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 STAFF
Rev. Bob Evans, Pastor Ext. 103
revans@holyspiritstl.org
Rev. Jerry Meier, In Residence Ext. 112
jmeier@holyspiritstl.org
Deacon Jim DeNatale
Deacon Scott Kaufman
Donna Eisenbath, Youth Minister
..........................314-954-1326
deisenbath@holyspiritstl.org
Kelly Hewitt, Principal..............739-1934
k Hewitt@holyspiritstl.org
Sharon Kaufman, CRE/Pastoral Assoc.
..........................Ext. 110
skaufman@holyspiritstl.org
Marilyn O'Neill, Director of Music.
..........................Ext. 107
moneill@holyspiritstl.org
Karen Rychlewski, Pastoral Associate
..........................Ext. 108
krychlewski@holyspiritstl.org
John Honey, Maintenance
Julie Spinner, Parish & PSR Secretary
....................................Ext. 101
jspinner@holyspiritstl.org
Mary Welsh, Parish Secretary Ext. 102
m Welsh@holyspiritstl.org
Daily Prayer Connection
..........................314-739-0230 ext. 132
Faith in Action, (See Sharon Kaufman)
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

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES
The deadline for the December 22 bulletin is
NOON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12.
The deadline for the December 29 bulletin is
NOON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18.
The deadline for the January 5 bulletin is
NOON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24.

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.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS
Due to an early bulletin deadline,
Stewardship for November 11-17, 2019
Will be reported NEXT Week.

WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK
Sunday, December 1 — First Sunday of Advent
10:00 am—Advent Family Festival, Parish Hall/School
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Community Rm.

Monday, December 2
1:00 pm—Exposition/Benediction, Church
6:00 pm—Quilting, Annex
7:00 pm—First Penance, Church

Tuesday, December 3
9:00 am—Quilting, Annex
7:30 pm—Fire in the Spirit, Community Rm.

Wednesday, December 4
9:00 am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.
7:00 pm—Food Addicts Anonymous, Rigali Rm.
—RCIA Mini-Retreat, Church, Parish Hall

Thursday, December 5
9:00 am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Rm. 2
—Choir Rehearsal, Church

Saturday, December 7
9:00 am—Brunch with Santa
4:30 pm—Poinsettia Sale, Parish Hall

Sunday, December 8 — Second Sunday of Advent
8:00 am—Poinsettia Sale, Parish Hall
9:00 am—Liturgy of the Word for Children, Rm. 106
—Mass, Rite of Acceptance, RCIA, Church
5:00 pm—Advent by Candlelight, Parish Hall
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Community Rm.

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

Monday, December 2
6:30 am  Roger Everson, Special Intention

Tuesday, December 3
6:30am  John Roberson, Special Intention

Wednesday, December 4
6:30am  Faithful Departed

Thursday, December 5
8:00am  Luella Carter

Friday, December 6
8:00am  Bernetta Drury

Saturday, December 7
8:00am  Jerry Borgmeyer
5:00pm  Sis Tessmer

Sunday, December 8
7:30am  Sue Bastean
9:00am  For Our Parishioners
11:00am  Thanksgiving

Prayers for the Sick

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

Mass Intention Schedule — Dec. 7-8

Dec 7-8
5:00 PM  D Hass
J Riesmeyer
N Wibbenmeyer
D Klein
C Milligan
K Shamel

7:30 AM  M & JL Boenker
N Suedmeyer
R Fetsch
F Gallagher
J Saputo

9:00 AM  R & S Holland
K Flood
W Schlenk

11:00 AM  J Neil
E & B Flores
J Greco
P Gruszczynski
M Kohl
C VanDoren

$ Counters
EARLY  R Fetsch
J Moran

LATE  P Albers
R Slice

MINISTRY SCHEDULE — DEC. 7-8

Hospitality
D Hass
J Riesmeyer
N Wibbenmeyer
D Klein
C Milligan
K Shamel
M & JL Boenker
N Suedmeyer
R Fetsch
F Gallagher
J Saputo
R & S Holland
K Flood
W Schlenk
J Neil
E & B Flores
J Greco
P Gruszczynski
M Kohl
C VanDoren

Lectors
J Bamert
D Schulte

Eucharistic Ministers
D Casey
D Hass
A Kleitz
M Schulte
C Stuckey
J & J Chrismer
R & N Swantner
R Dallavalle
K Kenning
J Woodard
J & K McFarling
R Backowski
C Grothoff
K Johnson
A Kendrick
P Krause
N Meyer
B Schell
P & K Farrar
P Abramczyk
M Domingo
B Dufaux
B Flores
H Parti
A/M Samson
M Weber
R & M Keating

Servers
M Bryant
J Zenner
M Zenner
T Nelson
A Woodard
M Young
J Cochran
S Flack
C Grothoff
C Catlow
L Catlow
M McCarthy

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

Shane Katzler
Irene Lee
Fynlee Schneider
Dave & Paula Schneider

David Rychlewski
Grace Solimando

Bryan & Sherry Fong

Baby John Szever
Bonnie Wittman

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

Charles Kraemer
Mike Lemp
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 & Joanne Weinzirl
Tom Zemblidge

Mike Sampson
Bill Schneider
Norma Schwaninger
Rudy & Brenda Torricelli
Nanci Van Amburgh
Joe & Jean Wangler
Syl Wayer
Gene Weckherlin
Bill & Joanne Weinzirl
Tom Zemblidge
SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to our Nov. 25 Red & Blue winner of $25; Jenny Huber. Thank you for supporting our school!

