

Dear Padre,

Many LGBTQ+ youth are homeless, suicidal, or even murdered because of who they are. How can we support them?

Your desire to be compassionate is very much in keeping with the Church's teaching. In 1986, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, led by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now emeritus Pope Benedict XVI), issued a strongly worded call for civility and respect for homosexual persons. On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons emphasized, "It is deplorable that homosexual persons have been and are the object of violent malice in speech or in action. Such treatment deserves condemnation from the Church's pastors wherever it occurs." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* stresses that homosexual persons "must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity" (CCC 2358).

"The Church actively asserts and promotes the intrinsic dignity of every person. As human persons, persons with a homosexual inclination have the same basic rights as all people, including the right to be treated with dignity," wrote the US Bishops in "Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination" (2006). In terms of offering support, this document reads, "As baptized members of the Catholic community, persons with a homosexual inclination continue to look to the Church for a place where they may live in authentic human integrity and holiness of life. Being welcomed into and participating in their local faith community is the foundation of spiritual support that the Church offers to them. Full and active participation is encouraged. Participation in a worshipping Catholic community is a support for living a life of chastity and integrity and an encouragement to an ongoing personal conversion."

— **The Redemptorists**
DearPadre.org



VECTOR GODDESS / SHUTTERSTOCK

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 11:1-10 / Romans 15:4-9 / Matthew 3:1-12



May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 15:5

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Many people today are constantly using social media, but are not themselves very social: they are caught up in themselves, prisoners of the cell phone in their hand. What appears on the screen is not the reality of other persons: their eyes, their breath and their hands.



ADDRESS IN A MEETING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, ATHENS, DECEMBER 6, 2021

MONDAY

December 5
Advent Weekday
Is 35:1-10
Lk 5:17-26

TUESDAY

December 6
Advent Weekday
Is 40:1-11
Mt 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY

December 7
St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Is 40:25-31
Mt 11:28-30

THURSDAY

December 8
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Gn 3:9-15, 20
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Lk 1:26-38

FRIDAY

December 9
Advent Weekday
Is 48:17-19
Mt 11:16-19

SATURDAY

December 10
Advent Weekday
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

SUNDAY

December 11
Third Sunday of Advent
Is 35:1-6a, 10
Jas 5:7-10
Mt 11:2-11

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

Pretend the Dream

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When I was in college, we had a professor who would often say that if, instead of acting the way we feel, we would act the way we would like to feel, then we would soon begin to feel the way we hoped. Over the years, I've found a fair amount of wisdom in that advice, although I don't always remember to tap into it. I know it's all a kind of pretending, but somehow the pretending does seem to make a difference.

Each year, we make our journey into Christmas with a year's baggage. We come with good memories of moments of lazy fun, sun-drenched summers, and dappled autumns, vacations, and birthday parties. But we also make our way into this red and green season with a generous share of hurts and pains, failures and even sins, just because most years are lived that way.

And so, during this last month of each year we play at being happy and pretend that all is good. We sing carols

and toast friendships and wish each other blessings and goodness. And we do it all with an unspoken honesty, knowing full well that life is not always so, but maybe by pretending, and by some freakish twist of godliness, we can find for some short time the harmony once prophesied by Isaiah. Maybe the wolf and the lamb will be kind, and the calf and lion will forget their history, and for at least one brief shining moment we will live in harmony with one another.

Reflect

This Advent, once a week, try to skip doing something that stresses you.

Once a week, act the way you would like to feel. Fake it if you must.

