

Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church

6596 Smiley Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63139

STAFF

Pastor

The Rev. Michael Rennie
michaelrennier@gmail.com

Music Director

Elizabeth Wildman

Plant Manager

John Ellison
johnellison11@aol.com

Parish Secretary

Trish Nerviani
trishnerviani@aol.com

MASS & SACRAMENTS

Sunday Masses: 8:00 am, 10:30 am &
(6:30 pm Mass celebrated every Sun-
day with *A traditional Latin Mass*
celebrated on the 1st Sunday of
each month at 6:30 pm.)

Weekday Masses

Monday through Friday: 8:00 am

Tuesday Evening Mass: 6:30 pm

Saturday Masses 8:00 am and 4:00 pm

Sacrament of Penance:

Saturday, 7:30-7:50 am

Sundays, 10-10:20 am & 6-6:20 pm

Tuesdays, 6-6:20 pm OR by appointment

Baptisms: Meeting first Thursday of the
month. Preregistration required.

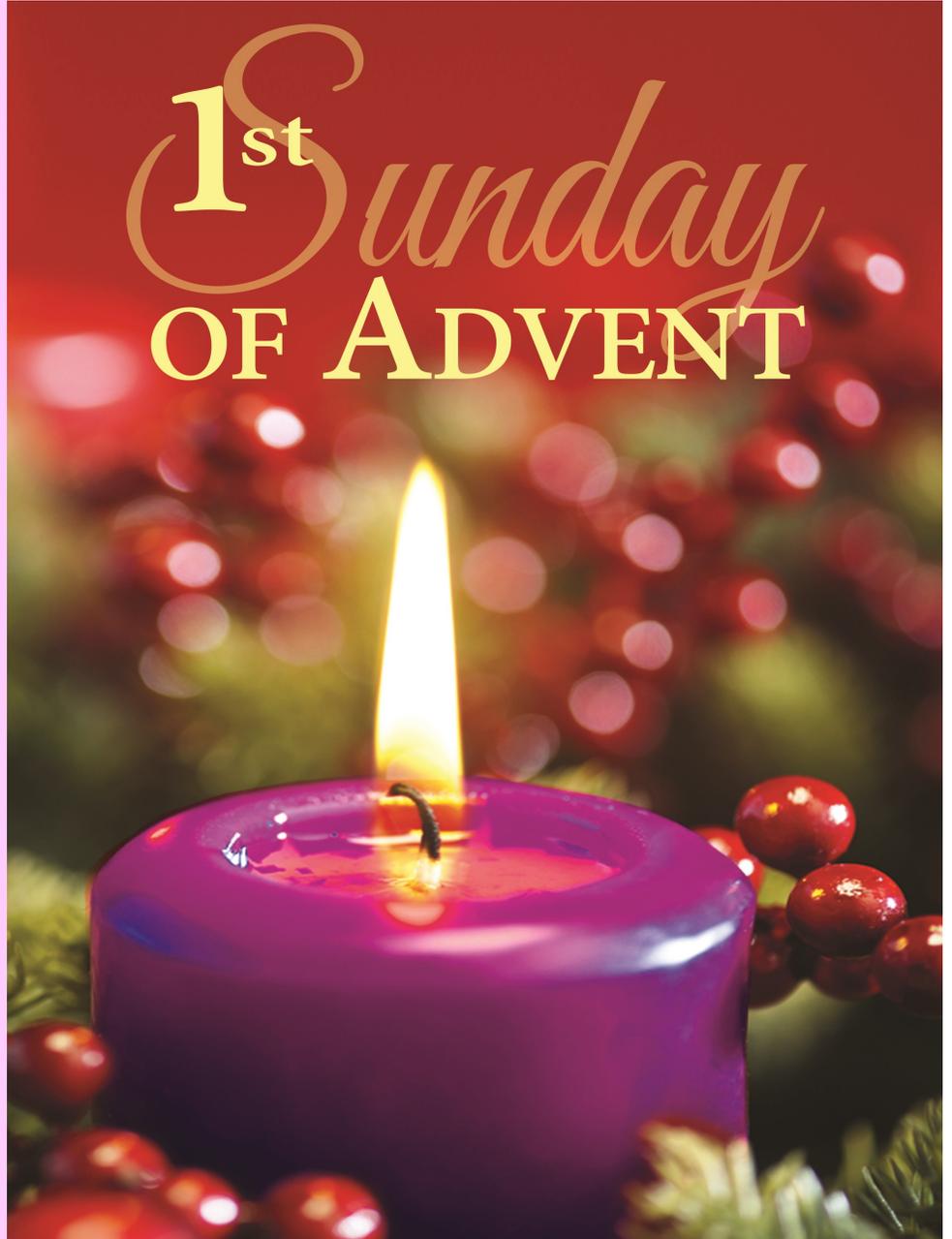
Marriages: Contact the priest at least 9
months prior to the wedding date.

