

Dear Padre,

Do Catholics have to marry in the Church? If a couple decides to marry outside of the Church, are they still allowed to receive Communion and other sacraments?

Catholics are obligated to follow the laws of the Church, including those laws regarding marriage. If a Catholic marries outside the Church, meaning that they did not follow Church law, then they may not receive the other sacraments until their marriage has been witnessed by the Church.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony for the couple, but it is also a ceremony for the Church. The Christian community is called upon to witness the ceremony, with the bishop, priest, or deacon called upon to bless the union in the name of the Church. The Church can dispense from the form, that is, the place of the wedding, for good cause, and does so when necessary. When a dispensation from the law is granted, then the person has followed the marriage laws of the Church and is free to receive the sacraments.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony in which a sacrament is conferred. While the park may be pretty or the church down the street may be bigger, neither is a sufficient reason to ignore marriage law and marry outside the Church. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



ANDY EDWARDS / SHUTTERSTOCK

Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit ScrupulousAnonymous.org.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 11 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26	December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15	December 15 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19	December 16 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13	December 17 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

In the Bible [conversion] means, first and foremost, to change direction and orientation; and thus also to change one's way of thinking. In the moral and spiritual life, to convert means to turn oneself from evil to good, from sin to love of God. And this is what the Baptist was teaching.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 6, 2020



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When Will We Be Satisfied?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In 1992, *Forbes* magazine published an issue titled "Why Do We Feel So Bad When We Have It So Good?" It featured articles by such luminaries as newsman Dan Rather, President George H. W. Bush, and author John Updike. Many of the writers reflected upon our passion for more and our hunger to live in affluence and how that fails to satisfy. In so many ways, we as a nation find ourselves seeking distractions from living with ourselves lest we be confronted by our ultimate loneliness. As a nation we are addicted to entertainment and smartphones, to drugs and pornography, to finding something new. We are confronted by rising suicide rates and a pervasive, deep-seated anger. Why are we not satisfied?

John the Baptist called the people of his day to repent, which is another way of asking them—and us—to look at life differently. Advent is really about getting in touch with our deep longing for more, a part of our human condition that ultimately is only satisfied by God. We have been created to long for more, a longing that feels like loneliness, a longing that seeks to be satisfied. In the end, we can only find a sense of peace in the midst of such longing by accepting that it can never be fully satisfied in this life. Like the spirituality of Alcoholics Anonymous, accepting rather than fleeing from our human reality becomes a path to new life. ●

Reflect

How do you deal with loneliness and a longing for more out of life?

John [the] Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

MARK 1:4



St. Joseph Neier

Rev. Peter Blake, Pastor &

Rev. Eric Kunz, Senior Associate Pastor

December

9 & 10

2023

Confession Times:

Saturday 4:00pm – 4:40pm

Saturday Mass: 5:00pm

Sunday Mass: 10:30am

Weekday Masses: Monday – Wednesday – NO MASS

Office: 636.583.2806

Sarah's Cell: 314.808.0337

Website: stjosephneier.com

Email: parishoffice@stjosephneier.com

Thursday – Friday – 6:30am

Pastor's Column:

Today we celebrate the **Second Sunday of Advent**. From the first reading from our Advent prophet to the beginning of St. Mark's Gospel, our focus is on the one crying out in the desert, **"Make straight the way of the Lord."** We are introduced to that voice; John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, who is preparing the way for the Messiah, calling the people to repentance so as to see the glory of God. Both this Sunday and next John the Baptist figures prominently. Next week from St. John's Gospel we learn more of the Baptist's call to us this Advent. We are to allow this time of preparation for Christmas to be a time to receive a renewed outpouring of the Spirit; a spirit of hope and joy that the Messiah brings. St. Peter's admonition in the second reading invites us to reflect on the type of people we ought to be during Advent, **"conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming day of the Lord...at peace."**

God Bless! Happy Advent!

Please continue praying 3 Hail Marys.

Fr. Pete

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

Betty Bean
Shirley Beckman
Valerie Broeker
Anna Marie Brueggemann
Chris Elbert
Cynthia Faust
Linda Frick
Zachery Goosage
Benny Hammer
Andrew Hellebusch
Marcia Herbst
Brandon Huels
Olivia Jasper
Rick Just

Get Well Soon

Ashley Koelling
Marcus Lowe
Vincent Mueller
Jean Oldavi
Ashley Shelton
Marcia Shollenberger
Courtney Smith
Special Intention 1
Special Intention 2
Erica Sterling
George West
Sr. Georgiann Wildhaber, SSND
Sheri Zambruski



I had a special prayer request come in for:
Juliette, Casper, Manuel, Aidan, Elias & Nicholas.

