

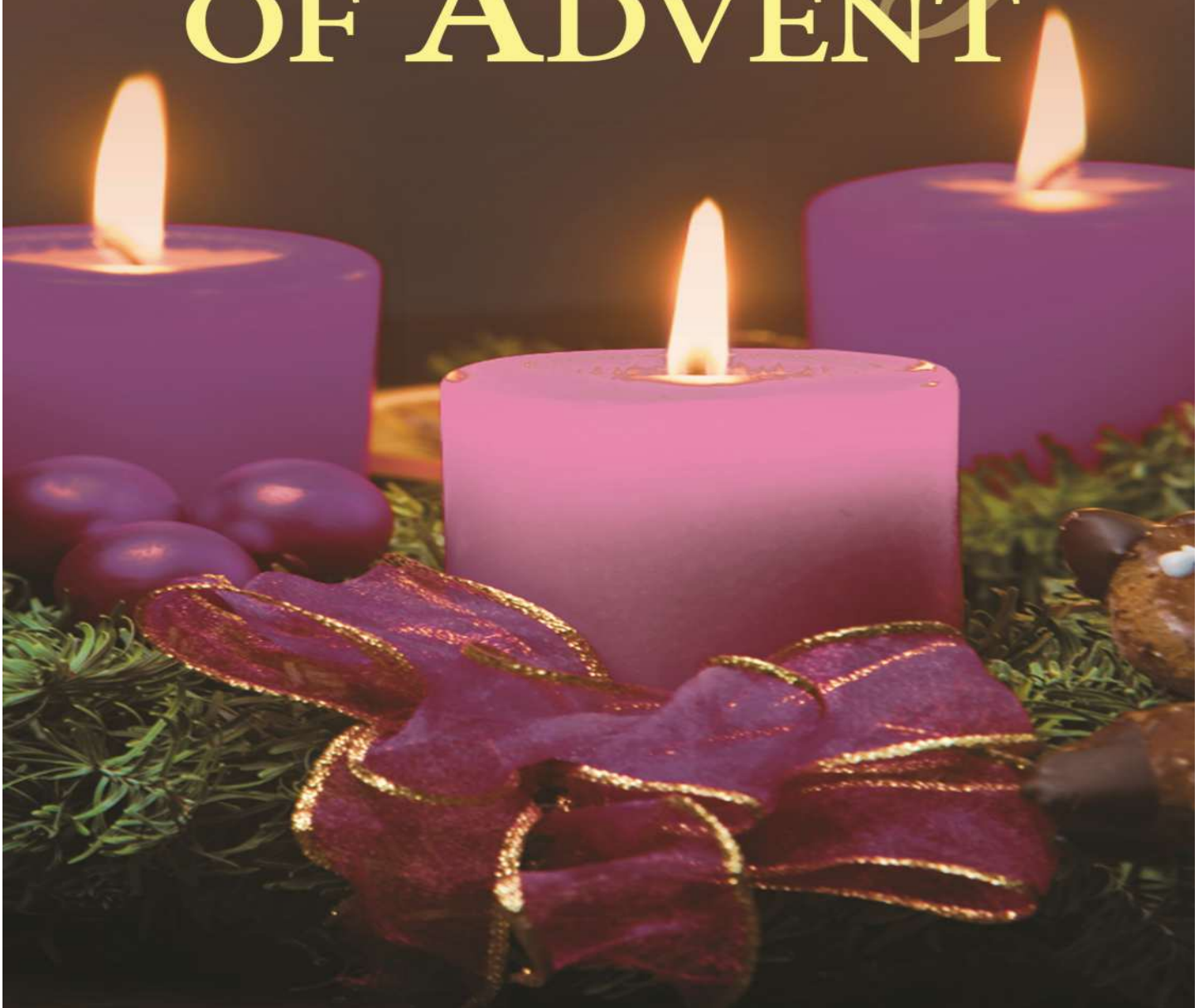
# Mary, Mother of the Church

5901 Kerth Road, St. Louis MO 63128 - 314.894.1373

December 14, 2025

3<sup>rd</sup>

*Sunday*  
OF ADVENT



## PARISH STAFF

### CLERGY

Fr. Steve Robeson, Pastor      srobeson@marymother.org  
Deacon Randy Howe          rhowe@marymother.org  
Deacon Robert Smerek      bsmerek@marymother.org  
Deacon Richard Coffman

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Ann Garavaglia                  agaravaglia@marymother.org  
Mary Brutcher                  mbrutcher@marymother.org  
Amanda Nielsen              anielsen@marymother.org

**BULLETIN ARTICLES**                  bulletin@marymother.org

**BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**  
**MONDAY AT NOON FOR THE FOLLOWING**  
**SUNDAY'S BULLETIN**

