Mary Immaculate Parish

716 E. Washington St. Kirksville, MO 63501

December 17, 2023 Laetare Sunday

Office hours 8am to 3pm Mon-Fri 660-665-2466 (voice) www.miparish.org 80-AD-BVMARY (text)

Msgr. Marion Makarewicz, V.F. Pastor Monsignor.Mak@miparish.org

Lynn Carter, OFS secretary@miparish.org Kindly submit bulletin items for publication by 3pm on the Monday prior. Thank you!

Mary Immaculate School 660-665-1006 **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Friday and Saturday at 4:30 p.m. in the church. **Baptism**

Contact the Parish Center for requirements. Marriage

Six months notice required for preparation.

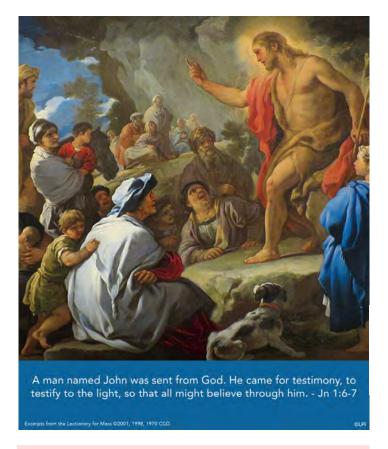
Communion to the Sick

Please contact the Parish Center. Also, please inform the office if a parishioner is in the hospital or nursing home.

Mary Immaculate Catholic Cemetery 615 S. Jamison St. Contact the Parish Center for information.

Accessible Entrance to the Church

There is accessible parking and a ramp entrance into the church at the back of the school. Approach is through the alley which opens onto New St. next to the old rectory garage.



Welcome to Mary Immaculate Parish!

We extend a warm welcome to all who attend our church. We hope our parish community will nourish your faith and that you will share your special gifts with us. Your prayers, your presence, and your talents are most welcome. If you are settling into Mary Immaculate full time, please register! You may contact the parish office, find forms in the rack at the side entrance to the church, or look for the "New to Our Parish" tab at www.miparish.org

Thank you for worshiping with us!



St. Rose of Lima 911 Rombauer Ave. Novinger, MO 63559



Catholic Newman Center 709 S. Davis St.

Kirksville, MO 63501 (660) 665-4357

Msgr. Marion Makarewicz, V.F., Pastor Lynn Carter OFS, Secretary and Safe Fr. Cesar Alejandro Anicama, Associate Pastor

Deacons Dave Ream OFS, Chris Korte, & Edwin Pacheco, Assistants to the **Pastor**

Hispanic Ministry

Deacon Edwin Pacheco

Parish Staff

Environment/VIRTUS Coordinator Mary Wolken, Bookkeeper Chris Koch, PSR Coordinator

Newman Center

Deacon Chris Korte, Director Fr. Boniface Kasita Nzabonimpa, Chaplain

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Katie Everette, President Ben Seedorf, Vice President Sabra Adams, Secretary Sandra Novinger Alayna McKim **Damian Schulte Pat Williams** Matt Wolken

Mary Immaculate School Ann Gray, Principal

Calendar of Events

Monday, December 18—Late Advent Weekday

1:00pm Drive Through Drop Off for PAC, out front

6:30pm Scouts, Cafeteria and Gym

Tuesday, December 19—Late Advent Weekday

4:00pm Bible Study, Parish Center

Wednesday, December 20—Late Advent Weekday

4:00pm Social Concerns Commission, Parish Center

Thursday, December 21—Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Friday, December 22— Late Advent Weekday 4:30pm Confessions, Church

Saturday, December 23—Saint John of Kanty, Priest

4:30pm Confessions, Church

Sunday, December 24–Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 25-The Nativity of the Lord

The Parish Center will be closed from December 25 through January 1 and will reopen on January 2

Readings For The Week

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes

5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-

13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3

-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3

-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-

45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5,

6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4 -5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66 **Next Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/

Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Mass Intentions: December 18-25, 2023

