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.
**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

**EUCHARISTIC 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.

**EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION (BEGINNING OCTOBER 14)**
Mondays, 1 to 7 p.m. (closing with Benediction at approximately 6:50 p.m.).

**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 Karen Rychlewski.

**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 see one of the priests after Mass. 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, Commission and group name. Items can be e-mailed to mwelsh@holyspiritstl.org.

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**OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS**
Stewardship for November 4-10, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Envelopes, 237 utilized</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loose Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Donations, 79 families</td>
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<td>Weekly Surplus (shortfall)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HandS</td>
<td>$1,770.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Improvements</td>
<td>$260.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, November 24**
7:00 am—Salad Sunday, Parish Hall
9:00 am—Liturgy of the Word for Children, rm. 106
1:00—Drive by Raking, Off Property
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Community Rm.

**Monday, November 25**
1:00 pm—Exposition/Benediction, Church
6:00 pm—Quilting, Annex

**Tuesday, November 26**
9:00 am—Quilting, Annex
7:30 pm—Fire in the Spirit, Community Rm.

**Wednesday, November 27**
6:30 am—St. Patrick Casseroles, St. Blaise Rm.
9:00 am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.
7:00 pm—Ensemble Choir Practice, Church
—Food Addicts Anonymous, Rigali Rm.
—Prayer Shawl, St. Blaise Rm.
—RCIA Inquiry, Parish Hall

**Thursday, November 28, — Happy Thanksgiving!**
9:00 am—Mass
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Rm. 2

**Saturday, November 30**
7:00 pm—Rock N Roll Bingo, Gym

**Sunday, December 1 — First Sunday of Advent**
10:00 am—Advent Family Festival, Parish Hall/School
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Community Rm.

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**LADIES CLUB**
The Ladies Club of Holy Spirit want to THANK all who supported our first craft show and attended our annual Quilt Bingo.
Our Christmas Party will be Tues., Dec. 10. Doors open at 6 PM. Dinner served at 6:30 PM. Entertainment at 7:30 PM. Cost is $15 per person.
Call Karen, 291-1971 for more information.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**MUSIC TRIVIA NIGHT**
Saturday, January 25, 2020
Holy Spirit Gym, 7pm

**FUNDRAISER for the graduating class of 2021**

**ACTS CORE TEAM NEEDS YOU!**
We are looking for 6 new members: 2 women & 4 men. Everyone who has served on one or more ACTS teams is invited! You can submit your own name and/or other names. Please contact Joan Gettemeyer by Dec. 9.
jgettemeyer@sbcglobal.net

We meet once a month. Thanks for prayerfully considering this leadership role to support Holy Spirit ACTS.
MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 24
7:30am   Terry Moran
9:00am   Fred DeWitt
11:00am  For Our Parishioners

Monday, November 25
6:30 am  Marie Briden

Tuesday, November 26
6:30am   Faithful Departed

Wednesday, November 27
6:30am   Fred DeWitt

Thursday, November 28 — Happy Thanksgiving
9:00am   Glennon F. Audrain

Friday, November 29
8:00am   George Murphy

Saturday, November 30
8:00am   Paul Dydo
5:00pm   Cindy Lamorette

Sunday, December 1 — First Sunday of Advent
7:30am   For Our Parishioners
9:00am   Carol Klump
11:00am  Gerald Weiss

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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

Irene Biggins  Jim Brockmeyer  Connie Buenemann
Nicole Chapman  Ed Cody  Matthew Cody
Peggy Cody  Charles Dent  Dorothy Faerber
Till Fehehenbacher  Joe Greco  Kenneth Jordan
Al Katzer  Marie Knox

Charles Kraemer  Mike Lemp  Jerry McGuire
Mary McGuire  Karen Newcomb  Matt Niedringhaus
Jacob Null  Dave Peters  Bob & Donna Pedrotti
Brian Ponder  John Rizzello  John Roberson
Mike Sampson  Bill Schneider  Norma Schwaninger
Rudy & Brenda Torricelli  Nanci Van Amburgh  Joe & Jean Wangler
Syl Wayer  Gene Weckherlin  Bill & Joan Weinzirl
Tom Zembleidge

