



# *Saint Ferdinand*

## **CATHOLIC CHURCH**

### **ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

#### **WEEKEND MASSES**

**St. Ferdinand Church**

Saturday 4:30 pm

Sunday 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 am,  
5:00 pm

#### **WEEKDAY MASSES**

**St. Ferdinand Church**

Monday - Friday

6:00 am, 8:00 am

Saturday 8:00 am

#### **HOLYDAY/HOLIDAY MASS**

Check inside for details

### **CONFESSIONS**

Saturday, 3:00 to 4:00 pm  
or by appointment

### **ADORATION CHAPEL**

Daily from 9 am - 6 pm

Sundays 9 am - 5 pm

Tuesdays 9 am - 10 pm

Wednesday, Thursday 9 am - 9 pm

### **FISH FRY**

Fridays 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

314-839-5312

### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HELP LINE**

314-289-6101 EXT. 2216

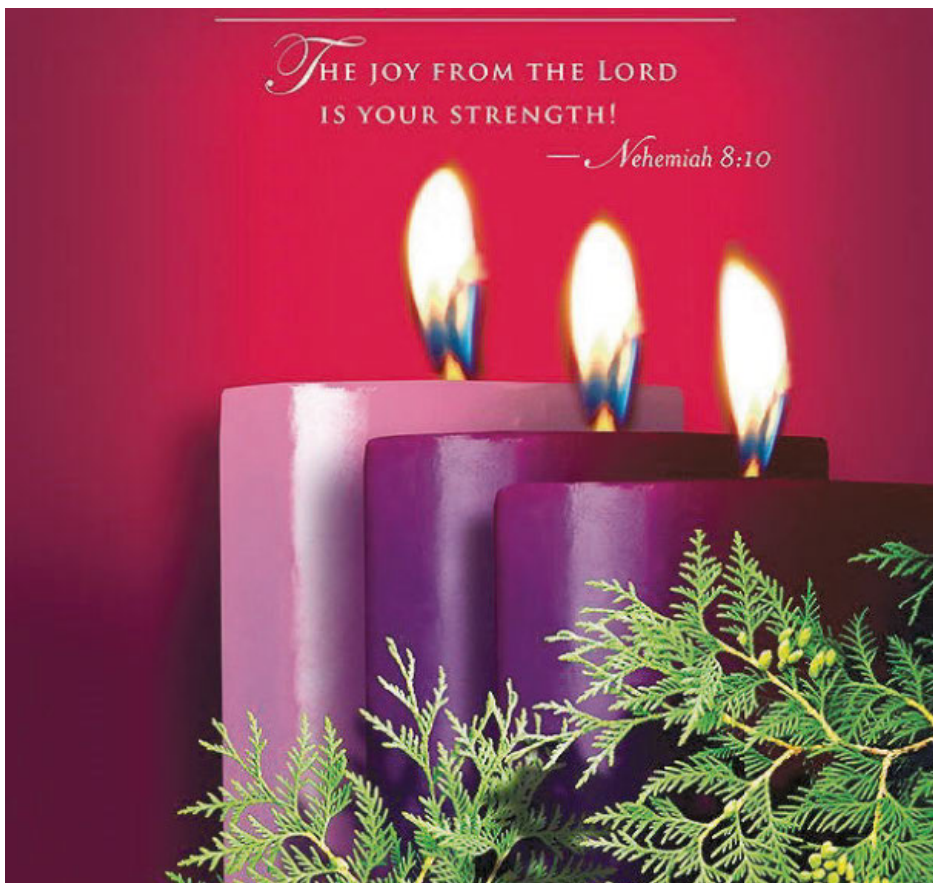
### **ALL SAINTS ACADEMY - ST. FERDINAND**

1735 Charbonier Rd, Florissant, MO

63031 | 314-921-2201

[www.allsaintsacademystl.org](http://www.allsaintsacademystl.org)

Anna Davis, Principal



### **PARISH CLERGY**

Pastor

Associate Pastor

Sacramental Minister

Permanent Deacon

Permanent Deacon

Permanent Deacon

Retired Deacon

Rev. Lijo Kallarackal

Rev. Nicholas Muenks

Rev. Joseph Banden

Phil Hutsler

Jack Hofmann

Gerry Lauterwasser

Pete Gounis

[frlijo@stferdinandstl.org](mailto:frlijo@stferdinandstl.org)

[frmuenks@stferdinandstl.org](mailto:frmuenks@stferdinandstl.org)

[frbanden@stferdinandstl.org](mailto:frbanden@stferdinandstl.org)

[deaconphil@stferdinandstl.org](mailto:deaconphil@stferdinandstl.org)

[hofmann101@att.net](mailto:hofmann101@att.net)