Mary Immaculate

Monday	No Mass
Monday	140 Mass

Tuesday 5:30pm † Walter, Wanda, & Rita Gladbach

Wednesday 7:00am † George Higgins Thursday 8:00am † Roma Eller

Friday 7:00am Fr. Alex Anicama (healing)

Saturday 5:30pm † Arthur D'Souza

Sunday 9:00am Pat Lehr & Linda Boland (healing)

11:00am For the People

Christmas Midnight For the People

11:00am † Don Deiters

St. Rose

Sunday 7:30am † Clem & Irene Rock
Christmas 9:00am † Carmelita McVay

Newman Center

Christmas Eve 4:00pm † Andy and Scotty Mihalevich



Be sure to attend one **purple** Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent, and one **red** Mass for Christmas.

Stewardship News

Budget Goal per Month	\$ 52,083
Weekly Goal	\$ 12,020
November Offertory	\$ 52,234
Difference	+\$ 151
Week 1	\$ 17,250
Week 2	\$ 6,523
Week 3	\$ 9 <i>,743</i>
Week 4	\$ 3,827
Electronic Transfers	\$ <i>14,732</i>



Adoration on Fridays from 7:45am until 6pm



The next regular meeting (second Thursday monthly) of the William Eagen Council will be January 11 at 7:30pm in the cafeteria.



The sanctuary lamp is offered for a special intention by Barb Williams

December Birthdays

12/1 Nathan Lero12/2 Jonathan BarhorstNatasha GaughRobert MollickJoshua Pacheco

Penelope Wilson 12/3 Mary Antoine

> Tom Hawkins Lysle Meyer

Mike Early

12/4 Nicole Fleak
Karen Hutchens
Jackson Vogt

12/7 Luke Sarkar Jennifer Wilson

12/8 Lucas Sweet

12/9 Ian DeLeeuw
Ann Gray
Loretta McClanahan
Steven Webb
Jusiel-Urielle Zayembwa

12/10 Jessica Jones

Roger Kellison Mary Mangini

12/11 Sophia Maag

Doug Nichting

Edward Schneider

Case Swisher

Olivia Williams

12/12 Chris Mansfield

12/13 Kate Speak

12/14 Emma Palumbo

12/15 Bess Willis

12/16 Pat Vanderhoof

12/17 Elijah Elmlinger Christian Kilmer Teresa Peters

12/18 Dale Schenewerk

12/19 Steve Kuttenkuler Terese Roberts

12/20 Ashley Delaney Heather Erickson-Davis Mary Jane Kiefer

12/21 Margie Kurz Vivian Wilson

12/23 Patrick Nolan
Damian Schulte

12/24 Lisa Dahlman Harry Davis

12/25 Jesus of Nazareth

12/27 David Fleak Katy Korte

12/28 Kiersten Marek Arletta Nelson

12/29 Bridgette Hays

Kevin Head Garrett McKim Bonita Schmitz

12/30 Kimberly DeLeon

Chad Miller Clarisse Nlandu Susan Speak

Lucy Tiedemann
Will Tiedemann

Congratulations to these people! If you have December anniversary or birthday and you are not on the list, or if you prefer no acknowledgement be printed in the bulletin, please contact the Parish Center.

This year is the 800th anniversary of the very first nativity scene, set up by St. Francis of Assisi in Greccio, Italy. To commemorate the occasion, we invite parishioners to lend us their creches for a **special display in the parish**

center after the 9am and 11am Masses this weekend. Donuts and coffee will be moved from the cafeteria to the parish center, and will be offered after both Masses.



December Wedding Anniversaries

Damon and Paula Swisher, 11 years on 12/1 Glenn and Vicky Wehner, 46 years on 12/10 George and Diane Schulte, 52 years on 12/18 Brent and Susan Speak, 24 years on 12/18 Charlie and Tina Zeman, 37 years on 12/20 Steve and Kit Hadwiger 38 years on 12/26 Jay and Vicki Benson, 30 years on 12/31 Todd and Kristina Palumbo, 30 years on 12/31

Christmas Special Collection
for seminarian education and infirm priests

During this holy time of giving,

During this holy time of giving, please remember our clergy.

Christ was born to share God's good news. Today, our Catholic clergy dedicate their lives to sharing this same message with the world.

