

Fourth 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. Anthony Yates, <i>Pastor</i>	anthonyyates@archstl.org x104
Rev. Jonathan R. Ruzicka, <i>Associate Pastor</i>	jruzicka@sjiparish.org x116
Msgr. Gregory Mikesch, <i>In Residence</i>	
Deacon Brian Selsor, <i>Permanent Deacon</i>	636-464-6901

PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jeff Darr, <i>Facilities Staff</i>	jdarr@sjiparish.org
Julie Hepp, <i>Business Manager</i>	jhepp@sjiparish.org x119
Kimberly Johnson, <i>Administrative Asst.</i>	kjohnson@sjiparish.org x102
Kathy Larson, <i>Communications Director</i>	klarson@sjiparish.org x112
Bobbie Matosich, <i>CCC Assistant Manager</i>	bmatosich@sjiparish.org x122
Keith Newbury, <i>Facilities Manager</i>	knewbury@sjiparish.org x110
Heather Selsor, <i>Corpus Christi Center Manager</i>	hselsor@sjiparish.org x111

PARISH MINISTERIAL STAFF

Cyndi Burkard, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>	cburkard@sjiparish.org x117
Sr. Rosemary Buttice, ASCJ, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>	rbuttice@sjiparish.org x106
Alex Cammarata, <i>Seminarian Pastoral Intern</i>	acammarata@sjiparish.org x105
Sean Feltz, <i>Director of Apostolic Mission</i>	sfeltz@sjiparish.org x114
Torri Halbert, <i>PSR Coordinator</i>	thalbert@sjiparish.org
Emily Kopff, <i>Director of Religious Education</i>	ekopff@sjiparish.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
Sr. Bridget Smith, ASCJ, <i>Admissions & Mktg</i>	bsmith@stjosephimperial.org 636-464-9027 x408
Kay Fritz, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	kfritz@stjosephimperial.org 636-464-9027 x402

OTHER MINISTRIES

Parish Cemetery, Bill Regelsperger	314-808-2522
Sr. Christine's Food Pantry	pantry@sjiparish.org 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

Thursday: 5:30 pm—7:00 pm
 Saturday: 3:30 pm—4:30 pm

EUCCHARISTIC 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, OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for 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	December 28 4:30 pm	December 29 7:00 am	December 29 8:30 am	December 29 10:00 am	December 29 11:30 am	December 29 4:30 pm
Lectors	Dalton Simms	Chapman Chapman	Curry Smith	Lang Brotherton	Hobbs Schurk	Jelavich
Servers	N. Schmidt J. Schmidt	Volunteer	C. Johnston J. Lehn M. Govero	V. Walt C. Zueck G. Zueck	D. Westerman A. Westerman R. Murphy	S. Rakers A. Rakers

MASS INTENTIONS	
Monday	December 23, 2024
6:30 am	Peter & Claire Curtice <i>Special Intention</i>
Tuesday	December 24, 2024 <i>Christmas Eve</i>
6:30 am	Poor Souls in Purgatory
8:00 am	Krissi Kossmann
4:00 pm	For the People of SJBD/SJ Parishes
4:15 pm (CCC)	Irene Biermann
5:30 pm	Roman & Eleanor Wingbermuehle
Wednesday	December 25, 2024 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>
Midnight	John Ruzicka
8:00 am	John Price
10:00 am	Calvin Weber
Thursday	December 26, 2024
6:30 am	Cal Weber
8:00 am	Pat & Gloria Smith <i>Special Intention</i>
Friday	December 27, 2024
6:30 am	Ned Mueller
8:00 am	The Poor Souls In Purgatory
Saturday	December 28, 2024
8:00 am	Werner Family Intention
4:30 pm	Pat Foster
Sunday	December 29, 2024
7:00 am	Ken Goodbread
8:30 am	James F. Thompson III
10:00 am	Edward Grimm
11:30 am	Dorothy Heimos
4:30 pm	Erik Radman


