

Mary, Mother of the Church

5901 Kerth Road, St. Louis MO 63128 - 314.894.1373

December 21, 2025

4th

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

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 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

A LETTER FROM DEACON RANDY

I am sure that all of us are familiar with Mary's "YES" to the angel Gabriel. We actually heard the Gospel sharing this story with us just yesterday. This event known as the Annunciation is part of the Joyful Mysteries when we say the rosary and an important event in God's plan of salvation. This event is well known to almost all Christians, but what do we know about Joseph's "YES" which we hear in today's Gospel. In many ways, Joseph is God's "silent partner." We know very little about Joseph. Joseph says very little in the Scriptures. Even in today's Gospel, Joseph doesn't say anything! However, he does everything: everything that God asked him to do. I have always been moved by the relationship that Joseph had with God. How many of us would be aware of God talking to us in a dream? How many of us would trust our whole future to something we saw or heard in a dream? Joseph heard and trusted in what he experienced and then took action, the action that God invited him to take. Joseph said "YES" to God's call.

We are less than a week from Christmas and only seconds and minutes from the rest of our lives. What is God inviting you and me to do right now to make Jesus present in our world today? Do we trust and believe Isaiah's prophecy that "the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel" which means that "God is with us." Do we believe that God is truly with us? Do we know that we are God's beloved children? Do we believe that each of us is cherished by our God? It

doesn't matter where we have been or what we have done in the past, our God who is love always loves us. There is nothing we can do to make God love us more or to make God love us less. God is love and we are loved always! I hope and pray that each of us will experience the true meaning of this Christmas season. Certainly, we can enjoy our families and our kids and grandkids but let's not forget the God who loves us and calls us to make Jesus present in our lives.

Hopefully, we, like Joseph will awake and do as the angel of the Lord had commanded him to do. May this last week of Advent be a special blessing for each and every one of us! May each of us experience our God with us!

Deacon Randy



Inclement Weather Policy

There is a change to our inclement weather policy: When Mehlville School district cancels classes due to weather conditions only, weekday morning Masses will only be live streamed. This will allow enough time for the parking lot to be cleaned. Our policy to close our campus for the day will still be in effect. 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. Weekend Masses will be held as usual, *but 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 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.



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.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, December 22

9:05 am AA Group - Rm 1,2
12:30 pm Pickleball - Gym
6:30 pm Pickleball - Gym
7:00 pm Men's Prayer Group - Chapel

Tuesday, December 23

9:00 am Adoration - Chapel
9:00 am Quilting
9:00 am Walk the gym
3:00 pm Care of Creation Mtg - Rm 4
5:30 pm CYC Basketball practice - Gym
7:00 pm Parish Council Mtg - Rm 3,4
8:30 pm Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, December 24

Parish Office Closes at Noon

9:00 am Adoration - Chapel
9:30 am Tai Chi - Gym (This maybe canceled)
1:30 pm AA Group - Rm 3,4

Thursday, December 25 *Parish Office Closed*

Friday, December 26 *Parish Office Closed*

Saturday, December 27

11:00 am Liturgy Dance Dress Rehearsal - Church
3:30 pm Confessions - Church

Sunday, December 28

12:30 am Ruzicka Baptism - Church
6:30 pm Rosary - Chapel



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 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.

*During this Christmas Season
may you be blessed
with the spirit of the season,
which is Peace,
the gladness of the season
which is Hope,
and the heart of the season
which is Love.*

**The staff at
Mary, Mother of the Church
wish your many blessings this
Christmas Season.**

*The office will close at noon on December 24th
and be closed all day December 25th & 26th.
We will also close at noon on December 31st
and all day January 1st.*

The Words of Everlasting Life

Readings for December 21 - December 28

- Sunday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b); Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24
- Monday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
- Tuesday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14; Lk 1:57-66
- Wednesday:** Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Lk 1:67-79
- Thursday:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a); Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11); Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c); Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- Friday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17; Mt 10:17-22
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Next Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1); Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



This Week's Mass Intentions

SUNDAY December 21

9:00 AM - Our Parish Family

11:00 AM - Jim Lober †

MONDAY December 22

8:30 AM - Frances Whitfield †

TUESDAY December 23

8:30 AM - Beth Holmes †

WEDNESDAY December 24

8:30 AM - **NO MASS**

4:00 PM - Jason Matthew Snyder †

7:00 PM - Rose Peiffer †

THURSDAY December 25

9:00 AM - Our Parish Family

11:00 AM - Michael Foley †

FRIDAY December 26

8:30 - Jim Krull †

SATURDAY December 27

4:30 PM - Don† & Joe Lingle †

SUNDAY December 28

9:00 AM - Jim Lober †

11:00 AM - Our Parish Family

† Denotes those who are deceased

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.



