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.

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.

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 Deisenbath@holyspiritstl.org
Kelly Hewitt, Principal 739-1934 khe Witt@holyspiritstl.org
Sharon Kaufman, CRE/Pastoral Assoc. skaufman@holyspiritstl.org
Marilyn O’Neill, Director of Music moneill@holyspiritstl.org
Karen Rychlewski, Pastoral Associate krychlewski@holyspiritstl.org
John Honey, Maintenance
Julie Spinner, Parish & PSR Secretaryjspinner@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) 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

**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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**What's Happening This Week**

**Sunday, December 8 — Second Sunday of Advent**
8:00 am—Poinsettia Sale, Parish Hall
9:00 am—Litugy 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.

**Monday, December 9 — Immaculate Conception**
6:30 am—Mass, Feast of the Immaculate Conception
8:00 am—Mass, Feast of the Immaculate Conception
1:00 pm—Exposition/Benediction, Church
6:00 pm—Quilting, Annex

**Tuesday, December 10**
9:00 am—Taste & See Christmas Party, Parish Hall
   —Quilting, Annex
6:00 pm—Ladies Club Christmas Party, Rigali Rm.
7:30 pm—Fire in the Spirit, Community Rm.

**Wednesday, December 11**
9:00 am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.
7:00 pm—Criminal Justice Mtg., Parish Hall
   —Ensemble Choir Practice, Church
   —Food Addicts Anonymous, Rigali Rm.

**Thursday, December 12**
9:00 am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.
6:00 pm—Bell Choir Practice, Church
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Rm. 2
   —Choir Rehearsal, Church

**Saturday, December 14**
2:00 pm—CFC Assembly, Rigali Rm.

**Sunday, December 15**
8:00 am—Donuts & Coffee, Parish Hall
9:00 am—Liturgy of the Word for Children, Rm. 106
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Community Rm.

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**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.

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**Offertory Collections**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stewardship for</th>
<th>November 11-17, 2019</th>
<th>November 18-24, 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Envelopes, 227 utilized</td>
<td>$ 13,742.00</td>
<td>248 utilized $ 12,029.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loose Collection</td>
<td>$ 653.27</td>
<td>$ 519.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Donations, 54 families</td>
<td>$ 3,110.33</td>
<td>80 families $ 4,843.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Days</td>
<td>$ 255.00</td>
<td>$ 40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$ 17,760.60</td>
<td>$ 17,431.18</td>
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<td>Weekly Budget</td>
<td>$ 20,190.38</td>
<td>$ 20,190.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Surplus (shortfall)</td>
<td>($ 2,429.78)</td>
<td>($ 2,759.20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HandS Parish Improvements</td>
<td>$ 1,695.00</td>
<td>$ 3,240.00</td>
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<td>HandS Parish Improvements</td>
<td>$ 760.00</td>
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### MASS INTENTIONS

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

#### Monday, December 9
- 6:30am: August & Elizabeth Chrismer
- 8:00am: Marlene Holt

#### Tuesday, December 10
- 6:30am: Tom Romano Jr.

#### Wednesday, December 11
- 6:30am: Faithful Departed

#### Thursday, December 12
- 8:00am: Linda DeClue

#### Friday, December 13
- 8:00am: Briccio Cadiz Sr.

#### Saturday, December 14
- 8:00am: Consolacion Cadiz
- 5:00pm: Helen Mente

#### Sunday, December 15
- 7:30am: Arturo Simon
- 9:00am: For Our Parishioners
- 11:00am: Rose Miller

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#### MINISTRY SCHEDULE — DEC. 14-15

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| **M Sicking**   |         |        |         |           |           |

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<tr>
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## 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 Fehrenbacher
- Joe Greco
- Kenneth Jordan
- Al Katzler
- 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 Zembidge
- Lauren Castellana
- Nancy & Larry Chik
- Jackie Craven
- Anne DeSchryver
- Paul Ecks
- Jim Eisenbath
- Lee Engert
- Colleen Evans
- Betty Halpin
- Steve Hartnett
- Bethany Henderson
- Shane Katzler
- Irene Lee
- Sharon Lewis
- Lisa Masek
- Cameron Meyer
- Christine Meyer
- Luke Meyer
- Ron Meyer
- Marcia Mohrmann
- Loretta Rath
- David Rychlewski
- Grace Solimando
- Fynlee Schneider
- Dave & Paula Schneider
- Baby John Szeverry
- Kurri Warren
- Bonnie Wittman
- Emme Womble

