

Holy Spirit Parish Family

September 5, 2021 — Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time



OUR MISSION:

We, the community of Holy Spirit Parish, centered in the Eucharist, and guided by the Holy Spirit, will use our shared wisdom to be a joyful, accepting and forgiving community. We encourage all to grow in the Catholic faith by teaching and proclaiming the Gospel, serving others and praising God.

PARISH OFFICE

3130 Parkwood Lane
Maryland Heights, MO 63043
Website: www.holyspiritstl.org
Phone: 314-739-0230
E-mail: parish@holyspiritstl.org
Fax: 314-739-0237

PARISH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Monday to Friday
9:00am to 5:00pm

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Bob Evans, Pastor.....Ext. 103
revans@holyspiritstl.org
Fr. Jerry Meier, In Residence.....Ext. 112
jmeier@holyspiritstl.org
Deacon Jim DeNatale
deaconjim@holyspiritstl.org
Deacon Scott Kaufman
deaconsconfig@holyspiritstl.org

Donna Eisenbath, Youth Minister
.....314-954-1326
deisenbath@holyspiritstl.org
Jim Essner, Business Mgr.....Ext. 104
jessner@holyspiritstl.org
Linda Farhat, CRE/Pastoral Assoc.
.....Ext. 108
lfarhat@holyspiritstl.org
Katie Koberlein, Principal.....739-1934
kkoberlein@holyspiritstl.org
Marilyn O'Neill, Director of Music.
.....Ext. 107
moneill@holyspiritstl.org
John Honey, Maintenance
Julie Spinner, Parish & PSR Secretary
.....Ext. 101
jspinner@holyspiritstl.org
Mary Welsh, Parish Secretary Ext. 102
mwelsh@holyspiritstl.org

Faith in Action, (Call the Parish Office)
Prayer Chain —
prayerchain@holyspiritstl.org
HandS.....314-739-9796
Stephen Ministry
.....314-739-0230 ext. 130

SCHOOL

(K-8 & PRESCHOOL & PREK INFORMATION)

3120 Parkwood Lane
Maryland Heights, MO 63043
Phone: 314-739-1934
Fax: 314-739-7703
Kate Ayres, School Secretary,
kayres@holyspiritstl.org

PARISH ANNEX

3111 Parkwood Lane,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043,
Pre-School, Pre-K.....314-739-5020

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday thru Wednesday.....6:30am
Thursday and Friday.....8:00am
Holy Days Consult bulletin
Saturday:8:00am and 5:00pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, and 11:00am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:00 to 4:45pm or by appointment

EUCCHARISTIC CHAPEL HOURS

Weekdays: 12am to 6am and 9am to 12 midnight.
Saturdays: 12am to 7am
Chapel will close at 7am Saturday until 9am Monday.
Holy Days: Please consult the bulletin.

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION

Suspended until Further Notice

BAPTISMS

Baptism Class for parents/godparents is normally held on the first Monday of the month at 7 PM in the Church. To register for the meeting and/or to arrange for a baptism, call the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE

Couples planning marriage contact the pastor at least six months in advance.

COMMUNION CALLS

Please call the Parish Office to request Communion if someone is unable to attend Church.

HOSPITAL VISITS

Please notify the Parish Office concerning hospitalization.

REGISTRATION

New parishioners may register at Parish Office or download a registration form, www.holyspiritstl.org. New information e.g. address, phone numbers or moving from the parish, please call Parish Office.

BULLETIN INFORMATION

Please submit information for the bulletin by Noon TWO Fridays before publication. Include name, daytime phone number of person submitting information, and group name. Items can be e-mailed to mwelsh@holyspiritstl.org.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Stewardship for August 16-22, 2021

Sunday Envelopes, 161 utilized	\$ 10,529.00
Loose Collection	\$ 245.00
Online Donations, 85 families	\$ 7,172.00
Holy Days	\$ 3,890.00
Total	\$ 21,836.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 20,190.38
Weekly Surplus (shortfall)	\$ 1,645.62

HandS	Parish Improvements
\$ 185.00	\$ 35.00

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sunday, September 5

7:00 pm—Al Anon, Rigali Rm.