PARISH STEWARDSHIP 11/25/2024 - 12/1/2024		
	Current	Fiscal YTD
OFFERTORY		
<i>Total collected</i>	\$21,767.07	\$491,677.88
<i>Amount needed</i>	\$23,292.23	\$512,429.08
<i>Surplus or shortage</i>	\$1,525.16	\$20,751.20
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS		
Tuition assistance	\$321.00	
St. Vincent de Paul	\$15,665.00	
Sr. Christine's Food Pantry	\$2,032.00	

Important: Bulletin Deadlines
 The accelerated bulletin deadlines for November/December are all behind us. The next available bulletin for which submissions can be accommodated is January 12. The deadline for submissions for Jan. 12 is January 6, the typical *Monday* deadline.
 As always, submissions should be sent to bulletin@sjparish.org

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS
 If you have something for publication in the bulletin, please send it to bulletin@sjparish.org. The deadline is each Monday at noon.



Please stop by, call, or email the parish office to schedule Mass Intentions. Mass cards for *special intentions* or *in memory* are available; they may be picked up in the parish office. The stipend per Mass is \$10.





From the Desk of Fr. Anthony Yates, Pastor

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Our Blessed Mother takes center stage on this fourth Sunday of Advent, and fittingly so, as we draw near to the celebration of her Son's birth. After our Lord Himself, Mary is our model and guide to a stewardship way of life.

Today's Gospel passage from Luke describes Mary's actions immediately after her "yes" to the angel Gabriel's message. "Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah... and greeted Elizabeth." Mary immediately begins to think of others before herself, setting out quickly to be with her cousin, modeling two of the pillars of stewardship – Hospitality and Service.

What warmth and humility the Mother of our Savior shows, traveling to Elizabeth to spend time with her, rejoicing with Elizabeth over her own incredible pregnancy, and assisting her in a time of need. And what joy this hospitality and service brings to Elizabeth.

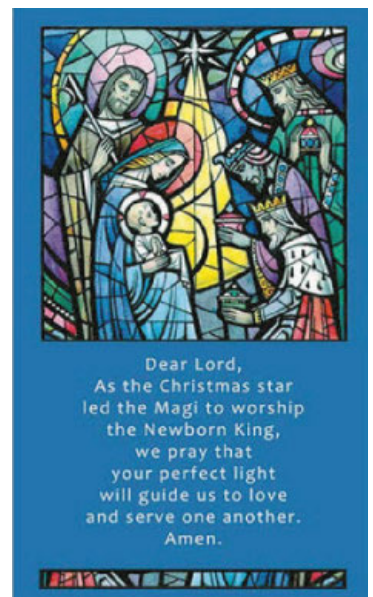
Our Blessed Mother's example of a stewardship way of life is one that we, her children, can follow in our own lives today. With all the gifts God gives us — our time, our talents, our material possessions — we, too, can offer ourselves to God by using these gifts to serve and glorify Him. In so doing, we will effectively spread the Good News of the Gospel to the world around us today. We will be stewards after our Mother's own heart.

©Catholic Stewardship Consultants

Merry Christmas!

As we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord this week, we are mindful of all that God has done for us. In the Gospel of John he says, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him." That is why we celebrate Christmas. Filled with joy, I pray that His light continues to shine through you and our parish family. As I celebrate my first Christmas at St. Joseph Parish, I am deeply grateful for all the blessings I have received. Thank you for your kindness and support.

On behalf of Father Ruzicka, Msgr. Mikesch, Deacon Selsor, our Seminarians, and all our staff, I extend our Christmas greetings to you. May you be filled with the Christmas spirit always. May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families, and your loved ones at this time of hope and grace. May Mary, the Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over you and our beloved Parish always.



Parish Office Closings

Please take note that both the St. John and the St. Joseph parish offices will be **closed from December 21 through January 1**, reopening on January 2. If you need to reach a priest for a sacramental emergency, please be aware that each parish's voicemail greeting offers as its first option *"To reach a priest for a sacramental emergency, please press 1."* That option will forward your call to the priests. If instead you choose to leave a voice message, those will be monitored but please only leave non-urgent requests in that manner. Another option for non-urgent requests is to send an email; please see page 2 of this bulletin for a listing.



