

Holy Spirit Parish Family

December 20, 2020 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN
IS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

Due to the Christmas and New Year's Holidays,
here are the early bulletin deadlines...

JANUARY 3, 2021 BULLETIN
DEADLINE NOON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22



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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 HOURS

Monday to Friday
between 8:00am and 5:00pm

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
Katie Koberlein, Principal.....739-1934
kkoberlein@holyspiritstl.org
Sharon Kaufman, CRE/Pastoral Assoc.
.....Ext. 110
skaufman@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

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 & PRE-SCHOOL & 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 November 30-December 6, 2020

Sunday Envelopes, 147 utilized	\$ 15,076.00
Loose Collection	\$ 91.00
Online Donations, 102 families	\$ 9,197.00
Holy Days	\$ 314.00
Total	\$ 24,678.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 20,190.38
Weekly Surplus (shortfall)	\$ 4,487.62

HandS	Parish Improvements
\$ 1,645.00	\$ 3,501.00

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sunday, December 20

Sunday Mass Schedule—7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
9:00 am—RCIA, Parish Hall

Monday, December 21

7:00 pm—Evening Prayer & Reconciliation, Church

Wednesday, December 23

9:00 am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.

Thursday, December 24—Christmas Schedule

4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, and 10:00 pm—Mass, Church

Friday, December 25—Christmas Schedule

7:30 am, 9:00 am, and 11:00 am—Mass, Church

Sunday, December 27

Sunday Mass Schedule—7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
8:00 am—12:30 pm—Salad Sunday
9:00 am—RCIA, Parish Hall

DYNAMIC CATHOLIC, *ALIVE!*— SURRENDER TO GOD

Ecce ancilla Domini. Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). This is one of the most beautiful lines in Scripture. It conveys to us the total surrender and power of obedience to God’s will in our lives. Because of Mary’s *fiat*, the Savior entered the world to save us from our sins and to bring us back to God.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us do so in the spirit of joy, welcoming the humble Christ-child into our hearts once more and asking Him to conform our hearts to His most sacred heart. In this joyful time, let us show love, kindness, and mercy to our loved ones who have fallen away and never lose hope in their return home. The angel Gabriel tells us, “For nothing will be impossible for God” (Luke 1:37). May God bless you and your family this Christmas! Venite adoremus Dominum!

archstl.org/dynamic

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR 2020

FINAL WEEK

Here is the Final list

You can visit our website for the entire list.
Each day add an item to a box. Say a prayer for those in need. Thank God for all your blessings too.

When you have completed this, donate the box to HandS at the Resource Center or in the HandS bins in the Gathering Space. Thank you!

Day 21 can vegetables
Day 22 box of pudding or jello
Day 23 canned potatoes
Day 24 a special treat - your choice



Archdiocese of St. Louis

Office of the Archbishop
Cardinal Rigali Center
20 Archbishop May Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63119
p) 314-792-7841
f) 314-792-7842

Christmas 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Rejoice! The weeks of Advent waiting are over, and Christ is born!

We rejoice in our Savior's birth—remembering the great gift of faith He has given us through the mystery of His incarnation and the saving power of His death and resurrection.

If you are like me, you have a lot of uncertainty about the coming weeks and months. Because of the pandemic, there are many challenges ahead. But I am sure of one thing, Christ will be with us in the midst of our difficulties. Now is the time for Catholics to step forward, giving generously to help those in need.

Each year, the people of the archdiocese are asked to make a special gift on Christmas Day to support our seminarians at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. These men are responding to Christ's call to follow Him as they discern a vocation to the holy priesthood and have dedicated themselves to living, growing, and serving in His love as they prepare for a life of parish ministry. God-willing, these men will bring the faith given to us by Christ 2,000 years ago to future generations.