[loonus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:loonus@sbcglobal.net)

[pegounis@usa.net](mailto:pegounis@usa.net)

### **PARISH STAFF**

Director of Music

Office Manager

Parish Secretary

Youth Minister

Youth Minister

Mike Miloshewski

Dana Wiele

Jan Keenoy

Emily Will

James Stallings

[mike.miloshewski@gmail.com](mailto:mike.miloshewski@gmail.com)

[dwiele@stferdinandstl.org](mailto:dwiele@stferdinandstl.org)

[jkeenoy@stferdinandstl.org](mailto:jkeenoy@stferdinandstl.org)

[smdpyouthgroup18@gmail.com](mailto:smdpyouthgroup18@gmail.com)

[smdpyouthgroup18@gmail.com](mailto:smdpyouthgroup18@gmail.com)

**1765 Charbonier Rd, Florissant, MO 63031**

**314-837-3165 | 314-837-5799 (FAX)**

**[www.stferdinandstl.org](http://www.stferdinandstl.org)**

**[stferdinandchurch@stferdinandstl.org](mailto:stferdinandchurch@stferdinandstl.org)**



## From Father Lijo...

Since we have combined Masses at only one location, I heard many questions about what we are going to do with the buildings and the properties of St. Sabina and St. Martin. Many have asked about the things in the church and other items in the building. Some of them wanted to take things home. What I want to say at this time is, we are keeping all the property and buildings, and maintaining them. Both St. Sabina and St. Martin de Porres church and all the properties belong to our parish. It is our responsibility to maintain them, and we use them as needed. We try to bring and use the things from both locations at Ferdinand.

We continue to use both the churches. We are still doing funerals and other sacraments, if need be, at the churches. The school building at Sabina is used by the PSR on Tuesdays of the week. The rest of the place is available for rent if anyone wants to use it. At Martin's, the school building is used by many groups at different times. The Archdiocesan Shared Accounting is leasing four classrooms, homeschool co-op is using the rest of the classrooms on Fridays of the week, on Sundays Syro-Malabar Catholic Church (one of the Eastern Catholic churches) is using the classrooms for their PSR and they use the church for their celebration of Holy Eucharist. Our athletic association is using the gym at Martin's and there are occasional renters for the gym and other facilities. Our youth group is holding their gathering there. The Bommarito Auto Group is using our parking lot for their employees' parking. Thus, our facilities are being well used and we need to maintain and keep those properties in good condition until we make a decision on those properties.

Our offices are combined at the St. Ferdinand location. So please direct all your inquiries and phone calls to that office and approach us anytime you need anything. You will find the phone numbers and email addresses of the staff and clergy on the front page of the bulletin. If you need us to do anything more, let me know.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete* Sunday. Graduate, a Latin word which means "rejoice", is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand. This Sunday, too, the gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist.

Advent season is an invitation to set your mind off the stresses of the year. We can take our focus off the crazy hustle of the season and the sadness that could accompany the different ways some of us may be choosing to observe the holiday season this year. Even when things feel chaotic, we can and should find peace in Jesus. Advent is a chance to focus our thoughts on the gift God has given us in His son Jesus who stepped down from heaven and took the form of a man so that we might believe.

So, there are multiple reasons for joy. There is joy in looking forward to the annual celebration of Christmas, but there is also joy in recalling the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas. The joy is heightened because he was born to save us from our sins. The joy also extends to anticipation of the second Coming, either at the end of physical life or of the end of the world, the time when believers will be given the crown of righteousness and a place in the Father's house to dwell with God and His angels and saints for all eternity. Let us therefore, without wasting time, prepare for the great feast of the remembrance of our Lord's coming to be with us as one of us.

Fr. Lijo Kallarackal



### Christmas Mass Schedule

**CHRISTMAS VIGIL, DECEMBER 24**

**4:30 PM and 10:00 PM**

**The Choir will begin singing carols at 3:45**

**CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25**

**8:00 AM AND 10:00 AM**

### ADORATION CHAPEL

See the bulletin cover for the hours the Chapel is open for adoration. Listed below are the hours where an assigned adorer is needed.

#### CHAPEL HOURS NEEDING VOLUNTEERS

**Sunday, 5-6 PM**

**Monday, 3-4 PM**

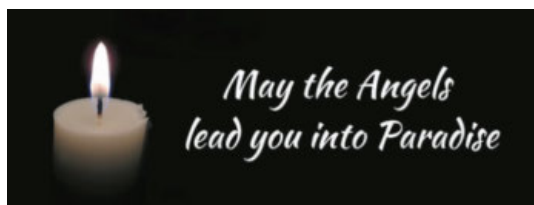
**Wednesday, 7-8 PM**

#### EXTRA SUBS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED

Please prayerfully consider spending an hour with Jesus.