Please pray for our second graders as they make their First Penance Monday evening. We are excited to share in this evening with them as they take another step in their faith journey. Santa’s Secret Shop begins on Thursday and continues on Friday. Friday is a noon dismissal. I hope to see everyone at Brunch with Santa! Did you get your tickets?

Fri. Dec. 6: All School Mass Prepared by grade 4

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

PSR NEWS

Thank you for all the many generous donations of food items collected for HandS at our Thanksgiving Mass. HandS will be able to help so many families in need.

Advent/Christmas PSR activities at home

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

PSR’s December Calendar

- Dec. 3 - classes
- Dec. 10-classes
- Dec. 17- NO PSR, Faculty Dinner & In-service, in the Parish Hall
- Dec. 24–NO PSR - Merry Christmas
- Dec. 31–NO PSR - Happy New Year

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

MUSIC TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, January 25, 2020
Holy Spirit Gym, 7pm
FUNDRAISER for the graduating class of 2021

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.
MARCH FOR LIFE YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

is 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 Eisenbath, deisenbath@gmail.com or 314-954-1326, or get in touch with one of our young people who are attending the march.

CONFIRMATION

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

8th Grade:
Session 12: Holiness is Possible is Sun., Mar. 8. Mark your calendars for this important session in “Stirring it Up.”

OUR SAINTS ARE SHOWING

Come learn about the patron saints our newly Confirmed chose as their role models. We’ll display them during Coffee & Doughnuts on Sun., Dec. 15 after all Masses.

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.

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.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry has specially selected & trained men & women to listen with care to all they serve, & to keep all that is shared with them in strict confidentiality. Whether your struggle with emotions is what you consider small, or even if it is larger, Stephen Ministry awaits your call for help. 739-0230, ext.130, leave a confidential message. Compassionate & caring listening for you!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Pray for an end to AIDS. Yes it is still a disease of great harm. Especially in countries where women have no rights — to say “No.” Use of IV drugs also are part of the cause. We cannot forget it is transmittable to the new born—so innocent.

Thank you for the many generous donations to the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food Pantry Thanksgiving Meals! With your donations we were able to provide a delicious continental breakfast AND contributed towards the cost for the 1000+ meals that went out to the needy! Thank you for sharing your financial gifts with others in need.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry has specially selected & trained men & women to listen with care to all they serve, & to keep all that is shared with them in strict confidentiality. Whether your struggle with emotions is what you consider small, or even if it is larger, Stephen Ministry awaits your call for help. 739-0230, ext.130, leave a confidential message. Compassionate & caring listening for you!
Criminal Justice Ministry
Join us at 7 p.m. Wed., Dec. 11, in the Parish Hall, to hear Myra Vandersal speak about the Pen Pal Program.
Questions, Mary, 314-497-5048.

About the Criminal Justice Ministry Pen Pal Program
For more than 23 years, our volunteer letter writers have been changing the lives of Missouri inmates. All it takes is one hour, one sheet of paper, one envelope, one stamp and you make a positive impact on the life of an incarcerated person.

What would I do as a pen pal?
• You exchange friendly letters and provide a diversion from the endless monotony of prison life
• You offer a positive connection to the outside world
• You write to people who have been marginalized by society
• You share everyday experiences in your life and the world around you
• You learn that your pen pal has hopes and dreams, just like you

How does this work?
• You write directly to your pen pal and use the CJM return address
• Your pen pal’s letters are sent to Criminal Justice Ministry and then forwarded to you. This keeps your anonymity and does not reveal your home address.

What does my pen pal get?
• A sense of being included in everyday lives of people and experiences on the outside
• A protection on the inside. Many inmates have no contact with friends or family when incarcerated. By receiving letters from someone who cares, it shows they are not forgotten and are not as vulnerable.
• A chance to exchange ideas and dreams. Inmates enjoy lively discussions about sports, television, books, religion, food and weather.
• A sense of friendship and normalcy not available in a prison atmosphere.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive!
The End of the World
Be prepared for the coming of Jesus! Think about it—Jesus Himself was not sent to reveal “the day” or “the hour” known by the Father. Despite the human tendency to pretend to know or even predict the “end of the world,” nothing could be more certain than that we don’t really know and we’re not supposed to really know. We are called to live as though “the hour” is already here, and we’re ready. So, be prepared! (CCC 1036, 1040, 472-474) www.archstl.org/live-the-faith.

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.
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.

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.
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**

Another Look at Contraception

*Read the full version at usccb.org/contraception.*

To some, the Catholic Church’s consistent teaching against birth control may seem outdated. Yet with each passing year, evidence of contraception’s negative consequences keeps piling up.