## Sick Relatives and Friends:
- Lauren Castellana
- Nancy & Larry Chik
- Jackie Craven
- Anne DeSchryver
- Paul Ecks
- Jim Eisenbath
- Lee Engert
- Colleen Evans
- Betty Halpin
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## 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 & caregivers! Call to hear reading from daily Mass, prayer texts, & reflection for each day of the liturgical year. The prayer line is available anytime, day or night.

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**Sick Relatives and Friends:**
- Irene Biggins
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**Ministry Schedule — Dec. 14-15**

**Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, 2019 | 3**
SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to our Dec. 2 Red & Blue winner of $100; Jane Naumann.
Thank you for supporting our school!

The Bookmobile arrives Tuesday! Don’t leave home without your library book. The Pre K through 4th Grade Christmas Concert is Wed. Dec. 11th at 6:30 PM.

Thurs. Dec. 12: K-4 Mass Prepared by grade 1
Fri. Dec. 13: 5-8 Mass Prepared by grade 8

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)
• Legal size envelopes (School Office)
• Cookie Cutters all sizes (Art)

With God all things are possible!
Mrs. Hewitt

Poinsettias for Sale!

$12 each or 2 for $22

THIS WEEKEND, Dec. 7 & 8 after all masses

Proceeds help support 6th grade camp 2020

SCHOOL NEWS

REJOICE!

We are pleased to announce that students of the parish who prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation received the Sacrament for the first time last Monday evening, December 2nd! Please pray for the students and their families.

PSR NEWS

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. 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

CONGRATULATIONS!

St. Ann Council 3977 of the Knights of Columbus sponsored an Essay Contest for students in Grades 8-12. The theme was “The Virtue of Charity.” Several 8th graders from Holy Spirit entered. Awards were presented at the All School Mass on November 21st. The winner was Michael B. and runner-up was Krysta A. Congratulations to all entrants!

THANK YOU!

Donna Eisenbath and the Holy Spirit Youth Group for the drive-by raking on Nov. 24th. We are so blessed and thankful to be part of such a caring parish. The teens along with the adult volunteers who drove them worked so hard to clean up our yard, and we are so grateful!!! Holy Spirit teens are the BEST!!!
Rich and Pat Jennings

SCOTT WIRTZ MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

A special Memorial Mass will be celebrated at All Souls Parish (9550 Tennyson Ave. 63114) for Scott Wirtz (former parishioner and SEAL that was killed this past summer), Thurs. Dec. 12, 7 PM. We invited the entire family and friends to join in paying our respects and showing honor to Scott. Refreshments will be served following the Memorial Mass. Everyone is welcome, even if you never knew Scott. Please help us make this a very special occasion for Scott’s Family by attending Scott’s Mass of Remembrance.
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.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
“Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” Make sure your marriage bears good fruit! Sign up today to participate in the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in the St. Louis area. The next weekends are Feb. 7-9 or Apr. 24-26, 2020, the Courtyard Marriot, St. Peters, call or text 649.7317, OR https://stl-wwme.org/schedule.php

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
“We encourage all citizens, particularly Catholics, to embrace their citizenship not merely as a duty and privilege, but as an opportunity meaningfully to participate in building the culture of life. Every voice matters in the public forum. Every vote counts. Every act of responsible citizenship is an exercise of significant individual power. We must exercise that power in ways that defend human life, especially those of God’s children who are unborn, disabled, or otherwise vulnerable. We get the public officials we deserve. Their virtue—or lack thereof—is a judgment not only on them, but on us. Because of this, we urge our fellow citizens to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest” (§33).

~USCCB 1998
Living the Gospel of Life:
A Challenge to American Catholics

Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, 2019 | 5
Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)

RCIA is the process through which adults are fully initiated into the Catholic family of faith. It includes four formation periods (Inquiry, Catechumenate, Enlightenment/Purification, and Mystagogy), and three liturgical stages (Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, Rite of Election, and Initiation).