If you would like to sign up to take an hour in the chapel, contact Debbie at 314-258-4112 for weekday hours or Stephanie at 314-330- 3239 for weekend hours.





Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

**PAM GRADY**, formerly of St. Sabina

May God welcome her home and comfort her family and friends in their time of sorrow. May her soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

## EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR

To help us grow in our love and appreciation for the "true bread come down from Heaven", you are invited to come to the Eucharistic Holy Hour on the second Wednesday of each month. Together we ask our Lord Jesus to touch our hearts and deepen our understanding of His Presence with us.

Our next Holy Hour will be Wednesday, January 10, 6:30 - 7:30 pm (prior to the children's Advent Concert) in the church. Each month we will be lead in reflective prayer ending with Benediction. Please try to join with fellow parishioners in this special time of prayer.



## Jesus and the Eucharist Study—ADDED SESSIONS!

We have had a great response to the video series, Jesus and the Eucharist. Many people have asked about offering it on a different day or in the evening.

Deacon Gerry is facilitating the viewing of the videos at both 9:30 a.m. (after Mass & Rosary) and again at 7:00 p.m. in the Duchesne Hall on Tuesdays

It will conclude on January 30. More information will follow.

## Readings for the Week of December 17

### 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



## DECEMBER 10, 2023

Envelopes ..... \$11,965  
Loose ..... \$775  
Online ..... \$11,713  
**TOTAL:** ..... \$24,4532

Assumption ..... \$100  
Chapel..... \$10  
Christmas ..... \$285  
Christmas Flowers..... \$835  
Disaster Relief..... \$75  
Easter for Retire Priests..... \$100  
Immaculate Conception ..... \$2,051  
Kenrick Glennon Seminary ..... \$250  
Maintenance Fund ..... \$80  
Memorial Fund ..... \$10  
Permanent Diaconate ..... \$100  
Rectory Project..... \$200  
Solemnity of Mary ..... \$91  
St. Vincent de Paul ..... \$553  
Thanksgiving Day ..... \$60  
Tuition Assistance ..... \$550

**Please make all checks payable to St. Ferdinand.**

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to the people who made contributions to the parish this past week.

Place your envelopes in the collection box at the entrance to church by the baptismal font, the Parish Office door slot, by mail, bill-pay through your bank or signing up for our Online Giving through our website.

**If you are an online giver and no longer wish to receive the monthly envelope packets, please call Dana at the Parish Office at 314-837-3165**

## ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving is a convenient way to give to the church

It's easy to sign up at: [www.osvhub.com/stferdinandstl](http://www.osvhub.com/stferdinandstl)

Simply click on "create an account". Then, enter the needed information and submit. It's that simple to give anytime and from anywhere using a computer, Smartphone or table. It can be used for recurring gifts to the church, or send a one-time gift.

The merger is completed with the St. Sabina online giving. You can now access your St. Ferdinand account using the same login information as you did to sign in the St. Sabina online giving.

St. Martin de Porres family will have to sign up through St. Ferdinand as we have a different provider than you currently use.





***We continue our Journey of Faith through the RCIA process.***

**On December 21 we will have a potluck dinner and make sandwiches for St. Vincent de Paul.**

**We will not have a session on December 28.**

Call the Parish Office at 314-837-3165 for more information about R.C.I.A.

## ONLINE GIVING

The transition has been made merging all the St. Sabina online giving accounts with St. Ferdinand online giving effective December 8. Your active recurring donations were automatically moved over with this merger. To access your online giving account, go to [www.osvhub.com/stferdinandstl](http://www.osvhub.com/stferdinandstl)

Unfortunately, we are not able to do the same with the online givers from St. Martin using WeShare. We are asking those are still using WeShare to close out their account and open a new online giving account with St. Ferdinand through OSV.

If you have any questions, or need help, please contact Dana at St. Ferdinand Parish office at 314-837-3165.

St. Ferdinand Online Giving:

[Osvhub.com/stferdinandstl/giving/funds](http://Osvhub.com/stferdinandstl/giving/funds)

## STREAM TEAM

If you were live streaming Masses at St. Sabina or St. Martin de Porres, and would like to continue here at St. Ferdinand, please contact Mike Koenig at 314-610-0946. You are invited to join our "Stream Team"



Due to the upcoming holidays, there will be early bulletin deadlines.

**December 31 bulletin deadline is Thursday, December 21**

**December 24 bulletin deadline has already passed.**

## Rosary for our Adult Children

We have a rosary prayer group established at St Sabina about 3 1/2 years ago. We realized so many of us had adult children who no longer practice our Catholic faith. We decided to establish this rosary with the intention of praying for their return to the church.