This Christmas, I ask you to pray for vocations and for all our priests and seminarians. I also ask you to be generous in your donation to the Christmas collection at your parish, which helps ensure that our seminarians receive the education and formation they need to grow closer to Christ each day. Your support is a source of inspiration for the seminarians and helps to build up the Church in St. Louis. Together, we can encourage our future priests to walk the path of holiness as they seek to configure their hearts to the Heart of Jesus Christ.

I am blessed to be celebrating my first Christmas with the people of the Archdiocese of St. Louis! I am grateful for the warm welcome I have already received. What a gift it is to be part of this community! Please be assured of my prayers for you during the season of Christmas. May the Lord of life come into your hearts and homes in a special way during this holy time of year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis

A Note From Fr. Bob

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you!

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to everyone and to your families, far and near! May you know the joy of Jesus' presence today and always. May his peace reign forever!

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, I cannot help but to look back at this past year in the midst of all that we have been through individually, as a community, as a nation, as a world, and see that his gift is being lived out every day. I look around our parish community and I see people taking care of one another, looking out for one another, and living the hope he gives in the promise of eternal life. Even with the challenges ahead, I am hopeful because of our Lord's love for all of us and the love you all show to one another.

As I have stated many times, I miss all of you and look forward to the day that we can celebrate and worship together. Until then and always, I remember you in my daily prayers and at Mass. Please continue to pray for me. I thank God for all of you!

In whatever way you celebrate Christmas this year and wherever you might be, may God bless you and keep you safe! Merry Christmas!

Peace,

Father Bob



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 20

7:30am Larry Chik
9:00am Cecelia Speidel
11:00am For Our Parishioners

Monday, December 21

6:30 am William Trautman

Tuesday, December 22

6:30am Josephine Pizzo

Wednesday, December 23

6:30am Faithful Departed

Thursday, December 24

8:00am Frank Speidel
4:00pm Danny Magparangalan
6:00 pm John Harty
10:00 pm Sr. Mary Beckman

Friday, December 25

7:30am For Our Parishioners
9:00am Glennon F. Audrain
11:00am William Risley

Saturday, December 26

8:00am Cathy Gravlin
5:00pm O'Connor Family

Sunday, December 27

7:30am Mike Rolfes
9:00am For Our Parishioners
11:00am Steve & Chris Carter,
Happy 50th Anniversary

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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

Renee Armon	Al Katzler	John Roberson
Sonny Bolm	Deacon Scott	Pat Romano
Nancy Brand	Kaufman	Mike Sampson
Jim Brockmeyer	Marie Knox	Anita Schiermeyer
Connie Buenemann	Charles Kraemer	Bill Schneider
Nicole Chapman	Bill Kriete	Norma Schwaninger
Ed Cody	Mike Lemp	Rita Slice
Matthew Cody	Jerry McGuire	Rebecca Tobar
Peggy Cody	Mary McGuire	Rudy & Brenda
Leon Deimeke	Bill Miederhoff	Torricelli
Charles Dent	Karen Newcomb	Nanci Van Amburgh
Till Fehrenbacher	Matt Niedringhaus	Katy Van Stratton
Ray & Betty	Jacob Null	Joe & Jean Wangler
Garvels	Bob & Donna	Angeline Weber
Rosemary Harty	Pedrotti	Gene Weckherlin
Betty Hirschmugl	Rick Pemberton	Bill & Joan Weinzirl
Suzanne Holzum	Bob & Tootie	Christine
Diane Javaux	Ponder	Woracheck
Rich Jennings	Carolyn Putnam	Tom Zemblidge
Kenneth Jordan	John Rizzello	

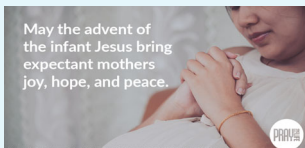
Sick Relatives and Friends:

Judy Bauman	Trish Merklin	Grace Solimando
Tamara Cannon	Richard Meyer	Lillian Ventimiglia
Nancy Chik	Shirley Petrosky	John Wamhoff
Debbie Ditch	Robin Phillips	Michelle Wilson
Fran Ebers	Gary Schell	Bonnie Wittman
Colleen Evans	Albert Schiermeyer	Joe Wolf
Michael Gill	Ruby Smith	

FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

We express our deep sympathy and assurance of our prayers to the families of **Irene Biggins**, wife of Jim; **Joe Bommarito**, (former parishioner) uncle of Kurt (Debbie) Kientzle; **Bill Crow**, father of William (Laura), grandfather of Lindsey and Jeffrey; and **Joe Turner**, husband of Jenny.

