

Dear Padre,

Why are the Gospels Matthew and Mark so alike? Why did the Church keep both Gospels when so much of Mark seems to be a mirror image of Matthew?

The Gospels were written over time and used by the faithful when they gathered for worship. They read the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus collected by Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The Christian communities were often great distances from one another. A community may have had access to only one of these accounts. There is considerable similarity because the Gospel writers depended on one another. All three Gospels include some of the same incidents. Each also has incidents or details unique to that Gospel.

These were not the only accounts written about the life and ministry of Jesus. At some point, the Church had to decide which should be considered the inspired word of God. There were four accounts that were widely used: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. With their similarities and differences, the Church accepted these four accounts as Gospel—the Good News. ●

This first page of the Gospel of Mark is from a fourteenth-century Armenian illuminated manuscript painting by Sargis Pitsak.



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 4 Advent Weekday Is 2:1–5 Mt 8:5–11	December 5 Advent Weekday Is 11:1–10 Lk 10:21–24	December 6 Advent Weekday Is 25:6–10a Mt 15:29–37	December 7 St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Is 26:1–6 Mt 7:21, 24–27	December 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Gn 3:9–15, 20 Eph 1:3–6, 11–12 Lk 1:26–38	December 9 Advent Weekday Is 30:19–21, 23–26 Mt 9:35– 10:1, 5a, 6–8	December 10 Second Sunday of Advent Is 40:1–5, 9–11 2 Pt 3:8–14 Mk 1:1–8

Helping Catholics Apply Gospel Messages Today!

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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[Jesus] ...is at the door to our heart. He knocks. Do you know how to listen to the Lord...who has come today to visit you...? He came to Bethlehem, he will come at the end of the world, but every day he comes to us. Be attentive, look at what you feel in your heart when the Lord knocks.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 29, 2020



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent (B)

Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7 / 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 / Mark 13:33–37



**Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when
the time will come.**

MARK 13:33

How Has God Shaped You?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Sometimes it seems as if life is a laboratory of designed experiments on how to become human, all of them allotted ten-year blocks.

Have you noticed how nine- and ten-year-olds can be easy to be around? Then about the time we've gotten being a kid down to a science, life begins to move us into adolescence. We want to be independent and responsible, but we don't yet have all the skills. We have sexual feelings, but we're expected not to act on them. About the time we reach adulthood and move into our twenties, it seems we can finally do what we want, but then we might drink too much, spend too much, drive too fast, and party too long. Once we begin to settle down around year thirty, we have to learn how to live with another person. One likes it warm, the other cool. One seeks to save, the other spends. One is a homebody, the other enjoys going out on the town. By the time we've gotten to our sixties and seventies, we may have figured out life, but by then we've used up most of our energy.

What's going on?

Faith suggests it's the hand of God shaping us into the sort of persons we're meant to be. "Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you our potter: we are all the work of your hand" (Isaiah 64:7). Advent may be a time to figure out how God is acting in your life now and look back to see that God was shaping you all along. ●

Reflect

What did you learn in your last ten-year block of life?



St. Joseph Neier

Rev. Peter Blake, Pastor &

Rev. Eric Kunz, Senior Associate Pastor

December

2 & 3

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



What is an Advent wreath?

While the exact origin of the Advent wreath is uncertain, one thing is undeniable: the use of this symbol is a longstanding tradition in our Catholic Faith, dating back to at least the 17th century.

As we progressively light the candles throughout the Advent Season, we acknowledge God's coming through reflection, prayer, and hope. We make our own private vigil while awaiting the Light of the World.

Not only do we recall His first coming, we also await His second coming, when He will judge the living and the dead.

Significance of the Advent Wreath's Shape and Color

Since circles have no beginning and no end, the circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes eternal life in Christ. The wreath holds four candles, which are lit one-by-one over the four weeks of the Advent season. Generally, three are violet (purple) and one is rose-colored, each representing 1,000 year. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the Savior.

Violet is a liturgical color symbolizing penance, sacrifice, and prayer. During the first, second, and fourth weeks of Advent, we light violet candles as a reminder of the preparation of heart and mind undertaken during this season, which was traditionally known as "Little Lent."

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day, we celebrate that our wait is almost over. Since rose is the liturgical color used to signify joy, we light the rose candle on the Third Sunday of Advent as we rejoice in the anticipation of the coming of the Messiah.