We meet every other week, on a Thursday at 6:15 in the St. Ferdinand Gathering Space. We would welcome anyone who wishes to join us. For information please call Patty Holbert at 314 910 7674.

***We have joined with the St. Martin de Porres Rosary group every week and will be in the Gathering Space at Church.***

### Reminder...

***NO LADIES SODALITY meeting until February.***

***NO QUILTING until January 8. When Quilting return we will be in our new room at St. Martin de Porres Knobbe House.***

## MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for a loved one—deceased or living—contact Dana at the Parish Office at 314-837-3165. The stipend is \$10 per Mass.

There are infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefits ones soul. The special ministerial fruits of the Mass are applied to the particular intention of the Mass.

***We have MANY open dates and times!***

The tradition of offering Masses for others, particularly the dead, originate in the very early Church. We have Mass Cards available in the office you can give to the family of a deceased person or Special Intention Cards for the living for a special occasion or for healing.

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

### Testimony

When my grandmother heard the news that my cousin had fallen from a second-story window, she immediately went and washed her hair.

Grandma had been sitting alone in her house, listening to the morning radio when the announcer shared a news bulletin stating that the previous night, a little boy with the same name as her grandson, living in the same community and of the same age, had fallen onto the pavement from a window on the second floor of his house. He had been rushed to the hospital but miraculously survived his injuries.

She thought she was hallucinating and wanted to look pretty when the "men in white coats" came to take her away. Thus, the hair-washing.

As it happens, the whole story was true — it was her grandson, but this was before the age of mobile phones and had happened so late at night that his parents had been unable to notify any family members before the whole thing showed up on the news.

It wasn't until my grandmother received a phone call from another relative corroborating the story that she realized it hadn't been a figment of her imagination. What a waste of styled hair, no hospital committal for her that day.

There are certain truths that we cannot accept unless they are supported by the testimony of others. We find them to be unbelievable without the reassurance of another person whispering, "It's okay. I see it, too."

This is the value of testimony, and the purpose of John the Baptist and every saint who ever died with the name of Jesus Christ on their lips. And this is the sacred duty of all the baptized, to give testimony with our words and our actions.

How will you testify today?

*"He was not the light, but came to testify to the light." — John 1:8*

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPi



# Save the date Music Trivia

Saturday, February 24, 2024

## WILL YOU BE ATTENDING THE 5 PM SUNDAY MASS AT ST. FERDINAND?

Please consider being a Greeter for this Mass! There was a wonderful response at the Festival of Ministries and we have many new greeters. However, there is still a need for greeters for the 5 pm Sunday Mass. Contact Lori Geerling at [lgeerling@gmail.com](mailto:lgeerling@gmail.com)

## DESERT DAY:

I really need a day of prayer and quiet! Desert Days at the Sanguis Christi Spirituality Center of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood are just that. Come to the quiet and beauty of St. Joseph Chapel at 204 North Main St., O'Fallon, MO on **January 16 or February 21 from 9:15 am – 3:15 pm.** The day will begin and end with prayer. The remainder of the day is solitude, quiet, reflection, and rest. The opportunity to talk with a spiritual director is also available. Lunch is provided. A free will offering is requested.

For more information or to register contact Sr. Mary Cecile Gunelson, CPPS at 636-293-8013 or by email at [mccgunelson@cpps-ofallon.org](mailto:mccgunelson@cpps-ofallon.org)

## Make His Praise Glorious Sunday, December 17 3:00 PM

Join the St. Ferdinand Music Ministry for **Make His Praise Glorious, A Christmas Story**, today, Sunday, December 17 at 3:00pm.

Get in the Christmas spirit at this hour-long journey through Bethlehem featuring the combined parish music ministry including the adult and youth choirs.

The concert is free so don't miss out on this wonderful annual event!



## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

DECEMBER 23 & 24, 2023

### **Greeters—Team 4**

4:30 PM Tammy Guyre  
7:00 AM Stan & Mary Jane Ebersohl  
9:00 AM Julie Remacle, Joe Schwarzbauer  
11:00 AM Doug & Bev Kline

**Volunteers needed at all Christmas Masses**

### **Lectors—Team B**

4:30 PM Dianne Venable, Joyce Best  
7:00 AM Don Costello, Tom Fregeau  
9:00 AM Luke Maresca, Joe Reddy  
11:00 AM Pat Meitz, Paul Segura

**Check the special schedule for Christmas Masses**

### **Eucharistic Minister**

All Masses Team 4

**Check the special schedule for Christmas Masses**

### **Servers**

4:30 PM Gabriel B., Logan B.  
9:00 AM Alex P., George  
11:00 AM Leo, Dakota

### **Church Cleaners—Team 4**

**Monday, December 18**

Stan Ebersohl, Linda McNeal

**Friday, December 22**

Terri Regnier, Rich Stoving, Badiah Alamareh, Matt Unterfenger

*More ministers are needed especially for the 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass. Call the Parish office.*