May their souls rest in the Peace of Christ.



PRO-LIFE NEWS

December 2020



Each year during Advent, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior at Christmas. As we anticipate this joyful celebration, we recall the journey of the Holy Family from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Far from home, poor, and in great need, Mary and Joseph find refuge in a simple stable. But this humble setting among the livestock soon welcomes the heavenly host of angels and the infant Jesus himself.

Today, women in our own communities are pregnant, poor, perhaps without a home, and in great need. They may feel alone, scared, and overwhelmed, not knowing where to turn. In challenging circumstances, expectant mothers need a refuge of their own. Like the Holy Family, they may be reliant on the kindness of others. This year, may the story of the first Christmas inspire us to reach out to mothers in need. May we proactively seek to offer loving support and encouragement as they prepare to welcome their children. By answering this call, may we help mothers experience the joy, hope, and peace brought by the infant Jesus. And may we, too, share in and bear witness to the miracle of new life.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Head over to the Holy Spirit Youth STL page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/hsyouth/> for information & encouragement. You can find Holy Spirit Youth Ministry on Instagram as HS Youth STL (hs_youth_stl).

OUR SAINTS OUR SHOWING

Join us on our Facebook pages and Instagram (see above) to see the Saint reports our Confirmation community has put together.

It's so wonderful to learn about new Saints and/or something new about a familiar one.

HIGH SCHOOL:

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: C2B Retreat Team will begin planning and team building in January. JOIN EAT, PRAY, DISCUSS gatherings for high school – new freshmen are invited and welcome. We will be doing the important work of team building as well as working on retreat plans. Please contact Donna Eisenbath for meeting details as things may change due to the pandemic and restrictions. We will be holding virtual meetings on Sundays and Thursdays.

JOIN OUR YOUNG ADULT GROUP CHAT FOR SENIORS & COLLEGE STUDENTS:

Contact Donna E. to join our group chat on GroupMe and Marco Polo. I'll post questions and reflections on the Sunday readings each Sunday. Watch and respond when you have a minute.

7TH GRADE CONFIRMATION FORMATION

Parents, watch your mail, FastDirect & Email for information on Confirmation preparation. There will be a **virtual meeting Wednesday, Jan. 13**, for information, & we will be signing up for small groups. We will begin meeting in February, so be prepared to sign up.

WANTED:

~ Guest leaders for our Decision Point sessions beginning in February. You would lead a small group of 10 or fewer people for one hour either in person or virtual through a Decision Point Session once a month (or more if you would like) from February–May. Contact Donna Eisenbath for information. Our young people always benefit from the wisdom & faith example of our entire community.

~ Adults to help lead & chaperone Eat, Pray, Discuss gatherings (online for now) as we prepare for our spring retreat.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry has specially selected & trained men & women to listen with care to all they serve with confidentiality and compassion. Regardless of how large or small your issues may be, Stephen Ministry is available to support you. During this time of COVID-19 we can provide Tele-visits by phone or FaceTime to stay safe.

Call the SM confidential Hotline today:
(314) 739-0230 ext.130.

REJOICE!

We are pleased to announce that the following students of the parish who prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation received the Sacrament for the first time last Mon. or Tues. evening, Dec. 14th & 15th! Please pray for these students and their families.

