

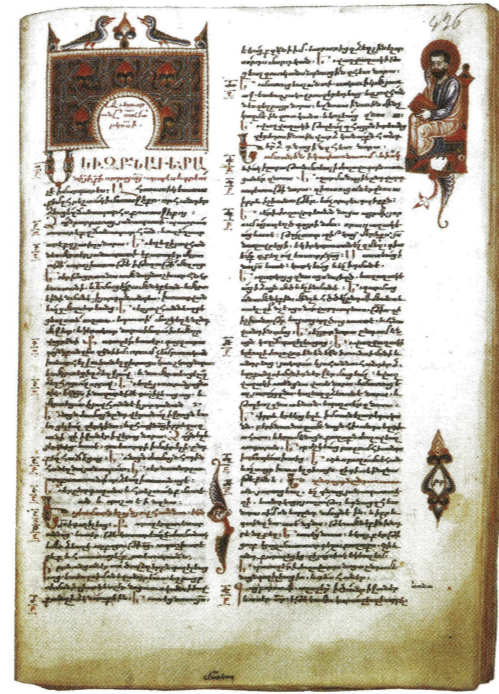
Dear Padre,

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!

Find hope and inspiration in the award-winning *Liguorian* magazine. Subscriptions available for as little as \$12 per year. Visit Liguorian.org for details.



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.

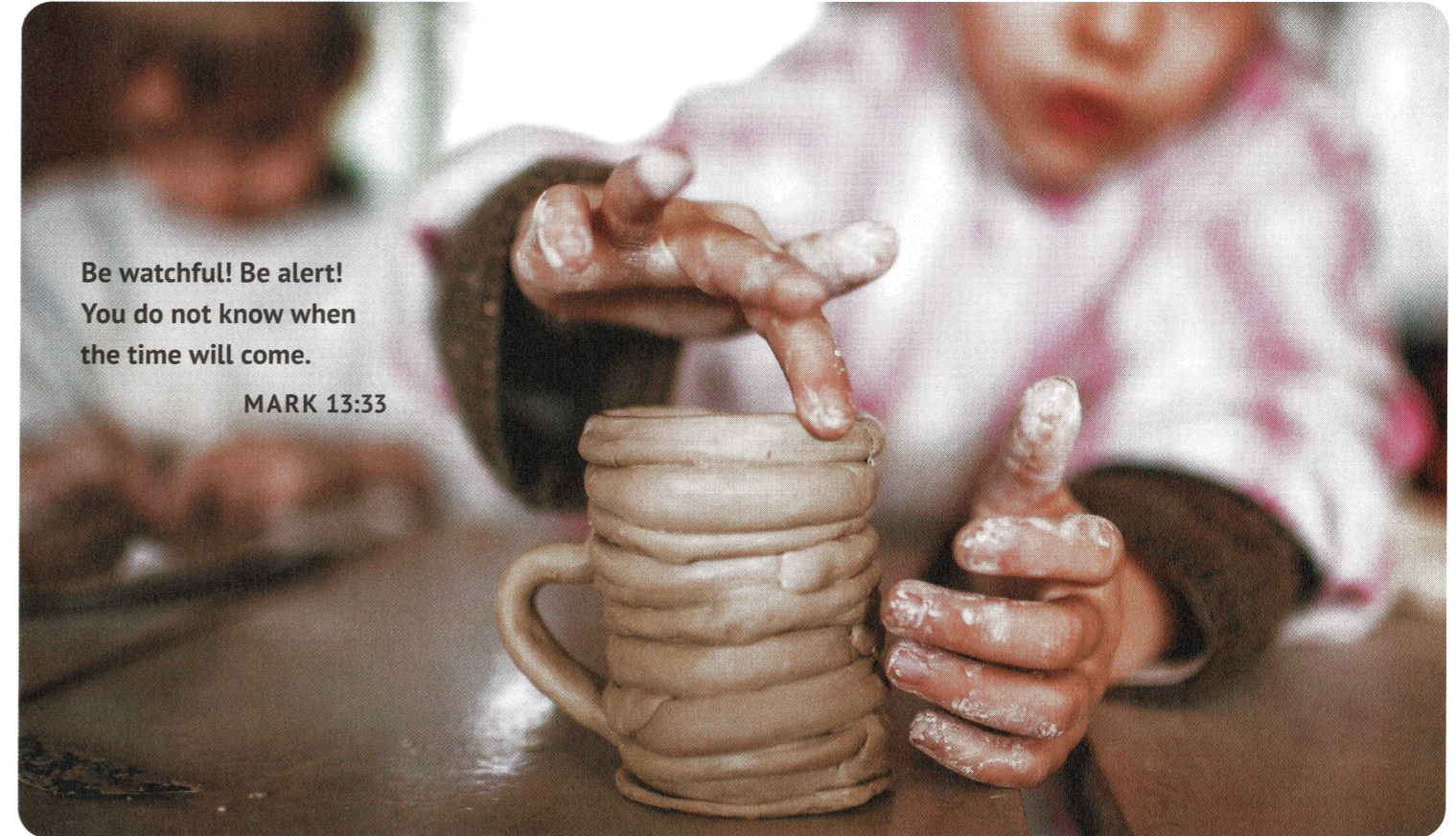
ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