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE/BOB ROLLER



A Redemptorist Ministry

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St. Joseph Neier

Rev. Thomas J. Wissler, Pastor

December
3 & 4
2022

Weekday: 6:30am

Saturday: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:00am

Confessions – Saturday

4:00pm – 4:40pm

Office: 636.583.2806

Website: stjosephneier.com

Email: parishoffice@stjosephneier.com

Father Tom's Cell: 636.744.5587

Sarah's Cell: 314.808.0337



From Fr. Tom,

Faith and religion should be our steering wheel, not our spare tire. Distracted driving (radio, phones, eating, etc...) is a major factor in many auto accidents. Sin, pleasure just for the sake of it, the lure of worldly "things" distract us from God and thus are some causes of spiritual wrecks. Maintenance of our vehicles and paying attention to what makes them operate make for safe machines for travel. Not maintaining our vehicles usually translates into at the very least breakdowns and stalls and at most causes a dangerous situation with an unsafe vehicle. Maintaining our faith and religion and paying attention to what makes them work (prayer, worship, acts of kindness, reconciliation, sacraments) make for a fruitful and fulfilling life on earth as well as preparing us for life after death. Not paying attention to these things and neglecting them make for a troubled soul on earth and jeopardizes eternal life with God. Can you think of any other comparisons in this "theology and the automobile" discussion? If you can, I would enjoy hearing them. Happy traveling!

This weekend, please welcome Julio Muñoz, a Pre-Theology student at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. He is from the Sioux City, Iowa Diocese. Last week I told you he was from Nebraska, sorry about the mistake... He represents the student body at the seminary and is here to speak about the annual Christmas collection for the seminary. Please be generous! Thank you.



Please pray for those who are sick in our parish and families:

Betty Bean
Shirley Beckman
Anna Marie Brueggemann
Peggy Collins
Chris Elbert
Cynthia Faust
Ted Feth
Zachery Goosage
Benny Hammer
Andrew Hellebusch
Marcia Herbst
Pat Hiatt
Brandon Huels
Kevin Gibbons

Get
Well
Soon

Olivia Jasper
Rick Just
Alisha Koelling
Marcus Lowe
Jacob McMullin
Jean Oldavi
Frank Rice
Alice Rolf
Ashley Shelton
Marcia Shollenberger
Dan Snelling
George West
Sr. Georgiann Wildhaber, SSND
Sheri Zambruski

Please pray for those serving our country:

Adam Amato
Matthew Blankenship
Jamie Brueggemann
Murphy
Andy Davis
Taylor Donner
Emily Guenther

Kyle Kloeppel
Caleb Logsdon
Michael Miller
Michael Murphy
Reese Pellin
Sam Smith
Owen Struckhoff
Luke Stuesse

Thank you for your generosity!

Donations for General Fund November 21 – 30, 2022

Regular Offering Envelopes: (64)	\$	3,870.08
Regular Offering Loose:	\$	25.00
Online Giving*:	(7) \$	455.66
Total:	\$	4,350.74

*With Transaction Fees Removed.
(Number of Contributors)

NOVEMBER "GENERAL FUND" COLLECTIONS

NOVEMBER 6, 2022	\$4,851.63
NOVEMBER 13, 2022	\$3,192.63
NOVEMBER 20, 2022	\$2,936.88
NOVEMBER 27, 2022	\$4,350.74

November Financials

November 2022 Expenses	\$	24,084.55
Total Unrestricted Revenue	\$	15,331.88
Difference	\$	(8,752.67)
Total Restricted Funds Used For Expenses	\$	2,560.00
Difference	\$	(6,192.67)

Tithes & Offerings Giving Back to God

Thank you for your generosity!

Donations for Restricted Funds: November 21 – 30

Catholic Education (2*)	\$77.99
*Online Giving	
Cemetery Maintenance (1)	\$1,000.00
Christmas Flowers (5)	\$200.00
Retired Religious (1)	\$20.00
St. Vincent de Paul (18 + Loose)	\$681.00

Thank you!

THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 5th

NO MASS | HAVE A VERY BLESSED DAY!

