

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

Farmington, Missouri



Daughters of St. Paul  
Sale This Weekend  
After All Masses

*Living the Gospel Message*  
Since 1890



Join us for  
Our Father's Table  
**TODAY**  
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

## THIRD SUNDAY

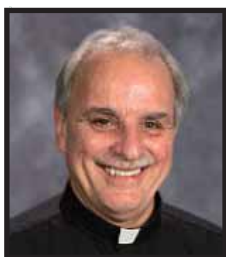
# OF Advent

As the earth brings forth its plants,  
and a garden makes its growth spring up,  
so will the Lord God make justice and praise  
spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:11



**DECEMBER 17, 2017**



## From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph

### Advent... A Season of Waiting A Season of Hope...

#### Preparing our Hearts for Christmas!

Today we celebrate the **Third Sunday of Advent**, a Season of Waiting... a Season of Hope. This beautiful liturgical season is a time for us to prepare our hearts to welcome Christ anew this Christmas!

We light the rose colored candle on our Advent wreath and Fr. Abe and I will be wearing Rose colored vestments as we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent. It is traditionally known as *Gaudete Sunday*. Gaudete, which translated means "to Rejoice" is taken from the Latin translation of Phil 4: 4-5 and sets a tone of joyful expectation for the Lord's birth and Second Coming.

May the gift of this Advent Season help us to prepare well for the ultimate gift of Christmas, the gift of a peaceful heart!

### Did You See Our Beautiful Outdoor Advent Wreath?

Our outdoor Advent Wreath was set up in the front of the school before the first Sunday of Advent and has been a beautiful symbol of our Catholic faith this Advent Season. It is my hope that it is helping us to prepare as we wait and hope for the arrival of our Savior!

### Year End Contributions

Rejoice! This is the time of the year to recognize our many blessings and reflect on the special gifts in our lives. . .family, friends, talents and treasures. This is a great time to reflect on the past year and to count your blessings!

Making a gift to St. Joseph parish or school is one way to show your gratitude for the many blessings received throughout the year! Contribution statements for tax purposes will be mailed in late January!

### Remember Your Loved Ones at Christmas by the Gift of a Christmas Poinsettia Memorials will be published in our bulletin

As is our custom, you can remember your loved ones by donating flowers to decorate the altar area for our Christmas season. An envelope is included in your December packet of offering envelopes. The names of those who are especially remembered in this way will be listed in our **December 24** bulletin. Any gifts received after the deadline (December 19) will be listed in the December 31 bulletin. Please note that the extra funds collected are placed in a restricted flower fund and are used for decorating our Sacred Space year round.

### A Christmas Tradition. . . Bringing a Gift to Baby Jesus

Our parish has the wonderful tradition of giving gifts to Baby Jesus before all of the Christmas Masses. Children from ages "two to ninety-two" are invited to place a gift for Baby Jesus near the crib. This is an awesome way for parents to teach their children the true meaning of Christmas.

The tender gesture of placing a wrapped baby gift near the crib is a moving witness to us all. Our **Respect Life Committee** will distribute the donated items to local hospitals and the Pregnancy Center.

### Our Holiday "Giving Tree" is ready for you to pick an ornament to help those visiting St. Vincent de Paul Pantry

Our **Women of Mary** are again sponsoring a holiday "Giving Tree" to benefit our St. Vincent de Paul organization. Since many of our clients who visit our St. Vincent de Paul come only once a month, **we would like to receive any last minute gifts by Tuesday, December 19**. The tree is located in the entry of the Parish Center.

You may take an ornament from the tree, purchase the item on the label and then place the **unwrapped** item under the tree.

## Secret Santa. . . Together we can help some of our own Parish Families to have a Merry Christmas

Again this year, I invite you to join me in helping some of our own parishioners who need extra help this Christmas. These are families or individuals that are registered in our parish and for various reasons are experiencing difficult times. They may have not requested help from our St. Vincent de Paul Society but they have confided in me about their struggle to make ends meet. “**Secret Santa**” is a way to respond to their needs. Last year we assisted **38 families or individuals**. Some examples of folks who benefited are:

- A family that needed assistance with an electric bill
- Assisted a family with their moving expenses
- Assisted a family with funeral expenses after a loss in their family
- An elderly couple with their hospital expenses

**If you know of a registered active parishioner that needs a visit from Secret Santa, please let me know!** They **must** meet the following requirements:

- Registered active parishioner
- Attends mass regularly
- Contributes their time, talents and treasure to the parish

Sorry, but because of the need this year, we will not be able to help any family members of parishioners who are not registered in our parish.