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.

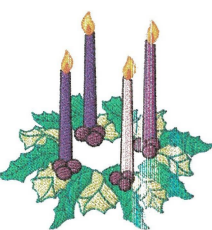
Have you noticed how nine- and ten-year-olds can be easy to be around? Then about the time we've gotten being a kid down to a science, life begins to move us into adolescence. We want to be independent and responsible, but we don't yet have all the skills. We have sexual feelings, but we're expected 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. ●

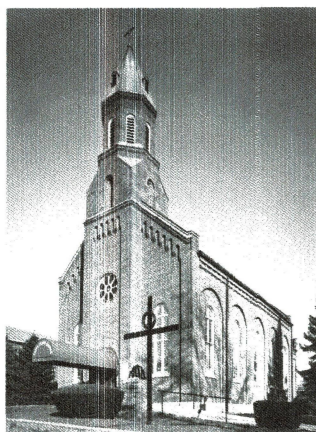
Reflect

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



St. James Parish Family

201 N. Missouri Street
Potosi, MO 63664



December 2023

Mass Schedule

St. Joachim	Mon:	8:00 AM
St. James	Tues:	8:15 AM
St. Joachim	Wed:	8:15 AM
St. James	Thurs:	8:00 AM
St. Joachim	Fri:	8:00 AM
St. James	First Sat:	8:00 AM
St. James 1st & 3rd	Sat:	4:00 PM
St. Joachim 2nd/4th	Sat:	4:00 PM
St. James	Sun	8:00 AM
St. Joachim	Sun	10:00 AM

*HOLYDAY SCHEDULE:

Please check the Bulletin for Mass Times.

E-MAIL:
stjameschurch@centurylink.net
WEBSITE: *****
www.stjames-potosi.org
FACEBOOK: St. James Catholic Church @stjamespotosi

Office Hours:
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Tuesday thru Thursday
Phone: 573-438-4686

Parish Hall or Parish School of Religion
Phone: 573-436-0144

Confessions:

Saturday: 3:15 - 3:45 PM;
prior to Sat evening Mass
Or by appointment

Staff

Rev. Anthony Dattilo—Pastor
AnthonyDattilo@archstl.org
Rev. Vince Nyman - Part-time Senior Associate Pastor
Susan Broombaugh—Admin Asst
stjameschurch@centurylink.net
Julie Wright: Coordinator of Religious Ed. (573) 436-0144/727-808-9273
stjamespr@gmail.com
Laura Allen—Assistant Coordinator, Religious Ed.
573-436-0144/573-366-5235

*****Our website is back! Please note a slight change in the web address:
www.stjames-potosi.org. (There is a dash "-" between stjames & Potosi. Welcome back :-)



MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK OF: December 4, 2023

Dec 05	MON	8:00 AM	*(Mass at St. Joachim)
Dec 06	TUE	8:15 AM	Vergie Mercille
Dec 07	WED	8:15 AM	*(Mass at St. Joachim)
Dec 08	THU	8:00 AM	Snead & Coffey Families
Dec 08	FRI	8:00 AM	*(Mass at St. Joachim)
Dec 08	FRI	12:00 PM	Angie Bouse
Dec 08	FRI	6:30 PM	*(Mass at St. Joachim)
Dec 09	SAT	4:00 PM	*(Mass at St. Joachim)
Dec 10	SUN	10:00 AM	*(Mass at St. Joachim)
Dec 10	SUN	8:00 AM	Helen Fahey Kretzer