### DIRECTOR OF LITURGY

Nate Jackson                  njackson@marymother.org

### PSR COORDINATOR

Andy Dapron                  adapron@marymother.org

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Kaitlyn Kennedy              kkennedy@marymother.org

### MAINTENANCE

Greg Klobe                      gklobe@marymother.org

### PARISH NURSE

Michele Venable              parishnurse@marymother.org

### CHILD SAFETY COORDINATOR

Amanda Nielsen              anielsen@marymother.org

### PARISH ADDRESS AND OFFICE HOURS

5901 Kerth Road, St. Louis, 63128-3705  
(314) 894-1373      fax: (314) 894-3801

Monday thru Thursday: 9:00 am — 5:00 pm  
Friday: 9:00 am. — 4:00 pm      Saturday: **Closed**

**Website: [www.marymother.org](http://www.marymother.org)**

### MINISTRY SCHEDULES

[www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/MMOCSTL](http://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/MMOCSTL)

### ONLINE GIVING

1-800-348-2886 Option 2

**REQUEST PRAYER**                  outreach@marymother.org

## Mary, Mother of the Church Cares

### St. Vincent de Paul Society MMOC Help Line

email: [svdp@marymother.org](mailto:svdp@marymother.org)      314-289-6101 X2228  
Scrap Metal Pickup 314-374-4680

### Support for your Family

WalkingWithFamiliesSTL.com      314-792-7555

### Pregnant? We are here for you.

WalkingWithMomsSTL.com      314-792-7555  
AbortionPillReversal.com      1-877-558-0333

### Abortion Healing Ministry

archstl.org/hope-healing      314-406-0815

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL 2025-2026

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

CHAIRPERSON	MARIAN MCCORD
pcchair@marymother.org	
VICE-CHAIRPERSON	MARK BENMUVHAR
pcveep@marymother.org	
SECRETARY	LINDA TELTHORST
pcsec@marymother.org	
ADVISOR	WENDY FRANKLIN
pcadvisor@marymother.org	

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONS

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE	MARK INMAN
adfin@marymother.org	
CHRISTIAN FORMATION	CINDY YAMNITZ
formation@marymother.org	
CHRISTIAN SERVICE	SUE KRIEGER
service@marymother.org	
MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP	MARYANN MCWILLIAMS
discipleship@marymother.org	
HEALTH MINISTRY	AIMEE BARRETT
health@marymother.org	
LITURGY	ANN MADDEN
liturgy@marymother.org	
SOCIAL	RICH BLACKFORD
social@marymother.org	
YOUTH	UNFILLED POSITION
youth@marymother.org	

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Infant baptisms are celebrated throughout the year except during the season of Lent. Parents are to be registered members of the parish and are encouraged to call the rectory for an initial appointment during the pregnancy.

### CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Any adult seeking to become a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church is invited to call the rectory.

### SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Arrangements for the Sacrament of Marriage are to be made by the prospective bride and groom with the priest or deacon at least nine months before the wedding.

### ANOINTING OF SICK

Communal celebrations of the Anointing of the Sick are offered seasonally. Contact the parish office to request the sacrament for yourself or a family member.

### MASS TIMES

Monday-Friday	8:30 a.m. Mass in Church
Thursday	6:15 a.m. in Caton Chapel
Saturday	4:30 p.m. (Anticipatory)
Sunday	9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday      3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. or by appointment

### PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Tuesday      Following 8:30 a.m. Mass in Church

### MARIAN DEVOTIONS

Rosary      Daily after 8:30 a.m. Mass  
Sunday 6:30 p.m. in Caton Chapel

## PASTOR'S LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF MARY MOTHER

I am writing this on my birthday--a few weeks ahead of the December 14th bulletin, because of holiday printing schedules. At my birthday, the theme of renewal is on my mind as I send you this message for this "Rose Sunday." The Church named this third Sunday of Advent for the rosy color we wear on the altar, a lighter color that hints at the coming brightness of Christmas. Every year, Advent turns the corner on this weekend, as we are closer to the renewing light of Christmas than when we began this sacred season. I am having a little renewal as this weekend is my 41st anniversary.

Our parish gets to celebrate three additional delightful renewals this weekend. We are baptizing little Aurora Fox at 9:00 a.m. Mass. As part of this beautiful Sacrament, the whole assembly gets to renew our Baptismal promises on behalf of Aurora who is too small to say them.

Second, at 11:00 a.m., it's Family Mass. Normally we have that at 9:00 a.m. Mass, but it is different this month, because of the fun third

renewal happening after 11am Mass- the "Happy Birthday Jesus" party in the hall.