In the time since birth control first became widely used, science has shown that some contraceptives can cause early abortions; procured abortions and nonmarital births skyrocketed; and women have been subjected to sometimes serious or fatal health issues, as well as what economist George Akerlof calls “the feminization of poverty.”

As humans made in God’s image, we are called to imitate His generous, sacrificial, life-giving, and eternal love. Through the Church’s teaching, He invites us to a fuller, richer, deeper way of life and love.

*{Full citation at usccb.org/contraception.} This is a summary of a USCCB Respect Life Program article by the same name and is reprinted with permission. © 2018, USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

God invites us to a fuller, richer, deeper way of life and love.

**EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS**

St. Martin de Porres Church
615 Dunn Road
Hazelwood, MO 63034

Invites you to a Christmas Caroling Service
Music by: Cross Roads

Thursday, December 19 - 7:00 pm
Celebrating Christ’s Birth Through Scripture and Song
Fellowship reception immediately following

**THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US**

“**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

**ADVENT REFLECTION 2019**

Questions? Email holiness@archstl.org or call 314.792.7370

**ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS**
Office of Catholic Education and Diocesan Life
AROUND TOWN

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
“So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” Enrich and renew your marriage on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in the St. Louis area. The next weekends are Dec 6-8, 2019 or Feb. 7-9, 2020, Courtyard Marriott, St. Peters. [https://stl-wwme.org/schedule.php](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.

ST. PATRICK CENTER CHRISTMAS WISHES
Assists more than 500 individuals and families who have little or no money to purchase Christmas gifts for their children. Thanks to all who are sponsoring families this season! We currently need donations of $20 Target gift cards for single clients in our Shamrock Club Day Treatment Program.
To donate gift cards, contact Katie Joseph, 802-1976 or kjoseph@stpatrickcenter.org

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

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET TO HOST ADVENT PRAYER
Sun., Dec. 8, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet will host an Advent prayer service, Lessons and Carols. Join them & take time to prepare, pray & sing during this Advent season. The event will be held at 2 p.m. at the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Motherhouse, located at 6400 Minnesota Ave. in south St. Louis. All are welcome. A freewill donation will benefit the Migrant & Immigrant Community Action Project (MICA), a community organization committed to working with low-income immigrants to overcome barriers to justice. Learn more and register at [www.csjsl.org](http://www.csjsl.org) or call 314-481-8800 or email motherhousersvp@csjsl.org.

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](http://www.easternregionmrl.org/dinner)

NAMING AND COMMENDATION RITE
Sunday, Dec. 15, 2 PM, St. Monica Catholic Church, 12140 Olive Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63141 for anyone who has lost a child, especially before birth by miscarriage, accident or abortion. There will be an opportunity to name the child and bring peaceful closure to a great loss and allow each family to unite them to our merciful God. Contact Diann Bomkamp, dbomkamp@sbcglobal.net or call 314-432-7719 if you or someone you know would like to attend.
First Sunday of Advent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scripture References</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah 2:1-5, Ps 122:1-9, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:37-44</td>
<td>Hope is the theme of the First Sunday of Advent. Isaiah describes a future in which all is well because (1) God is recognized as the highest authority and (2) obeying him is the people’s highest priority.</td>
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This vision gave great hope to the oppressed Israelites. Today if we look at this as a description of heaven, it gives great hope to us, too. When we die, “terms” will be “imposed” upon us (i.e., purgatory) because we did not stay entirely on the paths of God, but we will be living in the light of the Lord after death and there will be no more wars to battle.

Knowing that this is our future, we can look at our present trials as preparations for heaven. The weapons that we use now to defeat and overcome the powers of darkness can be used as plowshares for enriching our soil (our earthly life), bringing us into new growth and producing a harvest in ministry. Sufferings that are turned into ministries to help others make hardships very valuable.

Although Isaiah was speaking of the coming of the world’s Messiah through the Jews, these verses remind us that when we respect God’s authority and make imitating Christ our highest priority, all is well for us. Our battles against evil aren’t over yet, but Jesus has already won the victory for us. Our hope is not based on a wish for peace, our hope comes from the reality of what Jesus has already done and what he will do. So,

"let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord!” (Psalm 122).

The Gospel reading tells us that our hope is realized only if we stay awake and alert to the activities of Christ. What are you despairing about? Despair and worry are merely distractions that make us forget that Christ has already won the battle. If we stay alert to the presence of Christ, recognizing his authority and following his ways, we live in hope – not wishful thinking, but a hope that’s based firmly on reality.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What are you despairing about?
2. What would it take for you to feel hopeful? In what way do you need Jesus to come to you now? What can you do to become more aware of his presence at your side?
3. How do you find hope in difficulties?
4. Describe a time when you nearly lost all hope. How did Jesus rescue you from this?

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — (DECEMBER 8, 2019)
Is 11:1-10 — Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 — Rom 15:4-9 — Mt 3:1-12

10 | First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2019
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