Tuesday Morning, December 6th

6:30AM | WALTER & EVELYN NOELKER

Wednesday Morning, December 7th

6:30AM | EUGENE BRUEGGEMANN

Thursday Morning, December 8th

6:30AM | FRANK & EMMA SCHMUKE

Friday Morning, December 9th

6:30AM | ALBERT & DOROTHY BRUEGGEMANN



MASS TIMES | THIS WEEKEND | NEXT WEEKEND

5:00pm Saturday

December 3

December 10

Mass Intention:	Ronald Salvino	Joyce Stuesse
Lector:	Judy Brueggemann	Karen Gerlemann
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	Kathy Feth	Jo Noelker
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	Theresa Straatmann	Anna Donner

8:00am Sunday

December 4

December 11

Mass Intention:	Frank, Elizabeth & Dewayne Kloeppel	Parish Family of St. Joseph
Lector:	Amie Kohlbusch	Jennifer Kissinger
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	Jeanne Dierking	Cathie Grus
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	Jen Kissinger	Jane Stephens

10:00am Sunday

December 4

December 11

Mass Intention:	Parish Family of St. Joseph	Alfonso Pagano
Lector:	VOLUNTEER	Lisa Bocklage
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- **Wednesday, December 7th**
 - Midnight Mass Practice – 5:30pm – Church
 - PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall
- **Thursday, December 8th**
 - Parish Office Closed - Holy Day of Obligation
 - 6:30am & 7pm Mass - Confession & Eucharistic Adoration available, after 7pm Mass, until midnight
- **Sunday, December 11th**
 - Cookies with Santa – 9am – 10am – Parish Hall
- **Wednesday, December 14th**
 - Midnight Mass Practice – 5:30pm – Church
 - PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall
- **Wednesday, December 21th**
 - NO PSR until the New Year – Wednesday, January 3rd – Enjoy your Christmas break!