Please pray for those serving our country:

Adam Amato

Jamie Brueggemann
Murphy

Andy Davis

Taylor Donner

Emily Guenther

Caleb Logsdon

Michael Miller

Michael Murphy

Reese Pellin

Sam Smith

Owen Struckhoff

Luke Stuesse

Emma Wildhaber

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

A VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT:
"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,
MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.
EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED
AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW."

—LUKE 3:4-5

Memorial Angels

are available to remember a lost loved one during the Christmas Season. These Angels are displayed on our Angel Trees in the front of Church.

Envelopes are available to fill out in the vestibule by the bulletins.

Please return by December 10th.

Please contact Jeanne Dierking with any questions: 636.744.4607

Suggested donation of \$5



Cod Sandwich \$5.00

French Fries \$2.00

Cole Slaw \$1.00

1ST FRIDAY FISH FRY

St. Clair Knights of Columbus

January 5th 4 - 7pm

ATTENTION!
Don't forget to keep saving your "Best Choice" labels!

Labels for 2023 will be sent in by December 10th.

Thank you, The Ladies Sodality

2024 NEW YEAR COUNTRY CHURCH TOUR

Come let us Adore Him

CHURCHES PARTICIPATING THIS YEAR

OUR LADY OF LOURDES-WASHINGTON
ST ANN CLOVER BOTTOM-WASHINGTON
ST GERTRUDE KRAKOW-WASHINGTON
ST FRANCIS BORGIA-WASHINGTON
ST PETERS UCC-WASHINGTON
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION-AUGUSTA
ST JOHN GILDEHAUS-VILLA RIDGE
ST VINCENT DE PAUL-DUTZOW
ST JOSEPH NEIER-UNION
ASSUMPTION-NEW HAVEN
HOLY FAMILY-PORT HUDSON-NEW HAVEN
BETHLEHEM 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/CONNIE REDHAGE 314-640-7279

All are Welcome to Sing with Us on the Choir Loft



Thank you

to all those who helped with the Dinner Auction this year. We had a great turnout and could not have made this such a great event without everyone doing their part by either donating items or monetary donations, helping to set up and/or take down, work during the auction, or purchase one of the many items available.

Income: \$71,565.00
Expenses: \$15,995.71
Net Income: \$55,569.29



December 1 - 3

General Fund Donations

Regular Offering Envelopes: (70)	\$ 4,046.00
Regular Offering Loose:	\$ 131.85
Immaculate Conception: (1)	\$ 10.00
Online Giving*: (1)	\$ 98.70
Total:	\$ 4,286.55

Restricted Funds Donations

Capital Maintenance: (11)	\$ 242.00
Christmas Flowers: (1)	\$ 10.00
Hall Improvements: (1)	\$ 314.90
Rental Income: (1)	\$ 500.00
I.C. St. Vincent de Paul: (1)	\$ 20.00

*Online Giving/With Transaction Fees Removed
(Number of Contributors)

December



December 2023

"General Funds Collections"

December 3	\$4,286.55
December 10	\$ TBD
December 17	\$ TBD
December 24	\$ TBD
December 31	\$ TBD



Weekly Schedule

THIS WEEKEND

NEXT WEEK

SAT 9 DEC	5:00PM MASS MASS INTENTION ALBERT & DOROTHY BRUEGGEMANN LECTOR JIM NOELKER EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS VOLUNTEER CHERYL VOSS KATHY FETH	THURS 14 DEC	6:30AM MASS MASS INTENTION ARTHUR, VIRGINIA, DENNIS & KAREN VOSS
	SUN 10 DEC		10:30AM MASS MASS INTENTION PARISH FAMILY OF ST. JOSEPH LECTOR LISA BOCKLAGE EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS DIANE SCHMIDT JEN KISSINGER VOLUNTEER
WEEKEND MASS TIMES SATURDAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:15PM - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - UNION 5:00PM - ST. JOSEPH - NEIER SUNDAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00AM - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - UNION 8:30AM - ST. CLARE - ST. CLAIR 10:00AM - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - UNION 10:30AM - ST. JOSEPH - NEIER 		SAT 16 DEC	5:00PM MASS MASS INTENTION JOYCE STUESSE LECTOR JIM NOELKER EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS VOLUNTEER CHERYL VOSS KATHY FETH
		SUN 17 DEC	10:30AM MASS MASS INTENTION PARISH FAMILY OF ST. JOSEPH LECTOR LISA BOCKLAGE EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS DIANE SCHMIDT JEN KISSINGER VOLUNTEER