Monday, September 6 — Labor Day

9:00 am—Mass, Church
6:00 pm—Quilting, Annex

Tuesday, September 7

9:00 am—Quilting, Annex
6:45 pm—PSR

Wednesday, September 8

9:00 am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.
7:00 pm—Contemporary Music Practice, Church

Thursday, September 9

9:00 am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.
6:00 pm—Bells Rehearsal, Church
7:00 pm—Choir Rehearsal, Church

Friday, September 10

5:00 pm—Carnival, Parish Grounds

Saturday, September 11

1:00 pm—Carnival, Parish Grounds

Sunday, September 12

9:00 am—Liturgy of the Word for Children
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Rigali Rm

GLUTEN FREE HOSTS AVAILABLE

Gluten allergy? Would you like a gluten-free host?
Please contact the Parish Office, 739-0230.

LADIES CLUB—MONTHLY MEETING

We will meet at Noon, Sept. 12, in the Rigali Room.
Roberta Doeling will join us to discuss St. Joseph.
Please bring a drink and sandwich and join us!
Questions, call Karen, 291-1971.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

LIVING JUSTLY

#99 in Fratelli Tutti of Pope Francis states:
Inadequate understandings of universal love. A love capable of transcending borders is the basis of what in every city and country can be called "social friendship." Genuine social friendship within a society makes true universal openness possible. We do not want to destroy the rich gifts and uniqueness of each person and each people."
We can never forget all were created and loved by God. Human persons dignity is not based on circumstances But on their intrinsic worth of their being.

THE GARDEN OF FEEDEN IS BACK!

Vegetables will be available each weekend at the Annex

Sat. 9-11 AM & Sun. 8:30-10:30

If you have a home garden, and would like to share any of your produce, we are delivering to the food pantries and would be glad to add your surplus.



A Note From Fr. Bob

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you!

Collection for Haiti

Thank you so much for your generous response to the appeal to help with recovery in Haiti! Last Sunday you contributed \$4,052.50 to the efforts to help the people of Haiti in these challenging times. I am grateful for your response to help those in need this time, but every time an appeal is made to help someone or a country in need, you always come through with a generous response. Please continue to pray for the people of Haiti as they work to rebuild their lives. As I write this the devastation of Hurricane Ida is just beginning to unfold. Please pray for all who are and will be impacted by the storm. Blessings to all!

PSR News

As you have seen in the bulletin, our Parish School of Religion began a new year of religious education with an Open House and Ice Cream Social this past Tuesday. Classes begin this Tuesday along with a Parent Meeting. Thank you to Linda Farhat, our PSR Director and Julie Spinner, our PSR Administrative Assistant for your dedication to our program. Thank you to our dedicated catechists who give of their time each week to help our children learn more about Jesus and our Faith. Let's all pray for a successful year of religious instruction.

Carnival News

The final countdown to our Carnival has begun. Thanks to everyone for your support for the major community event of our parish. Thanks to all our volunteers who are working behind the scenes and giving so much of their time to prepare for our Carnival. Blessings to all for your support.

Let's continue to pray for each other this week.

Peace,

Father Bob



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 5

7:30am People of the Parish
9:00am George Murphy
11:00am Violeta Dickman

Monday, September 6

9:00 am Bernetta Drury

Tuesday, September 7

6:30am Mearl Meyer

Wednesday, September 8

6:30am Beverly Reid

Thursday, September 9

8:00am Mike Rolfes

Friday, September 10

8:00am Colleen & Roger Everson

Saturday, September 11

8:00am Faithful Departed
5:00pm Audrey Schmidt

Sunday, September 12

7:30am August & Elizabeth Chrismer
9:00am People of the Parish
11:00am Leonard Pemberton

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

In your prayers, please remember all the sick and home-bound parishioners and those who care for them.