Sick Relatives and Friends:

Lauren Castellana  Nancy & Larry Chik  Jackie Craven
Anne DeSchryver  Paul Ecks  Jim Eisenbath
Lee Engert  Colleen Evans  Steve Hartnett
Bethany Henderson  Sharon Lewis  Lisa Masek
Cameron Meyer  Christine Meyer  Luke Meyer
Ron Meyer  David Rychlewski  Grace Solimando
Baby John Szever  Bonnie Wittman
Loretta Rath

Memorial Display Photos

Please remember to take home the photographs of your loved ones today from the memorial display. The display will be taken down this week and any remaining photos will be placed on the table in the parish hall for pick-up.

Nov 30-Dec 1

Hospitality
M Bovier  R & S Ramspott  D Klein
C Milligan  K Shamel  S Gayda
A & V Drury  R Fetsch  F Gallagher
J Saputo  M Webb  G & M Boulicault
K Flood  W Schlenk

Hearing Assist
Sub Requested  MB Chik  D Kath
J Sicking

Lectors
D Schulte  T Wilhelm  2 Subs Requested
A Lange  A Breakfield  M McCarthy
M Sicking

Eucharistic Ministers
J Bamert  D Casey  C Duffy  R Eilerman
A Merris  R & M Bovier  P & G Cunningham
D Portman  R & MB Chik  P & J Kiehlhoffer
L Cwiklowski  MJ Flynn  S Silver
C & K Caverly  R & K Dannegger  W & G Prather
E Accardi  T Bath  M Feltmann
A Kleitz  J Painter  A Wahking
R & MA Weiss  Sub Requested

Servers
D Neal  W Peroutka  S Shine  W Kielhofner
D Portman  T Shelley  M Bergen  J Cochran
S Kelly  R Green  L Sicking
Sub Requested

Our Daily Prayer Connection
739-0230 Ext. 132
A phone line at Holy Spirit is dedicated as a helpful resource for daily prayer, especially to homebound parishioners and caregivers! Call to hear reading from daily Mass, prayer texts, and reflection for each day of the liturgical year. The prayer line is available anytime, day or night.

Ministry Schedule — Nov. 30-Dec. 1

# EARLY
B Philipp  B Schindler

# LATE
P Henderson  M Leib

Christ the King, November 24, 2019 | 3
**SCHOOL NEWS**

*Congratulations* to our Nov. 18 Red & Blue winner of $25; Leslie Reimer.

Thank you for supporting our school!

Happy Turkey day everyone! We are grateful to share in each one of your child’s journey with Christ. May this week be full of blessings. There will be no school Wednesday through Friday.

**Wish List**

- Wax Paper (Art)
- Paper Bowls (Art)
- Tin Foil (Art)
- Plastic Shopping Bags (Art)
- Pipe cleaners (Art)
- Pom poms (Art)
- Modge Podge (Art)
- Tacky Glue (Art)
- Black Sharpies (Art)
- 2 Stop Watches (Speech Team)

With God all things are possible!

Mrs. Hewitt

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**PSR NEWS**

**PSR Mass**

On Tues., Nov. 26, 7pm, PSR students & their families & grandparents will celebrate Mass for Thanksgiving. Students will arrive by 6:45 as usual and meet their catechists in the Gathering Space for attendance and to get their thankfulness cutout. There will be bins in the Gathering Space to drop off the donations for HandS for our Thanksgiving Service Project. Students will sit with their families in Church. There will be paper hearts or turkeys in the pews for family members to write something you are thankful for. All cutouts will be collected at the offertory.