I had a fun and renewing birthday myself, but I suggest the happiest renewal is when we honor Jesus' birth and wait upon his coming this Advent with fitting prayer and song and giving charity and supporting justice for the poor. Two different wonderful groups of people at Mary Mother actually sang Happy Birthday to me on my special day, but even that won't compare to the wonderful group of young children who are sharing with us at 11:00 a.m. Mass their very special song in honor of the coming birth of Jesus. If you happen to hear these children do their sweet performance, go up after Mass and tell them how wonderful they were.

For the rest of the community, if you see a young person at the Mass you go to, tell them how glad you are to see them. Look for ways to spread renewal to people's hearts this Advent time!

Much love,  
Fr. Steve

### Inclement Weather Policy

When Mehlville School district cancels classes due to weather conditions only, it is our policy to close our campus as well! If Mehlville cancels evening events only, then our evening events will also be cancelled. This impacts things such as Eucharistic Adoration, meetings, exercise programs, prayer groups and sports. PSR families will be communicated to directly. Masses will be held as usual, but always use common sense when venturing out in icy weather. *Your safety comes first!*

To see our policy for inclement weather please go to our website [www.marymother.org](http://www.marymother.org) and on the home page go to our parish. Scroll down to more resources for more details. Your safety comes first so, if there is any question in your mind about coming or not please stay home.



### WELCOME TO MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

Welcome to Mary, Mother of the Church. We are happy that you are joining us today. If you are visiting us, we pray that through our worship, you may see us as a radiant light in the world and a bold witness to those whose lives we touch, inspiring them to love one another as God loves us.

If you would like more information, or if you would like to **register with Mary, Mother of the Church**, please contact us by coming into the parish office Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. or Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. You can email: [agaravaglia@marymother.org](mailto:agaravaglia@marymother.org) or call us at 314-894-1373.

We hope you find a home here among friends who pray together, work together and play together.

*To make it easier for our new members to get acquainted with us, please wear your nametags.*



## December Bulletin Deadline

### Bulletin Date

January 4

### Date Due

December 18

*Say a prayer that I don't go crazy!*



## Holiday Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th

4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

### Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

### The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

this is a Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, December 31, New Year's Eve

4:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 1, New Year's Day

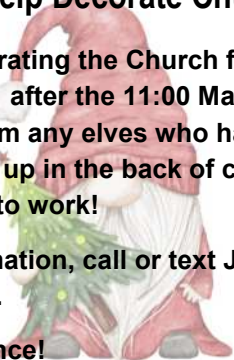
9:00 a.m.

## Help Decorate Church

We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 21 after the 11:00 Mass and would love to have help from any elves who have an hour or so to spare. Show up in the back of church at noon and we will put you to work!

For more information, call or text Jeanne Rothermel at 314-724-6736.

Thanks in advance!



## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

### Monday, December 15

- 9:05 am AA Group - Rm 1,2
- 11:30 am Metal Collection Christmas Lunch - Parish Hall
- 12:30 pm Pickleball - Gym
- 6:15 pm PSR
- 6:15 pm PSR - Alpha for Adults - Parish Hall
- 6:30 pm Pickleball - Gym
- 7:00 pm Men's Prayer Group - Chapel

### Tuesday, December 16

- 9:00 am Adoration - Chapel
- 9:00 am Quilting
- 9:00 am Walk the gym
- 9:00 am Sandwich Shoppe - Parish Hall Kitchen
- 10:30 am Contemplative Mtg. - Rm 1,2
- 3:00 pm SVdP Mtg. - Rm 1,2
- 5:30 pm CYC Basketball practice - Gym
- 7:00 pm Advent Reconciliation Service - Church

### Wednesday, December 17

- 9:00 am Adoration - Chapel
- 9:30 am Tai Chi - Gym
- 12:30 pm Pickleball - Gym
- 1:30 pm AA Group - Rm 3,4
- 6:30 pm Basic Catechism Course - Rm 3,4
- 7:00 pm Tradition Choir Practice - Church
- 8:30 pm Men's Basketball - Gym

### Thursday, December 18

- 7:30 am Men's Prayer Group - Annex
- 9:00 am Women's Prayer Group - Rm 3,4
- 9:00 am Walk the Gym
- 3:00 pm Adoration - Chapel
- 6:00 pm Health Ministry Caroling - meet on church parking lot
- 6:30 pm Pickleball - Gym
- 7:00 pm Contemporary Choir Practice - Church

### Friday, December 19

- 9:00 am Love Thy Neighbor - Rm 3,4

### Saturday, December 20

- 3:30 pm Confessions - Church

### Sunday, December 21

- 10:00 am Donut Sunday - Parish Hall  
*after both Masses*
- 12:00 pm Decorate Church - Church
- 2:00 pm Christmas Movie - Parish Hall
- 6:30 pm Contemporary Choir Practice - Church
- 6:30 pm Rosary - Chapel
- 7:00 pm Youth Christmas Party - Gym



# ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

## *The Words of Everlasting Life*

### **Readings for December 14 - December 21**

**Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10  
(see Is 35:4); Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 &  
7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7,  
17-18, 19 & 23; Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8,  
17; Mt 1:1-17

**Thursday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;  
Mt 1:18-25

**Friday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a,  
5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

**Saturday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6;  
Lk 1:26-38

**Next Sunday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c,  
10b); Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24



### **NOVEMBER CENSUS UPDATES**

#### **Welcome to our new parishioners:**

Aaron & Cathy Mueller  
Tim & Erin Wilson, Ana, Nate & Katie

*To make it easier for our new members to get  
acquainted with us, please were your nametags.*

#### **Farwell to:**

Ernest & Kathleen Tapp

#### **Dearly departed:**

Rose Klier  
Jan Jacquin  
Darlene Licare

### **Advent Communal Reconciliation Service**

There will be an Advent Communal Reconciliation  
Service at Mary Mother on:

- December 16th
- 7:00 p.m.
- in church



## *This Week's Mass Intentions*

### **SUNDAY December 14**

9:00 AM - Jane Kirchhoff †  
11:00 AM - Our Parish Family

### **MONDAY December 15**

8:30 AM - Michael Foley †

### **TUESDAY December 16**

8:30 AM - Wandy Oliver †

### **WEDNESDAY December 17**

8:30 AM - Dave Robert †

### **THURSDAY December 18**

6:15AM - Jim Lober †  
8:30 AM - Joy Kleucker †

### **FRIDAY December 19**

8:30 - Neil Schulte †

### **SATURDAY December 20**

4:30 PM - Steve Wayant †

### **SUNDAY December 21**

9:00 AM - Our Parish Family  
11:00 AM - Jim Lober †

† Denotes those who are deceased

### **Friday Friends**

Please join the Friday Friends (widows) for our luncheon  
which will be held on **Friday, Dec. 19**. We will be going  
to **Robertos in Concord Plaza**, and will be meeting  
there at **11:30 am**.

Please RSVP to Nancy at 314-894-8522 to let us know  
if you are planning on attending so we have enough  
space.

Don't forget to bring a \$10.00 wrapped gift for a  
game. No food or candy. Hope to see you there.

*The way to find joy in adversity, is to encounter God.  
Pray, "Jesus, help us find You in the midst of this storm."*

*Have a blessed holiday season.*



## PSR COORDINATOR

### Life & dignity of the human person

The foundational principle of Catholic social teaching is that human life is sacred. We are called to respect and protect life from conception to natural death.

**With our family:** We try to use “person-first” language. For example, when the kids offer to pray for “poor people” ... I gently rephrase their petition: “Let’s pray for people who are poor.”

What defines each of us is that we are a human person, created in the image and likeness of God.

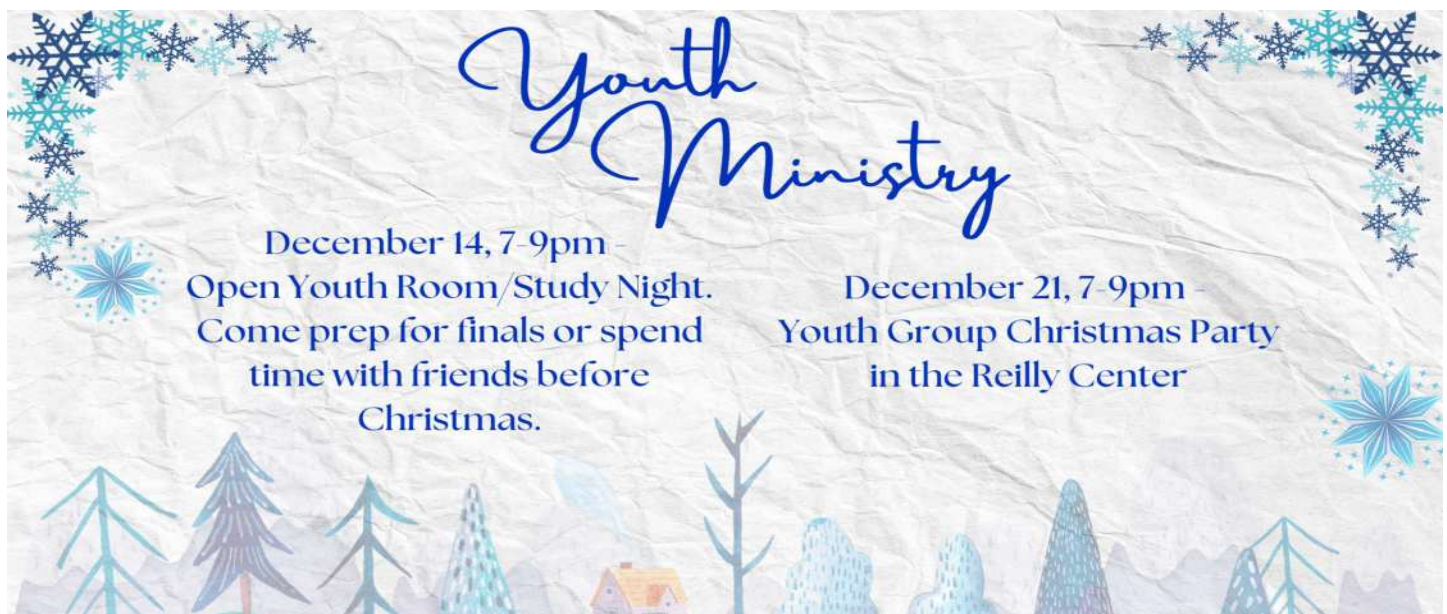
### Call to family, community, and participation