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**

10:00 AM Jesus and the Eucharist Video, Duchesne Hall  
11:00 AM Confirmation Family Mass & evangelization  
3:00 PM Christmas Concert, Church

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 18**

9:00 AM Domino Club, Knobbe House at SMdP  
3:00 PM Lector Training, Church  
6:30 PM Daisies, Duchesne Basement  
7:00 PM Jewish Roots of the Eucharist, Duchesne Hall  
7:00 PM Lector Training, Church  
7:00 PM Athletics, Duchesne #9

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19**

10:00 AM Scrapbook, SMdP Knobbe House  
6:00 PM BBQ/Basketball Tournament, Duchesne #9  
7:00 PM Cub Scouts, Duchesne Hall  
7:00 PM Lector Training, Church

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

6:30 PM Children's Choir, Church

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21**

6:00 PM RCIC, Duchesne #9  
6:15 PM Rosary, Duchesne #10  
7:00 PM RCIA, Duchesne Hall  
7:30 PM Choir, Church

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22**

3:00 PM NO FISH FRY  
7:00 PM Lector Training, Church

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23**

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**During the Advent Season (and Lent 2024) we will not have flowers on the altar.**

**We are taking reservations for Altar Flowers for 2024. The cost is \$45 per plant. The plants will be on the Altar for 2 weeks.**

**Please call the Parish Office at 314-837-3165 to schedule a date.**

### **MEALS ON WHEELS — TEAM 1 DECEMBER 18-22**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
St. Patrick's	Kathy Self	Teddy Kidd	Stephanie Koenig		Theresa Klocker
Santa Maria	Steve Siebels	Stan Horton	---	Steve Siebels	---
#3	Bob Samuelson	Stan Horton	Osborne Shannon	Steve Siebels	Emma Strickland
#4	Nick Buchheit	Nick Moretto	Robbie Wittington	Debbie Henderson	Eileen Weitkemper
#6/8	Pam Stone	Jim Stewart	Debbie Hessel	Deneen Garza	Richard Van Well



## ALL SAINTS ACADEMY - ST. FERDINAND

### 2023 SCHOOL NEWS



- **Sunday, December 17**—Family Mass for Confirmandi and parents, 11 A.M.
- **Wednesday, December 20**—Christmas parties 11 am dismissal. Christmas break begins!
- **Wednesday, January 3**—School Resumes
- **Sunday, January 28**—Catholic Schools Week Open House—more info to come

**\*\*We are looking for substitute teachers for this school year.** All interested applicants need to be in full compliance with the Prevent & Protect/Safe Environment regulations. Please contact Mrs. Anna Davis below for more information and requirements needed.

(314)921-2201

adavis@stferdinandstl.org  
ST. FERDINAND PARISH...  
TODAY, TOMORROW, FOREVER

**Fish Fry will be closed December 22 and 29  
for the holidays.  
Join us on January 5.**

### St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas Program

The parishioners of St. Ferdinand, St. Sabina and St. Martin de Porres have been very generous in past years helping struggling families for Christmas. Many lives have been touched.

We are again asking for help to assist those who are hurting and need assistance to provide their families with Christmas.

This year we have made changes to the program. We are asking for donations of either gift cards or cash to purchase gift cards to give to parents so they can with dignity shop for their children. Donations of \$25/\$50 Walmart Gift Cards, \$25/\$50 Gas Cards and \$25/\$50 Schnucks or Aldi Gift Cards would be greatly appreciated. But whatever you decide to give and whatever amount you give we will be very thankful.

If you have any questions please email [svdp.christmas@stferdinandstl.org](mailto:svdp.christmas@stferdinandstl.org) or call our phone line: 314.289.6101 ext. 2216



Want to volunteer your time while attending SEEK24, and save some money along the way? We are now taking sign ups for the Volunteer Program, which takes \$50 off per shift you fill. Register for SEEK24 at [seek.focus.org](https://seek.focus.org), and then click here to sign up for your preferred volunteer shifts!

Sign up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FA9AB22A7FBC25-seek24#/>

[Click here for a detailed description of each volunteer role.](#) You will be contacted by FOCUS with specific instructions in the weeks prior to SEEK24, around December 15.