**PSR Thanksgiving Service Project**

We are collecting donations for HandS at the PSR Thanksgiving Mass Tues., Nov. 26. Please choose from the suggestions below:

- Macaroni & Cheese
- Soup
- Peanut butter and/or Jelly (plastic containers only)
- Canned fruit and/or canned vegetables
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken)

**Advent/Christmas PSR activities at home**

There will be no PSR on Tues., Dec. 17. Instead of coming to class, do at least one of the activities suggested in the handout that was sent home.

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**LUNCH BUNCH IS THIS TUESDAY!**

*Older adult* parishioners will gather at 11 am this Tues., Sport’s Café, 3579 Penridge Dr., Bridgeton, 63044 for light-hearted conversation while enjoying lunch together. *No reservations are required* so bring a friend or come alone because it’s just for fun!

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**PSR News**

**PSR Thanksgiving Service Project**

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**Advent/Christmas PSR activities at home**

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**Poinsettias for Sale!**

$12 each or 2 for $22

Dec. 7 & 8 after all Masses

Proceeds help support 6th grade camp 2020

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**BRUNCH WITH SANTA**

Saturday, December 7

Watch the bulletin for more information.

**CHILDREN’S RAFFLE**

New or gently used items for the Children’s Raffle that takes place at Brunch with Santa are needed. Donations may be dropped off in the Parish Hall.

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4 | Christ the King, November 24, 2019
A GREAT WAY TO PRAY WITH YOUR FAMILY DURING THIS SEASON IS WITH AN ADVENT WREATH
Advent Family Prayer from Loyola Press: God of Love, Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent as we wait and prepare for his coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

MARCH FOR LIFE YOUTH PILGRIMAGE
Hosting a fundraiser from Nov. 24-Dec. 10. We will be selling Butterbraids, cookie dough, pizza, & other Show Me Dough products just in time for your Christmas gatherings. Orders will be available for pick up the evening of Dec. 17. To order contact Donna, deisenbath@gmail.com or 314-954-1326, or get in touch with one of our young people who are attending the march.

SERVICE PROJECT: DRIVE BY RAKINGS
Join us for some service TODAY, Sun., Nov. 24. We’ll meet for pizza at 12:30 & rake from 1-4. It’s a great way to use your gifts for others & have some fun with friends while we do it!

CONFIRMATION
8th Grade:
  Session 11: Made for Mission is TODAY, Sun., Nov. 24. Join us to talk about “Stirring it Up,” and to celebrate Confirmation with friends and food. Be sure to come and enjoy the grace of friendship, your community & Donna’s homemade cookies.

7th Grade:
  Session 1: Life is Choices will begin January 15. This session is for parents and their child.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS & SENIORS – ALL ARE WELCOME:
Eat, Pray, Discuss for high school teens meets every Thurs. in the Resource Center (enter through the basement door), 7-9. All 2019-2020 freshmen, sophomores, juniors & seniors are welcome anytime. Drop in when you can. Bring a friend if you like.

ST. PATRICK’S CASSEROLES NEEDS YOU!!
We have been providing chicken-rice casseroles on the 4th Wed. of every month (as part of St. Patrick Center’s parish-based program to provide a noon meal for those in need) for many years now. We will provide the disposable pan, & the recipe which is easy to follow.
For info, Mary Beth Schulte, 229-8067 or SpecRelEdu@aol.com. Help feed the hungry people in our area. Casseroles are due THIS Wed., Nov. 27.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MADNESS
All 6th-8th grade students are invited to attend a night just for you! We’ll pray & play from 7-9 in the Annex. Bring a friend & join the fun. Nov. MSM will be Dec. 13.

FOOD! WE CAN ALWAYS use snack and/or soda donations for high school meetings (every week), and Middle School Madness (once a month). Contact Donna Eisenbath if you are interested in helping.

PRO-LIFE GENERATION LIFE PILGRIMAGE: We have several high school & 8th grade teens attending the March for Life. Donations for meals, Metro Cards for getting around D.C. or to help us buy tee shirts are appreciated. We are doing fundraising to help with the cost. If you would like to donate to help families afford the trip, it would be much appreciated. We are grateful to have such a generous community.