Your gift will help us educate our seminarians and provide for the needs of our infirm priests.

Look for your envelope in the December 15 issue of The Catholic Missourian



The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest.

Please contact the parish center to join a group forming to pray for Fr. Alex!



There will be no walking rosary in December. Watch this space for January details!

Advent Reflections Part 1: The Annunciation

The following, reprinted with permission, is the transcript of a podcast author Joe Benevento recorded for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, based on the gospels' portrayal of St. Joseph. The CCCNMO blog page where you can find these reflections and other news is at cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/category/news/

What Catholic doesn't love the traditional Christmas narrative, from the Annunciation straight through to the Three Wise Men? I worry, though, that some Catholics enjoy that narrative the way they enjoy "A Christmas Carol," or "It's a Wonderful Life."

Those fictions feature the appearance of angels, or spirits visiting in dreams, just like the Bible story. If someone in real life told us they had been visited by an angel or that they were changing their lives based on a dream, we might question their sanity. Fiction is different though; works labeled fiction explicitly tell us that "this didn't really happen"; in fact, fiction featuring ghosts or angels is usually categorized as "Fantasy." Yet the story of Mary and Joseph, "really did happen," and we need to appreciate how big a distinction that is.

Unlike Scrooge, the Virgin Mary was real. She was a young Jewish woman, recently contracted in marriage to a man named Joseph. Catholics believe that Mary was conceived without original sin, but could Mary understand the depth of that reality? Joseph was a simple craftsman, who expected a very ordinary marriage and family life with Mary. Suddenly, Mary learns she is to birth the long awaited Messiah. No lesser figure than the Archangel Gabriel delivers this message. How would that not overwhelm an actual human being? Yet Mary remains composed and delivers a beautiful affirmation of her willingness to remain God's servant. How many of us, though, really reflect on how astonishing and brave her reaction was?

And if what Mary does isn't incredible enough, consider Joseph. When he learns Mary is pregnant, and knows he isn't the father, he's naturally upset, but kind enough not to want Mary exposed. But how did Joseph learn of Mary's pregnancy? It had to have been before she was "showing," so it must have been Mary herself who told him. When Mary

told Joseph she was pregnant though still a virgin he didn't believe her. Why would he? He was a real person, not a fictional character and a pregnant virgin was not possible. Yet the Bible tells us an unnamed angel (Joseph doesn't merit an Archangel) reveals to him, within a dream, that all is well. And so he takes Mary into his home as his wife.

We should reflect on this truth. In real life, who believes something just because they dreamed it? As in fiction, once we wake from a dream, we conclude, "that didn't really happen." In the Bible, it seems that people named Joseph are expected to accept dreams as something more. But if Joseph is to be accepted as a real person, then his decision to stay with Mary is almost more incredible than the miraculous truth of the Virgin birth itself. God, for whom all things are possible, saw to that birth, but Joseph, an ordinary man with no halo yet, has to utilize his trust in Mary and the assurances of a dream angel to decide he should stick with the woman he loves. It's an amazing feat of courage for which Joseph has never really been fully celebrated.

In fantasy fiction, we accept angels and other supernatural elements readily. The Gospels aren't fiction, though. So Joseph's acceptance isn't just something some author decided for him; but rather a life-changing choice based on faith in both the Most High and his wife Mary. Mary and Joseph begin to earn the title the "Holy Family" when Mary accepts God's plan, and works to convince her husband that all is righteous and blessed. They begin to become the Holy Family when they are willing to accept what seems like far-fetched fiction, as the reality that will challenge and bless the rest of their lives together.

Fellowship Carry-In Breakfast

January 7, 2023 in the school gym after 9am Mass

Carry-in breakfast food to share with your fellow parishioners. All are welcome even if you attended another Mass.





This note was left in the church: My name is Deborah and I just wanted to again thank you for Saving My Life Time & Time Again even if you had no idea that

you had. Your church is full of Love and full of faith. Thank You for keeping my faith alive. May you have Blessed Holidays~ Love, Deborah.