School Board Elections

The Saint Joseph School Board will be holding an election for 3 new members soon. Prior to the election, candidate bios will be published in the bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact the school board at schoolboard@stjosephimperial.org

2024 Giving Tree

Thanks to all who provided gift cards to the Giving Tree project this year. Through your generosity, we were able to provide gift cards for 44 families (a total of 114 children) and 8 senior families for Christmas.

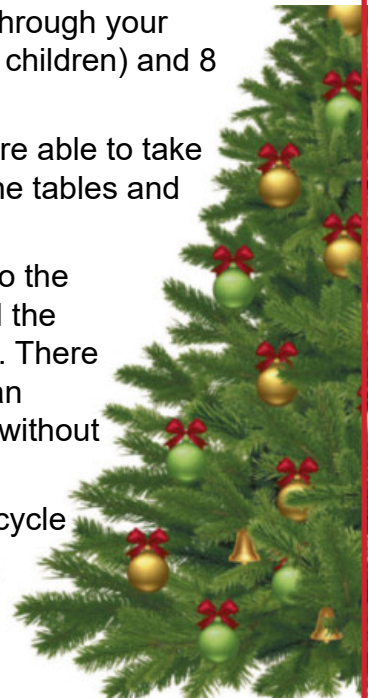
We also had blankets, toys, and lots of stuffed animals that the families were able to take as extra gifts for their children. They were surprised to see everything on the tables and were very grateful for all they received.

There are always ornaments that are taken and are not returned, but due to the generosity of several parishioners who wish to remain anonymous, we had the funds to purchase gift cards to cover the ornaments that were not returned. There are ornaments still coming in this week, and we thank all of you who took an ornament off the tree and returned it. This project would not be successful without the amazing generosity of our parish family.

A recycle box will be set up in the church vestibule in January for you to recycle Christmas cards. Please return only the front side of the cards.

Have a Blessed holiday season and a safe and healthy New Year.

The Giving Tree Committee



**SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE**

Starting January 21, 2025


TODAY & TOMORROW
EMBRACING THE FUTURE — ONE CHILD AT A TIME

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FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR?
LOOK NO FURTHER!**

**All Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese
of St. Louis and any Private elementary
school in the City of St. Louis**

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QUESTIONS?
Contact the Scholarship Team!
Laura George, Senior Director of Scholarships
(314) 792-7623 | laurageorge@archstl.org
Jeanette Katic, Program Director
(314) 792-7043 | jeanettekatic@archstl.org
Cori Scheitlin, Scholarship Coordinator
(314) 792-7735 | corisheitlin@archstl.org




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ACT NOW WHILE THE OPPORTUNITY LASTS!
We expect our allocation to sell out before December 31st. Don't miss this chance to make a difference while reserving your tax credits.

<p style="text-align: center;">Make your reservation today!</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">TTEF-STL.org/MOScholars</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Questions? Contact our team!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pete Cerone Acting Executive Director 314-792-7732 petecerone@archstl.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kim Donermeyer Advancement Services Specialist 314-792-7032 kimdonermeyer@archstl.org</p>
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Saint Joseph School
School Improvement Process 2024
Visiting Team Comments

We, the members of the Visiting Team, wish to thank the educational and parish community of St. Joseph. The school opened its hearts to us and provided us with a warm welcome. We are thankful for the hospitality and use of the school. We appreciate the kindness shown to us as we worked together on the School Improvement Process. We offer a word of gratitude to St. Joseph Parish community for their work together to ensure a safe, secure, developmentally appropriate learning environment for the students of Saint Joseph School. We commend Reverend Anthony Yates for his dedication and support of the school, faculty, staff, and the parish community. Although newly assigned, Fr. Yates has demonstrated his commitment to the school through his ongoing efforts to connect with faculty, staff, parents, and students. We offer a word of gratitude to Sr. Carol Sansone, principal of Saint Joseph School. We commend her for her faith-filled leadership as she expresses God's love through her vocation. Sr. Carol is committed to the success of Saint Joseph School and promoting a student-centered learning environment. We acknowledge and commend the faculty and staff of Saint Joseph School for providing an outstanding and academically successful environment for the students and families. The faculty is involved and impassioned about the growth of the whole child. We also commend the faculty on working together to live the mission of Saint Joseph School each day. We especially want to acknowledge the strong sense of Catholicity that is seen and felt in both the members of this community and all areas of the school facility. We commend the students of Saint Joseph School for their enthusiasm, energy, and kindness toward one another, the faculty, staff, and all visitors. They are living examples of the school's core values to instill faith, inspire excellence, foster kindness, cultivate service, and respect differences. We wish to thank all those who served on the steering committee for the School Improvement Process. We commend their tireless efforts to provide a strategic plan that will benefit this community in years to come. Finally, we offer a word of praise to the parents of Saint Joseph School. They are clear champions of the school's mission by building community and supporting the school through their time, talents, and treasures. The school improvement document is only a glimpse of the school, but through our visit, observations, and personal encounters, we were able to witness the great sense of community that is Saint Joseph School.



