



Third Sunday of

Advent

December 16, 2018

I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.

Luke 3:16

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

Pastor

Deacon

Administrative Associate

Pastoral Minister for Seniors

South Grand Senior Ministry Transportation

South City Deanery PSR

Email: stl.scdpsr@gmail.com

St. Louis LifeTeen

Email: lauren@saintlouislifeteen.org

Rev. Kristian C. Teater

Rev. Mr. Jim Murphey

Mrs. Ann Donohue

Mrs. Debbie Gartner

Mary Anne

Nancy Haselhorst

Lauren Scharmer

314-481-7543

Fax 314-481-6316

314-481-7543

314-481-0008

314-481-7543

314-481-9385

314-481-1133

314-773-3070

314-288-8873

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 After Tuesday 8 a.m. Mass

Rosary After 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.)



3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – More Joy!

Happy Gaudete Sunday! How comforting and inspiring the First Reading from Zephaniah is: God rejoices over us and delights in us! When we understand and stand firm in the truth that our God rejoices in us, we are able to rejoice and shout for joy as well. Just because we are joyful in the Lord does not mean that everything is perfect in our life or that there are no hardships we must wrestle with daily. We will continue to face trials in this earthly life- sickness, loss, and pain- but the joy of the Lord and our joy in Him will sustain us in the long run. Our challenge for today and the rest of this week is to pray for an outpouring of joy in our lives and a deeper understanding of the joy God has because of us. When we are truly grateful for the gifts we have received in life and embrace our identity as adopted sons and daughters of God, loved completely by our Creator, we can experience authentic joy and share it with others so that they too might experience the Good News of salvation.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Mon.	12/17	8:00 a.m.	James Bauer
Tues.	12/18	8:00 a.m.	Ken Mobley
Wed.	12/19	8:00 a.m.	Leonard & Mary Deschler
Thurs.	12/20	8:00 a.m.	Margaret Sligar
Fri.	12/21	8:00 a.m.	Agnes & Bob Kovacich
Sat.	12/22	4:30 p.m.	Our Parish Family
Sun.	12/23	7:30 a.m.	Ed Bucher
		10:00 a.m.	Dorothy Flaker

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 Ceriotti (husband of Sandy), Linda McKern, Melba Floyd, Marilyn Harris, Judy Bruegger, Delores Berger (mother of Cindy Wright), Cheryl Mitchell (daughter of Mary Korn), 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 them comfort and healing.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Church Decorating Sun. 11:00 a.m. Ch
St. Patrick Casseroles Thurs. by 9:00 a.m. FKC

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
Judy Hudson's Exercise	Fri. 8:30 -11 a.m. Café

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. Thank you for your generosity to our parish family!



COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF: December 9th, 2018

Envelopes: \$5,960.00
Loose: \$280.00
Parish Maintenance: \$350.00

- 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!

PARISH NEWS



ST. PATRICK CASSEROLES

Casserole supplies may be picked up in the vestibule of Church **this weekend**. Please return frozen to the Father Keaney Center **before 9:00 a.m. this Thursday, December 20th. Thank you.**



MARCH FOR LIFE COOKIE AND BAKE SALE THIS WEEKEND IN CHURCH

Cookies and baked goods will be on sale in the **vestibule of Church this weekend**. Proceeds help to support former students of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who will be attending the **March for Life**. Come and enjoy some cookies and other delicious baked items while helping the students get to Washington to make their voices heard!

Thank you for your continued support!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

To **Mikayla Murphey**, granddaughter of Deacon Jim & Linda. Mikayla is in eighth grade at St. James the Greater, and was one of **seven finalists in the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Video contest**.

Her video may be seen on YouTube by searching: **FINALLIFEDOESHAVEPURPOSEVID.**

Great job, Mikayla!

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St. Mary's High School junior, **Timothy Muxo**, a former student of Immaculate Heart and St. Mark, was named **Junior Marianist Dragon of the Month** for demonstrating the Characteristic of Marianist Education of Integral, Quality Education.