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

Michael Miller

Jamie Brueggemann
Murphy

Michael Murphy

Reese Pellin

Andy Davis

Sam Smith

Taylor Donner

Owen Struckhoff

Emily Guenther

Luke Stuesse

Caleb Logsdon

Emma Wildhaber

**FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

"THE DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD,
WHEN I WILL FULFILL THE PROMISE
I MADE TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH."

—JEREMIAH 33:14

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

**IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**
of Mary

All are
Welcome
to Sing
with Us
on the
Choir Loft

The AED is here and installed in the vestibule of Church.

Thank you again to all those who donated towards the AED. It was greatly appreciated!!

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*

A Big Thank You

from the Knights of Columbus to everyone that helped and supported our BB Gun Shoot last Sunday. We had a good turnout and a lot of nice meat prizes were won by men, women and children. Max Berry won the BB gun in the kids, 7-12 division! If you have never been to a BB Gun Shoot, please come and check it out. It is a fun time for all ages!

Thank you For your Generosity & Support

November 20 - 30

General Fund Donations

Regular Offering Envelopes: (56)	\$ 2,942.83
Regular Offering Loose:	\$ 153.00
Online Giving*: (8)	\$ 561.62
Total:	\$ 3,657.45

Restricted Funds Donations

Capital Maintenance: (1)	\$ 25.00
Catholic Education: (1*)	\$ 98.40
Christmas Flowers: (4)	\$ 100.00
Electric: (1*)	\$ 95.90
I.C. St. Vincent de Paul: (14)	\$ 323.00
I.C. St. Vincent de Paul Loose:	\$ 114.00

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

November



November 2023
"General Funds Collections"

November 5	\$5,236.42
November 12	\$4,165.54
November 19	\$4,233.11
November 30	\$3,657.45



Weekly Schedule

THIS WEEKEND

NEXT WEEK

SAT 2 DEC	<p>5:00PM MASS</p> <p>MASS INTENTION PARISH FAMILY OF ST. JOSEPH</p> <p>LECTOR VI SCHROEDER</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS JEN KISSINGER CATHIE GRUS JEANNE DIERKING</p>	THURS 7 DEC	<p>6:30AM MASS</p> <p>MASS INTENTION WALTER & EVELYN NOELKER</p>		
	<td>SUN 3 DEC</td> <td> <p>10:30AM MASS</p> <p>MASS INTENTION TOM ADAMS, SR.</p> <p>LECTOR MICHELLE YOUNG</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS PATTI GREIFE TIM FETH DENISE FETH</p> </td> <td> <td>FRI 8 DEC</td> <td> <p>6:30AM MASS</p> <p>MASS INTENTION SPECIAL INTENTION OF A PARISHIONER</p> </td> </td>		SUN 3 DEC	<p>10:30AM MASS</p> <p>MASS INTENTION TOM ADAMS, SR.</p> <p>LECTOR MICHELLE YOUNG</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS PATTI GREIFE TIM FETH DENISE FETH</p>	<td>FRI 8 DEC</td> <td> <p>6:30AM MASS</p> <p>MASS INTENTION SPECIAL INTENTION OF A PARISHIONER</p> </td>
<p>WEEKEND MASS TIMES</p> <p>SATURDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:15PM - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - UNION 5:00PM - ST. JOSEPH - NEIER <p>SUNDAY</p> <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 		<td>SAT 9 DEC</td> <td> <p>5:00PM MASS</p> <p>MASS INTENTION ALBERT & DOROTHY BRUEGGEMANN</p> <p>LECTOR JIM NOELKER</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS VOLUNTEER CHERYL VOSS KATHY FETH</p> </td>	SAT 9 DEC	<p>5:00PM MASS</p> <p>MASS INTENTION ALBERT & DOROTHY BRUEGGEMANN</p> <p>LECTOR JIM NOELKER</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS VOLUNTEER CHERYL VOSS KATHY FETH</p>	
		<td>SUN 10 DEC</td> <td> <p>10:30AM MASS</p> <p>MASS INTENTION PARISH FAMILY OF ST. JOSEPH</p> <p>LECTOR LISA BOCKLAGE</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS DIANE SCHMIDT JEN KISSINGER VOLUNTEER</p> </td>	SUN 10 DEC	<p>10:30AM MASS</p> <p>MASS INTENTION PARISH FAMILY OF ST. JOSEPH</p> <p>LECTOR LISA BOCKLAGE</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS DIANE SCHMIDT JEN KISSINGER VOLUNTEER</p>	