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.

- **12/21 - Pam Biehl**
- **12/28 - open**
- **1/4 - open**
- **1/11 - 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.

PSR COORDINATOR

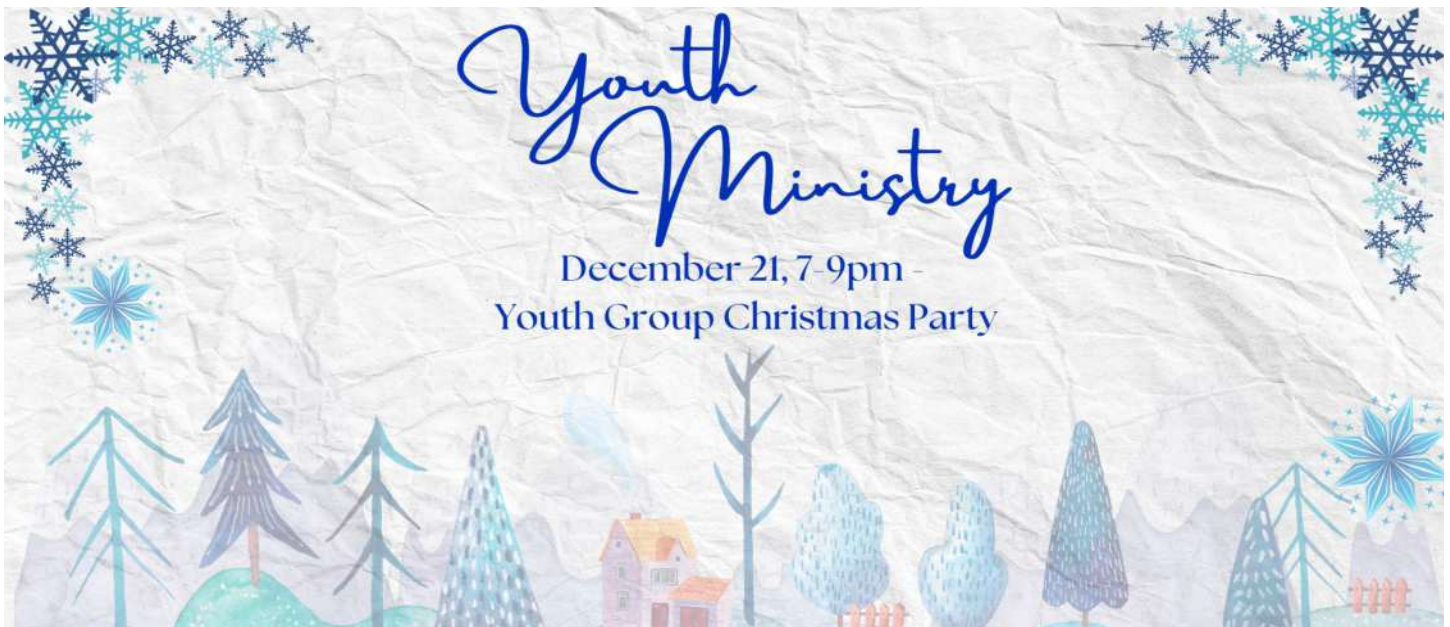
From the desk of Religious Education

As we come to the pinnacle of the holiday season, I find myself rejoicing over many things. I continue to feel excitement for my new role coordinating our PSR program, strengthened by the love and support I have received from so many families since being called to this assignment. Beyond that, I can celebrate good health and my awesome niece and nephews, among many other gifts. I hope you are able to recognize and rejoice in your own blessings!

Of course, one of the great lessons of the Christmas season is that deep and lasting joy comes from something deeper than any role, title, pleasure, or human relationship – however much happiness these things may bring us for a season. The true joy is in knowing that Jesus chose to be with us, and no matter what we have or don't have, or in what circumstance we find ourselves, Christ chooses at every moment to be present and to love us in those very circumstances.

Amid the holiday hustle and excitement, be sure to take some time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Talk about the faith of a relative as you hang their ornament on the tree. Sing Christmas carols and reflect on their meaning. Watch a telling of the Nativity story, or even better, read the story from Matthew or Luke's Gospel together as a family. Bake treats to share with an older relative or a lonely neighbor. Pray in thanks for meals, for gifts, for each other, for God's love!

Next PSR Class Jan 12 -- See you in 2026!



No Donuts this Sunday

Since there are so many activities this weekend before Christmas, we will not be serving donuts today, December 21.

Instead, come join other elves and decorate the Church after the 11:00 am Mass.