Don Abramovitz	Ray & Betty Garvels	Carolyn Putnam
Renee Armon	Karl Gill	John Rath
Kathryn Arnold	Eric Hill	John Rizzello
Jane Audrain	Betty Hirschmugl	John Roberson
Greg Bamert	Suzanne Holzum	Pat Romano
Bert & Sarah Beckmann	Bill Hughes	Mike Sampson
John Bockerstett	Brenda Jaeger	Jean Schepers
Sonny & Donna Bolm	Diane Javaux	Anita Schiermeyer
Carol Bonner	Kathy Johnson	Norma Schwaninger
Becky Bonner	Kenneth Jordan	Jimmy Smith
Nancy Brand	Sharon Knoppe	Jan Telthorst
Jim Brockmeyer	Mike Lemp	Rebecca Tobar
Connie Buenemann	Jerry McGuire	Rudy & Brenda
Linda Buttry	Karen Newcomb	Torricelli
Nicole Chapman	Matt Niedringhaus	Ron Unterreiner
Margaret Cima	Jacob Null	Nanci Van Amburgh
Ed Cody	Bob & Donna	Joe & Jean Wangler
Matthew Cody	Pedrotti	Angeline Weber
Peggy Cody	Maisy Grace Pina	Gene Weckherlin
Leon Deimeke	Bob & Tootie	Bill & Joan Weinzirl
Charles Dent	Ponder	Sharon Yingling
Till Fehrenbacher	Brian Ponder	Tom Zemblidge

FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

We express our deep sympathy and assurance of our prayers to the families of **Melissa Stief**; sister of Hal Phillips; and **Pam Zika**.

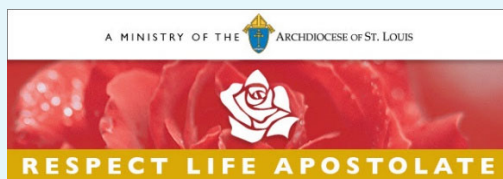
May their souls rest in the Peace of Christ.



Sick Relatives and Friends:

Judy Bauman	Richard Hahl	Sheryl Sanfilippo
Kendell & Tina Bedell	Diane Hermann	Albert Schiermeyer
Jeri Burch	David Kasprzyk	Robert Schneider
Chris Burns	Jenny Lemkemann	Ken Schutz
Wayne Cates	Trish Merklin	Ruby Smith
Nancy Chik	Betty Merritt	Alford Snowden
Diane Chorzel	Lou Merritt	Grace Solimando
Beau Dempewolf	Mary Mudd	Jerry Sutterer
Margaret Dickinson	Melinda Oeth	Msgr. Jim Telthorst
Debbie Ditch	Bruce Payne	Jim Wamhoff
Fran Ebers	Shirley Petrosky	John Wamhoff
Chris Essner	Liz Prange	Paul Williams
Colleen Evans	Mike & Cindy Prinzi	Michelle Wilson
Harold Feltmann	Paul Provost	Bonnie Wittman
Michael Gill	Dianne Rellergert	Joe Wolf
Chris Gooch	Sr. Pat Rodemann	

PRO-LIFE NEWS



Are you age 13-39? Are you pro-life? Then enter the **2021 Respect Life Apostolate's Pro-Life Video Challenge** and you could win a cash prize! Create a 1-5 minute video on the theme, "Walking with Moms in Mercy & Joy." Winners will be invited to our 45th Annual Convention on Sunday, October 17 at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis. The winning video will be announced and played during the Convention and earn a \$500 prize. The 2021 contest runs through September 30. Questions? Call 314.792.7555, email prolife@archstl.org <https://www.archstl.org/respect-life-apostolate/programs/education/pro-life-video-challenge>

HOLY SPIRIT ACTS

The ACTS community at Holy Spirit, in prayer and thanksgiving, is so pleased to announce that formation is resuming in preparation for our next Men's and Women's retreats.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Upcoming Men's Retreat: October 28-31, 2021

Mike Schnable, Director

581-8657 or mikeschnable@sbcglobal.net

Upcoming Women's Retreat: January 20-23, 2022

Anne Kinealy, Director

330-7752 or anne.kinealy@gmail.com

Questions? Want to help?

Please contact Alli Kleitz, Core Team Communications, 344-9034 (H), 239-3015 (C), or kleitzfamily@gmail.com.

RCIA

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church? Is a spouse, fiancé, neighbor, friend, or co-worker interested?

The RCIA process enables those who are interested in the Catholic faith to "come and see"—to explore Catholic teaching and to discover what it means to be a Catholic Christian.