If you would like to participate in this “**quiet holiness**”, please use the envelope found in your December monthly offering package.

## Remembering Those Serving in Our Military This Christmas. . .

In our Christmas issue of our bulletin we would like to remember those who are currently serving in our Military.

Please call the parish office if you know of a parishioner or have an immediate family member serving in our military to have their name listed in this special section. We would also like to keep their rank and duty location up to date, so if these have changed, please let us know.

## Christmas Masses Traditional Christmas Carols will be sung before Midnight Mass

We warmly welcome **Daryl Buchheit** who will be our guest musician at the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass.

Again this year we will have traditional Christmas carols sung during the half hour preceding Midnight mass by our choir led by **Dan Stott**.

**Our parish owes a tremendous amount of gratitude to our choir members for their unending dedication to our liturgical celebrations.**

## Preparing for the Upcoming Holiday Season

As you and your family prepare for the Holiday Season, please note our holiday mass schedule that can be found on page 7 of this bulletin. Please note that January 1, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God is **Not a holy day of obligation**.

## And Finally...

“Always remember that as long as we keep the Eucharist the center of our lives, everything else will fall in place...of that I am confident”!!!

**Blessings of Peace...Fr. Rickey**

## Welcome to Our Guests. . . Welcome Home to Others. . .

We warmly welcome all of our visitors this Christmas season!!! If you are new to the area and visiting us for the first time, we sincerely welcome you to our faith community! Or if you have been away from the Church for a while, we sincerely welcome you **HOME** this Christmas!

If you are looking for a faith community to join, please give us a call at the parish office. Please join us on Christmas Day!!



## Our Pastoral Team

Very Rev. Rickey J. Valleroy, V.F. .... Pastor  
email: [frickvalleroy@aol.com](mailto:frickvalleroy@aol.com)

Rev. Abe Arganiosa ..... Associate Pastor  
email: [frabe@stjosephfarmington.com](mailto:frabe@stjosephfarmington.com)

Deacon Mark Byington ..... Permanent Deacon  
email: [deaconmark@stjosephfarmington.com](mailto:deaconmark@stjosephfarmington.com)

Abe AuBuchon ..... Pastoral Associate  
email: [aaubuchon@stjosephfarmington.com](mailto:aaubuchon@stjosephfarmington.com)

Shirley Bieser ..... Principal  
email: [sbieser@stjosephfarmington.com](mailto:sbieser@stjosephfarmington.com)

Jane Ramos .... Coordinator of Religious Education  
email: [jramos@stjosephfarmington.com](mailto:jramos@stjosephfarmington.com)

Agnes Hinkebein ..... Pastoral Health Care  
email: [healthminister@stjosephfarmington.com](mailto:healthminister@stjosephfarmington.com)

Lisa Cartee ..... Office / Business Manager  
email: [secretary@stjosephfarmington.com](mailto:secretary@stjosephfarmington.com)

Connie Grindel ..... RCIA Coordinator  
email: [rcia@stjosephfarmington.com](mailto:rcia@stjosephfarmington.com)

Scott Watson ..... Pastoral Council  
Jim Eaton ..... Financial Commission  
Rob Grindel ..... Property and Maintenance  
Ed Brown ..... Cemetery Association  
Mike Ward ..... Knights of Columbus

## Sacramental Life

Daily Mass Monday thru Friday ..... 7:00 am

Friday (All School Mass Aug-May) ..... 8:05 am

Sunday Mass Observance

Saturday ..... 5:00 pm

Sunday ..... 7:30 am, 9:00 am and 10:30 am

Holy Days of Obligation ..... 7 am, 8 am and 7 pm

### The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays 4 pm, Sundays 7 am or by appointment

### The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are held the first Sunday of the month after the 10:30 am Mass. Baptismal preparation class required. Contact the parish office.

### The Sacrament of Marriage

Celebrated after meeting the bride and groom and beginning preparation six months before the wedding, in accordance with Archdiocesan Wedding Policy.