Week of: November 26th, 2023

Envelope.....\$	1170.00	Human Development..\$	35.00
Loose.....\$	226.00	Christmas Flowers.....\$	20.00
SVDP.....\$	129.29	Seminary.....\$	10.00
Votive Lights.....\$	22.00	Immaculate Conception...\$	5.00
Light House.....\$		Solemnity of Mary.....\$	5.00
Main & Repairs.....\$	35.00	Catholic Charities.....\$	35.00
On-Line donations.....\$	75.90		

Special Ministers December 10, 2023

Lectors:
Sunday 8:00 am
Jeanne Degonia

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Sunday 8:00 am
C: Don Thompson
L: Jamie Thompson
R: Dave Woodland

Sat: 4:00 p.m (celebrated at St. Joachim)
Sun: 8:00 a.m Volunteers Please
Sun: 10:00 am (celebrated at St. Joachim)

Music:

Sat: 4:00 p.m. Chala Short
Sun: 8:00 a.m. Rebecca Richards
Sun: 10:00 am Anita Govero or The Little Way Band

Food of the Month of December: SVDP still needs the canned meats please: spam, canned chicken, canned ham, Tuna

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS.
~We couldn't do it without you~

Heavenly Duster: 12/08: Jean Roberson
Altar Linens: 12/11: Faye Jarvis

Church Decorating!!!!!!



Christmas will be here before we can blink an eye! We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on **December 22, 9:30 am**. We are looking for a few more able bodies to help with this. Anyone who is willing and able is very much appreciated. Wont you please come help us?

*****FORMED*****

Mary of Nazareth: Mary of Nazareth is an epic motion picture on the life of Mary, Mother of Christ, from her childhood through the Resurrection of Jesus. The film vividly captures the essence of Mary's mysteries that she lived with as the Mother of the Messiah, as well as her compassionate humanity and concern for others, and the deep love that she and Jesus shared for one another. The movie underscores her special role in God's plan for our redemption, her unique relationship with Christ, and the tremendous suffering that she endured in union with his passion and Death, as well as her serene joy at his Resurrection.

To sign up for "Formed"

Go to: <https://signup.formed.org/>
Enter our parish's zip code
Enter your name and your email address. That's it, you're in.

Word of Life

"The Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the 'least of these' in our world's estimation."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life

For all the faithful: May the Lord help us build a culture of life in vigilant expectation of his return; We pray to the Lord:

What's on the Calendar???

- Dec 02: Anointing of the sick following 4:00 pm Vigil Mass, St. James Church
- Dec 03: First Sunday of Advent
- Dec 07: First Thursday Eucharistic Adoration
- Dec 07: Confessions, St. Joachim Church, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Dec 08: **Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation....Mass Times:**
8:00 am - St. Joachim
12:00 - St. James
6:30 pm - St. Joachim
- Dec 13: PSR Confessions (during class time)
First Reconciliation (during class time)
- Dec 19: St. James Penance Service, 6:30 pm
- Dec 22: Decorate Church, 9:30 am

First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

"What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'" Mark 13:37
Are you attentive to Christ? Though this is a profoundly important question, there are many who may not even fully understand what this means. Yes, on the surface it is clear: Being "attentive" is being aware of the presence of our Lord in your life and in the world around you. So are you attentive? Are you watchful? Are you looking, seeking, waiting, anticipating and preparing for Christ to come? Though Jesus came to Earth over 2,000 years ago in the form of a little child, He continues to come to us today. And if you are not daily aware of His profound presence, then you may already be somewhat asleep, spiritually speaking.

We "fall asleep" on a spiritual level every time we turn our interior eyes to the passing, unimportant and even sinful things of this world. When that happens, we can no longer see Christ Himself. Sadly, this is becoming increasingly easy to do. Violence, sickness, hatred, division, scandal and the like plague us day in and day out. The news media daily competes to present us with the most shocking and sensational news possible. Social media daily seeks to fill our short attention span with sound bites and images that satisfy for but a moment. As a result, the eyes of our soul, our interior vision of faith, is darkened, ignored, forgotten about and dismissed. And as a result, many in our world today no longer appear to be able to cut through the growing chaotic noise so as to perceive the gentle, clear and profound voice of the Savior of the World.

As we begin our Advent season, our Lord is speaking to you in the deepest depths of your soul. He is gently saying, "Wake up." "Listen." "Watch." He will not shout, He will whisper so that you must give Him your full attention. Do you see Him? Hear Him? Listen to Him? Understand Him? Do you know His voice? Or do the many voices all around you take you away from the deep, profound and transforming truths He wishes to communicate to you?