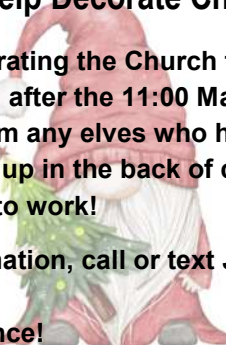


Help Decorate Church

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!



Tithing Report

November 2025 – 5 Sundays - \$1374 per agency

Carondelet Betterment Foundation/Food Pantry

Located near the Sisters of St Joseph Convent, the Carondelet Betterment Foundation supports the city neighborhood through multiple social programs and their food pantry.

Room at the Inn (Sisters of Divine Providence)

Provides shelter for homeless women and children, and a pathway to a better way of living.

Whole Kids Outreach

provides health and wellness services in five poverty stricken rural counties in southern Missouri.

Ignatian Volunteer Corp

Matches individuals looking for meaningful service opportunities with partner sites who serve the poor and marginalized in the St. Louis community.

Pink Ribbon Girls

Supports women with breast or other female cancers, offering meal delivery, transportation to treatment, and professional housecleaning services.

St. Josephine Bakhita Youth Program

Helps the parish youth program at St. Josephine Bakhita to pay for impoverished youth to attend a summer camp and retreat.

Blood of Christ Parish, Bolivia

Provides a missionary presence in the rural area of LaPaz including hot lunches, an infant daycare, a tutorial program, a senior program and some medical and mental healthcare.

Total Tithe for May \$9618



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.

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. 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:



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 or call Mary Ann Lause at 314-882-4566.



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

NURSES CORNER

We will host the ImpactLife Blood Drive on Thurs, Jan. 15th from 2 to 6PM. Many spots are available. Thank you for considering this lifesaving gift as we look ahead to the new year! Schedule your appointment any of the following ways: online - www.bloodcenter.org, click on the blood drive link on our parish website, OR call me (314) 894-1373 x. 206 or coordinator, Kevin Brady (314) 697-6007. If you have not donated whole blood since Nov. 20th, it will be 56 days, and you may be eligible. We hope to see you there! A bowl of hot chili awaits you!

THANK YOU! We are so grateful for our Blood Pressure screeners, both for last weekend's assistance AND for ALL our screeners' dedication over the past year! Regular blood pressure checks are basic, important pro-active steps in your health journey! Keep up the good work!

Another HUGE THANK YOU! So many of you donated towels and washcloths for neighbors at the St. Peter and Paul parish meal program, which were delivered on Dec. 16th. God bless you for your generosity.

May God's gifts surround YOU- Merry Christmas!
Michele, your Parish Nurse



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Pope Leo XIV has published his first major teaching document, "Dilexi Te," Latin for "I have loved you," and subtitled "On love for the poor." In the first chapter, he affirms that, while love for God "is one with love for the poor," today, new and "more dangerous" forms of poverty are emerging, including the lack of material resources, land, rights and freedom. Poverty is created by unjust laws and systems that "favor the strongest," allowing a small number of individuals to hoard resources from our communities. As a result, we are seeing billionaires grow wealthier while more and more people struggle to get by. Pope Leo calls for a conversion away from these structures and attitudes that are "centered on the accumulation of wealth" at all costs "even at the expense of others." The pope goes on to state, "In a world where the poor are increasingly numerous, we paradoxically see the growth of a wealthy elite, living in a bubble of comfort and luxury, almost in another world compared to ordinary people. This means that a culture still persists--sometimes well-disguised--that discards others without even realizing it and tolerates with indifference that millions of people die of hunger or survive in conditions unfit for human beings."

As faithful Catholics, we must not turn away from those who are suffering in our own community and worldwide. We have a duty to speak out on their behalf and to seek just solutions to these injustices.

"Meals"

The "Meals" ministry scope is expanding to include "Caregiver meals". Initially, this ministry was created to provide seven meals to a parishioner returning home from the hospital or rehab after an illness, injury or surgery. We are now going to expand that to provide meals to "in-home caregivers", once or twice weekly, for as long as the caregiver would like to have this additional help.

We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to provide a meal once a week, once every other week, once a month--whatever you would like to do. These meals can be homemade or purchased restaurant meals. Once we build a group of volunteers who would like to participate/provide meals, we will contact you about the scheduling. If you have questions, please contact: Susan Krieger at (314-578-5602) or Michele Venable at (314-894-1373 ex 206).



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



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,
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,
Clare Ernst, 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, **Clare Ernst**,
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,
Loretta Lampen, Fran Mazanes & Jeanette Sloan,
Alice Weis

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

Names in bold print are new to the list.



Prayers for our Beloved Deceased

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

Mary K Spencer

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

CONTEMPLATIVE CORNER

*Poet Sara Etgen-Baker reminds of the silence that
preceded the great Christmas song of hope:*

1428-THE FIRST NOEL

The angels did not sing. Not at first.
Their silence split the sky like frost on stone,
a pause between the star's slow burst
and the breath that would become the song.