## Eucharistic Celebrations and Mass Intentions

Week of December 18 - 24

### Monday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

7:00 am: **Thurman Family**

### Tuesday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

7:00 am: **Joseph & Eugene Smith**

### Wednesday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

7:00 am: **Beverly Byington**

### Thursday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

7:00 am: **John "Bud" Kertrich**

### Friday: Advent Weekday

Readings: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

7:00 am: **Darrin Young**

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday Readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 ; Ps 89: 2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

### Saturday:

5:00 pm: **Parishioners**

### Sunday:

7:30 am: **Todd Jokerst**

9:00 am: **C.E. (Kopie) & Lucille Koppeis**

10:30 am: **McManus & Hillis Families**

visit [www.stjosephfarmington.com](http://www.stjosephfarmington.com) and click on "daily mass readings" for easy reference.

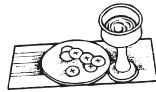
## St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Mission Statement

*We are called by our Lord Jesus Christ, to be His church and live His gospel.*

*We strive to fulfill our baptismal calling by prayer, worship, teaching and in sharing our faith and serving others.*

*Guided by the Holy Spirit and through our patron St. Joseph, we commit ourselves to the responsible stewardship of all God's gifts.*

## Ministers of the Liturgy



### Saturday, December 23

#### 5:00 pm Mass

**Priest:** Fr. Rickey Valleroy  
**Deacon:** Deacon Mark Byington  
**Lector:** Vanessa Trokey  
**Extraordinary Ministers:**  
 Donna Conklin, Laura Denkler,  
 Deanna Dickerson, Jill Patton  
**Ushers:** Buddy Bordewick, Gary Harris,  
 John Denkler, Don Trokey  
**Servers:** L. Gaines, B. Harness, M. Harness  
**Cantor:** As Scheduled

### Sunday, December 24

#### 7:30 am Mass

**Priest:** Fr. Abe Arganiosa  
**Deacon:** Deacon Mark Byington  
**Lector:** Jennifer Rhodus  
**Extraordinary Ministers:**  
 Dotty Bach, Jerry Bach, Jim Eaton,  
 Dottie Reeves  
**Ushers:** Jerry Bieser, Bill Jokerst, Chester Ott,  
 Phil Roth  
**Servers:** L. Brockland, C. Watson

#### 9:00 am Mass

**Priest:** Fr. John Schneider  
**Deacon:** Deacon Mark Byington  
**Lector:** Dawn Fuemmeler  
**Extraordinary Ministers:**  
 Jana Dore, Paul Gaines, Doak Holloway,  
 Charlotte Vander Bol  
**Ushers:** Mike Backer, Dan Combs, Dale Springs,  
 Mike Ward  
**Servers:** C. Brown, K. Wade, K. Wade  
**Cantor:** Tom Berkbigler

#### 10:30 am Mass

**Priest:** Fr. Abe Arganiosa  
**Deacon:** Deacon Mark Byington  
**Lector:** Chad Speakar  
**Extraordinary Ministers:**  
 Theresa AuBuchon, Rita Boyd, Jill Patton,  
 Terri Roney  
**Ushers:** John Bieser, James Cissell, Chuck Koppeis,  
 Travis Trolinger  
**Servers:** E. Anderson, E. Anderson, Y. Rizo  
**Cantor:** As Scheduled

## Monday, December 18, 2017

### Sacristans

Pat Beussink, Jana Doré,  
 Jo Rustemeyer, Judy Alig

### Money Counters

Lori King, Ethel Backer,  
 Anne Crawford,  
 Carol Rigdon

## The Nativity of the Lord

### Sunday, December 24

#### 5:00 pm Mass

**Priest:** Fr. Rickey Valleroy  
**Lector:** Shawn McCarver  
**Extraordinary Ministers:**  
 Kevin Boatright, Laura Denkler, Cindy Kelso  
 Dawn Fuemmeler, Mitch Fuemmeler  
**Ushers:** John Denkler, Mark Kellogg, Dylan Kelso  
 Mike Kelso  
**Servers:** A. Coleman, L. Gaines, Z. Kelso  
**Cantor:** As Scheduled

#### Midnight Mass

**Priest:** Fr. Abe Arganiosa  
**Deacon:** Deacon Mark Byington  
**Lector:** Phyllis LaPlant  
**Extraordinary Ministers:**  
 Shirley Bieser, Ron Brooks, Sandi Brooks,  
 Agnes Hinkebein  
**Ushers:** Mike Backer, John Bieser, John Podolak,  
 Scott Watson  
**Servers:** C. Watson, B. Harness, M. Harness  
**Cantor:** Michelle Podolak