**T.E.A.M.**  
**SPECIAL NEEDS::**  
 CEREAL  
 Dry Pasta  
 Spaghetti Sauce  
 Macaroni & Cheese  
 Tomato Products  
 Cereal  
 Tuna

**FROZEN / FRESH MEAT,**

Other suggestions: <b>Any bagged or boxed foods</b> <b>*Peanut Butter</b> <b>*Pancake Mix and Syrup</b> Bread, Snacks & Crackers Canned Meat & Seafood Canned Fruit & Vegetables Canned or Dry Soup	Pork and Beans Sugar Coffee Toilet Paper & Paper Towels Laundry Detergent Shampoo, Bar Soap Sanitary Napkins
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**FROZEN / FRESH MEAT, fruit and vegetables are also needed but should be dropped off directly to TEAM.**

All other items can be placed in the TEAM collection bin in the Gathering Space or they can be delivered directly to the TEAM office.

**T.E.A.M. is located at 256 Saint Catherine at the corner of Saint Ferdinand Street (Graham Road).**

**Hours are Monday—Friday, 10 am—2 pm and Saturday 10 am to noon.**

Drive around back to the 3rd door and someone will assist you unloading your items.

**T.E.A.M. could also use donations of money.**

Make checks payable to T.E.A.M. and send to the rectory or mail to the address above.

Thank you for all you have donated to TEAM. Your generosity is appreciated very much!

<b>MEALS 35</b>	<b>DONATIONS \$150</b>
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**Volunteers are needed in the warehouse, pantry and offices. Minimal computer skills required.**

**For more details, please contact Nancy Wolff at 314-831-0879 or 314-412-3637**



Join us **every morning** at St. Ferdinand after the 8:00 am Mass to pray the Rosary and on **Tuesdays** for Perpetual Help Devotions.

Every **Thursday Night** at 6:15 pm at the Mary Grotto located on the St. Martin de Porres grounds, you are invited to pray the rosary. We move inside during inclement weather. **\*\*Beginning in December the rosary will be held at St. Ferdinand in the Gathering Space.**

## A Look at a St. Ferdinand Ministry

**We will be featuring a different ministry available at St. Ferdinand to help you become familiar what is available to become a part of at St. Ferdinand.**

### Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry

This ministry is made up of parishioners who are willing to share their time and talents with other parishioners. Minor repairs and maintenance around the home on an as needed basis. The busiest times are spring through the fall.

Some of the past jobs have included: replacing smoke detector batteries, and hard to reach light bulbs. Rewiring a table lamp, adjusting a door latch. Grass cutting (one time per season), leaf raking, bush trimming and gutter cleaning. Very minor plumbing. Tightening screws on hinges. Cleaning out a basement, shed, or garage. Installing the spare tire. Car battery replacement. Following the Festival of Ministries, we now have an IT (information technology) person to assist with computer questions.

If you need assistance in one of these areas please contact the Parish office, and leave a message for the Neighbor-to-Neighbor ministry.

Your request will be forwarded to an NtN member, who will contact you directly to set up a time to complete your request.

If you wish to join the NtN ministry, contact the parish office.



**This Christmas Season**  
**you can give the gift of a Catholic Education**  
**AND receive a 100% Missouri State Tax Credit.**

- RECEIVE A 100% STATE TAX CREDIT -  
 - GIVE THE GIFT OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATION -  
 - FUND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS IN NEED -

**DON'T DELAY!**  
**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE PRIOR TO**  
**DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>.**





Scan the QR code for more information  
 or visit [TTEF-STL.ORG/MOSCHOLARS](http://TTEF-STL.ORG/MOSCHOLARS)



## St. Ferdinand Youth Group

Get in contact with  
Emily Will & James Stallings  
314-972-3172  
smdpyouthgroup18@gmail.com

We invite all Teens from 8th grade to 12th grade. Come Join us the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each Month from 7pm-8:30pm in the St Martin de Porres Gym



Steubenville Conference

Little competition on a Wednesday night

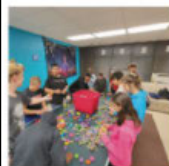


Cleaning up Parishioners Yards

This Youth Group is about making new friends, growing closer to God, and always having fun.

There are so many events we have going on year round, a few big ones, Giving Tree, Trivia Night, Living Stations, and an Easter Egg Hunt.

Our big weekend Retreat to the Steubenville Conference in Springfield, MO



Stuffing Easter Eggs for our Egg Hunt



Raking Leaves for a Parishioner

## "The Longest Night" Prayer Service

Advent is a time to prepare for the arrival of our Messiah, but we know that for many, the holidays are filled with burdens, grief, fear, and pain.

We will gather as a hurting people, bringing our pain to the feet of Emmanuel - God with us. Please join us as we pray for strength, courage, and acceptance. All are welcome.

Thursday, December 21, 2023  
6:00 pm  
St. Rita's Catholic Church  
8240 Washington St., St Louis, MO 63114



CHRIST the KING Sponsored by the Respect Life Committee

## For Your Entertainment

We like to provide activities for all ages and interests. Since some like to find errors, we regularly include a few in our bulletin to meet this need.