Funerals: To be arranged by contacting
the Parish Office.

Change of Address or Telephone

Number: Please call the Parish Office.

Bulletin Deadline: 4:00 pm Monday.



First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2019

Phone: 314-781-1199
www.epiphanystl.org

FROM THE DESK OF FR. MICHAEL

Congratulations to the students in our 1st Communion Class who are going to make their 1st Confession this week. Please remember them in your prayers.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is on Monday, Dec 9. Because the 8th falls on a Sunday this year, the solemnity gets moved. We'll have Mass at 8 am and 7 pm. The Sunday evening Mass on the 8th will still be the 2nd Sunday of Advent, not a vigil for Immaculate Conception.

An evening for Young Adults. Sponsored by the young adult group *Spirit and Truth*, on Thurs, Dec 5 we will gather in the Church at 7:15 pm for Adoration, a short spiritual talk, confessions, and then Benediction by 8:15 pm. After, everyone is invited to the rectory for fellowship. Come for all of the hour or even just for a few minutes. This event is for ALL young adults. *Spirit and Truth* is a regional group, so please tell anyone who might be interested. If the evening goes well, the group may begin meeting here on a weekly basis, and it would be wonderful to have Adoration here every Thursday.

Advent Evening of Recollection. At 5 pm on Sunday, December Dec 15, we will have a reflection given by our parishioner, Asher Gelzer-Govatos, on, "The Cultivation of Christmas Spirit: Cherishing Advent with T.S. Eliot's Christmas Poems." After the talk will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions. I'll have one other priest to help hear confessions that evening. The evening will wrap up at about 6:30 pm.

The Rorate Caeli Mass this year is at 6:30 pm, Tue Dec 17. After the Mass, the PSR children will form a procession in honor of St. Lucy, whose feast day falls on Dec 13.

Mass Explanations - How to Go to Confession

Advent is here! It's a season of expectation and hope, a time of waiting for the arrival of Our Lord at Christmas, and also a time of penance as we prepare our hearts to receive Him (this is why the priest and deacon wear purple). I encourage you to come to confession soon, especially if it's been a while since your last confession.

Some people are nervous and don't remember what to say or how to list their sins. Here are a few basic tips to help ease your nerves. The Confessional at Epiphany has 2 Red Lights (no Green). When 1 light is on that means a priest is there and available. 2 lights on means someone is currently making a confession. When you come in, kneel at the screen, or sit in the chair if kneeling is difficult, and begin by telling the priest how long it's been since your last confession, then list all the sins you've thought of from your examination of conscience beforehand. The priest will give you a penance and ask you to pray the Act of Contrition. If you've forgotten this prayer, it's printed out and available in the confessional, all you need to do is read it. And that's about it!

Confession is easy, but also very important because it is the place where we bring our sins to light and God decisively forgives them. It's important for you to know that if you have a mortal sin on your conscience, you should refrain from receiving communion until you go to confession.

We have confessions every week on Sunday 10-10:20 am, 6-6:20 pm, Tuesday 6-6:20 pm, and Saturday 7:30-7:50 am. We also have confessions available at the Advent Evening of Recollection.

Fr. Michael



Celebration of Life Banquet

Where: Orlando's Event Center, Maryland Heights, MO

When: Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019

Time: Cocktails 5:00 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Claire Culwell, abortion survivor

Cost: Complimentary; Guests will have an opportunity to support our pro-life efforts.