### Sunday, December 25

#### 7:30 am Mass

**Priest:** Fr. James Dyer  
**Lector:** Chuck Hayden  
**Extraordinary Ministers:**  
 Charlie Dill, Marge Dill, Rose Hayden,  
 Jack Neiner, Kathy Neiner  
**Ushers:** Ed Brown, Corey Hulsey, Frankie Hulsey,  
 Gerald Hulsey  
**Servers:** As Scheduled

#### 9:00 am Mass

**Priest:** Fr. James Dyer  
**Lector:** Mitch Fuemmeler  
**Extraordinary Ministers:**  
 Kevin Boatright, Charles Boyd, Rob Grindel,  
 Sandi Kracke, Charlotte Vander Bol  
**Ushers:** Dan Combs, John England, George Kracke,  
 Jerry Morris  
**Servers:** L. Combs, O. Combs, As Scheduled  
**Cantor:** As Scheduled

#### 10:30 am Mass

**Priest:** Fr. Abe Arganiosa  
**Lector:** Stephen Hunter  
**Extraordinary Ministers:**  
 Jane Allen, Adam Barhhouse, Jill Patton,  
 Katie Rhodes, Joe Rhodus  
**Ushers:** Bob Bone, Chuck Koppeis,  
 Chris McTearnen, Travis Trolinger  
**Servers:** As Scheduled  
**Cantor:** As Scheduled

**Our Father's Table**  
**TODAY, December 17**  
**4:00 - 6:00 • Cafeteria**



*Christmas  
Ham Dinner*

**Religious Items and Book Sale**  
**to Support the Pregnancy Resource**

**Center Next Month!**



Collect your books, dust your shelves and pass on your loved and prayed over religious items and books to help support the Pregnancy Resource Center.



Happy Birthday



&

Happy Anniversary

To All Our Parishioners  
 Celebrating This Week !!!



## Your Gifts to God and Parish

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Adult Envelopes	\$13,081.81
Loose	\$489.77
Solemnity of Mary	\$20.00
Children's Envelopes	\$10.00
Spanish Mass	\$267.00
Immaculate Conception	\$978.00
Electronic Deposit	<u>\$1,915.00</u>
	<b>\$16,761.58</b>

	<u>Current Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Sunday Offering	\$16,761.58	\$298,339.45
Budgeted Amount	<u>\$12,125.00</u>	<u>\$291,000.00</u>
Shortage/Overage	\$4,636.58	<b>\$7,339.45</b>

Partners in Education	\$159.00
Maintenance and Repair	\$58.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$115.00
Retired Religious	\$35.00
Permanent Diaconate	\$25.00
Human Development	\$31.00
Seminaries	\$30.00
Christmas Flowers	\$968.00
Christmas	\$25.00
Secret Santa	<u>\$675.00</u>
Total for Specials	<b>\$2,121.00</b>

**Thank You For Your Faithfulness!!!**

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

We pray for the repose of the soul of...

**Lyle (Joe) Bryant Sr.**

Father-in-law of parishioner Bev Bryant



*May God welcome him home, fill him with peace and bless those who will miss him.*

Together we pray for those who are sick. (Parishioners names are in bold.)

Please pray for: Lillian Wilson, Doretta Herzog, **Sandi Brooks**, Jean Kinneman, David Kinneman, **Mark Huels**, Scott Gardner, Karen Thompson, Samuel Shilly, **Pat Kernan**, Laura Henderson, Lydia Henderson, **Mike Hinkebein**, **Betty Medley**, Janet Huck, Pat Clark, **Wilma Kernan**, Laura Tellman, Bill Schaper, Carmen Christine Hall, Kathy Moorman, **Agnes Hinkebein**, Sharon Partney, **Joyce Wozniak**, Tom Christman, Paul Calbreath, Roberta Richards, Mildred Bourisaw, Jan Gilliam, **Cathy Barron**, Sharon Clark, Jim Dotson, **John Crouch**, Karen Abney, Jamie Bruenderman, Richard Gebhardt Jr., Charles Hafner, **Beulah Carrow**, Tim Evans, **Rita Boyd**, Robin Wessling, **Helen Mell**, Patricia Reed Finch, **Bev Bryant**.

To add someone to the prayer list contact Pat Boatright at [boat.pab75@gmail.com](mailto:boat.pab75@gmail.com) or 756-4169.