The first period begins with Inquiry. This occurs in both formal and informal ways. In it, the Catholic Community shares with the inquirer a preview of what it would be like to live out the Good News of Jesus Christ as a member of the Catholic Church.

After this period, those who feel that they may be called to the Catholic Community are invited to celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens. In this rite the inquirer requests entrance into the Catechumenate and becomes a member-in-training of the Catholic faith. This period includes four elements of all formation in the Church – message, community, service, and worship. The central experience is sharing around the Word, as it is proclaimed in the Sunday Liturgy. Dismissal for this sharing will take place after the homily each Sunday.

The Rite of Acceptance will be celebrated at 9:00 Mass today. Please remember the catechumens/candidates in prayer – that they will continue to grow in grace, wisdom, and love of God.

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!

Mary as a Model

We may know a lot about the Blessed Virgin Mary—celebrating her Immaculate Conception, her birth, the Annunciation, her glorious Assumption, etc. How can we sum it up? This way: Mary is the only human creature who shows us that God’s original plan for us—that we could always choose in accord with His Divine Will—was possible. Think about it—without Mary, how many of us would be wondering if any of us could even get close? Let her “yes” inspire us. (CCC 484-507)


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 ____________________________

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FUNDRAISER for the graduating class of 2021
Saturday, January 25, 2020
Holy Spirit Gym
Doors Open at 6:30pm – Trivia begins at 7:00pm
$160 per table (max 8 adults)

Cash prizes, raffles, refreshments and more!

Send registration and payment (checks made to Holy Spirit Catholic School):

Holy Spirit Catholic School
Attn: John and Maria Weber
3120 Parkwood Lane
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Registration forms/payment due by January 17, 2020
Questions? Call Jean @ 314-583-5455

Table Contact Name: __________________________________________

Phone Number: ____________________________

Number attending: ____________________________
Another Look at 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.

God 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.*
AROUND TOWN

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@stpatriarchstl.org

HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU’VE KNOWN BEEN TOUCHED BY ADOPTION?
Adoption, even through non profit agencies, can be very expensive. The Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Adoption Fund was created to help build families through this loving choice. There are two ways you can help - buy a raffle ticket for yourself or as a gift for 10 seats at a 2020 Cardinals Game in Suite 33 bit.ly/adoptiveorangtraffle ... or just make a donation at https://giving.archstl.org/Product/office-of-natural-family-planning-archbishop-robert-s-carlson-adoption-fund. Help build families this Season of Our Savior’s Birth. For more info, contact melissabarnason@archstl.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.

CELEBRATING THE BEATIFICATION OF BROTHER JAMES MILLER
La Salle Retreat Center (2101 Rue De LaSalle Dr.) is celebrating the beatification of Brother James Miller. Miller was a student at La Salle Institute (now known as La Salle Retreat Center). He graduated with a class of 24 young men in June, 1962 & that August began his journey toward becoming a Christian Brother. He was shot to death February 13, 1982 in Huehuetenango, Guatemala while repairing a wall at the De La Salle Indian School. Join us Mon., Dec. 9. The center will be open for tours from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Visit the spaces where he worked & studied while living in Glencoe. Videos & information will be available. Learn more about this Central American Martyr who graduated from La Salle!

CARD PARTY
Bring your friends Tues., Dec. 10, play cards, dominoes or whatever you like. It is only $5 to get in and you get attendance prizes, coffee, cake and tea. Quilt Raffle. Hot dogs are .50 and soda is .75. It starts at 10:30 and is handicap accessible. Our Lady of the Presentation, 8860 Tudor, Overland, 63114. 314-427-0486x201

NAMING AND COMMENDATION RITE
Sunday, Dec. 15, 2 PM, St. Monica, 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 peaceable closure to a great loss and allow each family to unite them to our merciful God. Contact Diann Bompkamp, dbomkamp@sbcglobal.net or call 314-432-7719 if you or someone you know would like to attend.