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
www.archstl.org

December 1, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On May 9, 2024, Pope Francis issued “SPES NON CONFUNDIT” (Hope does not disappoint), Bull of Induction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025. The Holy Father invited “everyone to an intense experience of the love of God” and “calls on all Christians to become Pilgrims of Hope.”

The Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope will begin on December 24, 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door at the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome and continue until the closing of the Jubilee Year on January 6, 2026.

I invite all the faithful to join Bishop Mark Rivotuso to celebrate the solemn opening of the Jubilee on Sunday, December 29, 2024, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Boulevard. The Jubilee will conclude locally on December 28, 2025.

As part of the Jubilee, the faithful of the Archdiocese of St. Louis will be able to obtain the grace of the Jubilee Indulgence by making a pious pilgrimage to any sacred Jubilee site under the usual conditions. I have designated nine Jubilee pilgrimage sites across the archdiocese:

Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis
Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France
Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters at the Mount Grace Covent and Chapel
Carmel of Saint Joseph at the Chapel of the Most Precious Blood
Saint Mary’s of the Barrens National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
Monastery of Saint Clare of the Immaculate Conception
Passionist Nuns of St. Louis
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in New Melle
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Union

If you wish to learn more about the Jubilee Indulgence and for a complete list of the pilgrimage sites, please visit: archstl.org/2025jubileeyear.

Please visit the following links for much more information about the Jubilee Year:

The Vatican Jubilee 2025 website; <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

The USCCB Jubilee 2025 website: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025>

I am confident that this Holy Year will be a time for rediscovery and unity, opening hearts to receive the fullness of God’s love and mercy through a personal encounter with the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis

Top 10 THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT ST. PIUS X

- FAITH FILLED ENVIRONMENT
- HONORS PROGRAM
- 583 PROGRAM
- LUNCH HOUR
- SHUTTLE TO AND FROM CAMPUS
- COMPETITIVE CURRICULUM
- COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAMS
- COMMUNITY
- HOUSE SYSTEM
- WELLNESS PROGRAM

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CONTACT OUR DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS, BREANNA BANNES, FOR MORE INFORMATION.

(636) 937-7487 EXT. 117
 BBANNES@STPIUS.COM
 WWW.STPIUS.COM/ADMISSIONS

Jonah Prayer Ministry St. John the Beloved Disciple Parish

Saturday, 1/4
after 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, 1/5
after 9:00 am Mass

Immediately after Mass near the front of church, Jonah prayer ministers will be available to pray with you for whatever is on your heart, confidentially.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT LOUIS

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Louis is a family of ministries serving all from preborn to older adults with a compassionate, caring presence.

Your support allows us to bring the healing, help, and hope of Jesus Christ to those in need this Christmas.

SCAN TO DONATE

CCSTL.ORG

Way of Lights Run

The Shrine Grounds and Visitors Center
January 1, 2025, 5:00 pm.

What better way to start the year than going through this exciting course while surrounded by a display of over 1.5 million beautiful, colorful and breathtaking Christmas lights!

Join us at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows for our annual 5k Run and 1.5-mile Fun Walk as you welcome in the New Year!!

Cost: Register by December 17 to receive a WOL Run T-shirt and the early you register, the better the price! Pricing now starts at \$35.00 for the Run and \$25.00 for Walk if registered by December 17, 2024. Price increases starting December 18, 2024.