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- **Sunday, December 3rd**
 - Ladies Sodality Meeting – 9am – Parish Hall
- **Wednesday, December 6th**
 - Forever Young Club – 1:00pm – ?? – Quilter's Room
 - PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall
- **Thursday, December 7th**
 - Eucharistic Adoration – 7am – 12:50pm – w/ Benediction after – Church
 - 4H – 7pm – Parish Hall
 - Quilters will return in January
- **Friday, December 8th**
 - Parish Office Closed – Holy Day of Obligation – The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass Times:

Thursday, December 7th

7pm – Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 8th

8am – Immaculate Conception

8am – St. Clare

6pm – St. Joseph Neier

please join us



*Eucharistic
Adoration*

Let's give thanks to Our Lord

Thursday, December 7th

6:30am Mass

**Adoration following
Perpetual Help Devotions
until 12:50pm
With Benediction After**



Union Knights of Columbus



December

Monday, December 4th

Board Meeting • 7:30pm – Lounge

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

Breakfast with Santa

at Immaculate Conception
Marian Center • Union, MO

DEC 10th
7:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Free event Courtesy of Western Catholic Union (WCU)
Free Donuts & Gift from Santa for all children parishioners of IC & St. Joseph Neier.
Raffle Prize for Adults



Kathy's Baby Blankets

Empowerment Project 8th grade

Donation Options

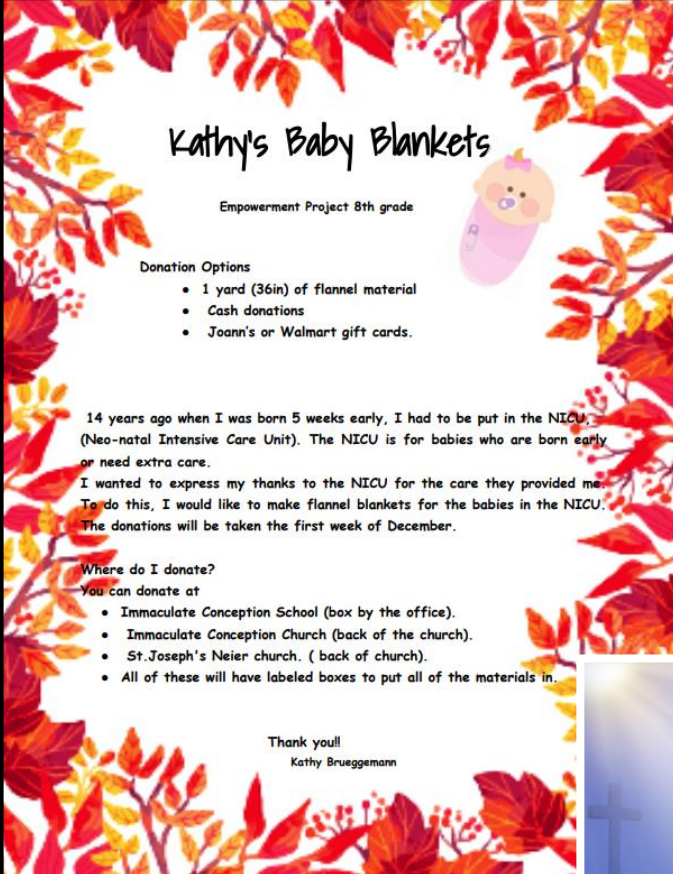
- 1 yard (36in) of flannel material
- Cash donations
- Joann's or Walmart gift cards.

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

3 Weeks Until His Birthday



Christmas Mass Schedule

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Immaculate Conception
4pm

St. Clare
6pm

St. Joseph Neier
8pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

Immaculate Conception
Midnight & 7am

St. Clare
8am

St. Joseph Neier
9am



Join us!
Next Forever Young Day is **December 6th @ 1pm**

Always the **FIRST** Wednesday of the month

Forever Young Club

Play Games
Tell Stories
Build Friendships



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**



Parents Day Out!

Let us entertain your children at the
Parish Hall on December 9th from 9am - 1pm,
with faith based activities, so you have time
to finish your Christmas "activities"

Available for kids who
are potty trained
through 11 years old.

RSVP with your
child's name and age
to Barb @
314-852-7894

**Fun Activities
Movie
Snacks Provided**

RSVP not required,
but very much appreciated!