Contact: mrl.eastern@yahoo.com, 314-434-4900,

www.easternregionmrl.org/dinner

Come to the Quiet A Guided Silent Retreat led by Dawn Stringfield January 3-5, 2020 Mercy Conference and Retreat Center 2039 N. Geyer Rd. ♦ 63131. Do you find yourself inundated by the never-ending barrage of noise in the world? Is it difficult to still your mind because of the constant internal chatter? What would it be like to have a weekend of silence to be present to the moment? How would it feel to unplug the cell phone, tablet, and laptop and allow yourself time and space to listen more deeply to the Spirit within and around you? If you see yourself in these questions, then "Come to the Quiet" of Mercy Conference and Retreat Center for a guided silent retreat. Mindfully walk the labyrinth and our beautiful grounds; soak up the sacred space of our main chapel and two smaller chapels; read, reflect, journal, pray; or simply rest. For more information, please go to mercycenterstl.org.

AN ADOPTION LOVE STORY

MY HUSBAND BILL AND I HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR SIX YEARS. HAVING CHILDREN AND RAISING A FAMILY HAD ALWAYS BEEN OUR EXPECTATION. BY THE TIME WE WERE MARRIED, MOST OF OUR SIBLINGS AND FRIENDS ALREADY HAD CHILDREN, SO OF COURSE WE WERE EXCITED AND READY TO BE PARENTS OURSELVES. WE SOON LEARNED, HOWEVER, THAT HAVING CHILDREN OF OUR OWN MIGHT NOT BE SO EASY.

WE MADE A FEW TRIPS TO MULTIPLE CITIES TO BE TREATED BY WONDERFUL DOCTORS WHO HAVE HELPED SO MANY COUPLES CONCEIVE, BUT EVERYTHING WE TRIED WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. WE FELT SO HOPELESS AT TIMES. WORDS CAN'T EVEN EXPLAIN THIS EXPERIENCE OF LOSS.

FORTUNATELY, OUR MARRIAGE ONLY GREW STRONGER, BECAUSE WE WERE THERE FOR EACH OTHER AND CONTINUED TO RELY ON GOD. THIS DIDN'T ALWAYS COME EASILY, BUT IT HELPED THAT BILL HAS A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR, AND WE WERE ABLE TO LAUGH AT SOME OF THE CRAZY SITUATIONS AND CONVERSATIONS THAT COME WITH INFERTILITY.

SINCE WE KNEW OUR CHANCES OF BECOMING PREGNANT WERE SMALL, IT WASN'T VERY LONG BEFORE WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ADOPTION. HOWEVER, IT WASN'T AN EASY DECISION, AND I WONDERED IF MY HEART WAS BIG ENOUGH TO LOVE AN ADOPTED CHILD AS I WOULD MY BIOLOGICAL CHILD. THERE WERE ALSO SO MANY OTHER VARIABLES TO CONSIDER, ONE OF WHICH WAS THE EXPENSE INVOLVED, AND WE HAD ALREADY SPENT SO MUCH MONEY ON INFERTILITY TREATMENTS. WE FELT WE HAD NO CONTROL, BUT GOD REMINDED US AGAIN THAT HE IS ALWAYS IN CONTROL AND THAT WE COULD TRUST IN HIM.

SO WITH PRAYERFUL DISCERNMENT, WE DECIDED TO START THE PROCESS OF ADOPTING A CHILD FROM ETHIOPIA. HOWEVER, AFTER IT TOOK NEARLY A YEAR TO GET ON THE WAITING LIST, THE ADOPTION PROGRAM WAS PUT ON HOLD FOR REASONS THAT WERE UNKNOWN TO US.

WE WERE SO FRUSTRATED THAT WE STARTED TO FEEL AS THOUGH MAYBE WE JUST WEREN'T CALLED TO HAVE CHILDREN. WE THEN HEARD FROM FRIENDS WHO HAD ADOPTED A NEWBORN BABY DOMESTICALLY AFTER ONLY A FEW SHORT MONTHS. WITH THIS NEW ENCOURAGEMENT, WE SWITCHED GEARS AND DECIDED TO ADOPT DOMESTICALLY, PICKING A NATIONWIDE AGENCY RATHER THAN A STATE AGENCY BECAUSE IT IS USUALLY FASTER.