**Happy Hunting!**



## DECEMBER 17—ELEMENT 3/22—THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

When asked, Jesus identified the greatest commandment of the Law as the *Shema*, "Hear [*Shema* in Hebrew], O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mk 12:29-30; Deut 6:4-5). It was the creed with which all faithful Jews, even today, begin and end every day.

In time, Jesus completed the *Shema*'s confession of God's oneness, with the revelation that the one God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We profess this in our Creed here at Mass. But we also profess this truth, in miniature, when we make the Sign of the Cross. This simple gesture is the entire Gospel, in miniature; and that is why we use it to begin and end all of our times of prayer: It is through Jesus' death upon the Cross that we enter the life of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that—recall the *Shema*—we have been empowered to do so with all our mind (touch forehead), all our heart, and all our strength (touch both shoulders).

—Shane Kapler, ExplainingChristianity.com

## Please Wear Your Lanyard

Two weeks ago we asked everyone to fill out a name tag for a lanyard. The purpose of this is to help get to know each other. It has been quite successful. There are people who have seen each other for years and have never known their names and now there are even more unfamiliar faces.

We ask that you wear your name tag every time you attend Mass or other St. Ferdinand activity. We want to be a place where everybody knows our names!



## WHITE HOUSE RETREAT

Would you like to spend a few days apart with God? Would you like to learn how to find God in all things? If so, the quiet, natural solitude of the White House retreat center may be exactly what you need. The Men's White House retreat is coming up in January. Come spend time with the Lord and reconnect with Him. The retreat begins Thursday evening January 18 and runs through early afternoon Sunday January 21, 2024. To learn more, contact Darren Hale at

[darren.e.hale@gmail.com](mailto:darren.e.hale@gmail.com).



# The Light of the World

Decode the message by finding each substitute letter.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
r	l	n	m	s	i	c	j	a	k	g	z	q	u	h	d	b	f	y	o	v	t	x	e	w	p

VOXAX GIDX I DIC YOT YIE EXCV RATD KTP; OFE CIDX YIE HTOC. OX GIDX IE I

YFVCXEE VT VXEVSRS GTCGXADFCK VOIV BFKOV, ET VOIV VOATNKO OFD IBB DXC

DFKOV QXBFUX. OX OFDEXBR YIE CTV VOX BFKOV; OX GIDX TCBS IE I YFVCXEE VT

VOX BFKOV.

HTOC 1:6-8

R L P R O P H E T E M E S V X  
 F N W E G I W Y N Y Z A U N K  
 R K A L E C Y H N I Y C N T P  
 U L T I O G O A T N S H S C R  
 J T E J X J D P A K Y R N O I  
 E L R A H R A H Z J L I E N E  
 R W Z H O B T U Z J B S Q F S  
 U I I J T E B N A M E T L E T  
 S T X M B S L E V I T E S S S  
 A N U T R E H K F O W A L S O  
 L E I R Q N V K T E S T I F Y  
 E S V F E T I H D N F K G W P  
 M S M L S L V R D Y R R H Y L  
 L M D E G O D P O S G I T R S  
 M C B T D B E L I E V E B W Q

## Word Bank for Seek and Find

BETHANY	JERUSALEM
CHRIST	ELIJAH
JORDAN	SENT
LIGHT	GOD
JOHN	CONFESS
TESTIFY	MAN
BAPTIZE	LEVITES
PROPHET	WATER
BELIEVE	PRIESTS
NAME	WITNESS

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## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:00 am | For the People  
9:00 am | Bill & Melissa Laramore  
11:00 am | Bob & Bill Forister and Karen Halley  
**5:00 pm** | Claudia Meyer

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:00 am | Larry Derhake  
8:00 am | Jerry Griffith

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:00 am | Elizabeth Weis, Special Int.  
8:00 am | Dolores Jezik

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:00 am | George Hendrix  
8:00 am | Lynn Brown

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

6:00 am | Floyd and Mary Ellis  
8:00 am | Louise Nepute

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

6:00 am | Mary Ann Wood  
8:00 am | Jennie Ritter

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00 am | For the Salvation of Dying Sinners  
**4:30 pm** | Ronald & Janice Kramer

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

7:00 am | Lambert Krzyzanowski and Elaine Veit  
9:00 am | Steve Bublitz  
11:00 am | James Jones

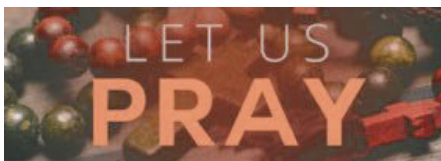
***The 4:30 pm Mass on Christmas Eve does not fulfill your Sunday obligation. It is for the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass.***

