebrations of the past and I long to have my loved one with me. I bring my sorrows to you, Lord, like some odd gift of the magi and dump them at your feet. In my blind tears I wonder if anyone can possibly understand the depth of my sadness. Yes, you can. You sent your son to be with us in our deepest sorrows and I know that even though I might not feel it at this minute, you are here with me, grieving with me, caring for me in my sadness and loving me. Dearest lord, help me to turn to the one I miss so much today and speak. Help me heal the loss of our parting and help me not to regret the things I didn't say. Sorrow tears at my heart, but today I ask that my

1st Sunday of Advent

**WINTER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
PETER AND PAUL MEN'S SHELTER**
Thank you for your generosity to those in need!
Items Needed

Hoodies, Sweatshirts, Sweatpants,
Insulated Underwear, Socks, & Boxers!
Sizes: L, XL, XXL, XXXL

December 2, 2018



is a south county young adults group which meets Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the school building of Immaculate Heart of Mary, for fellowship and a discussion on a topic of faith, followed by Eucharistic Adoration.

Join *Spirit and Truth* this **Thursday at 7:00 p.m.** for a Holy Hour and fellowship with **Dcn. Allen Boedeker, at St. Andrew's in Lemay. All young adults are welcome!**

For details visit us at spiritandtruthstl.org



**COLLECTING POSTAGE STAMPS
TO HELP WITH MISSIONS IN PERU**

As an Associate of the Carondelet Sisters of St. Joseph, I recently became aware of Sister Rosemary who collects canceled postage stamps.

You may leave your stamps on the envelope (sister and her volunteers will cut them off or you may cut around the stamp). The stamps are sold to collectors. Since the year 2000, the revenue from collecting stamps is over \$20,000. This money goes directly to assisting the sisters who work with the poor in Peru.

If you would like to aid in this very worthwhile cause, please save your canceled stamps and periodically put them in an envelope or baggie marked Debbie and drop in the collection basket or at the Rectory.. Not only will you be recycling, you will be



**ATTENTION
ALL HIGHSCHOOLERS**

Please join us **this Wednesday, December 5th, from 7-9:00 p.m.** at Bishop DuBourg High School (please use Clifton Ave. entrance). **We will be kicking off our Advent series** and diving into what it means to wait well.

For more information and upcoming events about Saint Louis Lifeteen:

Contact Lauren at 314.288.8873
or lauren@saintlouislifeteen.org

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW?

**Come join the joy and laughter
at Peter & Paul Men's Shelter**

We leave from Immaculate Heart of Mary at 5:00 p.m. and return before 9:00 p.m. The men look forward to the evening when it's **IHM's Night!** We give out food, clothing, necessities and **we play BINGO!** They love it!

Please call or email me with your availability, or if you have any questions:

Juanita Bishop:

ihmpps@gmail.com or 314-605-5110

Date(s):

Thursday, December 13th

ST. MARK TRIVIA LUAU

**Saturday, January 26th
4200 Ripa Ave**

**Doors Open at 6:00 p.m. Trivia at 7:00 p.m.
\$25/table of 8**

Snacks, Beer, Wine, Soda included
Raffles, 50/50 & Silent Auction

For reservations call:

Jaime at 314-686-1583

Make check payable to St. Mark





**WE ARE HELPING THE
RONALD MC DONALD HOUSE
BY COLLECTING PULL TABS
FROM CANS**

In our community and in our world, we can sometimes feel helpless. We feel we have no control. What can we do? Mother Teresa was known for saying, *"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."*

Ronald McDonald House continues to collect aluminum tabs from beverage cans. This is a small thing that we can do with great love. **Our parish family can join in supporting this wonderful cause.** Let's come together as we begin collecting for the Ronald McDonald House! **Jars are on the tables near the Church doors and in the Father**



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:

Keli & Jason	December
Jamie & Scott	January 2019
Shannon & Andrew	February
Kristin & Dan	February
Jenny & Matt	February
Katie & Greg	February
Caitlin & Dan	March
Kathryn & Michael	April
Molly & Jeff	April



Holiday shopping is right around the corner. If you do not have an eScrip card, now is the time to apply! Earn up to 3% every month for our Parish! Shop with your registered Schnucks eScrip Card and 3% of your purchase will come back to IHM. Immaculate Heart of Mary earned \$247.59 for the month of October. Thank you!