2018 IS TROOP 179'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY! COME CELEBRATE!



ALL current and past members (and family members) of 179 are welcome to come celebrate the occasion on **Saturday, December 29th**, in the Father Keaney Center, **starting at 7:00 p.m.** It will be a great time to reconnect with old friends and reminisce as we look forward to another half century plus of Scouting at Immaculate Heart of Mary. This is a "non-uniform event", although Class B's are encouraged.

Spread the word! Tell your Patrol mates!

Christmas SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24th
There will not be an 8:00 a.m. Mass
Parish Office is Closed

Mass times are:
4:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25th
9:00 a.m.

There will not be an 8:00 a.m. Mass
on Wednesday, December 26th
Parish Office is closed.



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**Solemnity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God**
(Holy day of obligation)

Monday, December 31st
No 8:00 a.m. Mass
Parish Office is Closed
Mass time is:
4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 1st, 2019
9:00 a.m.
Parish Office is closed.

Wednesday, January 2nd,
there will be
an 8:00 a.m. Mass
Parish Office is open.



Dear Parishioners,

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near" (Philippians 4:4-5). The words from the entrance antiphon for the 3rd Sunday of Advent hearkens the faithful to make themselves ready for the coming of the Lord by rejoicing that He is near. Joy comes when a longed-for thing or person or event makes itself present, and here, we are talking about the highest level of joy: being in the presence of God.

Largely, we think of being before the presence of God as something that happens only after death, but we are always before Him. On the level of being part of Creation, He sustains us in our very existence, for without Him, we would not exist. As redeemed humanity, we have His special presence within our souls with grace. Our Lord says, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). This is not a casual phrase thrown out as if to say, "You are in my thoughts," but we take Him literally to mean that He is with us. Obviously, not in the same manner as He was before the Apostles during His time on earth...but He is present. He is present through grace; He is present within the Church, who is His Mystical Body; He is present in a special way in the holy Eucharist.

Nevertheless, there are times that we seem far from Him. Yes, obstinately remaining in a state of sin is an obvious example, but there are times when evil touches us that is not due to our choices. It seems that the greatest distance is felt when we do not believe God intervened in such a way as to protect us from the harm of others, especially if they had been trusted. His respect of our free will has its consequences...but without that gift, we could not love, and if we were created without the capacity of love, then God would not be God.

After a period of suffering has ended, and healing has begun, we can see the hand of God retrospectively in a clear way. While under the weight of suffering, the pain absorbs our focus and may confuse our capacity to see Him in that moment. When that moment has passed, reflection can bring us to see

how He intervened in unexpected ways. Although He allows us our freedom and its consequences, He brings us people to heal us and can comfort us through prayer. The modern-day Scrooges of the world dismiss prayer as silly, but it is at that moment, when we raise our hearts and minds to God for ourselves or for others that we come before His Presence. This contact with God can order our soul to see Him more clearly and open our lives more to His action.

On this Sunday, may the Lord make His Presence known to all of us, and may we carry His Presence to those who are in need of it most, that we may all rejoice that the Lord is near.

In the Hearts of Jesus & Mary,
Father Kristian Teater

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK!
*Let's approach Christmas
with an expectant hush,
rather than a last-minute rush!*

Anonymous

Joke of the Week



SENIOR MOMENTS

SPECIFICS HELP

Have you ever asked someone, "How was your day?" and the reply is one word. "Good." That's it. No elaboration. Would you like for them to be more specific? What if they said, "Good. I went to lunch with a friend. Picked up my new glasses and had a relaxing pedicure." Now that sounds like a good day. Specific information makes it clear. In today's Gospel Luke 3:10-18; the people ask John the Baptist for specific ways to repent. John told the people to share their food and clothing and the tax collectors should treat people fairly. This gave them specific actions to prepare for the coming of Christ. During this Advent season, in what ways can we prepare for the coming of Jesus? **By thinking of specific actions that we can incorporate into our lives provides a plan for growing closer to Jesus.** There are many opportunities: Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, taking time for prayer, being extra patient with someone who frustrates you, reaching out to someone who is lonely, pray the Rosary, discover a religious website, listen to Christian music, watch a religious movie, spend time reading Scripture, volunteer, clean a closet and donate to a charity, attend weekday Mass, write a list of all the blessings in your life this past year.... **Preparing ourselves spiritually for Christmas will bring the Reason for the Season to life.**