Catholic social teaching reminds us that humans are not just sacred, but social. All people have the right to participate in society for the common good.

**With our family:** We try to talk to our kids in ways that are participatory. For example, when a child protests that a decision is unfair, I’ll say, “Talk to me about it. If you think you should be able to do x, let’s see if we can work toward a compromise.”

I try to explain that hearing their perspective doesn’t mean we’ll change our mind as parents on a given decision... But, when possible, we aim to talk to our kids in ways that invite them to be full members of our family.

**12/15 Last PSR Class of 2025 @6:15 pm – 7:30 pm. See you in 2026!**



### “DONUT SUNDAY”

**Next Sunday, December 21st, is Donut “Sunday” after the 9am and 11am Masses.** Come celebrate in fellowship with the MMOC community and enjoy donuts along with beverages.

**All are welcome.**

Remember: Your freewill offering for each item helps us provide the donuts & drinks for this community event.



## ADVENT CENTERING PRAYER GATHERING

There will be an Advent Centering Prayer on:

- \* **Tuesday, December 16**
- \* **10:30 to 11:30am**
- \* **In classrooms 1 & 2 at MMOC**

Margaret Poirrier will facilitate this session.

For more info e-mail [contemplative@marymother.org](mailto:contemplative@marymother.org)  
or call Carolyn Hebenstreit 314.578.0062.

## Bridge Bread

Bridge Bread will be available this weekend,  
**December 13 & 14.**

Thank you so much for your overwhelming support.



## Advent Calendar/Jesse Tree

The season of Advent is a time when we wait to contemplate the "Word became flesh". Please take an Advent calendar; one per family please.

We will share ornament symbols of the Jesse tree and share their meaning via Flocknote. We'll also have a Jesse tree in the Vestibule for an additional visual, spiritual experience.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

## St. Louis Review

January is the month to renew your St. Louis Review subscription. Once again, the cost is \$35 for the year. Envelopes can be found in your January envelope packet, or you can pay online using our online giving portal. Contact Ann in the office at 314-894-1373 if you have questions.

## Annual Christmas Movie Afternoon

Mary Mother Social Commission is hosting our second annual Christmas movie afternoon on Sunday, Dec. 21st from 2-5. What is the movie you might be asking? Well the answer is up to you! Sign up on SignUpGenius and vote for the movie you want to see. Your choices are:

- 1) The Polar Express
- 2) It's a Wonderful Life
- 3) A Muppets Christmas Carol

We will have cookies, hot chocolate, candy and of course Candy Canes. NO ADMISSION but please sign up and make your movie choice. Voting closes tomorrow December 15. A Flocknote will be sent out with the title of the winning film.

Questions e-mail Rich Blackford at [socia@marymother.org](mailto:socia@marymother.org)



## A NEW FAITH FORMATION & EVANGELIZATION OPPORTUNITY! ALPHA IS HERE!

Would you like to deepen your relationship with Jesus?  
Would you like to be able to invite others, no matter where they are on their faith journey, to do the same?  
If you answered yes to either of these questions, we invite you to try Alpha!

Alpha is "a meal and a movie" with conversation around life's most important questions. It occurs in a relaxed, fun, and inviting environment with no pressure to come back the next week.

We are partnering with St. Simon to offer both day and evening sessions.

If you are interested in helping or need help registering, please reach out to Becky McDonnell at: 314-236-1421. If you would rather help with a monetary donation, please make checks to Mary Mother of the Church with Alpha on memo line. Thank you!

COME HOLY SPIRIT!