Reflect, today, upon the fact that God is speaking within the depths of your soul each and every day. He is speaking to you now. And what He says is all that really matters in life. Advent is a time, more than any, to renew your commitment to listen, to be attentive and to respond. Do not remain asleep. Wake up and diligently be attentive to the profound voice of our Lord.

Come, Lord Jesus! Come! May this Advent be a time of deep renewal in my life, dear Lord. May it be a time in which I strive with all my heart to seek out Your gentle and profound voice. Give me the grace, dear Lord, to turn away from the many noises of the world that compete for my attention and to turn only to You and to all You wish to say. Come, Lord Jesus, come into my life more deeply during this Advent season.

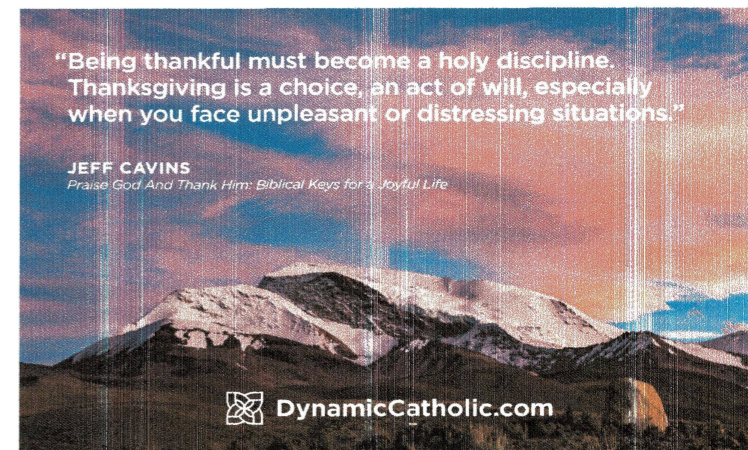


Jesus, I trust in You.

December 8th, we celebrate **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. The Immaculate Conception is often confused with the Doctrine of Incarnation which is about the Virgin Birth of Jesus but these two are two separate doctrines. **Catholic Catechism:**
490 To become the mother of the Saviour, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace". In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.
491 Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:
The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.

492 The "splendour of an entirely unique holiness" by which Mary is "enriched from the first instant of her conception" comes wholly from Christ: she is "redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son". The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" and chose her "in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love".

493 The Fathers of the Eastern tradition call the Mother of God "the All-Holy" (Panagia), and celebrate her as "free from any stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature". By the grace of God Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long.



"Being thankful must become a holy discipline. Thanksgiving is a choice, an act of will, especially when you face unpleasant or distressing situations."

JEFF CAVINS
Praise God And Thank Him: Biblical Keys for a Joyful Life

DynamicCatholic.com

PSR Christmas Parade Float for Dec 7th

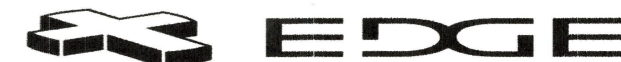
Our PSR Program is participating in the Town Christmas Parade again this year. They've already located a trailer to use, but will need lots of help with decorations & "people power". Please contact the Parish Office if you are willing to help with the float, or if you are able to donate something for the float!

This year's theme is Toyland.

St. James PSR NEWS

- ** Next in-person class: Wednesday, **December 13th** @ 6:00 pm. Dinner will start approximately 5:15. Unit 4 will be due.
- **First Reconciliation will be on **December 13th** during class time.
- **PSR Confessions will be **December 13th** as well.

Confirmation Class will be assisting with several service projects this year. So please watch the bulletin for updates.
Join our Facebook page for all the latest and greatest information.