Interested? Want to help our teens encounter Jesus through participation in our parish community? Contact Donna, 954-1326 or deisenbath@holyspiritstl.org

SOCIAL JUSTICE—JUST LIVING
“We can never accept a separation of our religious faith & moral convictions from our public ministries or our political engagement. It’s impossible. And even trying to do so is evil because it forces us to live two different lives, worshiping God at home and in our churches; & worshipping the latest version of Caesar everywhere else.” ~Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput, OFM, Archbishop of Philadelphia, July 2019 Address before the Alliance Defending Freedom Summit on Religious Liberty

GARDEN OF FEEDEN
As the seasons change the Garden comes to an end. We were blessed with an abundance of vegetables that were shared with food pantries & parishioners again this year. Your generous donations allowed us to make contributions to Hands each week. Thank you for your continued support. See you next spring!

Christ the King, November 24, 2019 | 5
Donations needed!
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food Pantry serves over 1,000 meals EVERY Thanksgiving Morning.

Many volunteers come to help prepare and deliver these meals. Holy Spirit Parish has been asked to help by providing breakfast items to feed about 100 volunteers.

Donated items can be homemade or store bought. Suggestions: donuts, muffins, pastries or danishes, coffee cakes, bagels, bananas, apples, gallons of orange juice or apple juice, bottled water.

If you’d prefer, cash donations are accepted and we will do the shopping for you.

For more information, please contact Deacon Scott Kaufman 314-229-6633 or skauf84@sbcglobal.net

Donations may be dropped off in the Parish Hall after all Masses, November 23-24 or at our home, 3616 Bostons Farm Drive by Wednesday afternoon 11/27.

Holy Spirit Parish
Annual Advent by Candlelight
Sunday, December 8, 2019
5pm-8pm - Holy Spirit Parish Hall
Doors open at 4:30pm

Contact information for this event:
Lisa Ahern, lisaahernathome@gmail.com, 605-4346
Ann Allman, anncallman@gmail.com, 724-2124

How do I sign up?
If you would like to attend, and already know who your hostess is, she will be contacting you.
If you would like to attend, and do not have a hostess in mind, please RSVP to Lisa Ahern or Ann Allman and we will seat you at a table.
If you would like to be a hostess, please RSVP to Lisa Ahern or Ann Allman and we will provide you with more information.
We must have all reservations by Wednesday, December 4.

What is Advent by Candlelight?
An evening spent with women of faith as we wait and prepare with MARY during this Advent Season and also honor MARY on her Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception.
Our speaker this year:
Jane Guenther, Director of The Catholic Renewal Center.

Who is invited?
All the ladies of the parish are invited...
And your adult lady friends from any parish...
And your adult lady family members from any parish.

How does it work?
Each table will have a hostess who will decorate her table.
Each table will provide dinner and/or snacks and/or desserts for just their Table of 8.
Each table member will be contacted by their hostess with details and instructions about the evening.
**HANDS GIVING TREE**

The Giving Tree will be in the Gathering Area of Church through **Sunday, December 1st**.

You may take an ornament from the tree, purchase the gift noted on the ornament, and attach the ornament to the **UNWRAPPED** gift.

**OR**

Purchase one of the suggested gifts from the list below, do NOT wrap it and, if possible, leave the price tag on it.

- **Toys**: cars, trucks, dolls, games, games for teenagers, sports items (Please NO Candyland, Chutes and Ladders or soccer balls.)
- **For All Ages**: clothes, pajamas, sweaters, jackets, underwear, socks, sweat suits (Large & X-Large & 2X)
- **Household**: sheets (full & queen size), kitchen & bath towels, dishes, glasses, pots, & pans, toasters, tools, flatware, flashlights, clocks (wall & radio) & storage containers, electric can openers, waffle makers, roasters, toaster oven, electric skillets, electric heaters, blenders, crockpots 5 quart
- **Other**: men and women fragrance or soap gift sets, hand lotion, holiday food gift packages (example: Hickory Farms), popcorn tins, jewelry, radios, cameras & watches.