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- **Wednesday, December 13th**
 - PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall
- **Thursday, December 14th**
 - Quilters will return in January
 - ary
- **Friday, December 15th**
 - Fr. Kevin will be staying overnight. There is also a Wedding Rehearsal this evening.
- **Saturday, December 16th**
 - Wedding & Reception – Church & Parish Hall
- **Wednesday, December 20th**
 - PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall
 - Parish Wide Christmas Party – 6:30pm - ?? – Parish Hall – Help celebrate Jesus' Birthday with cake & ice cream – Activities and games planned – Santa to come at 7:30pm
- **Thursday, December 21st**
 - Quilters will return in January

I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE THIS APP!!
It is the best Catholic App out there,
and it's **FREE!** ~ Sarah

AmenTM
THE FREE CATHOLIC PRAYER APP



Journey through Advent with Amen, the
free Catholic prayer app.



Sign up to receive an email each day of the Advent and Christmas seasons with three items to help you prepare for the coming of the Lord:

- A daily meditation by St. John Henry Newman taken from [Waiting for Christ](#)
- A link to the Rosary with a short reflection
- A weekly *lectio divina* passage from Scripture

Union Knights of Columbus



December

Sunday, December 10th

Breakfast

7:30am – 11:30am • All you can eat
Adults \$12 • Children (6-12) \$6
Children under 6 FREE

Council Christmas Party

Doors open @ 4pm • Eat @ 5pm
Every family is asked to bring a covered dish. Santa plans to make an appearance.

Monday, December 11th

Blood Drive • 1:30pm – 6:30pm – Hall

Wednesday, December 13th

6:30pm – Fraternal Benefits

Program Information

Council Meeting • 7:30pm – Hall

Sunday, December 17th

Laying of wreaths at the cemetery



Quilter's Christmas Party

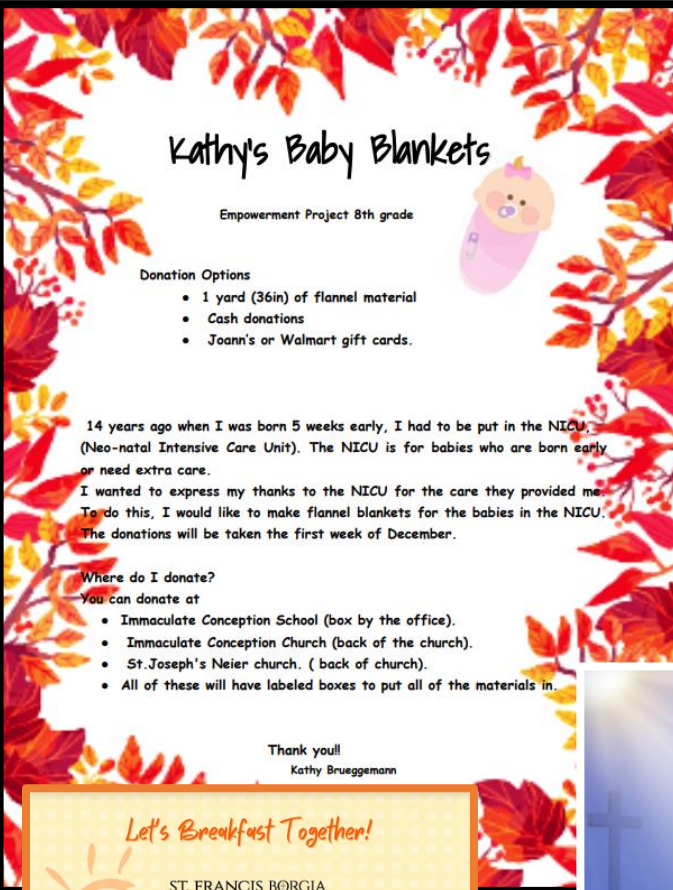
Date: Monday, December 11th
Time: 12 noon
Place: Judy Brueggemann's House