Most people come because they are invited. **Be the voice of Christ & offer the first invitation.** RCIA is for anyone unbaptized or baptized in another Christian tradition, as well as Catholic who are baptized but have never celebrated Confirmation or received 1st Communion.

There is no commitment placed on any one who may be interested or who has questions.

Please contact Fr. Bob Evans, 314-739-0230, OR revans@holyspiritstl.org, or have them contact us so we can invite them to attend inquiry sessions beginning Sept. 15th at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

SAVE THE DATE!

Please note: Place and Date has changed!

**Knights of Columbus
Bishop John Wurm Assembly
#2012 - St. Ann Council #3977**



Mike Koch Memorial Tournament

Saturday October 16, 2021
Eagle Springs Golf Course
2575 Redman Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63136

4 Person Scramble

\$75.00 per golfer ~ \$300.00 per team

Any questions, call or text: Joe Deckard 314-753-4525
Email foursome names to: joe.deckard@sbcglobal.net

SCHOOL NEWS

Mon., Sep. 6 — NO School—Labor Day

Thur., Sep. 9 — Noon Dismissal;

NO Spirit Zone Aftercare

8:00 AM Grade 1—4 Mass prepared by Grade 3

Last day to donate for the Carnival Bottle Booth

Mum Pre-Order form due today

Fri., Sep. 9 — NO School

Mon., Sep. 13 — First Red & Blue Raffle winner will be drawn

Golden Ticket Dress Out Day

Tue., Sep. 14 — **PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA FUNDRAISER**

Thu. Sept 16 — 8:00 AM Grades 1-4 Mass prepared by Grade 2

Fri., Sep. 17 — Noon Dismissal; Faculty Meeting

8:00 AM Grades 5-8 Mass prepared by Grade 7

HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR QUALIFIED TEACHER
SUBSTITUTES. PLEASE SEND YOUR RESUME TO
KKOBERLEIN@HOLYSPIRITSTL.ORG.

NEEDED:

- *Tennis balls for student's desks & chairs.
- *Ticonderoga pencils
- *Gel pens, variety pack
- *8-1/2 x 11 sheet laminator

PSR NEWS

PSR Catechists - Important Dates

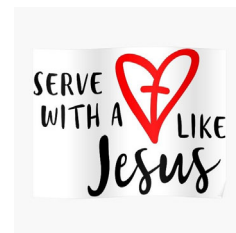
*Sun. Sept. 19, 11 AM—Catechetical Sunday: Mass

IMPORTANT DATES

*PSR Class and REQUIRED Parent Meeting —Tue., Sept. 7th. Drop children off at their classrooms and come to the Parish Hall for the Parent Meeting 6:45–8:00 p.m.

SHOUT OUT TO TEENS

DO YOU NEED SERVICE HOURS??



PSR is looking for A FEW GOOD TEENS to serve as HELPERS to the catechists and students during PSR classes on Tuesday nights. Scheduling can be flexible - you do not have to commit to the entire year - We know how busy a teen's life can be. For more information or to volunteer, Please contact Linda Farhat 314-739-0230 ext. 108 or email lfarhat@holyspiritstl.org

CARNIVAL NEWS

ADVANCE TICKET SALES

LAST CHANCE!

SEPTEMBER 4 & 5

IN THE PARISH HALL AFTER ALL MASSES

Ride Tickets — 25 for \$20

(Day of: 22 for \$20 or \$1.25 each)

Game Tickets — 3 for \$1

(Day of: 2 for \$1)

Food & Drink Tickets — \$1 each

**Main Raffle Tickets — 6 for \$25
OR \$5 each**

CHICKEN DINNER TICKETS

LIMITED NUMBER AVAILABLE

SO GET YOURS EARLY!