ADVENT RENEW GROUP

We have just completed our Advent Renew series. Mary: Jesus' Mother and Ours, was the title of our book. We explored Mary's life in the Gospels of Luke and John. We learned a little about the world she lived in and what the life of a young woman would entail. We realized that most of us felt a connection with our Blessed Mother. She followed her trust in God though she wasn't sure of the future, Mary went to family for support, Mary and Joseph experienced fear and probably frustration when they were raising young Jesus and couldn't find him and the agony of her son's death. Family and friends were there to support her. We shared stories and some of our own experiences that allowed us to feel connected to Mary through her what she experienced then and what we are experiencing in our lives. We were inspired and had interesting conversation. **Thank you to all who attended. Your wisdom, stories and faith sharing has blessed my faith journey!** Please consider joining us in the Spring for the Lenten Renew series. Between now and then we will

meet occasionally to watch a movie or have a reflection question and discussion.



DOLLAR TREE GIFT CARDS

This is the last week to make a donation of Dollar Tree gift cards to give the Gentlemen of Peter and Paul shelter. We will be hosting the Christmas party on Friday December 21st. If you cannot go to Dollar Tree, you may donate cash, I would be glad to purchase for you.

Thank you to everyone who has generously donated gift cards and financial donations! It is because of you that we are able to host this party! We will provide a delicious meal due to a generous donation, the gift cards and money to purchase the cards! We will give each person their own gift bag, serve dinner, play bingo and sing Christmas songs. It is a festive evening for all. The most important gift of all is because of everyone who is praying for those experiencing homelessness and through material and financial donations of parishioners and our Ladies' Sodality, we are able to bring the gift of food, items that are needed and through our interaction the men know that we care. I have heard on numerous accounts; "These people are the real thing. They really care." You can trust them. They are good people."

Due to your generosity we are able to follow the Gospel Matthew 25:35-36 ***"When I was hungry you fed me. When I was thirsty you gave me something to drink. When I was naked you gave me clothes."***

Thank you for allowing us to perform works of mercy through your generous hearts.

Debbie: 314-481-9385

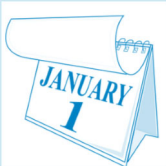


3rd Sunday of Advent

2019 CALENDARS

Calendars are at the doors of Church.

Thanks again, to Kutis Funeral Homes, for making these available **free of charge** to Immaculate Heart of Mary.



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

MEN'S CLUB HOSTS:

AFC/NFC CHAMPIONSHIP SUNDAY

When: Sunday, January 20th

Where: Father Keaney Center

Cost: \$30 per person and includes beer, wine, soft drinks and food for both games.

Doors open at 1:00 p.m. and first game begins at 2:00 p.m. **Must be 21 to attend.**



**Catholic Men
for Christ**
St. Louis, Missouri

February 2, 2019

**Touhill Performing
Arts Center
UMSL**

**Doors Open at 8:00 a.m.
Concluding with 4:00 p.m. Mass**

\$40 register online
Catholicmenforchrist.org
Or call 314-516-4949

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March 9, 2019

**Touhill Performing
Arts Center
UMSL**

**Doors Open at 8:30 a.m.
Concluding with 4:00 p.m. Mass**

\$40 - register online
catholicwomenforchrist.org
or call 314-516-4949

December 16, 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, December 20th, at 7:00 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary, for our annual Advent social night!

For details visit us at spiritandtruthstl.org or like us on Facebook at fb.me/spiritandtruth.stl



ATTENTION ALL HIGHSCHOOLERS

There will be NO Life Teen this Wednesday (December 19th) or next Wednesday (December 26th). We will look forward to seeing you in the new year!