WE WERE SO EXCITED BUT ALSO RATHER SCARED. WE WOULD BE CHOSEN BY A BIRTHMOTHER AND WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SEND PICTURES AND LETTERS TO HER FREQUENTLY. MOST LIKELY, WE WOULD TALK WITH THE BIRTHMOTHER OVER THE PHONE AND MEET HER AT THE DELIVERY. AND THERE WAS ALWAYS THE CHANCE SHE COULD CHANGE HER MIND, EVEN DAYS AFTER THE BIRTH. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW I WOULD FEEL ABOUT ALL THIS AND WONDERED IF WE WERE SETTING OURSELVES UP FOR MORE HEARTBREAK. BUT ALL WE COULD DO WAS PRAY AND TRY TO LEAVE IT IN GOD'S HANDS.

FOUR MONTHS LATER, WE RECEIVED A CALL THAT A BIRTHMOTHER IN FLORIDA HAD CHOSEN US. SHE WAS SEVEN MONTHS PREGNANT WITH A BOY. WE COULDN'T BELIEVE IT. WE WERE FINALLY GOING TO HAVE A BABY. WE TALKED WITH HER A COUPLE OF TIMES OVER THE PHONE, AND I NEVER REALIZED UNTIL THEN HOW LUCKY I WAS TO MARRY SUCH A TALKER, AS BILL REALLY HELPED THE CONVERSATIONS FLOW SMOOTHLY.

ON THE BIRTHMOTHER'S DUE DATE, WE RECEIVED THE CALL THAT SHE WAS IN LABOR. BILL AND I DROPPED EVERYTHING AND HIT THE ROAD TO FLORIDA TO MEET OUR SON. WORDS CAN'T EVEN DESCRIBE HOW WE FELT DURING THAT DRIVE. WE WERE SO EXCITED AT THE THOUGHT THAT WE COULD BE DRIVING HOME WITH OUR SON, YET AT THE SAME TIME WE WERE SO SCARED THAT WE MAY BE DRIVING HOME ALONE. I WASN'T SURE WE COULD HANDLE THAT DISAPPOINTMENT, AND I WONDERED WHAT SHE WOULD THINK OF US. WOULD SHE REGRET THAT SHE CHOSE US? WHAT WOULD I SAY TO THE WOMAN WHO WAS GOING TO PLACE HER CHILD WITH US? ALONG WITH THESE AND ALL THE NORMAL FEARS OF BECOMING A PARENT, I WAS ALSO AFRAID THAT I WOULDN'T BOND WITH OUR NEW SON OR FEEL THAT HE WAS OURS.

AFTER ARRIVING, WE MET THE BIRTHMOTHER WHO WAS STILL IN LABOR. SHE WAS SO SWEET AND PERSONABLE, AND WE SAT WITH HER TO SUPPORT HER AS BEST WE COULD. A FEW HOURS LATER, OUR SON ANDREW WAS BORN IT WAS THE MOST SURREAL EXPERIENCE.

WE SPENT THE NEXT DAY AND A HALF WITH ANDREW AND HIS BIRTHMOTHER IN THE HOSPITAL GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER A BIT. IT WAS HARD TO KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO HER, KNOWING SHE WAS MAKING THE HARDEST DECISION OF HER LIFE, KNOWING THE PAIN SHE MUST BE EXPERIENCING, AND FEELING THAT I WAS THE ONE CAUSING THIS PAIN. IT WAS SUCH AN EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER TO HOLD AND LOOK AT THIS PRECIOUS BABY, WONDERING IF I WOULD REALLY BE HIS MOTHER.

THANKFULLY, THE BIRTHMOTHER DECIDED TO MAINTAIN HER DECISION TO PLACE HER CHILD WITH US. LATER THAT EVENING, CHRISTMAS EVE, BILL AND I LEFT THE HOSPITAL WITH ANDREW. IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG BEFORE THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN OUR MINDS THAT HE WAS OUR SON, THE GREATEST GIFT FROM GOD! HE REALLY IS OUR CHRISTMAS MIRACLE.