## A Message from Fr. Abe...

### Jesus Comes To Hearts Made Pure

By: Fr. Abe Arganiosa



This 3rd Sunday of Advent, our Gospel once again presents the proclamation of John the Baptizer [Jn 1:6-8, 19-28] in the Johannine Gospel Account. Today's Gospel can be summarized: **(1)** John the Baptizer was sent by God, **(2)** He came to testify for Jesus the light, and **(3)** The purpose of his testimony is for people to believe in Jesus.

**Sent by God.** Just like St. John we are chosen, called and sent forth by God. Our existence is a proof that we are chosen by God. Our being baptized Christian is a fact that we are called by Him and our Confirmation in the Catholic faith is a manifestation that we are sent by Him. We too are called to be prophets of God.

**To testify to Jesus the Light.** The goal of our existence is not only to eat, drink and die. If that is the case then we are nothing higher than brutes. We are higher than that. The purpose of human life is much more than bodily satisfaction because we are not only corporeal but spiritual beings. Our rational souls make us in the image and likeness of God [cf. Gen 2:7] and so we testify to our union with God through the beauty of our spirit, the ardent love in our hearts and the goodness of our mind.

**To lead others to faith in Jesus.** John didn't focus on himself. He clearly distinguished that he is not the light. Jesus is the Light of the world.

Sin entered the world when the first Man and Woman desired to be God rather than acknowledging the One-True God. Evil existed because the supposedly angel of light rebelled against God by pride. **St. John teaches us the virtue of humility as an antidote to pride, that is, to focus on God rather than on myself.** The real greatness of man is not when he claims to be the best but when he humbles himself before God and men. John exhorts people to repentance and he did it by life of austerity. It means he walk the talk, not all promises only. He is not a noisy drum with no substance.

This Advent we lit the *Candle of Joy*. Let us testify for Jesus with happiness in our hearts and humility of spirit. Be courageous witnesses of Jesus during this season of grace.



## Holiday Mass Schedule

**Christmas Eve**  
5 pm & Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day**  
7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 am

**Feast of the Holy Family**  
Normal Sunday  
Masses



**"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"**  
- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 -18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations.



# Helping Yourself Through the Holidays



Compiled by Sue Wilker  
Priests' Wellness Program • Archdiocese of St. Louis

There are so many holidays or "special days," such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, weddings, Easter, Thanksgiving, to name a few. These are all difficult days for the bereaved, but for many, the most difficult holiday of the year is Christmas. This time of year, more than any other, means "Family Together." They are synonymous and it is at this time we are so acutely aware of the void in our life. For many the wish is to just go from December 15 to January 3! We continually hear Christmas carols and people wishing everyone "Merry Christmas." We see the perfect gift for our loved one who has died and suddenly realize they will not be here to enjoy it. Eventually the Christmas season will not be so difficult. This statement may not seem possible to those newly bereaved, but grief will soften and you will begin to enjoy life again, including Christmas.

The Christmas message is that "God is with us." He came to become one of us in Jesus Christ. In this season, we celebrate the fact and the faith that God loved us so much that he was born among of us. And yet, even at the first Christmas, there was a reminder of death. One of the gifts that the wise men brought to the baby Jesus was the gift of myrrh, a perfume that was used to prepare a dead body for burial. Part of the plan of God from the very beginning was that this baby born in Bethlehem would eventually show his love through death. It is through this birth, death, and resurrection of this Jesus that we celebrate life even in the midst of death. May the love that was born in Bethlehem in Jesus the Christ be born in you today.

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see\_ I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."  
Luke 2:10-11*

Be open to the blessings and good experiences that the holidays may bring. Live in the present.

*Remember, past holidays weren't always perfect!*

## The Following Are Some Ideas That May Help You Get Through This Time...

Not all of them will fit your circumstance and needs, but take a moment to go over them and consider incorporating one or a even a few into this holiday season.

• **Set limitations.** Realize that it isn't going to be easy. Do the things that are very special and/or important to you. Just do the best you can. Once you have made the decision on how you and your family will handle the holidays, let relatives and friends know.

• Consider all those "**Holiday Musts**" ... sending cards, baking cookies, going to parties, decorating the inside and outside of your home, decorating the tree, preparing special holiday foods, shopping, wrapping packages, "traditional whatever's".

If these chores are enjoyable, go ahead, but not to the point that it is tiring.

Look at each of these "Musts" and decide:

- 1) would Christmas be Christmas without it
- 2) is this something I can do differently this year
- 3) do I do this out of habit, tradition, free choice or obligation
- 4) do I like doing this
- 5) can someone else do it.