For more information, visit <https://snows.org/wolrun/> or call 618-397-6700.

Seeds of Healing through Faith, Hope, and Love

Please join us for our 2nd annual Seeds of Healing retreat on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, from 9 am – 7 pm, at **Marianist Retreat Center**. This event is designed to bring God’s healing touch to anyone who has lost a loved one to any tragic death, including suicide. This day of reflection is designed to help in the journey through grief emotions and come out renewed with confidence in God’s love and care for each one of us.

There will be time for healing prayer, discussions, sharing, learning techniques for healthy outlet of emotions, and testimony from those who have healed from the same pain you may be feeling. For more information, don’t hesitate to reach out to Barb @ 314.910.3942 or Mary @ 314.210.5098 or Shelby @ 636.288.9841

<https://marianistretreat.com/events/seeds-of-healing-retreat-2025>



RISE!

JANUARY 16, 2025


5:00 PM TO 6:30 PM
ST. JOSEPH
YOUTH MINISTRY ROOM

PIZZA | PRAYER | TALK

EMAIL CBURKARD@SJIPARISH.ORG
WITH QUESTIONS

See you there!

December 22nd
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there. Accept the Holy Spirit's guidance in advancing towards and through Christ's Light. Picking up others and letting them see your Hope in Christ is part of Christian living. Next Sunday is Fifth Sunday weekend, watch for a possible 2nd collection for St. Vincent de Paul!

For more information,
 email Dbalsman@gmail.com

Business Meeting: 12/23, 6:30 pm
 Prayer Meeting: 1/8, 6:30 pm
 All meetings in the Corpus Christi Center.

The 2nd collection on Christmas will be for the seminary.



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*"I have loved you with
an everlasting love."
Jeremiah 31:3*

Because Jesus loves you so much,
He dwells in the Blessed Sacra-
ment 24/7 in Catholic churches
throughout the world. Just think

what a priceless treasure of whom is in our midst in
the Blessed Sacrament - "Christ's True Presence" -
offered to the world as a sign of His love.

Grow more and more in love with Our Lord, as you
spend time with Him with each visit you make to the
Adoration Chapel.

Can you help adore at one of these hours each week?

Tuesday 6:00 pm

Wednesday 1:00 pm

Thursday 2:00 pm, 3pm, or 4 pm.

(Please contact Barb @ 314-732-2256)

Ask the parish office for the door code

Important Calendar Note

**There will be *no Eucharistic Adoration* on
the following dates:**

Christmas Eve, December 24th

Christmas Day, December 25th

New Year's Eve, December 31st

New Year's Day, January 1st

*If you are signed up for Thursday hours,
those will follow the normal schedule
both weeks.*

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

Kim Johnson in the parish office at
kjohnson@sjiparish.org
or 636-464-1013.

OUR PARISH PRAYING TOGETHER

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

Kathy Bonito
Virginia Boxdorfer
Ebony Burse
Mike Boyd
David Greco
Eileen Kaiser

Jim Kaiser
Roland Kaiser
Diana Schwallbert
Laura Sheets
Noella Torgerson

*Reminder: names are published for 60 days.
Please contact the office to add/remove names.*

We pray for those in the Military:

Meaghan Angus
Wyatt Cook
John Costigan
Collin Fitzsimmons
Kamryn Heredia
Jack Jeffers
Isaac Longtin

Austin McHaffie-Sharp
Jacob Sarfraz
Jared Sheets
Grant Staggenborg
Jack Vilchis
Lucas Weiland
Megan Weiland

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using the RaiseRight
app. Our school earns a



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RaiseRight program.

**Thanks for your
continued support!**

John S. Appelbaum

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4139 Jeffco Boulevard, Arnold, MO 63010

(636) 464-1855

Fax (636) 642-4091

john@appelbaumlawoffice.com

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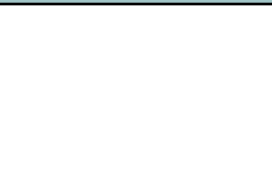
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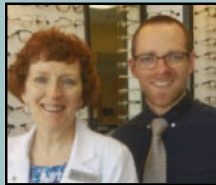
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