If you are interested in receiving a Schnucks E-Scrip card, please fill in the information below and return in the **Collection Basket, "Attention Ann" or drop off at the Rectory.** After I register your card online, I will send your card(s) to you and you may begin to use immediately! **It's surprising the way the profit each month adds up by you just swiping your card at check-out. Thank you!!**

Please print clearly:

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

FREE DIAPER GIVEAWAY

At the Birthright Counseling Center at 2554 Lemay Ferry Rd. **Every First Friday 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.,** for expectant & new Moms! Diaper sizes: NB-3.

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



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

NEWS AROUND TOWN

GLORIOUS NIGHT:

A Christmas Concert with the Daughters of St. Paul
The Daughters of St. Paul are back in St. Louis for their annual Christmas Concert! **Join us for "Glorious Night: A Christmas Concert with the Daughters of St. Paul" on Sunday, December 9th & Monday, December 10th, at 7:00 p.m. at Chaminade High School, Skip Virach Ctr., 425 South Lindberg Blvd.** Be taken up into the spirit of Christmas with the Sisters' unique renditions of Christmas favorites as well as contemporary inspirational songs celebrating Christ's Birth. Tickets **\$20 per person; for information:** Pauline.org/STLconcert or call 314-965-6935.

AN EVENING FOR THE DIVORCED & SEPARATED: FINDING COMFORT & PEACE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The evening will be held on **Thursday evening, December 13th, 6:30- 8:30 p.m.** at the **Cardinal Rigali Center**. Greg DeNeal, a licensed professional counselor, will be speaking on ***Finding Comfort and Peace During the Holidays***. This is a **free** event. Please RSVP to melisseating@archstl.org or 314.792.7173.

Sponsored by the Office of Marriage and Family Life.

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 32 other churches and chapels. **The tour will take place Thursday, December 13th and Friday, December 14th, 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. A tree will be decorated with paper garland, made of prayer petitions from local students. Hear live music on 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 us!

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND!

Almost all couples who attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend say: ***"We should have done this a long time ago!"*** The next weekend is: **January. 19th-20th, 2019**, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Lawrenceville, IL (no hotel provided). If you would like to apply or get more information, go to <https://stl-wwme.org/schedule.php> or call 314.649.7317.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Catholic Women for Christ and Catholic Men for Christ events are coming soon! **Men's will be February 2nd** and **Women's will be March 9th**. Both will take place at Touhill Performing Arts. Details coming soon.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS

December 8th/9th

4:30 p.m.	Maureen Lampert
7:30 a.m.	Diane Van Zandt
10:00 a.m.	Becky Will

December 15th/16th

4:30 p.m.	Cindy Wright
7:30 a.m.	Judy Vonder Haar
10:00 a.m.	Judy Hudson



MINISTERS of COMMUNION

All Masses need 7 ministers - Six (6) if Deacon Jim or a visiting priest is on the altar.

10:00 a.m. December 9th

Al & Eileen Book, Elizabeth Cassmeyer & Elvin Martinez, Sadat Martinez-Cassmeyer, Jenelle & Rob Leighton

10:00 a.m. December 16th

Kathy Jackson, Mary Pfeiffer, Jo Ann Ratermann, Eileen Schindler, Annette Sandheinrich, Tara Murphey, Kevin O'Sullivan



SERVERS' SCHEDULE

FOR THE WEEKEND OF: December 8th/9th

Saturday 4:30 p.m. Jacob & Joanna Ripper

Sunday 7:30 a.m. Tim Brennan

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mary Beth Solari

FOR THE WEEKEND OF: December 15th/16th

Saturday 4:30 p.m. Peter & Paul Pham

Sunday 7:30 a.m. Troy Smith

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mikayla & Olivia Murphey

INFORMATION SHEET

Immaculate Heart of Mary #355000

4092 Blow Street

500 bulletins
(400 bulletins changed on October 9th, 2018)

DELIVERY ADDRESS: 4092 Blow Street, St Louis, MO 63116
314-481-7543.