RETURN THE **UNWRAPPED** GIFT(S) TO CHURCH BY **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST**.

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**Taste & See**

for **Older Adults**

**Tuesday, December 10, 2019**

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

in the Parish Hall

**It’s a Christmas Party with the Duchesne High School Jazz Band!**

Let’s be merry! We’ll begin with a catered breakfast and then enjoy some holiday fun!

**RSVP the Parish Office by December 3rd**

314-739-0230

*To arrange non-medical care for a loved one so that you may attend, call Karen Rychlewski, 739-0230, Ext. 108, by December 3rd.*
WE NEED YOUR HELP
TO WELCOME THE RCIA CANDIDATES & CATECHUMENS

Because hospitality is a quality of the RCIA, just as it is in the life of the Christian community, please help welcome the catechumens and candidates for membership into the Catholic Church and specifically to our parish. To make their Sunday gatherings more hospitable we are asking members of our parish family (you – the sponsoring community) to provide coffee cake, donuts, etc. Please call Karen Rychlewski (739.0230) or email krychlewski@holyspiritstl.org or fill out the form below and place it in the collection basket as soon as possible. THANK YOU!

I would like to welcome new members into our parish by providing snacks during their gathering time.

Name _________________________________________

Phone # _______________________________________

Email _______________________________________

PRO-LIFE

Advance Medical Directives: Planning for Your Future

Read the full version at respectlifeprogram.org/advance-directives.

The safest option is to designate a health care agent.

Human life is good and to be protected. All medical decisions ought to reflect this core belief. Yet some medical and legal documents used to define a patient’s future care can be harmful. No matter how well-crafted, they can’t predict all the possible scenarios and best courses of action. In each set of circumstances, we need to judge whether a given treatment will provide real benefit to the patient, without causing harm or disproportionate burdens. The safest option is to designate a health care agent to make decisions if you become incapable of doing so. It’s best to appoint a responsible, trustworthy person who understands and shares your Catholic values, and can apply them when the need arises.

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iStock.com/nevodica
AROUND TOWN

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
“Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.” Rejoice in your marriage sacrament!! Attend the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in the St. Louis area. The next weekends are Dec 6-8, 2019 or Feb. 7-9, 2020 at the Courtyard Marriot in St. Peters. https://stl-wwme.org/schedule.php or call or text 314.649.7317.

YOU ARE INVITED TO AN ITALIAN MASS
We wish to invite all to join St. Ambrose on the Hill, located on Marconi & Wilson, on the First Sunday of each month at 11 AM to worship at an Italian Mass. The first two readings are in Italian and the Gospel is read in English. Our choir will be singing Italian songs. Everyone is welcome to join us in this worship.

DYNAMIC CATHOLIC, ALIVE!

UNIVERSAL KINGSHIP
Jesus’ messianic anointing—sealed by the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Him during His baptism in the Jordan—was no mere formality. It was an event that reached across all of time and space. Jesus wasn’t just anointed Priest, Prophet, and King of Israel. Rather, His Kingship is of the universe! And when we are anointed with Holy Chrism at our Baptism, we share in this exalted office as members of His Mystical Body. Do something special to mark this royal feast day. (CCC 783-786)


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
All men 18 & older who are practicing Catholics are invited to join the St. Ann Council 3977 of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Organization dedicated to family, fraternal & community service, which is based on the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity & Patriotism. If interested, please contact Don Benz, 428-7403 or any current member of Council 3977.

OPEN AUDITIONS
FOR PAC SPRING MUSICAL FOR KIDS!!!
Auditions for students Grades 3 - 8 will be held Thurs., Dec. 5, 6-8pm, Parish Hall. Auditions are open to children in the parish, current PAC students, & all children in the community. Please be prepared to sing a short simple song such as “Happy Birthday.” The show is 101 Dalmations. Rehearsals start in Feb. 2020. Shows will be afternoon matinees on Sat., Apr. 18, & Sun., Apr. 19 in the parish hall. Maureen Carlson & Sheri Terry will direct the show. Please help spread the word to parents & children who may be interested in auditioning!!