ANDREW IS TWO YEARS OLD NOW, AND IT IS SO CLEAR TO BILL AND ME THAT GOD PICKED HIM FOR US. WE CAN'T IMAGINE LOVING A CHILD WHO WE CONCEIVED MORE THAN WE LOVE ANDREW. IT IS AMAZING HOW HE FITS OUR PERSONALITIES SO WELL. MORE AND MORE EVERY DAY WE ARE SO THANKFUL TO HIS BIRTHMOTHER FOR HER SELFLESS DECISION.

IT IS SO HARD TO EXPRESS IN WORDS WHAT UNIQUE EXPERIENCE ADOPTION HAS BEEN FOR US. IT HAS BEEN QUITE A JOURNEY FACING INFERTILITY, AS WELL AS SO MANY UNKNOWN AND ACTS OF KINDNESS AND SACRIFICE - ALL WITH SO MANY EMOTIONS - WHICH LED TO THE GROWTH OF OUR FAMILY. THERE WERE TIMES WHEN OUR FAITH WAS SHAKEN AND WE WEREN'T SURE IF WE COULD HANDLE OUR CROSS. BUT ADOPTING ANDREW HAS MADE US MORE AWARE OF GOD'S POWER AND OF HIS LOVE FOR US. WE REALIZE THAT HE ALWAYS HAS A PERFECT PLAN FOR OUR LIVES.

**JENNY AND BILL (ALL NAMES HAVE BEN CHANGED FOR PRIVACY) WOULD LIE TO ENCOURAGE YOU BE OPEN TO THE GIFT OF ADOPTION. IS GOD CALLING YOU TO CONSIDER ADOPTING A CHILD OR PLACING YOUR CHILD FOR ADOPTION? TO LEARN MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR DIOCESAN OFFICE.*

**Names changed for privacy. This is a summary of a USCCB Respect Life Program article by the same name and is reprinted with permission. © 2019, USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.*



Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
 3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington, DC 20017-1194
 Tel: (202) 541-3070 • Fax: (202) 541-3054
 Website: www.usccb.org/prolife
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LITURGIES & SCHEDULES

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

First Sunday of Advent, December 1

- 8:00 am Connie Curran (*Good Intentions*)
- 10:30 am Parishioners
- 6:30 pm Seamus O'Hagan

Monday, December 2

- 8:00 am Cordell Edwards (*Good Intentions*)

Tuesday, December 3

- 8:00 am Bernadette Copiano (*Good Intentions*)
- 6:30 pm Rev. Eugene P. Brenn

Wednesday, December 4

- 8:00 am Peggy Bartoni



Thursday, December 5

- 8:00 am Marge Essmann

Friday, December 6

- 8:00 am Esther Klearman (*Conversion & Sanctification*)

Saturday, December 7

- 8:00 am Otto Busch
- 4:00 pm Don & Sean Welby

Second Sunday of Advent, December 8

- 8:00 am Melvin Klearman
- 10:30 am Carol Mueller (*Good Health*)
- 6:30 pm Parishioners

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE HOMEBOUND & SICK OF OUR PARISH

Toni Berberich	Theresa Turner	Tracy Limpert
Lou Tacchi	Joan Huelsmann	Larry Lopez
Daniel Barr	LaSheryl Hackenwerth	

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2019

- Sunday: Is 2:1-5/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 1]/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
- Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/ Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/ Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/ Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118: 1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/ Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Employment Opportunity

Wanted: RN Part time to work with Jesuit priests in active ministry. Occasional regional travel required. For more information please contact Ana Casey, RN at: acasey@jesuits.org or 314-758-7146.

Bulletin Deadline: Due to the upcoming holidays, the bulletin deadlines for the next several weeks have changed. Please note the new deadlines:
 December 15th issue due Friday, December 6th
 December 22nd issue due Friday, December 13th
 December 29th issue due December 17th
 January 5th issue due December 18th

OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Monday - Saturday December 2-7

- 7:30 am - Rosary, Church

Sunday, December 1

- 9:00 am - Bible Study, CMR
- 9 am - 1 pm - Breakfast with Santa, Gym
- 10:30 am - Liturgy with Children, RBB

Monday, December 2

- 7:30 am -- 5:00 pm - GSA, AR, Gym, Msgr. Sullivan Field & UH
- 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts, Upper Hall