After weighing the options, act accordingly!

If you always cut down your own tree, consider buying it already cut this year... or perhaps this is the year to switch to an artificial one or no tree at all! Perhaps just a small tabletop tree. Let children, friends, family help with the decoration. Perhaps this is the year to cut down on all the decorating and place special emphasis on only the things that are most important.

If you send out Christmas cards, insert a memorial card in it to let those who may not have heard of your loved one's death to let them know. Perhaps instead of Christmas cards send them out at Epiphany, or send out Happy New Years cards.

• **Shop Early.** Shopping may be extremely upsetting. It may help to shop through a catalog, on the internet or make plans to shop with an understanding, supportive friend or family member. Plan to relax over lunch or a cup of coffee. Friends or relatives might be willing to shop for you if they realize that just the thought of shopping is bothering you.

• **There is no right or wrong way to handle the day.** Don't avoid long-standing traditions. Children often find comfort in them. On the other hand, new traditions say you are still a family. It may help to do things a little differently this year. What you choose the first year you don't have to do the next. Be careful of "SHOULD'S" – it is better to do what is



most helpful for you and your family. If a situation looks especially difficult over the holidays, try not to get involved. If you do decide to keep to some traditions, decide who will take over the role traditionally assigned to the person who died, for example: carving the turkey or ham.

- **Keep in mind the feelings of children or family members.** Try to make the holiday season as joyous as possible for them. Children especially need a sense of normalcy, even in the midst of grief. If a tradition is especially important for the children, consider keeping it, this will give them a sense of security when things around them are changing. Provide your children with extra amounts of attention, praise, and emotional support.

- **Family Get-Togethers** may be extremely difficult. Be honest with each other about your feelings. Sit down with your family and decide what you want to do for the holiday season. Don't set expectations too high for yourself or the day. If you wish things to be the same, you are going to be disappointed... the holidays this year are NOT going to be the same! Undertake what each family member is able to handle comfortably.

- **The holidays are by their nature exhausting...** emotionally, physically and psychologically. This year won't be any different and they most likely will be worse. **Make sure you get enough rest.** Be extremely careful with alcohol it is a natural depressant and can actually make things worse.

- Perhaps you want to **make things totally different this year.** One possibility for the first year may be to visit relatives, friends, or even go away on a vacation. Planning, packing, etc. keeps your mind somewhat off the holiday and you share the time in a different and hopefully less painful setting.

Or maybe you would want to consider **smaller changes:**

- Try attending Christmas Mass at a different time and/or church.
- If you are accustomed to having dinner at your home, change and go to relatives or a restaurant; or change the time - instead of 2:00 pm make it 6:00 pm. Serve buffet style and/or eat in a different room may help. Change the entire menu!
- If you always gather on Christmas Eve, change it to Christmas morning for brunch.
- Do something for someone else. Reaching out to someone else who is in need can help with your feelings of helplessness and hopelessness. Give food

to the needy. Helping out at a Christmas meal for the homeless. Visit a shut-in from the parish.

- Invite someone else who is alone to join in the holiday meal and to share the day with your family.

- Some people fear **crying in public**, especially at Mass. It is usually better not to push the tears down. You should be gentle with yourself and not expect so much of yourself. Worrying about crying is an additional burden. If you let go and cry you probably will feel better. It should not ruin the day for other family members but will provide them with the same freedom. Children imitate behavior. If they see you are crying and expressing your sadness at the death of your loved one, they will know they have the freedom to do the same.

- **Share your concerns**, feelings, apprehensions as the holiday approaches with a relative or friend. Tell them that this is a difficult time for you. Accept their help. You will appreciate their love and support at this time and they will feel less helpless with being asked to help.

- **Holidays often magnify feelings of loss of a loved one.** It is important and natural to experience the sadness that comes. To block such feelings is unhealthy. Keep the positive memory of your loved one alive. Take time and share memories with your family of the loved one who died.

- light a candle in honor of her or him
- set out a picture and tell stories of her or his life
- watch a home video together
- look through a photo album together or make a family memory book
- Give a donation in memory of your loved one.

- Often **after the first year** the people in your life may expect you to be "over it". We are never "over it", but the experience of many bereaved is that eventually they enjoy the holidays again. Hold on to HOPE. Know that our loving Father will never abandon you and always holds you in His loving arms.

*Remember: Be easy on your self, anticipation of any holiday is so much worse than the actual holiday!*

May you and your loved ones have a blessed Christmas. Remember that God loves you and is always with you.

Sue



**Special Advent Reflections Button**

**It's not too late!!!** MyParish App is offering spiritual encouragement each day of this holy season. Many of us experience Advent as only four days a year (Sundays). These helpful reflections will aid us in reflecting on the Mass readings each day as we await Christ's coming.

# 'TIS *(almost)* THE SEASON

We prepare for everything we consider important in life. And that includes Christmas. Join our parish for Best Advent Ever, a free email program that will help you prepare for Christmas in a unique way. Each day you'll receive an email with...

- Short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly and Dr. Allen Hunt
- Practical tips for your everyday life
- Real-life stories of hope

TO SIGN UP, VISIT  
[BestAdventEver.com/BeautifulHope](http://BestAdventEver.com/BeautifulHope)

**Dynamic Catholic**

## Office Closing Early

As a gift to our Parish Staff and to allow them to have time to spend with their families during this Holiday Season, our office will be closed from  
**December 25 - December 29.**

**Knights of Columbus**  
 Council #12332

**Copper Kettle & Wood Fired**

**Last Minute Christmas Gifts!!!**

<b>Apple Butter</b>	<b>\$7.00</b>
<b>Apple Sauce</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>

Call or stop by the parish office today.



# Advent Wreath Making & Chili Night

**Advent Wreath Making and Chili Night on November 28.** Parish families gathered for an evening of community, prayer, and delicious food. The evening began with a prayer from **Fr. Abe** and then delicious chili with peanut butter sandwiches.

After dinner, families then made their Advent wreaths. The evening concluded with a reflection and blessing of the wreaths by **Fr. Abe**.

Thank you to **Jennifer Swinarski** for coordinating the evening, **The Athletic Association**, for making the chili, and the many families who helped set up and tear down! Thank you to our parish and school families for participating.







## Women of Mary Giving Tree

The Women of Mary are again happy to sponsor a "Giving Tree" to benefit our St. Vincent de Paul organization. Since the clients who visit our St. Vincent de Paul come only once a month, we are hoping to have plenty of great Christmas presents available for them and their

children as soon as possible!!

The tree is located in the entry of the Parish Center. You may take an ornament from the tree, purchase the item on the label, and then place the unwrapped item under the tree. The volunteers from St. Vincent de Paul will pick up the items and distribute them to their clients before Christmas.

**Thanks to everyone for your support; each year you are so generous to those in need from our local community!!**

*Merry Christmas!*



## Remember Your Loved Ones at Christmas by the Gift of a Christmas Poinsettia

**Memorials will be published in our bulletin**

As is our custom, you can remember your loved ones by donating flowers to decorate the altar area. An envelope is included in your December packet of offering envelopes. The names of those who are especially remembered in this way will be listed in our **December 24 bulletin**. The printer's deadline for this bulletin is **Tuesday, December 19**. Hopefully we will have a complete list. However, any gifts received after the deadline will be listed in the December 31 bulletin. Please note that the extra funds collected are placed in a restricted flower fund and are used for decorating our Sacred Space year round.



United Way



## Bell Ringing

**Wednesdays • 10:00 am - 8:00 pm**

**December 20**

St. Joseph Parish will once again be participating in the **United Way Bell Ringing** at Walmart in Farmington. There are sign up sheets in the back of church on the windows. We will be ringing at the west door (pharmacy side). Please call Lisa in the Parish Office (756-4250) if you would like to sign up for a time slot, if you cannot make your time, or if you have questions. Dress warm if it's cold, and thank you for your participation!

## Baby Items For Christmas



A gift to the babies in our community.



The Christmas season is a time to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. In the spirit of giving, the **Respect Life Committee** is asking families to **bring baby items to church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and place them at the manger**. These items will be distributed to our Parkland Hospital and to the Parkland Pregnancy Resource Center.

They in turn will give the items to needy families. Items particularly needed are: newborn girl and boy outfits, sleepers, newborn mittens (so babies won't scratch themselves), onesies, undershirts, receiving blankets and heavier blankets. If you would like, the gift may be wrapped.



**Thank you for your support!**

## Coming up in our Parish...



**January 28**  
Our Father's Table



**January 29**  
Catholic Schools  
Week



A Note  
from our  
Pastoral Health  
Care Minister,

**Agnes Hinkebein, RN**

If you are currently homebound or are hospitalized or know of a parishioner who is, please contact me at 756-4250 or email me at:

healthminister@stjosephfarmington.com



## Advertiser of the Week...

This week we would like to thank....



**Jeff Swinarski, M.D., F.A.C.S.**  
General Surgeon  
Parishioner  
**756-2057**

Please patronize our Advertisers!  
Try Bulletin Advertising call  
800-876-7000, Ext. 295.

## Searching?

### Seeking?



The Magi followed  
the star to find  
Jesus, we find Him in  
Eucharistic Adoration.

Eucharistic Adoration  
Thursdays • 7:30 am - 7:30 pm  
First Friday of the month  
9:00 am - 2:15 pm

For more information contact  
Charlie and Rita Boyd at  
756-2383 •  
ctboyd@sbcglobal.net



*Let us Adore Him.*



**St. Joseph  
Parish's  
St. Vincent  
de Paul  
Food Pantry**

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.

**Open Tuesday and Friday**  
**9:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
For assistance call 756-0997

Our food pantry serves people in the St. Francois county regardless of race, sex, national origin, religion, or age.

## Our Gifts to St. Vincent de Paul



Thank you St. Joseph for your generosity for the month of November to St. Vincent de Paul, **\$2,331.00** was given in our monthly S.V.D.P. envelopes.

## This Week in Our Parish...

### Tuesday • December 19

4th Degree  
Knights of Columbus  
Christmas Party  
6:00 pm • Parish Center

Catholicism Class  
7:00 pm • School

### Wednesday • December 20

Rosary  
7:15 pm • Church

### Thursday • December 21

Eucharistic Adoration  
7:30 am- 5:15 pm • Church

### Sunday • December 24

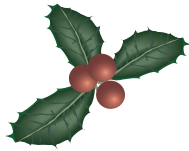
Christmas Eve  
5:00 pm & Midnight Mass



*With Our  
Heartfelt Thanks...*

Our RCIA Leaders, Team and participants would like to thank **Dotty Bach, Mandy Hubbard, Betty Combs, Whitney Hutson, Peggy Greif Bone** for their gifts of food last week!!!

**Next Weeks Topic:**  
Season of Advent  
How to Make it Holy.



St. Catherine's in Coffman, Missouri  
invites you to their 6th Annual



## Old Fashioned Country Christmas

Saturday, January 6, 2018

5:00 pm Mass

celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family  
with Fr. Rickey J. Valleroy, celebrant  
and music by Daryl Buchheit



After Mass please join us for some country fun

- **"All-You-Can-Eat"** warm homemade cinnamon rolls,  
hot chocolate, milk or coffee in the church hall
- Traditional Christmas Songs with Daryl Buchheit
- *The Nativity Story* by the children of St. Catherine's
- All the way from the North Pole . . . a visit from Santa
  - Coffman's Biggest Buck Contest

**NEW this year:**

- **Wring a Deers Neck!!!**
- **Super Bowl Comes Early to Coffman!!!**
- An Old Fashioned Country Bingo  
come join us and win some great give-aways  
(free for all to enjoy)



The Retiring Queen of the 2017 Coffman County Cinnamon Roll Queen  
Rosie Eck taking her final walk before passing her crown to the new winner

**The Crowning of the 2018  
Cinnamon Roll Queen of Coffman County**





# St. Catherine of Alexandria

**Saturday, December 23**

**Your Gifts to God and Parish**

**Celebrant**

Fr. John Schneider

**Lector**

Agnes Herzog

**Extraordinary Ministers**

Helen McDaniel  
& Joyce Heberlie

**Offertory Bearers**

Stan & Joyce Heberlie

**Mass Intentions**

Edna Webery

**Happy Birthday**

**Glenna Adams**

December 23

Saturday, December 9, 2017

Adult Envelopes .....	\$692.00
Loose.....	\$35.00
Immaculate Conception.....	<del>\$65.00</del>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$785.00</b>

**Thank You For Your Faithfulness**

**Saturday 7:30 pm Mass**

Parish Council President:  
Jimmy Herzog

Coffman, Missouri  
Founded in 1887  
Canonical Parish 1919



**January 6th Old Fashioned  
Country Christmas!!!**

“Always remember that as long as we keep the Eucharist the center of our lives, everything else will fall in place...of that I am confident”!!!

Blessings of Peace...Fr. Rickey