CHICKEN DINNER

(catered by Schnucks)
(SERVED OUTSIDE)

**Served Saturday evening,
4:30 to 7:00 PM**

\$9.00 per dinner

Breast & thigh (includes mashed potatoes
& gravy, green beans, slaw, roll & butter)

\$6.00 per dinner

Leg & wing (includes mashed potatoes &
gravy, green beans, roll & butter)

**Limited Number of Tickets Available!
So purchase them during
Advance Ticket Sales**

TEDDY BEAR BOOTH

The teddy bear booth is in need of many new or gently used stuffed animals. Please drop them in the Parish Hall marked 'Teddy Bear Booth.' If you would like to schedule a drop off/pick up of large donations OR have any questions please contact Dawn Womack at 803-7341.

BASKET RAFFLE BOOTH

Please consider donating new items that can be used in gift baskets. Suggested themes: sports, dinner & a movie, baby boy or girl, card/board games, crafts, NASCAR, tailgate party, cat or dog, etc. We'd love to receive donations of game, theatre, or event tickets. Would your employer consider donating a set of their season tickets? We also need baskets/containers in good condition. Please place items in the Parish Hall marked "Basket Raffle."

Monetary or gift card donations will be gladly accepted. Purchase your gift card donations from the SCRIP Table! Please put them in an envelope marked "Basket Raffle" and place them in the collection basket or drop them off at the Parish Office.

Thanks for your help in making this year's Carnival the best ever!

Shelly Barry, 707-6049



**This year Bingo will be played in
the air-conditioned Parish Hall
Masks required!**

**Friday, September 10,
5 to 10:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, September 11,
1 to 3:30 p.m.
8 to 10:00 p.m.**



Many volunteers are needed to have a successful carnival.

We need **BOOTH CHAIRS (SHOOTING GALLERY) & nurses/qualified for the First Aid Station**, as well as help with clean up, working booths, and many other things. It is a great way to meet others in the parish and have fun too!

Please complete this form and return it to the parish office.

If you have questions contact:

Bryan (956-7727) or Sue (780-6866) Hercules

bhercules1717@gmail.com...OR...suehercules@aol.com

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

___ I would like to be contacted for clean up Saturday 10 p.m. until ?

___ I would like to be contacted to work a booth (2 hour shifts)

Friday: ___ 5-7 p.m. ___ 7-9 p.m. ___ 9-11 p.m.

Saturday: ___ 1-3 p.m. ___ 3-5 p.m. ___ 5-7 p.m.

___ 7-9 p.m. ___ 9-11 p.m.

___ I would like to be contacted to chair a booth

___ I would like to be contacted about joining the carnival committee.

Thank you in advance for your time!

BENEFITS OF WORKING AT A CARNIVAL BOOTH

- ✚ Your children will know where to find you.
- ✚ While you're working, you're not spending money.
- ✚ An opportunity to meet other people in the parish.
- ✚ Give the booth chairman a break.
- ✚ An easy way for high school students to earn their service hours.
- ✚ You'll feel good for being a part of it and knowing you had a part in making it happen.



DYNAMIC CATHOLIC, *ALIVE!*

SAINTS DRAW US CLOSER TO CHRIST

One of the most beneficial sources of inspiration in our Catholic Faith is the lives of the saints. The saints, like Christ, offer us a vast number of ways in which we can deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow the Lord. The penances that saints have taken on through the centuries are excellent models for us and give us ideas for denying ourselves and thus surrendering our lives to Christ. Extra prayer, fasting, sleeping on the ground, waking up in the middle of the night to pray, abstaining from alcohol, etc. are just a few of the many actions we can take to grow closer to Christ. What is essential to remember is that these practices must not become a source of pride for us. We must focus on how the actions draw us closer to Christ and allow us to participate in His divine life. We must remember that God must be the source and goal of all of our thoughts, words, and actions. He is worth the sacrifices that we make.

archstl.org/dynamic

BE A SOCK ANGEL

DROP NEW SOCKS IN THE BOX

Located in the Gathering Area

Campaign will run August 1st – September 7th, 2021

The number one item requested from homeless shelters, low income families, & seniors in need of warmth from the cold are **SOCKS**. Please donate **NEW** socks for infants, children & adults & be a **2021 SOCK ANGEL**. The **NEW** socks will be distributed to various catholic agencies, i.e. St. Patrick's Center & others serving less fortunate individuals in St. Louis. City & County. Last year we collected & distributed 14,000 pairs of socks from several parishes. The need is so great, our goal is 28,000 pairs for 2021. Each participating parish will be listed with the number of donated socks on our website & shared with all. Won't you be part of the top 10 by giving generously? Tell your friends & collect **NEW** socks in your neighborhood to add to **SOCKS IN THE BOX!** Get the kids involved—a fantastic community service project for them.