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 pm | For the People  
10:00 pm | All Priests and Religious

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 am | Dorothy & Larry Blair  
10:00 am | For the People



**Pray for the safety of those in the armed forces as they serve and protect our country and those who are home and still in need of our prayers:**

Ben Alley  
Bobby Baker  
Charles Barry IV  
Josh Bohr  
Jim Booher  
Joe Booher  
Joseph Brown  
Matthew Burch  
Jonathan Buss  
Kenny Cleary  
Sean Conroy  
Zack Dodson  
Kevin Easley  
Kenny Englert  
Brent Feltes  
Mitchell Frye  
Spencer Frye  
Michael Garcia  
Brandon Grau  
Daniel Halley III  
Brandon Hill

Nick Hitt  
Sean Hoebing  
Nathanial Jennings  
James Jernigan, Jr  
Justin Jones  
Jeffrey Kimball  
Matthew Klump  
Cody Knoll  
Salvatore Ladato  
Joseph Laramie  
Matt Leahart  
Colin Linkul  
Colin Loehr  
Jocelynn Loehr  
Dominic LoGrasso  
Matthew Ludwig  
Joe Maloney  
Brennan Maykopet  
Kathleen Mohrmann  
Harper  
Andrew Mott  
Christian North

James Opfer  
Angela Peterson  
Samual Prouhet  
Luke Quiles  
Jacob Rall  
Scott Reid  
Adam Riggs  
Mason Ritter  
Garrett Royce  
Tim Schweigert  
Ian Scott  
Benjamin Shea  
Natalie Smith  
John Sobery  
Byron Soehngen  
Daniel Stackle  
Caleb Strathman  
Ethan Strathman  
Matthew Upchurch  
Faroq Usman  
Dylan Whittemore  
Michael Willard

### LONG TERM SICK LIST (6 MONTHS)

Lauren Bane  
Lisa Barton  
Rich Bequette  
Terri Birkemier  
Mary Ann Boyer  
Barb Brown  
Joann Brown  
Dolores Bujewski  
Anna Buresha  
Jim Cardwell  
Fr. Pat Christopher  
Jason Coleman  
Frank Deniszczuk  
Carol Dezern  
Nick Ehlers  
Lee Feckter  
Jeanette Findley  
Trish Franklin  
Baby Jane Geerling  
Johanna Gerland  
Dona Graham  
Richard Graham  
Mike Grieshaber  
Ken Gruebbeling  
Dianne Gruenloh  
Joanne Haag  
Virginia Garrison Heller  
Tommy Hobday  
Rich Jacobs  
Maurice Katimi

Ed Kaufmann  
Ben Knight  
Pat Krummey  
Mark Loyet  
Duane Lund  
Maurice Mareschal  
Daniel Marxkors  
Paul Marxkors  
River Mead  
Glynda Mieloszyk  
Charles Nesser  
Donna Pedrotti  
Robert Pedrotti  
Michael Pitezal  
Bob Purcell  
Ed Schneider  
Richard St. John  
Sandy Stuhlman  
Michael Surgeon  
Bob Sutter  
Bert Tamborski  
Len Tamborski  
Gerry Uskiwich  
Helen Waing  
Larry Weber  
Phyllis Weber  
Jerry Will  
Jim Wokovich  
Michael Yorg  
Pat Young

### SHORT TERM SICK LIST (6 WEEKS)

Danny Scanio  
Bob Williams  
Mark Whelchel  
Shirley Geerling  
James Wade  
Ashley Falls  
Bob Purcell  
Donald Boland  
Michael Clines  
Melissa Witt  
Sharon Derhake

Kathy Fairbanks  
Peggy Farmer  
Dale Reller  
Lauren Sapp  
Baby Teddi Kelly  
John Jezik

***And all those who are in need of our prayers***

## WELCOME

New families and individuals, please register at the rectory at your earliest opportunity.

Monday—Friday,  
8 am to 4 pm

or register online at  
[www.stferdinandstl.org](http://www.stferdinandstl.org)

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE

### MARRIAGE

Please call the rectory for an appointment at least six month prior to the wedding.

### BAPTISM

Please call the rectory to schedule required parent baptism preparation meeting. Baptisms are scheduled by appointment

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Contact the rectory

### HOLY ORDERS AND CONSECRATED (RELIGIOUS) LIFE

If interested, please call the rectory or the Archdiocesan Office of Vocations at

314-792-6460

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) AND CHILDREN (RCIC)

Contact the rectory for more information. The process runs from September through May. Meets on Thursdays, 7pm

### BULLETIN DEADLINE - TUESDAY MORNING

[dwiele@stferdinandstl.org](mailto:dwiele@stferdinandstl.org)