Natalie B.	Kinley K.
Odalys B.	Mallory K.
Ofelia B.	Madison K.
Gracie B.	Sawyer M.
Cooper B.	Milo P.
Ashlynn B.	Lindsay Q.
Margaret E.	Mateo R.
Paige G.	Parker R.
Aixa G.	Ximena R.
Nolan H.	Gabriel S.
Julianna H.	Ella S.
Catherine H.	Lily S.
Hunter H.	

PSR NEWS

December PSR Happenings

***Advent/Christmas At Home Flipgrid Assignment for ALL Grades should be finishing up. These are ALL due by Jan. 4th. Send a photo of your family participating in the option you chose to Mrs. Kaufman. This replaced our Dec. 15th class. One option per family.

Dec. 22 & 29 NO PSR-Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

PSR WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 5TH.

PSR Conferences will be by phone the week of Jan. 12. PSR Family Service Event goes from Fri., Jan. 8–31 Use Signup Genius to choose your project (this was emailed to you and is posted on the PSR Facebook page). Deadline to choose a project is Jan. 4. This counts as a regular PSR class.



Whether you're separated, going through the divorce process right now or have been divorced for many years, you CAN find hope and healing. Behold Ministry is hosting Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family which is a 12-week DVD program featuring Catholics experts and lay men and women on the journey to healing. St. Clare of Assisi parish is hosting the program beginning Sat., Jan. 9, 2021 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Contact Michelle Fuller, 623-9294 or mfuller1211@yahoo.com for more information.

4th Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16
Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Monday December 21

Song of Songs 2:8-14
or Zephania 3:14-18a
Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21
Luke 1:39-45

Tuesday December 22

1 Samuel 1:24-28
1 Sm 2:1,4-8
Luke 1:46-56

Wednesday December 23

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24
Ps 25:4-5ab,8-10,14
Luke 1:57-66

Thursday December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16
Ps 89:2-5,27,29
Luke 1:67-79

Friday December 25 Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
Ps 98:1-6
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18

Saturday December 26 Saint Stephen

Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59
Ps 31:3cd-4,6,8ab,16bc,17
Matthew 10:17-22

Today's Gospel shows us how the mission of Christ affected the Virgin Mary even before Jesus became human through her.

However, that is not when his salvation plan began. Jesus is God; he has always existed. His salvation plan impacted Mary in the moment of her own conception.

In the Nicene Creed we say that God "came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man." In other words, his Spirit bathed Mary in his pure, holy presence. Even though she could not understand how the Messiah could possibly be conceived within her, by the grace of God's Spirit she could know that God was the one who was asking for it and God was the one who was doing it.

All of us are called by God to carry the presence of Christ and birth him more fully into the world. What are you doing about it? How much are you fulfilling your divine destiny? Remember, he always empowers us to accomplish whatever he asks us to do. God knows what he's doing when he calls us to continue what Mary began, and he is always trustworthy and dependable. There is nothing to fear, no reason to hold back from fulfilling our true destiny.



Everything that God does is always good, even when his plan for our mission requires a journey through the cross. If we follow Christ, sooner or later we hang with him on the cross, persecuted for our faith.

With this in mind, when he asks us to do something for his kingdom, of course our answer is yes, right?

Why wouldn't it be? Of course we want to cooperate with his plan. Mary shows us that we can yes to his plan even when we don't understand it nor see how God could possibly do what he says he'll do.

It's normal to feel inadequate, like he cannot fulfill his plan *through us*, because we know we are weak, sinful, and unqualified. Don't trust your feelings about it; trust God!

Reflect & Discuss:

1. When was the last time you said to God, "But how can this be? You want me to do WHAT? I don't understand why!" What were you afraid of?
2. How strong was your trust in God?
3. When God chooses you for a task or responsibility, what helps you move from uncertainty or confusion or reluctance into saying "yes"?
4. When the plans of God don't make sense or they seem unpleasant, how do you overcome your reluctance?

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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH — (DECEMBER 27, 2020)

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 — Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 — Col 3:12-21 — Lk 2:22-40



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