We have four local benevolence clients named Deborah, but really, I have no idea who this might be. It is a marvelous reminder that what we do to "the least of these," we do until Jesus Himself.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him." The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

Dec. 27



6:00 p.m.

CATHOLIC MEN'S ACCELERATOR

MI PARISH

Unity in Christ Igniting Growth

Last meeting of the year. Come celebrate your spiritual successes and discuss your goals for 2024. Let us unite in spiritual growth, encourage virtue, and empower leaders in our parish.

Location: 17027 State Hwy B, Kirksville

RSVP (appreciated): mberkus@catholicaccelerator.com

Christmas Masses

Christmas is on a Monday this year. Please attend one Mass as usual for the 4th Sunday of Advent, and then choose one of the below Masses for Christmas:

4pm Sunday at the Newman Center

Midnight at Mary Immaculate

9am Monday at St. Rose

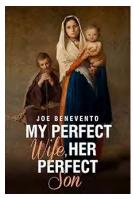
11am Monday at Mary Immaculate

Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day) also falls on a Monday, and it is not a holy day of obligation this year. Mass will be offered at 10am.



Please continue to pray for Fr. Alex as he recovers from a serious car accident.





Parishioner Joe Benevento has had a new book come out in 2023, "My Perfect Wife, Her Perfect Son," a sometimes comic but

always very Catholic and reverent account of the Holy Family through the viewpoint of St. Joseph. The book has been reviewed and endorsed by a number of Catholic writers and theologians, including Father Patrick Gilger of Loyola U, in Chicago and Dr. Hosffman Ospino of Boston College and has over 30 5 star reviews on Amazon. Recently, Joe committed to contributing 100% of all his author royalties on the novel in perpetuity to Catholic **Charities of Central and Northern** Missouri. They are now working with him to try to increase awareness about the novel. Joe will be doing a series of Advent Reflections, which Catholic Charities will air as a podcast. They are especially hopeful that parishioners throughout our area will purchase the novel as an Advent read and/or Christmas gift. More than a third of the novel covers the events in the traditional Biblical Christmas narrative, while the remainder is an imaginative look at what the Holy Family's life might have been like right up to just before Christ's ministry. The book is available through amazon or any number of online venues.



Bishop McKnight's Prayer Intention for December: For the family: that all fathers, mothers and children of our community may follow the example of the Holy Family in practicing the virtues of family life and be bound more strongly together in the bonds of charity.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society. and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec. 20 – Christmas Parties, 9am Early Out, 12:30 pm 2nd Quarter Ends

Dec. 21-Jan. 3 – Christmas Break, No School

Our Parish School of Religion (PSR) classes are for 4 year olds to 8th graders who are in the public school or homeschooled. Classes are held at Mary Immaculate School and are from 6:30-7:45 pm on Wednesday nights. Classes will resume **January 17.** If you have a child that you would like to attend, please contact me at chris.koch@miparish.org ~Chris Koch, PSR Coordinator



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study Group meets at 4-5:15pm

BIBLESTUDY on Tuesday afternoons in the parish center. All are welcome to attend. Come as you are—no prep necessary! During Advent, we are using the Catholic Stewardship Renewal small group study published by the diocese. For more info, please contact Sharon at smcgahan@truman.edu or 660 -988-7012.

The Franciscan Adventure study group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 3pm in the parish center, to discuss Franciscan Spirituality using A Knight and a Lady by Bret Thoman OFS. We are done for December and will resume January 11.



Our food collection weekend for December will be

at all Masses this weekend with the **Drive Through on** Monday the 18th from 1-2pm in front of the school. Our requested items are canned fruit and jellies. As always, you may bring donations to the parish center any time during open hours. The November collection netted 600lbs!