Tuesday, December 3

- 7:30 am -- 5:00 pm - GSA, AR, Gym, Msgr. Sullivan Field & UH
- 6:30 pm - PSR, Church, Gym & UH

Wednesday, December 4

- 7:30 am -- 5:00 pm - GSA, AR, Gym, Msgr. Sullivan Field & UH

Thursday, December 5

- 7:30 am -- 5:00 pm - GSA, AR, Gym, Msgr. Sullivan Field & UH

Friday, December 6

- 7:30 am -- 5:00 pm - GSA, AR, Gym, Msgr. Sullivan Field & UH
- 3:30-6:30 pm - Dance, UH

Saturday, December 7

Sunday, December 8

- 9:00 am - Bible Study, CMR
- 10:30 am - Liturgy with Children, RBB



FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS
 DEC. 6



Breakfast with Santa

December 1st from 9 AM to 1 PM, hosted by Pack 281.

ALL YOU CAN EAT pancakes & sausage by Chris' Cakes. Coffee, tang, and milk also included.

Photographs with Santa can be purchased for \$5 each. Adult breakfasts are \$10. Children (3-11) breakfasts are \$5. Children 3 and under are FREE. Craft area is free with purchase of breakfast. Cash, check, and card accepted.



KASEY PAIGE CHRISTMAS PARTY- Mary Stahl is collecting toiletries and calendars for Kasey Paige Christmas party. There will be a box in back of church marked for those items. Mary will collect them until the party sometime in mid-Dec. There will be NO calendars collected after that time and the box will be removed from back of church as no more items will be collected. Thank you for your contributions in the past and for any items you will contribute for this year's event.



The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary Council #903

will be selling raffle tickets for two-one hundred dollar gift cards today after the 8 & 10:30 am Masses.

Our Lady's Inn Maternity Homes

is having their Annual Trivia Night - Saturday, January 18th at Chaminade College Prep School (425 S. Lindbergh). Doors open at 6:00 pm and trivia begins at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$25 per person and \$200 for a table of eight. For more information or to register, visit www.ourladysinn.org or call Katrina at 314-736-1544. Guided by our Mission, Our Lady's Inn provides pregnant women and their children shelter and hope for a new life through humble acts of love.

Catholic Teaching on Poverty

Sr. Connie Probst, OSF will be the highlighted speaker at the Catholic Social Justice Teaching Session, on "Poverty - A First-Hand Look and Structural Causes", Wednesday Evening, December 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm. St. Alban Roe Church, 2001 Shepard Rd., Wildwood, MO in Mikesch Hall, below the Church. All ages 13+ are invited to learn first hand what the Catholic Church teaches on the social injustices that exist and what we can do to be part of the solution to reducing the effects of poverty here in St. Louis.



Epiphany once again is sponsoring Adopt-A-Person for residents of Kasey Paige Assisted Living Home on Jamieson to ensure each resident has a Christmas gift. The suggested gift value is \$25 per resident. There are over 100 residents in the home, so we really need your help. Volunteers will be in the back of church after all the weekend masses starting November 16th and 17th, or you can call Kris Ranciglio at 314-210-0916 for the necessary information. If you can't shop, you can purchase Target or Wal-Mart gift cards as gifts. Please call with any questions. Thank you for your generous support!



Our organization's gift card program is supported by ShopWithScrip®

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A FAMILY OF FOUR
CAN EARN OVER
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How ShopWithScrip helps organizations

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YOUR ORGANIZATION EARNS A REBATE

See one of our volunteers near the baptismal font to make a purchase or for more information OR call Trish at the parish office, 314-781-1199.

Catholic Women's Conference

Join us for the Catholic Women for Christ Conference on March 7, 2020 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center! Enjoy speakers, Reconciliation, Adoration, merchant and ministry vendors, Vigil Mass, Healing Prayer, Relics, and more! Register now at catholicwomenforchrist.org. Ticket prices increase as the event gets closer.

Catholic Men's Conference

Join us for the Catholic Men for Christ Conference on February 1, 2020 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center! Enjoy speakers, Reconciliation, Adoration, merchant and ministry vendors, daily Mass, and more! Register now at catholicmenforchrist.org. Ticket prices increase as the event gets closer.