Mary Mother campus will have a session: January - March,  
**Mondays from 11:30am-1:30pm starting Jan. 19.**

To register scan QR code:



St. Simon campus will have a session January - March, **Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30pm starting Jan. 21.** To register for Wednesday scan QR code:



## Help provide scholarships to students attending Catholic Schools!

100% tax credits are available to individuals and Businesses. Participate in the MOScholars Program today.

For more information call the Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation at 314-792-7032, visit our website at <https://ttef-stl.org/moscholars/> or scan the QR code.



**STEWARDSHIP  
GRATEFUL AND GENEROUS**

**November 30, 2025**

Sunday Stewardship	\$ 5,003.00
Gifts-Stock, RMDs, Charitable Giving	\$ 0.00
Online Stewardship	\$ 7,935.20
Total Sunday Stewardship	\$12,938.20
November 2025 Weekly Budget	\$16,435.00
Over <Under> Budget	<\$ 3,496.80>

Major Project Fund	\$ 546.00
Online Stewardship	\$ 428.00
Total Major Project Fund	\$ 974.00
November 2025 Weekly Budget	\$ 1,200.00
Over <Under> Budget	<\$ 226.00>
YTD Over <Under> Budget	\$ 2,087.00

*Please remember Mary, Mother of the Church in your will  
or estate plan, and please tell us when you do,  
so we can THANK YOU!*

JAMES MARTIN, SJ

*Author of The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*



How the  
**CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
and the **LGBT COMMUNITY**  
Can Enter into a Relationship of

The Love thy Neighbor committee is sponsoring a book study on Building a Bridge by Fr. James Martin beginning on January 11, 2025. It is a seven week study from 1pm to 3pm in rooms 3,4 at Mary Mother. If you are interested in joining us or have further questions please contact [lovethyneighbor@marymother.org](mailto:lovethyneighbor@marymother.org) or call Mary Ann Lause at 314-882-4566.



*Mary, Mother of the Church pray for  
our parish and for the whole world.*

**Has abortion  
impacted your life?**  
**Find *hope & healing.***



Call or text  
314.778.0628  
or email  
[hopehealing@archstl.org](mailto:hopehealing@archstl.org)

*The Abortion Healing Ministry  
of the Archdiocese of St. Louis  
serves women, men and  
families with programs,  
resources and support for both  
individuals and couples.*

**Ladies' Abortion Healing Spiritual Support Group** has two locations. The Catholic Renewal Center from 6-7pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month and St Monica Parish from 9-10:30am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month beginning in January. Walk-ins welcome.

**Project Rachel Women's Day of Reflection** will be hosted on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 9am-5pm at Saints Philip & James Church in Sainte Genevieve. Registration now open.

**Men's Project Joseph Ministry Spiritual Support Group** will be held at Saint Monica Parish from 9-10:30am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month beginning in January. Walk-ins welcome.

**Open Office Hours** at the Catholic Renewal Center at 6120 Pebble Hill Drive in the St Joseph Suite for the winter months are Tuesdays from 10am-2pm and Wednesdays from 9am-noon. Come in for resources, prayer and conversation with our ministry team.

Visit our website at [www.archstl.org/hope-healing](http://www.archstl.org/hope-healing) to register for programs or to learn more.



### **Pray for the Sick & Homebound**

Joe Albright, Janet Barks,  
Kiegan Bersing, Ray Boehm, Carol Brophy,  
Dorothy Bunevac, Lydia Chamberlain, Sandy Cooseman,  
Gerald Cordes, MaryAnn Daust-Buehler, Kathy Davidson,  
Grace Dawson, Craig Franks, Mary Jane Franks,  
Jane Goeke, Diane Graham, Ken Gresnick, Marie Harthill,  
Joe Heizer, Saralou Henrickson, Peggy Huber,  
Mark Inman, Pat Keller, Barbara Killius, Steve Krieger,  
Loretta & Jim Lampen, Leslie Lewis, Jerry Marshall,  
Fran Mazanec, Mary Ann McWilliams, Floyd Melliore,  
Irene Meyer, Rich Meyer, **Pat Mueller**, Mike Ottoline,  
Val Pike, Joe Reker, Kathleen Riggio, Paul Schulte,  
John and Maureen Schumacker, Robert Schuster,  
Mary K Spencer, Jean Taylor, Charles Turner,  
Jeanne Voyles, Helen Weckermeyer, Jack Weis,  
Char Wersching, Dennis & Marie Winschel, Jim Yamnitz,  
Dave Ziegler

**Daughter/Daughter-in-law** the Chamberlains,  
the Coffmans, Sue Dace, Kathleen Kidwell, Jeanne Krull,  
the McColls, the Newbolds, the Rekers, the Siesners,  
the Swehls, the Zachs