December 8th

7pm Mass

Lector

Patti Greife

Eucharistic Ministers

Viola Schroeder

Chris Block

Mass Intention

Parish Family of St. Joseph

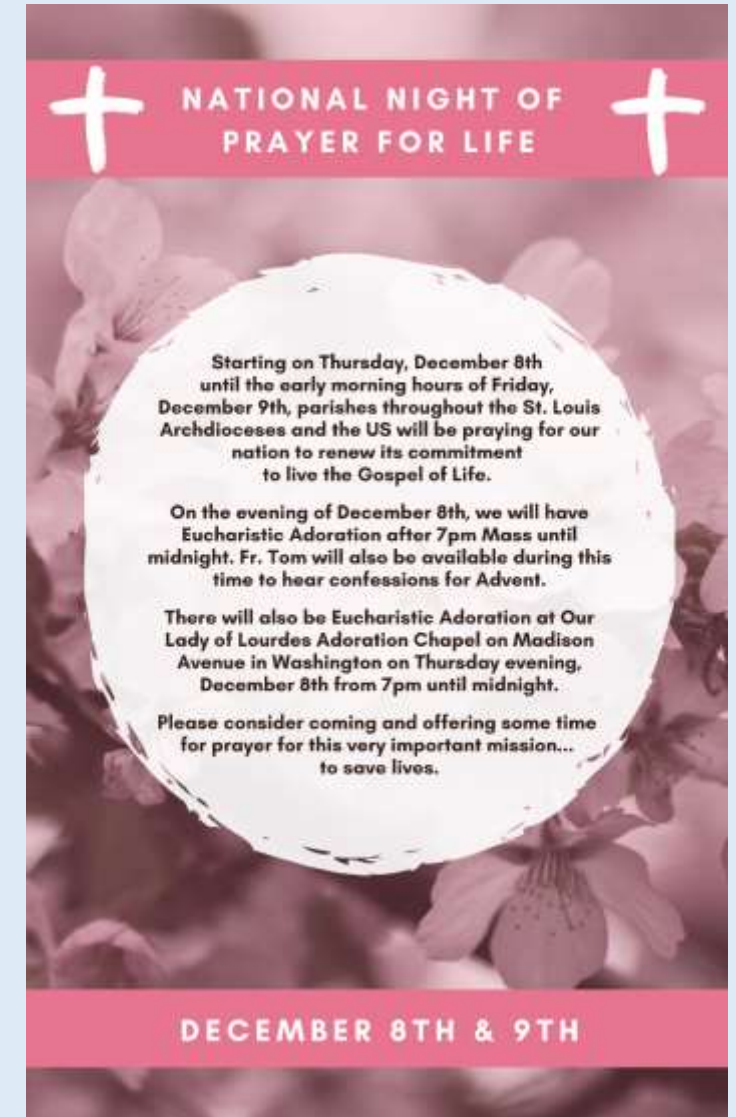


December 8th

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30am & 7pm Mass

Confession & Eucharistic Adoration available, after 7pm Mass, until midnight



Please keep the following families in
your thoughts and prayers

In Loving Memory of

Kenneth Davis

*who passed away on
Wednesday, October 12th*



Please pray for the repose of his soul.

*Kenneth was the brother of
Steve Davis*

In Loving Memory of

Glennan Gettemeyer

*who passed away on
Sunday, November 6th*



Please pray for the repose of his soul.

*Glennan was the cousin of
Walter Schmidt*

In Loving Memory of

Don Greene

*who passed away on
Saturday, November 12th*



Please pray for the repose of his soul.

*Don was the brother of
Steve Greene*

In Loving Memory of

Gary Hellmann

*who passed away on
Monday, November 28th*



Please pray for the repose of his soul.

*Gary was the brother of
Susie Boschert*



WITH & FOR
GOD'S PEOPLE

HELP US PREPARE OUR FUTURE PRIESTS TO SERVE PEOPLE WITH JOY!

Donate now at kenrick.edu/GodsPeople



Daughters of Isabella News

Due to increasing cost of supplies, we are **UNABLE** to have our annual Cookie Bake this year.

Sorry for the inconvenience, and thank you for your support over the years.

Let your voice be heard

All Things New Planning Area 12 Survey Link

<https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/Planning-Area-12>

Text Sarah @ 314-808-0337 for the link to the survey

Survey ends December 31st

2023 NEW YEAR COUNTRY CHURCH TOUR



CHURCHES PARTICIPATING THIS YEAR

OUR LADY OF LOURDES-WASHINGTON
ST ANN CLOVER BOTTOM-WASHINGTON
ST GERTRUDE KRAKOW-WASHINGTON
ST FRANCIS BORGIA-WASHINGTON
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION-AUGUSTA
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION-UNION
ST JOHN GILDEHAUS-VILLA RIDGE
ST VINCENT DE PAUL-DUTZOW
ASSUMPTION-NEW HAVEN
ST ANTHONY-SULLIVAN
ST JOSEPH NEIER-UNION
BOEUF LUTHERAN-NEW HAVEN
ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN-BEAUFORT



ALL CHURCHES WILL BE OPEN FROM
NOON-4:00 PM

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT
CONNIE RIGG 636-667-1537

Polar Plunge

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2023, 10:30-11:00 AM

AGES 10 AND UP!

LOCATION: VETERANS MEMORIAL LAKE, UNION, MO

Come out to celebrate the Feast of Jesus' Baptism!

Pre-register: www.christplunge.com

\$25 donation (includes t-shirt)

December "Extra" Envelopes

December 4th
Capital Maintenance & Preservation Fund

*Holy Day of
Obligation*

December 8th
Immaculate Conception

*Mass Times
6:30am & 7pm*

December 11th
Catholic Education Fund

*Holy Day of
Obligation*

December 25th
*Seminary
Christmas Offering*

*Mass Times
Saturday
5pm*

*Sunday
12am, 8am, 10am*



**Cookies
with Santa**

**December 11th
between
masses**



*Hello
December*
HAVE A MERRY MONTH!