For more information and upcoming events about Saint Louis Lifeteen:
Contact Lauren at 314.288.8873
or lauren@saintlouislifeteen.org

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





CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

Due by this Friday 3:00 p.m.

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 **this Friday, 3:00 p.m. at the latest, in order to place the names at the image of baby Jesus.**



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 \$172.04 for the month of November. *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 _____

Phone # _____ # Cards: _____



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
Victoria & Tony	January
Shannon & Andrew	February
Kristin & Dan	February
Jenny & Matt	February
Katie & Greg	February
Caitlin & Dan	March
Christina & Caleb	March
Kathryn & Michael	April
Molly & Jeff	April
Sarah & Jason	June

God Bless, Immaculate Heart of Mary Pro-Life

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
SSgt. Steve Appelbaum, U.S. Air Force

NEWS AROUND TOWN

ATTENTION: SEPARATED, DIVORCED, WIDOWED OR REMARRIED OF ALL AGES

You are invited to join us for fun and to make new friends at the Annual Christmas party and meeting of the South County Separated, Divorced, Widowed and Remarried Catholics (SCDC) on **this Thursday, December 20th at 7:00 p.m.**, at the Saint Catherine Laboure parish cafeteria. This meeting is held the third Thursday instead of the normal fourth Thursday because of Christmas week.

Also, before the meeting, a Mass will be held for SCDC members and guests at **6:00 p.m. at the Saint Catherine Laboure parish church**. For more info, Pat Lynch at (314) 537-5930 or Bill DeCoursey at (314) 894-0733.

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.

PROJECT RACHEL

Do you live with the pain of an abortion? Do you still feel anger, guilt or sadness even though the abortion was years ago? You may think our actions could never be understood and certainly not able to be forgiven. These emotions are common results of abortion. Healing and forgiveness are possible through Project Rachel. Specially trained counselors can help you experience Christ's peace. For private, professional counseling at no charge call Project Rachel at 314-792-7565.

INVITATION TO SURVIVING DIVORCE

"I'm furious. What can I do with this anger?" "If God is good, why did He allow this divorce?" "Why does it hurt so much?" Find the answers to these questions and more in a new ministry to Catholics who have suffered from divorce: ***The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide***. The 12-week DVD program features Catholic experts who present Church teaching along with lay men and women who share their challenges on the way to true healing. **Immaculate Conception Parish – Dar-denne is hosting the program beginning January 10, 2019**. There is a \$25 fee which will cover all materials needed. (Scholarships are available for anyone). Contact Debi at debijo@att.net for more information.

FREE DIAPER GIVEAWAY

At the Birthright Counseling Center at 2554 Lemay Ferry Rd. **314-962-3653. Every First Friday 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**, for expectant & new Moms! Diaper sizes: NB-3.6

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS

December 22nd/23rd

4:30 p.m. Rita Springer
7:30 a.m. Barb Vineyard
10:00 a.m. Maureen Lampert

December 24th Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m. John Ruzicka
10:00 p.m. Joyce Huelsmann

December 25th Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Mary Pfeiffer



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 23rd

Scott & Betty Bollasina, Rich & Alison Bradley, Ed Bradley, Becky Will, Sadat Martinez-Cassmeyer

10:00 a.m. December 30th

Matt Hoyt, Kathy Jackson, Ann Sutter, Bob & Joyce Winkler, Roxanne Wolfslau, Kevin O'Sullivan



SERVERS' SCHEDULE

FOR THE WEEKEND OF: December 22nd/23rd

4:30 p.m. Jacob & Joanna Ripper

7:30 a.m. Tim Brennan

10:00 a.m. Mary Beth Solari, Jack Feldmeier

CHRISTMAS EVE December 24th

Tuesday 4:30 p.m. Mikayla & Olivia Murphey

Monday 10:00 p.m. Jacob & Joanna Ripper

CHRISTMAS MORNING

9:00 a.m. Sophia & Andy Hoyt

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.