Please Pray For Our Sick Loved Ones

Father Alex Anicama, Theresa Armentrout, Diana Baldassaro, aunt of Darice Todd, Debi Barlow, Gayle Barnard, sister of Dale Schenewerk, Emily Bartholomew, daughter of Clive Renfroe, Laura Bell, Mary Maye Bennett, Sheryll Bentley, Sam Berendzen, Deacon Ken & Marianne Berry, Dan Bishop, Amanda Bobzien, daughter of Mike and Mary Carol Early, Paula Brawner, Troy Bruner, son of Denise & Mike Bruner, Roger Butt, Verla Choitz, sister of Carol McCoy, Beverly Compton, Raquel Cooley, friend of V.R. Hatfield, Reid Cowan, Kristina Crockett, Don Crosby, Carol Daugherty, Adam Davis, Carol Davis, Willa Deiters, Mary & Scott Detring, Larry Dieker, brother of Sandy Lammers, Larry Duarte, Janice Durflinger, sister to Maxin Martin, Autumn (Sparks) Early, daughter-in-law of Mike and Mary Carol Early, Elsie Eddy, Ann Ferguson, Sheldon Fessler, friend of the Behnen family, Annie Fisher, Amy Fleshman, Paula Foster, Mike Fox, Chuck Freeman family and Francine Freeman, family of Maxine Martin, Amy Frye, Steve Frye, Pamela Gobier, niece of Bobbi Hogenson, Anne Gramling, Flo Griesbaum, sister of Sr. Ruth Ann Klauser, Caleb Griffel, Beverly & Gary Grubrich, Bill Hannant, Susan Hellmer, sister of Sandy Lammers, Tracy Herman, sister of Marsha Jones, Tony Hettinger, Don Hoerner, Bobbi Hogenson, Kathy Howard, Patsy Jones, Dr. Charles Kline, Steve Koch, o brother of Chris Koch and Susan Foster, Thomasa Koch, sister-in-law of Chris Koch and Susan Foster. Karen Konarski, Gannon Kriegshauser, great nephew of Mark & Judy Blacksmith, Pat Lehr, Faye Leppin, aunt of Lucky Wertin, Tim Lewin, Rita Ludden, Virginia Maag, Logan Maher, Mary Martin, Alayna McKim, Maureen Militzer, friend of the Kurz family, Judi Misale, Annie Morin, Glenn Neuweg, Gay Nichting, Maria Nolting, Jo Ann Pearce, Jerry Platt, Aleksandra Pulsucki, Sherri Ray, Terra Razo, Dan Reents, nephew of Vicky Wehner, Florence Rene, Clive Renfroe, Terese Roberts, Rick Sayre, Donna Schmitt, Bernard Schreck, father of Marsha Jones, Joe Schreck, cousin of Marsha Jones, Dorothy Selby, Carolyn Shaffer, Dawn Shaw, daughter of Willa Deiters, Judy Skiggs, friend of Bess Willis, Madonna Sorell, Jim & JoAnne Spalding, Tim Spencer, Kristin Swann, daughter of Robert Graves, Tammy Tarr, Kaitlin (Early) Taylor, Leonard Tonrick, father of Sarah Curtis, Kyle Wallace, Susan Wallin, mother of Melissa Passe. Glenn Wehner, Bryant Western, grandson of Bob and Mary Jane Kiefer, Elisabeth Wiedermann, mother of Andrea Davis, Barb Williams, Delana Wilson, Rod Yuskis, Junior Zuccarini, brother of Elsie Eddy, Brian Zweimiller, brother-in-law of Brian and Darice Todd.

Please contact the parish center to have a name added to or removed from the prayer list.



Christmas Decorations

If you would like to donate money for Christmas decorations *in memory of* or *in honor of* someone, please fill out this form, put the form and money in a sealed envelope, and on the outside of the envelope write "Christmas Decorations." Then drop the envelope in the collection basket or bring it by the parish center by **this Sunday**. Thank you!

	Given in Memory of:	
6	Given in Honor of:	
	From:	
	<u></u>	_





I will rejoice heartily in the Lord, my being exults in my God; for he has clothed me with garments of salvation, and wrapped me in a robe of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Isaiah 61:10

REJOICE! It is through our relationship with God that our hearts are filled with joy. Share the joy of God's love with others as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

114-116 N. Franklin, Kirksville, MO 63501 (660) 665-7818

Hightower Wholesale

511 North Marion Street Kirksville, MIssouri 63501

Phone: 660-665-4698

Adair County Veterinary Clinic

Ph: 660-665-6696 Fax: 660-665-6383



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