CANDLELIGHT RORATE CAELI MASS
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY/NEW MELLE
6:45AM MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, ST. JOSEPH CHAPEL
The Rorate Caeli Mass is a traditional Advent devotion in which a Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Advent is offered just before dawn, with no lighting other than candles on the altar, windowsills, and handheld. Those who attend can expect to be rewarded with a uniquely beautiful Mass. The Mass takes its title, Rorate Caeli (“Drop down dew, ye heavens”) from the initial Latin words of Isaiah 45:8. In the dimly lit setting, priest and faithful prepare to honor the Light of the world, Who is soon to be born, and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illumined by the sun as our Faith is illumined by Christ.
All are invited to join us on Dec. 16, 6:45 am as we watch and wait for the Light of the World. Immaculate Heart of Mary is located at the corner of Hwys. Z and D in western St. Charles County. Please call or email for more info: 636-398-5270 or secretary@ihm-newmelle.org.

INVITATION TO SURVIVING DIVORCE
The holidays can be difficult for divorced & separated families. Make your healing a priority in the new year by attending Surviving Divorce. The 12-week program follows men & women on the journey to true healing, along with Catholic experts who address denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, the kids, the ex-spouse, spirituality, annulment & much more. Immaculate Conception Parish – Dardenne is hosting the program beginning Jan. 8, 2020. There is a $25 fee which will cover all materials needed. (Scholarships are available for anyone). Contact Debi at debijo@att.net

OUR LADY’S INN TRIVIA NIGHT
Annual Trivia Night. Sat., Jan. 18, Chaminade College Prep School (425 S. Lindbergh). Doors open 6 p.m. & trivia begins 7 p.m. Cost $25 per person & $200 for a table of eight. For more info or to register, visit www.ourladiesinn.org or call Katrina, 314-736-1544.
Guided by our Mission, Our Lady’s Inn provides pregnant women and their children shelter and hope for a new life through humble acts of love.

Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, 2019 | 9
Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17  
Romans 15:4-9  
Matthew 3:1-12

Monday December 9  
Immaculate Conception  
Genesis 3:9-15, 20  
Ps 98:1-4  
Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12  
Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday December 10  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
Ps 96:1-3, 10-13  
Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday December 11  
Isaiah 40:25-31  
Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10  
Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday December 12  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Zechariah 2:1-17 or Rev. 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10  
Judith 13:18, 19  
Luke 1:26-38 or 1:39-47

Friday December 13  
St. Lucy  
Isaiah 48:17-19  
Ps 1:1-4, 6  
Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday December 14  
St. John of the Cross  
Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11  
Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19  
Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Peace is the theme of the Second Sunday of Advent. The first reading describes Christ the Messiah, who came from the line of Jesse, the father of King David. It also describes how to obtain peace—a peace that sustains us even in the midst of troubles: "The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him." Can you feel the Holy Spirit "resting" on you?

We experience true peace when we’re in a restful relationship with God, i.e., when we’re not struggling against him and his ways and his plans for us. Peace does not depend on bringing to an end the struggles we have with people or the problems we have with financial shortages or addictions or health, etc. We can work hard to accomplish peace in any trial, win the war, and still not be at peace.

Peace comes to us in the wisdom and understanding that we get from the Holy Spirit. Peace comes from following the Spirit’s counsel. Peace comes from gaining knowledge of the truth, in total submission, obediently acting upon the truth.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What turmoil is going on in your life? What has stolen your peace?

2. Where is Jesus? What obstacles (e.g., unforgiveness or resentment) do you need to repent of to see him and feel his peace?

3. What methods do you use to settle down and rest in the Spirit of Jesus when turmoil is spinning around you? What kind of prayer helps? Do you go on retreat or confide in a spiritual director? What are some other ideas?

In the Gospel reading, John the Baptist reminds us to "prepare the way of the Lord and make straight his paths." To receive the Spirit of God and his peace, we must prepare ourselves to meet Jesus in the Eucharist and in all the other ways that he comes to us. What kind of preparation produces peace? It’s the work of honestly identifying our sins, happy that God is merciful, and straightening our crooked paths, because we realize that God’s ways are really what’s best for us.

Whatever separates us from God’s peace, we must get rid of it. To do this, we have the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Penitential Rite at the beginning of every Mass. Christ equips us for the journey into true peace.