PAC phone number is 314-731-6522.

CHRIST ALIVE THROUGH MARY
The women’s witness ministry, Christ Alive Through Mary, will be having it’s next prayer breakfast Dec. 7, the Rigali Center. Tina Ferder will be sharing her faith journey and how she has found transformation in God’s time. For more information and registration go to the Catholic Renewal Center website, archstl.org/renewal

CELEBRATION OF LIFE BANQUET
Where: Orlando’s Event Center, Maryland Heights, MO
When: Sunday, Dec. 8
Time: Cocktails 5 p.m., Dinner 6 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

The Word Was Made Flesh and Dwelt Among Us
Advent Reflection 2019
““The Word Was Made Flesh and Dwelt Among Us” highlights the meaning and significance for each of us of the Incarnation, the reality of the Word of God being made flesh in the Virgin Mary’s womb and living among us. “Put flesh upon the reality” of our union with one another in the Body of Christ through participation in this free Advent reflection, held at several parishes throughout the Archdiocese on December 1 or December 15. Each site will host a meal, a conference, and an opportunity to participate in an outreach offering to our local sisters and brothers in need.

North County Deanery - Sunday, Dec. 15 from 1-3pm
St. Ferdinand Church
1765 Charbonier Road / Florissant, MO 63031
314.837.3165
Presenter: Fr. Anthony Wieck, SJ

For more dates, times and locations or to register, visit www.catholicfaithstl.com/catholic-faith-stl-adults

Questions? Email holiness@archstl.org or call 314.792.7370

Christ the King, November 24, 2019 | 9
Our Lord Christ the King

2 Samuel 5:1-3
Ps 122:1-5
Colossians 1:12-20

In the Gospel reading, one of the criminals hanging next to Jesus on the cross represents us. Jesus is our king and we want to spend eternity with him in his kingdom. As long as we have this attitude, there is no reason to doubt that when we die we will join Jesus in Paradise.

As the king of heaven, Jesus has the right and the authority to choose who is allowed into his kingdom. And as this Good Friday thief shows us, Jesus says, “Yes, come in, welcome!” to anyone who recognizes his authority.

Let’s look at what the authority of Jesus is like. At the Last Supper, when he washed the feet of his disciples, he made it clear that the heavenly king exerts his authority by serving those who belong to his kingdom.

The next day, he took a crown of thorns instead of a crown of gold, because the glory of his kingship is not represented by earthly treasures but by riches that are given to others, the personal sacrifices that are motivated by love, even for those who don’t deserve it.

After his resurrection, although he’d been healed from the destruction of death, his five crucifixion wounds were not healed. To this day, he still bears those wounds as a continual reminder to us that he does not use his authority for his own benefit, but for ours. Earthly kings wear expensive rings on their hands; our heavenly king wears the marks of sacrifice.

We belong to God’s kingdom when we lovingly serve others with Christ because we understand the glory of giving generously to others, of making personal sacrifices, and of loving those who don’t deserve our love.

If we offer to Jesus our sufferings because we realize that they have value, we wear the five wounds of Jesus in our souls. Of course we will join Jesus in Paradise – we have already united ourselves to him!

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Reflect on a time when you submitted yourself to Christ’s authority by obeying a difficult teaching of the Church or by doing something Christ-like that you didn’t want to do. Did you feel loved by God? Did you feel served?

2. What will you do to become more aware of his service to you? What are you holding onto today that does not belong to his kingdom? What will you do this week to allow Jesus to be your king in every area of your life?

3. Name some of the ways that Jesus serves us. Does he do it directly to you or through other people in his kingdom? When you serve others, how is this a recognition of the kingship and authority of Christ?

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT — (DECEMBER 1, 2019)
Is 2:1-5 — Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 — Rom 13:11-14 — Mt 24:37-44

10 | Christ the King, November 24, 2019