Noel, they'd say, but first—the dark,
the shepherd's fire gnawing at the night,
the lamb's pulse quick beneath his palm,
the weight of wool, the itch of straw,
the way a man might kneel
without knowing why.

Then~
the air grown thick with wings,
the cry like wine poured from a height,
the name that broke the nameless dark:
Noel, Noel, the root, the spark,
the falling, catching, light.

Now we hum it, clean and bright,
but the first Noel was half a scream~
the sound a world makes when it tears
and finds the seam is lined with gold.

*May our silence make a way for all the promises of this
joyful season. Merry Christmas from the MMOC
Contemplative Core Team! Contact us at
contemplative@marymother.org or 314-578-0062*

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2026

THERE IS
ONE BODY
AND
ONE SPIRIT,
JUST AS YOU ARE CALLED TO THE
ONE HOPE
OF YOUR CALLING

EPHESIANS 4:4



JAN 26, 2026 @ 7PM
ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH
12136 OLIVE BLVD, ST. LOUIS, MO 63141



Join others from our local St. Louis Communities in prayer for Christian unity.
Reception will follow the prayer service.
RSVP is optional but appreciated. For more information or to RSVP email:
jamescomminellis@archstl.org



The feast day of St. Stephen,
First Martyr is December, 26th

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Did you know?

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Did you know that the "Library" in the church vestibule is no longer accepting books?

We appreciate your thoughtfulness in giving books to us but we are not able to use any more. We don't know who to give them to so the only option we have is to recycle them. We hate to do that and we know that you hate for us to do that.

Please, please do not put books on the shelves in either vestibule.

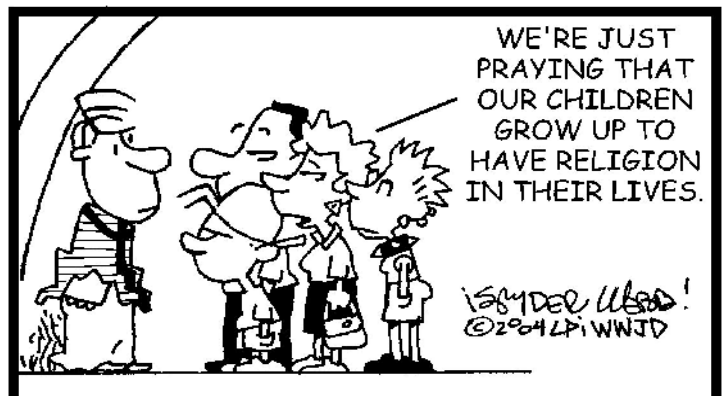
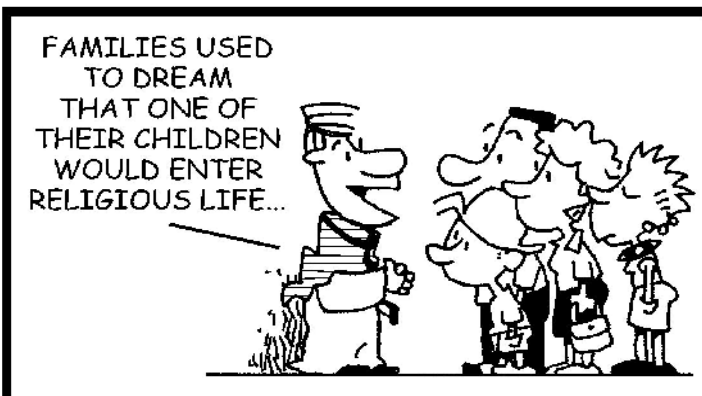
Thank you for your understanding.

HOLY FAMILY

Concert at St. Louis Cathedral

MO State University Chorale will be performing at St. Louis Cathedral on Friday, January 9th at 7:30 pm.
Tickets are general admission:\$20
Student: \$10 at the door with valid Student ID.

For more information go to:
cathedralconcerts.org or call
314-533-7662



Annual Christmas Movie Afternoon

Mary Mother Social Commission is hosting our second annual Christmas movie afternoon this 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



We welcome all families to attend our Feast of the Holy Family Mass at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 28th.

Father Steve will be inviting all the children to come down to the altar and join the Holy Family during the meditation song 'What Child Is This'. Children of all ages are invited to participate.

Our Liturgical Dancers will be joining in the celebration. This is a great opportunity to watch them enhance our Mass with dance and prayer.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Anita Anton at 314-892-9006 or email her at antonam1003@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at our Mass!

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.

-----CUT-----

PLEASE PRINT and return this form.

IN MEMORY OF:

DONOR:



