



Third Sunday of
ADVENT



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A Roman Catholic Parish in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri
6020 Old Antonia Road, Imperial, MO 63052
sjiparish.org | 636-464-1013

St. Joseph Parish

Parish Office Hours: M-F: 7:30 am—3:30 pm | 636-464-1013

CLERGY

Rev. Daniel G. Shaughnessy, <i>Pastor</i>	frs@sjparish.org x104
Rev. Jonathan R. Ruzicka, <i>Associate Pastor</i>	jruzicka@sjparish.org x116
Msgr. Gregory Mikesch, <i>In Residence</i>	
Rev. Mr. Roland Kaiser, <i>Permanent Deacon</i>	Retired
Rev. Mr. Brian Selsor, <i>Permanent Deacon</i>	636-464-6901
Rev. Mr. John Wolffer, <i>Permanent Deacon</i>	314-420-3898

PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Carol DuBuque, <i>Child Safety Coordinator</i>	cdubuque@sjparish.org x105
Julie Hepp, <i>Parish Accountant</i>	jhepp@sjparish.org x119
Kathy Larson, <i>Communications Director</i>	klarson@sjparish.org x112
Keith Newbury, <i>Facilities Manager</i>	knewbury@sjparish.org x110
Karla Owensby, <i>Business Manager</i>	kowensby@sjparish.org x103
Rachel Schoenberger, <i>Administrative Asst.</i>	rschoenberger@sjparish.org x102
Heather Selsor, <i>Corpus Christi Center Manager</i>	hselsor@sjparish.org x111

PARISH MINISTERIAL STAFF

Sr. Rosemary Buttice, ASCJ, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>	rbuttice@sjparish.org x106
Sean Feltz, <i>Director of Apostolic Mission</i>	sfeltz@sjparish.org x114
Torri Halbert, <i>PSR Coordinator</i>	thalbert@sjparish.org x107
Emily Kopff, <i>Director of Religious Education</i>	ekopff@sjparish.org x108

SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL

Sr. Carol Sansone, ASCJ, <i>Principal</i>	csansone@stjosephimperial.org 636-464-9027 x401
Sr. Ellen Cronan, ASCJ, <i>Admin. Assistant</i>	ecronan@stjosephimperial.org 636-464-9027 x403
Tara Gaudreault, RN, <i>School Nurse</i>	tgaudreault@stjosephimperial.org 636-464-9027 x500
Rose Preston, <i>Office Manager</i>	rpreston@stjosephimperial.org 636-464-9027 x402

OTHER MINISTRIES

Knights of Columbus, Jake Dugal	314-707-0212
Natural Family Planning, Sean/Amanda Dailey	thedaileys16@gmail.com; 314-540-1739
Parish Cemetery, Bill Regelsperger	314-808-2522
Sr. Christine's Food Pantry	636-464-7580
St. Vincent de Paul Society Helpline	636-274-6520

MASS TIMES

Sat.: 8:00 am & 4:30 pm
 Sun.: 7, 8:30, 10, 11:30 am; 4:30 pm
 Mon.: 6:30 am
 Tues. - Fri. 6:30 & 8:00 am

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

Tuesday & Friday: 7:00 am
 Thursday: 5:30 pm—7:00 pm
 Saturday: 3:30 pm—4:30 pm

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

T/W/Th 9:00 am—9:00 pm

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM

Attendance at a Baptismal preparation class is required. Classes are held the 2nd Thursday of the month; call to schedule.

SACRAMENTS of EUCHARIST AND CONFIRMATION

For those who have been baptized Catholic or wish to enter the Catholic Church, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) classes are required. For more information contact Sr. Rosemary.

SACRAMENT of ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anyone who is seriously sick and would like a visit from one of the priests may call the parish office to request one. Hospitals no longer call parishes with this information.

SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE

Contact one of the priests to begin your preparation at least nine months before the anticipated wedding date.

SACRAMENT of HOLY ORDERS AND VOWED RELIGIOUS LIFE

If you are interested in learning about a religious vocation, please contact one of the priests or the Archdiocesan Vocations Office at stlvocations.org or 314-792-6460.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Parishioners who are homebound and wish to receive Holy Communion may call the office to make arrangements.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	Dec. 23 4:30 pm	Dec. 24 7:00 am	Dec. 24 8:30 am	Dec. 24 10:00 am	Dec. 24 11:30 am	Dec. 24 4:30 pm
Lectors	Esparza Hoffmeister	Dixon Stevens	Nicholas Preston	Brotherton Lang	Hobbs Schurk	Please see Christmas Mass schedule on page 5.
Servers	C. Bailey A. Esparza A. Fanetti	Volunteers	W. Nesselhauf L. Preston Volunteer	S. Blomstrom J. Coleman D. Murphy	J. Becker D. Oppelz J. Vonder Haar	

MASS INTENTIONS	
Monday	December 18, 2023
6:30 am	William & Margaret Dust
Tuesday	December 19, 2023
6:30 am	Lenore Kueber
8:00 am	Dust Family & Friends
Wednesday	December 20, 2023
6:30 am	Devore Family Special Intention
8:00 am	Bill & John Dust
Thursday	December 21, 2023
6:30 am	Mildred Kanik
8:00 am	Jim Naes
Friday	December 22, 2023
6:30 am	Betty & Dan Fitzgerald
8:00 am	Mark Strothkamp
Saturday	December 23, 2023
8:00 am	Jim Moss
4:30 pm	Parker Schaefer
Sunday	December 24, 2023
7:00 am	Bill Hamilton & Family Special Intentions
8:30 am	Elaine Frauenhoffer
10:00 am	Patricia Sokolic
11:30 am	Richard Angeline, Sr & Jr, Robert, Alan, & Mandi Mesey
4:00 pm	Maria Smith
4:15 pm	Irene Bierman
5:30 pm	John Moffett

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

Please take note: from Nov. 5 into the first week of January, every weekend but one has an early bulletin deadline.

Bulletin Date	Due to bulletin@sjiparish.org by noon on:
11/12/2023	Monday, November 6
11/19/2023	Thursday, November 9
11/26/2023	Wednesday, November 15
12/3/2023	Monday, November 27
12/10/2023	Friday, December 1
12/17/2023	Friday, December 8
12/24/2023	Tuesday, December 12
12/31/2023	Thursday, December 21
1/7/2024	Friday, December 22

PARISH STEWARDSHIP 11/27/2023 - 12/3/2023

	Current	Fiscal YTD
OFFERTORY		
<i>Total collected</i>	\$22,087.46	\$494,183.44
<i>Amount needed</i>	\$21,568.77	\$496,081.71
<i>Surplus or shortage</i>	\$518.69	\$1,898.27
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS		
Tuition assistance	\$530.00	
St. Vincent de Paul	\$1,430.00	
Sr. Christine's Food Pantry	\$1468.00	



FROM THE DESK *of* FR. DAN SHAUGHNESSY, PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I received an email recently from Natural Family Planning (NFP) and More. Their website link is as follows: <https://www.nfpandmore.org/>. They send email blasts occasionally and I found the one below really interesting. Many Catholics know what the Church teaches about artificial means of contraception but they don't necessarily know why. And if they do know why, they might ridicule what the Church teaches as being out of touch with reality. That said, in the times in which we live where personal health and wellness is lauded as "the highest good" by many, I think the Church's teaching is the right one for many reasons, namely the ones listed below:

1. Contraceptive behaviors are morally wrong because they contradict God's plan for love, marriage and sexuality. God has a plan for love, marriage and sexuality. In that plan, the marriage act is meant to be exclusively a marriage act. That means that such an action outside of marriage is intrinsically dishonest, pretending to be what it cannot be. In God's plan, the marriage act within marriage is intended to be a renewal of the marriage covenant the couple freely entered. It ought to affirm and renew the self-giving love and the for-better-and-for-worse commitment of the marriage vows. But the body language of contraceptive behaviors says, "I take you for better but positively not for the imagined 'worse' of possible pregnancy." They (contraceptive behaviors) contradict the marriage covenant and are thus dishonest and violate the Natural Law.
2. Some forms of birth control contradict God's plan for taking care of our health. Good health is a great gift from God, and we are

obliged to take reasonable efforts to take care of it. Some women use the birth control pill which significantly increases a woman's risks of suffering breast cancer. Compared to women who never use the Pill, a woman who uses the Pill increases her risk of breast cancer by 44% if she ever uses it, and she increases her risks by 52% if she uses it for four or more years before her first full-term pregnancy. (C. Kahlenborn, FM Modugno, and others, "Oral contraceptive use as a risk factor for premenopausal breast cancer: a meta-analysis," Mayo Clinic Proceedings, 2006:81(10):1290-1302.) The WHO has labeled the birth control chemicals as a Group 1 carcinogen—the most dangerous classification. Who is anti-woman—the people who want to foist this carcinogen on unsuspecting teenagers or the Church which teaches its people not to contracept?

3. Contraception contradicts what Jesus teaches us about marriage. Jesus clearly teaches us in Scripture and in his Church that God has created the state of marriage. When questioned about divorce, Jesus put it very simply: "What God has put together, let no one take apart." That also applies to the marriage act. Who put together the procreative and the unitive aspects of the marriage act? Every believer has to say, "God Himself put together these two aspects in the marriage act." What is contraception except the effort to take apart what God Himself has joined in the marriage act? There's no getting around it—that's what contraception is all about.

4. What is the moral and healthy and effective alternative? Natural family planning. Systematic NFP refers to the regular observation of the physical signs of fertility and infertility, frequently called fertility awareness.

It can be used at the 99% level of effectiveness for postponing pregnancy. Among less-fertile couples it can be very helpful for achieving pregnancy.

The data listed above is really powerful. If we look at society and ask ourselves what is wrong, so to speak, we need to ask ourselves a few questions.

- a) When did fertility and pregnancy and children come to be viewed as something other than a great gift? Our culture often treats fertility and pregnancy as something to be avoided, rather than celebrated. (Naturally, we understand sexuality and pregnancy as something to be celebrated within the covenant of marriage). We know that not all pregnancies happen within marriage and we welcome all those lives with joy as gifts from God; no doubt. That said, we understand that God's gift of children ideally comes through the marriage of a man and a woman joined in marriage.

- b) The family unit is foundational to society, the bedrock of society, if you will.

- c) Personally, I come from a family of seven children. Openness to life is a good thing. In all of my 52 years on this earth, I have never had anyone say to me, "I wish we had had fewer children." Without hesitation, I can say that people say to me all the time, "I wish we had had more children." Children are a gift from God. Like St. Mother Teresa, "There is no such thing as too many children. That's like saying there are too many flowers in a garden."

May we celebrate the gifts of marriage and children. Might we support all those in our families and communities who are open to the gift of life!

May God bless you all. May we all celebrate marriages and families.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dan Shaughnessy



HOLIDAY

Mass Schedule

Christmas Vigil:

4:00 pm (SJBD)

4:00 pm (SJP) 4:15 pm (SJP CCC), 5:30 pm (SJP)

Midnight Mass (SJP)

Christmas Day:

9:00 am (SJBD),

8:00 am (SJP) & 10:00 am (SJP)

The parish offices of SJBD & SJP will be closed from
December 25th - January 1st, 2024.

JOIN US IN DECORATING
THE CHURCH FOR

Christmas

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

5-7 PM

All ages welcome!

Save the Date

February 7th, 2024

25th Anniversary of the Dedication
of St. Joseph Church Imperial



Join us for Donut Sunday
January 7, 2024



Parishioners are invited to contribute,
in memory of a loved one, toward our
Christmas poinsettias and decorations.

The cost is \$10 per poinsettia.

Please put your payment, along with the
name of your loved one, in the collection
basket or drop it off at the parish office.
We will have a special acknowledgment for
each memorial in the bulletin the second
weekend in January.

All submissions are due by December 19th.

Thank you!



Do you receive email from the parish?

We use “Constant Contact” to email parishioners. If
you do NOT get the emails and wish to receive them,
please notify Rachel Schoenberger in the parish office
at rschoenberger@sjiparish.org or 636-464-1013.

Raise Right Gift Cards For Sale

Buy RaiseRight gift cards in the back of church after the 7 am, 8:30 am, and 10 am Sunday Masses. RaiseRight gift cards are still available for purchase in the *School Office* during the school day (8 am-3 pm). Also, you can buy eGift cards or reload your gift cards using the RaiseRight app. Need help going digital? Reach out to our RaiseRight coordinator Lynn Quinlan at: lynn.quinlan@gmail.com.

Buy gift cards for Christmas gifts, teachers, gas, groceries, restaurants, supplies, and home improvements. Support our school with no additional out of pocket expense to you. Our school earns a percent rebate for every gift card sold through the RaiseRight program.

Thanks for your continued support!



YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

When a donation is mailed to the parish, the IRS determines that it has been received when it has been postmarked by the United States Postal Service. Thus, checks postmarked on or before December 31, 2023, will be included in the donor's 2023 contribution statement. Items postmarked January 2024 will be included in the donor's 2024 contribution statement. Contributions received in the offertory on Sunday, December 31, 2023, will be included in the 2023 statements if dated in 2023. If they are dated 2024, they will be recorded as such. Contributions received in the offertory on Monday, January 1, 2024, will be included in the donor's 2024 contribution statement regardless of check date.



Registering in St. Joseph Parish

If you are new to the parish, welcome!

If you would like to register, there are several ways to do so:

You may fill out the form located at <https://www.sjiparish.org/register>; you may download a paper form, also located at <https://www.sjiparish.org/register>, or you may visit the parish office to pick up a form.



December 17th, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent



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 know the love of the Lord. Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes, food, heat etc... can share in the blessings of Christmas.

For more information,
email Dbalsman@ymail.com

No meetings during the month of December
Prayer Meeting: January 10th 6:30 p.m.
Business Meeting: January 22nd 6:30 p.m.

All Meetings in the Corpus Christi Center.



WE LOVE SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL!

Enrollment is open with availability in all grades.

Visit our website at stjosephimperial.org or call 636-464-9027



Catechist Spotlight



Becky Czarnecki

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is one of my favorite Saints, but I love them all!

I have been a catechist for about 5 years!

I love the community at St. Joseph, we are such a fun and vibrant parish.




I enjoy traveling with my family.

I was a competitive gymnast and taught gymnastics all over the U.S. and even in Canada!

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for the 2024-2025 school year

stpius.com/applynow



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Catholic Radio

Covenant Network Catholic radio fills the airways with inspirational and educational programming that will help prepare your heart and mind to welcome the Christ Child at Christmas. Listen to Catholic radio on KHOJ 1460 AM or 96.7 FM. You can also listen anytime on our Covenant Network App or at OurCatholicRadio.org.

Catholic WOMEN FOR CHRIST ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Rachel Leininger

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Lisa Coffey

MUSICIAN
Mary Kate Westrich

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Fr. Anthony Wieck, S.J.

MARCH 9, 2024 • 8:45 AM - 4:00 PM

REGISTER \$40
catholicwomenforchrist.org

Host - Melissa Hunter

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MEN'S CONFERENCE

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DR. EDWARD SRI

FR. ANTHONY WIECK, S.J.

PETE BURAK

FEBRUARY 17, 2024
8:45 AM - 4:00 PM
SI COMMONS AT SLUH

Host - Adam Wright | catholicmenforchrist.org | Music - Sean Feltz



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2/2/2024 - 2/4/2024, St. Peters, MO
3/15/2024 - 3/17/2024, Cape Girardeau, MO
4/5/2024 - 4/7/2024, St. Peters, MO

ADVENT

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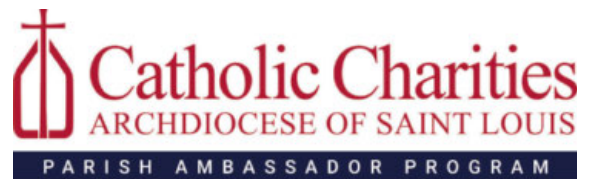


FORMED.org

Catholic Charities is grateful for the support from St. Joseph Parish this past year. You have helped to bring the healing, help, and hope of Jesus Christ to those in need in our community.

Your generosity has helped impact many lives through the work of our family of ministries which are Cardinal Ritter Senior Services, Good Shepherd Children & Family Services, LAMP, Marygrove, Queen of Peace Center, Saint Louis Counseling, Saint Martha's, St. Francis Community Services, and St. Patrick Center.

If you are interested, please contact Parish Ambassador Rachel Schoenberger at rschoenberger@sjiparish.org





Eucharistic Adorers needed:

Tuesdays:

3 pm

Wednesdays:

9 am

Thursdays:

3, 4, and 7 pm

Call Mr. Patrick Smith (573) 310-3472

The Holy Eucharist reposes each night at 9 pm.



Saturday, January 20, 2024, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm
Marianist Retreat and Conference Center

Losing a loved one to suicide or any tragic death is a pain that no one can prepare for. The roller coaster of emotions is enough to make one doubt God's presence in the situation. This day of reflection is designed to help in the journey through these emotions and come out renewed with confidence in God's love and care for each one of us. Members of our ministry team for this day will include Father Tom Miller (pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace and St. Anthony Parishes), Deacon Rob Lawson (Incarnate Word Parish), Adam Bitter (Incarnate Word Parish), and the Jonah Prayer Teams from Incarnate Word, St. Alban Roe, and St. Anthony of Padua Parishes. There will be time for healing prayer, discussions, sharing, techniques for healthy outlet of emotions, and testimony from those who have healed from the same pain you may be feeling.

Attendance will be limited to 100 participants total for Saturday, 9 am - 7 pm and include two meals for \$65. We are also offering the option for up to 45 participants to spend the night through 10 am on Sunday which includes a private room and breakfast for \$155. For more information, Barb @ 314.910.3942, Mary @ 314.210.5098 or Shelby @ 636.288.9841



Scan to register:

OUR PARISH PRAYING TOGETHER

*May those who are ill
be blessed by Jesus' healing presence:*

Melanie Ahrens	Ronald Meredith
Matthew Anderson	Glen Newkirk
Jeanine Brown	Christine Perry
Mike Boyd	Tom Price
Thomas Condon	Will Roberts
Marti Greenhalgh	Jim Schaefer
Scott Hasse	Nina Schaefer
David Herrell	Erin Silva
Kate Hershberger	Jerry Spink
Eileen Kaiser	Noella Torgerson
Jim Kaiser	Doreen Watts
Roland Kaiser	George Winters
Jim Lehn	Francesca de Zenteno

We pray for those in the Military:

Meaghan Angus	Jared Sheets
Collin Fitzsimmons	Austin McHaffie-Sharp
Jack Jeffers	Grant Staggenborg
Isaac Longtin	Lucas Weiland
Jacob Sarfraz	Jack Vilchis



NATIONAL SHRINE of OUR LADY of the SNOWS

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

The Way of Lights Display depicts the journey of Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem using over 1.5 million beautiful lights. This year, we have added colored lights to celebrate the birth of Jesus and continue to offer activities for young and old alike! Open through December 31, 2023, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Indoor activities closed on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Cost: No charge for display, donations accepted and additional charges for some activities.

For more information, call 618-397-6700 or visit our website at <https://snows.org/wayofflights>

John S. Appelbaum

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