**Son/Son-in-law** of Leona Boucher, Betty Courisky, Mary  
Sue Ondr, the Rekers, Mary Simitjis

**Mother/Mother-in-law** of John Barrett, Pam Biehl,  
Ted Dolter, Laura Getsey, Nancy Muehl, Dennis Rees,  
Mark Stevison, Diane Wilcox

**Father/Father-in-law/Grandfather** of Laura Getsey,  
Mark Scheipeter

**Sister/Sister-in-law** of the Coffmans, Gary Franklin,  
Elizabeth Hudson, Libby Long, Mark Muehl, Joan Serati,  
Joyce Skiljan

**Brother/Brother-in-law** of the Franklins, Barb Gavin,  
Sherry Heumann, Carla Merlotti, Carol Musielak,  
Mary Scalzo

**Granddaughter/Grandson/Great-grandchild** of  
Sue Dace, Mary Lee Davis, the Killius', the Lampens,  
the Leezys, the Leichts, the McColls, the Rekers,  
Mary Simitjis, Ruth Spray, Mary Stewart, the Thieles,  
Dave Ziegler

**Niece/Nephew/Great-niece/Great-nephew** of  
the Baleks, Leona Bochantin, Libby Long,  
the Slamas, the Schmitzes, Gloria Wind, Dave Ziegler

**Aunt** of Mark Muehl

**Cousin/cousin's spouse** of Ken Klages, Fran Mazanes &  
Jeanette Sloan, Alice Weis

**Friends** of Lydia Chamberlain, the Brockhauses,  
the Coffmans, Joan Crawford, Mary Jane Franks,  
the Franklins, Jane Goeke, Chris Hack, the Harthills,  
the Kopps, the McWilliamses, the Wackermeyers,  
the Webers

*Names in bold print are new to the list.*

*Please let us know if any names can come off this list.*



### **Prayers for our Beloved Deceased**

In your kindness, please pray for the souls of the  
deceased members of our parish.

**Marilyn Komrska**

**Dan Mertens, brother of Joan Mertens**

May all the faithful rest in the eternal  
embrace of our Risen Savior.



### **Pray for Those Serving in the Armed Forces**

**SPC US Army Kyle Bean**

Great-Nephew of Rich & Barbara Hantak

**1Lt US Army Joseph Chellis**

Grandson of John & Trudy Chellis

**SR. Ryan Clancy** - Son of Matt & Maria Clancy

**Staff Sgt. Carl Degenhart**

Son of Greg & Cheryl Degenhart

**Capt. Ed Hubbel** - Friend of the Rogers Family

**Pvt. 1st Class Eric Kremer**

Grandson of Ken & Sue Kremer

**Capt. Cole McAnany & Lt. Micah McAnany**  
great-nephew of Mark McAnany

**Avt. Brittany Leicht** - Daughter of Paul & Marie Leicht

**SGT. Aaron Marshall** - Grandson of Jerry Marshall

**Pvt. 1st Class Joshua Rockwell**

Grandsons of Jim & Sharon Rockwell

**Lt. Col. Jim Rund** - Cousin of Emily Schenk

**Ens. Daniel Stefans** - Grandson of Gus & Janice Berry

**Staff Sergeant Donovan Tracy**

Grandson of Marcia Dohack

**HN Justin Venable**

Son of Bob & Michele Venable

**Maj. Michael Villeneuve**

Son-in-law of Don & Gerianne Kopac



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Catholic Church commemorated the feast of Our Lady Of Guadalupe on December 12. This feast day and devotion to the Blessed Mother carries special significance for many immigrants in the United States. The USCCB committees on migration, pro-life activities, pastoral care of migrants, refugees, travelers, and racism issued a reflection on this feast, stating, "With one clear voice, we reaffirm our unwavering and unqualified recognition of the fact that each and every human life is sacred, that all persons are imbued by God with an inviolable dignity, which no earthly power can deny." They go on to stress that, at this time when some of our brothers and sisters are experiencing fear and anxiety, we must remember the words of Our Lady to Saint Juan Diego nearly 500 years ago, assuring him that we are all under her shadow and protection. Recent days have seen mass communications targeting people of color as well as disparaging comments about immigrant communities. U.S. bishops assert that the sinful ideologies of racism and xenophobia are antithetical to the core teachings of our Christian faith. No person formed by and committed to the Gospel of Life can harbor such views in good conscience.



## MMOC TITHING

**"Together we do great things"**

**Prison Performing Arts:** Program involves incarcerated youth and adults in the performing arts to inspire intellectual curiosity and personal development, and builds skills to support successful re-entry into society.

Thank you so much for your generous gift. Your contribution makes such a difference!