Dollar Tree, Walmart, Target are wonderful sources of quality warm socks at reasonable prices, some as low as 2 or 3 for \$1. Please buy as many as possible & **DROP NEW SOCKS IN THE BOX!** God's Blessing!

Find More Information on our Website:

www.sockangel.org. and www.kofpc.org.



Remember

9/11



BRIDGETON KIWANIS CLUB

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Kiwanis Club of Bridgeton will have their Annual Pancake Breakfast on Sun., Sept. 19, at the Bridgeton Community Center - 4201 Fee Fee Road from 7:30am to 12:30pm.

All you can eat pancakes & sausage will be served. Tickets are \$5.00 for children under 12 and \$8.00 for adults. Tickets can be purchased from a member of the Kiwanis Club or Jeff Painter, (636) 949-8800 or email, jeff.painter@edwardjones.com or Dick Wilhelm at 314-640-8247 or dcwilhelm2016@att.net

The pancake breakfast is one of several fundraisers the Kiwanis use to raise funds to donate to area charities. The Kiwanis Club of Bridgeton actively supports Community Helping Ministries, Pattonville School District through Parents as Teachers, Early Childhood and the Kiwanis Leadership Programs held in the elementary and Middle Schools. They also fund Holy Spirit and their leadership programs as well as Room at the Inn, Kiwanis Camp Wyman, Ranken Technical School, Scholarships for High School Seniors and Ranken Jordan a Pediatric Bridge Hospital.

YOUTH MINISTRY

FIND HOLY SPIRIT YOUTH MINISTRY ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM www.facebook.com/hsyouth
AND as hs_youth_stl (HS Youth STL) on Instagram

In Sept. we'll be focusing on "Getting To Know You" – learning new things about old friends, and getting to know new ones as well as diving a little into who you are and where faith meets all of that.

As we begin a new school year with new friends, new classes, new challenges and new hope, why not join us for high school every Thur.? We'll discuss the issues you are facing, and find ways to see how God is active within those times. Be there in the Resource Center basement (Holy Spirit Room) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. every Thursday for food, fun and discussions. Bring a friend.

Note: There will be not meeting on Sept. 9 because the Carnival is being set up.

8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION FORMATION

Session 6: Relationships should be done with your sponsor. Please make sure you have watched and discussed the whole session by Sept. 15.

Session 7: The Eucharist small group sessions will begin in Sept.

Watch your email for your session times and calendar.

Don't forget to send in your Confirmation Record Form. It was due at the end of last school year.

WANTED:

~PGC Adults who are willing to chaperone for high school (Eat. Pray. Discuss.), &/or 7th & 8th grade (MSM–Middle School Madness).

~PGC Adults willing to chaperone large events like retreats or March for Life, or service projects/retreats.

~Someone with knowledge of the area to help organize leaf raking project

~PGC Adults who are interested in working on occasional opportunities for younger youth (5th & 6th grade) during the school year.

PRAYER STARTERS FOR PARENTS AND TEENS:

- Ask, "What made you happiest today?" Share yours with your child, too. Say a prayer of thanks for that.
- Find a quiet place. Listen to a favorite Christian music song. Sit quietly for a couple of minutes and reflect together.
- Gather your children and their backpacks, lunch boxes, school supplies, etc. Have each person extend their hands and say the prayer below together (you can say a line and have the others repeat, or all say together).

Backpack Prayer: Lord, bless these backpacks and the children and youth who carry them as they begin yet another year of school. Give them peace when they feel nervous, focus when they feel distracted, energy when they feel tired. Open their minds to the lessons they will learn both in and outside the classroom. Help them to make friends that build one another up, and be friends to those who need them. Guide them in making good choices as they grow in wisdom and maturity. Be ever-present with them in the classroom, on the school bus, on the playground, and at home, and may they feel your loving care in all they do. Amen.



CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Are you engaged? Consider attending a Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend, a time of discovery and love for you and your fiancé. Spend a focused weekend together to prepare for your lifetime commitment. Our next weekend will be held Sept. 24-26 at the Marianist Retreat Center in Eureka.

You can learn more and register at:

<https://www.stlengagedencounter.org/>,

Email: engagedencounterstl@gmail.com or call Peggy & Richard Burton, 314-941-1371.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

When "Pull Yourself Together" Doesn't Work

You've heard it time & time again: "Pull yourself together....Cheer up....Tough it out....It's not that bad." Perhaps people have said it to you. Or perhaps you keep saying it to yourself. But it hasn't helped. You're still hurting. Things are coming apart. Here's the good news: You don't have to go through your struggles alone. Help is available. Holy Spirit's Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers who will walk with you, listen to you, & provide confidential, one-to-one care as you search through the pieces & find what is truly in your heart.



To learn more about what Stephen Ministry can do for you, call the Stephen Ministry confidential Hotline today: (314) 739-0230 ext.130.

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you.

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 35:4-7a
Ps 146:(1b) 7-10
James 2:1-5
Mark 7:31-37

Monday September 6

Colossians 1:24 -- 2:3
Ps 62:6-7,9
Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday September 7

Colossians 2:6-15
Ps 145:1b-2,8-11
Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday September 8

Nativity of the Virgin Mary
Micah 5:1-4a
or Romans 8:28-30
Ps 13:6abc
Matthew 1:1-16,18-23

Thursday September 9

St. Peter Claver
Colossians 3:12-17
Ps 150:1b-6
Luke 6:27-38

Friday September 10

1 Timothy 1:1-2,12-14
Ps 16:1b-2a,5,7-8,11
Luke 6:39-42

Saturday September 11

1 Timothy 1:15-17
Ps 113:1b-7
Luke 6:43-49

Today's readings show us God's concern for the disabled. How closely do we share in his concern?

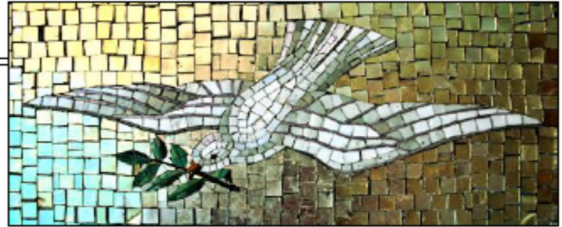
We're all disabled, one way or another. We can have eyes that see and still be blind. In fact, the scripture from James shows us just how blind we can be!

If we see only how a person dresses, for example, without seeing their giftedness, we are being judgmental. If we are more impressed by a person's wealth or title or college degrees than we are by his/her insights or willingness to serve, we are being judgmental.

Only God can see all the good that's in a person's heart, and yet we make assumptions about others. Only God can hear the motives and longings behind a person's words, and yet we quickly judge what is being said as if we know exactly what is meant.

Judgmentalism shows us nothing more than how truly blind we are.

Jesus wants to say to each of us: "Ephphatha! May your eyes and ears and mind be opened to the truth!" However, so that we can receive this healing, we have to slow down and stop reacting to what's visible and audible. We cannot trust what we see and hear. We need to take time to prayerfully pause for wisdom and discernment and new discoveries.



This is one of the reasons why Jesus gave us his Holy Spirit. When we let God's Spirit interpret everything for us, instead of reacting, we will act the way the Lord wants us to. Instead of reacting to partial information, we will act with faith and compassion.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. In what ways do you show partiality toward some people? What types of people do you tend to automatically prefer, based on outward appearances?
2. And whom do you tend to dislike until you get to know them better?
3. How will you begin to change this automatic reaction by relying on the Holy Spirit?
4. In what ways have you been judged unfairly? How does it feel? Are you judging those who judged you, neglecting to look deeper inside of them?
5. In your faith sharing community or family discussion, take turns in your group naming a false accusation that caused suffering, followed by other members describing the goodness that the accusers were too blind to see. (This last part is very important – it is Jesus providing healing!)

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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — (SEPTEMBER 12, 2021)

Is 50:5-9a — Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 — Jas 2:14-18 — Mk 8:27-35



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