A light lunch will be provided.
 Hope you can come!
 Thanks,
 Judy

Christmas Mass Schedule



<p>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH</p> <p>Immaculate Conception 4pm</p> <p>St. Clare 6pm</p> <p>St. Joseph Neier 8pm</p>	<p>MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH</p> <p>Immaculate Conception Midnight & 7am</p> <p>St. Clare 8am</p> <p>St. Joseph Neier 9am</p>
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Kathy's Baby Blankets

Empowerment Project 8th grade

Donation Options

- 1 yard (36in) of flannel material
- Cash donations
- Joann's or Walmart gift cards.

14 years ago when I was born 5 weeks early, I had to be put in the NICU. (Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit). The NICU is for babies who are born early or need extra care. I wanted to express my thanks to the NICU for the care they provided me. To do this, I would like to make flannel blankets for the babies in the NICU. The donations will be taken the first week of December.

Where do I donate?
 You can donate at

- Immaculate Conception School (box by the office).
- Immaculate Conception Church (back of the church).
- St. Joseph's Neier church. (back of church).
- All of these will have labeled boxes to put all of the materials in.

Thank you!!
 Kathy Brueggemann

JESUS is the REASON for the SEASON

2 Weeks Until His Birthday



Let's Breakfast Together!

ST. FRANCIS BORGIA

Parish Breakfast

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
 7:30 - 11:00 AM

All you can eat Buffet!

ADULTS: \$10
 CHILDREN 6-11: \$5
 UNDER 6: FREE

Cinnamon Rolls, Pancakes
 Scrambled Eggs, Bacon
 Bone-In Ham, Hash Browns
 Fresh Fruit, Biscuits & Gravy
 Coffee, Milk & Juice



Thank you to this month's Sponsor!
 ANONYMOUS
 JEROME & RUTH SPAUNHORST
 Hosted by: CUB SCOUTS

SFB GRADE SCHOOL CAFETERIA | 225 CEDAR ST | WASHINGTON, MO

Love and Share the gift of Jesus

ADVENT WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, DEC. 16TH

HELP OUR FAMILY FIND THEIR WAY BACK HOME

St. John the Baptist Parish Center
 5579 Gildehaus Rd.
 Villa Ridge, MO 63089
 8:30-11:00 am

Contact: Rita Voss for details and to sign-up
 636-219-8385 or rita.voss48@gmail.com
 Coffee and pastries provided

Topics:

- Confession
- The veil
- Statues
- Purgatory
- Calling Priest "Father"
- Real presence of the Eucharist
- Sacred music vs. contemporary music
- Blessed Mother Mary
- Interpreting scripture
- Repetitive Prayer & the Rosary



JOIN US!

You're invited to our

**Parish wide
Christmas Party**

**Wednesday,
December 20th
6:30pm - 8pm**

**Quilt Raffle
will be drawn
during the
party!!**

**Activities for
every age!**

**Help us
celebrate
Jesus's Birthday
with cake &
ice cream**

**Santa will be
making an
appearance at
7:30pm**



DECEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	NOTES
3 LADIES SODALITY MTG - HALL - 9AM 10:30AM MASS	4	5	6 PSR FOREVER YOUNG 1PM - ??	7 EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 7AM - 1PM 4H - 7PM	8 6PM MASS HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION	9 PARENT'S DAY OUT - HALL 9AM-1PM 5PM MASS	
10 10:30AM MASS	11	12	13 PSR	14	15	16 WEDDING & RECEPTION 5PM MASS	
17 10:30AM MASS	18	19	20 PSR PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY HALL - 6:30PM	21	22	23 5PM MASS	
24 10:30AM MASS 8PM MASS	25 9AM MASS PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	26 NO MASSES ANYWHERE TODAY PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	27 NO MASSES ANYWHERE TODAY PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	28 NO MASSES ANYWHERE TODAY PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	29 NO MASSES ANYWHERE TODAY PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	30 5PM MASS	31 10:30AM MASS

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - 4PM

ST. CLARE - 6PM

ST. JOSEPH MEIER: 8PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - 7AM

ST. CLARE - 8AM

ST. JOSEPH MEIER: 9AM