All thanks to support from people like you, PPA provides multidisciplinary arts programming to four state prisons, three juvenile justice and correctional centers, a Transitional Center, Division of Probation and Parole, and Alumni Theatre Company. Participants experience a drastically lower recidivism rate, and our impact is only growing.

PPA has the profound ability to help people share their stories and write next chapters. One audience member remarked, "If everybody in prison would get an opportunity like this, prisons would be empty."

Thank you again for your support,

John Wolbers  
Executive Director



## NURSES CORNER

**"Thank you for considering, THIS week, the following:**

**Blood Pressure Screening** will be offered after Masses this weekend. Keep track of 'how you are doing'. This time of year, we may experience increased mental/physical stress. Be proactive in getting the rest needed, maintaining healthy food and drink intake with lower sodium, fats, and sugars. Stay active!"

**Christmas Caroling:** Interested in joining with other parishioners for caroling on **Thursday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>**? The details are on sign up genius. The event is through the Health Ministry Commission. ALL PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME!

**HMC:** There will be no Health Ministry Commission meeting in December. We are encouraged to attend the **Advent Communal Reconciliation** service which will be on Tues, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

**Can you spare a towel?** I'm collaborating with a fellow nurse, who serves unhoused neighbors at St. Peter and Paul's meal program. She stated, "they need towels." She also stated that these should not be new. So, from your supply at home (please do not go shopping), we are grateful for a bath towel and washcloth from about 130 families. Please put them in the bookshelf bin in the foyer by the rectory office, by Tuesday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you! These and your loving prayers are so needed!

**SAVE THE DATE:** Our first ImpactLife blood drive of 2026 is Thursday, January 15th, 2pm - 6pm. Thank you!

Michele, your Parish Nurse



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**"And when you worship Jesus in the Eucharist, you receive from him the Holy Spirit and you find peace and joy. . . . Let us rediscover Eucharistic Adoration in our communities! Let us implore the grace to *hunger for God*, with an insatiable desire to receive what he has prepared for us."**  
*Pope Francis, Homily (2018)*

The Adoration schedule is as follows:

- **Tuesday 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM**
- **Wednesday 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM**
- **Thursday 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

For more information call **Anne Duncan** at **314-406-4100** or email: [anreilly1@outlook.com](mailto:anreilly1@outlook.com)



## THE FATIMA MINISTRY

This ministry is indeed a blessing for ALL who participate. Please consider signing up for one of the available weeks in **December and January** by going to SignUpGenius.

- **12/14 - Jerry Abrams**
- **12/21 - Pam Biehl**
- **12/28 - open**

If you are unable to pick up the Statue or you need more information call: Carolyn Messler (314) 712-2042 or Gina Norrenberns (314) 435-9107.

The Statue can be picked up in the St. Joachim room.

## CONTEMPLATIVE CORNER

*Contemplative blogger Brian Mitchell offers this reflection on the ever-present Christ:*

The Christ Light animates everything inviting us to share in the ineffable divine Energy of Being, of Source, of God. Christ is that which speaks to the core of where we are headed as a human race, as a cosmos.

[Our Advent task] is affirming, unfolding and coming to know that the Christ lies, longing to be born, within each of us. Christ is in all of creation. Christ is in us. Christ is moving in us now. Remember Jesus saying: "The one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these"? And "I am the vine and you are the branches"? We are much, much bigger than we think we are...

The Second Coming is happening in every moment. So look and listen to this moment – to that still small voice within – but without clutching at it, without clinging to it. When we cling to any moment, to any outcome, we destroy our relatedness with God. Stay open and hope enters. Relax; be gentle with yourself; laugh; slow down – think slow, move slow; work rhythmically; do one thing at a time; stay away from dualistic, either/or thinking; don't block the flow – the eternal flow of increasing consciousness. And, of course, meditate. Every day we will go a little bit further. Being open to support from the communion of saints, from our ancestors and from the angelic realm also helps.



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA MEMORIAL



In our Mary Mother tradition, we will be decorating our church and sanctuary with poinsettias. If you would like to honor your loved ones in a special way this Holy Season, please **fill out the bottom half of this form and return it along with your donation.**

Please make your check payable to Mary, Mother of the Church. Write "Christmas Memorial" on the memo line of the check. Place both the check and **this form** in an envelope marked "**Christmas Memorial**" and turn it into the parish office. You can put your envelope in the collection basket at Mass or you can mail it to us. If you put it in the basket, make sure it is in a marked envelope. You can also bring it into the office. If you wish, you can take home a poinsettia at the end of the Christmas Season.

A list will be inserted into the bulletin, at the end of this Holy Season, with the names all of those memorialized and the donors. Thank you.

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**PLEASE PRINT and return this form.**

**IN MEMORY OF:**

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**DONOR:**

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