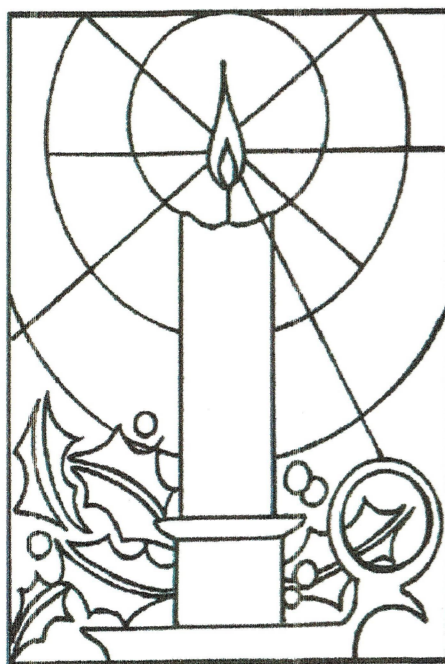


Missionary Discipleship
The Gift of the Present

Our Lord once again reminds us of the necessity of being alert and watchful, and serving Him even when He seems to be absent. We all experience those times of dryness and desolation in life. We experience the ups and downs, the joys and sorrows, the victories and defeats. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta wisely taught us that God does not ask us to be successful but just to be faithful to God. When we are grateful for the present moment and the gift here and now that the Lord has given us, our whole outlook on life can change. We can encounter the Lord anew in different places and in different ways. It is not always easy, but we must live in the present moment and cherish the gift of life that is before us. "Would that you might meet us doing right, that we might be mindful of you in our ways!" (Isaiah 64:4).

Clarity House Friday evening Rosary & Mass
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Come join us, Friday, December 8th, to celebrate the Holy Mass. The evening starts at 6:00 pm with the rosary and prayers of intention. It is followed by Holy Mass at 7:00 pm. Then we share refreshments during fellowship. All are invited and welcome to attend. Also, there are bedrooms available if anyone wants to reserve one for the night. Please contact Mary Roy @ 636-234-6680 and let her know if you'd like a room. **Kim Coleman has agreed to drive the church van.** If anyone wants to ride, please call the church office and let us know!



Kids coloring.


Do you believe in Miracles?

"Hello, this is Fr. Rodger Fleming from St. Rose of Lima, St. Joseph, and St. Anne Parishes. I want to PERSONALLY invite you to an AMAZING night. We are hosting an extraordinary event on MIRACLES caught on film and "Tested by Science". It's the same presentation two nights in a row, so just choose one night, 6:30 PM - 9 PM, Wednesday, December 20th at St. Joseph in Bonne Terre or 6:30 PM - 9 PM Thursday, December 21st at St. Rose of Lima in DeSoto. Arrive 15 minutes early for good seating. Some things you will HEAR and SEE at the presentation:

- * Several Eucharistic Miracles where the bread transformed into living heart tissue to show that Jesus Christ is ALIVE in the Holy Eucharist.
- * A lady living today who receives the Wounds of Christ while receiving messages from Jesus and Mary. You will witness her Stigmata.
- * Why do bad things happen to good people? The meaning of Suffering.
- * The meaning, purpose, and POWER of the Holy Sacrifice of the MASS.

So many of you have kids and grandkids away from the Church. Even if they can't come, you will be provided tools and resources to get them back in Mass."

DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?
~ SEEING IS BELIEVING ~
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20TH 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
THURSDAY DECEMBER 21ST 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM



Can miracles stand up to the test of science?

- Exclusive film footage of a stigmatist who bleeds from her hands, feet, and head. Are these the wounds of Christ? What does science have to say?
- A consecrated Communion Host becomes living flesh and blood. Is it heart tissue? What does science have to say?
- A scientist (former atheist), an attorney and a famous TV Journalist witness statue of Jesus weeping real tears and shedding real blood. Are these claims true? What does science have to say?

St. Joseph Church and St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church are hosting an **EVENT** for everyone in the area. If you have an "I will believe it when I see it" attitude, don't miss this event!

"Put it this way: this is either the biggest hoax of the 20th Century, in which case it would have to be a fairly huge conspiracy, or the most important moment of the century, if not the whole millennium."
Alister Thompson
New Zealand journalist

<p>Wednesday, December 20th 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Location: St. Joseph Church 15 St. Joseph Street Bonne Terre, MO 63628</p>	<p>Thursday, December 21st 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Location: St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church 504 S 3rd St De Soto, MO 63020</p>
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For detailed information go to
www.ScienceTestsFaith.com/JeffCity
Same presentation each night- choose one



"Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return."

Pope Francis, Angelus, 3rd December 2017



Music Advent program
St. James Church
201 N. Missouri St.
December 20th, 7:00 pm.

O Come O Come Emanuel!

If you missed our Advent Program last year, it was amazing! So, make sure to save the date for this year's program.

December 20th, 7:00 pm.

Of course it will be in the church, refreshments following.

ALL are invited, Parishioners, non-parishioners, Catholic, non-Catholic, ALL are welcome. Come, slow down for an evening of music and fellowship.

We'd love to see you there!
May God's Blessings be abundant this Christmas Season!



November 25th, 2023
Mary's Message

"Dear children! May this time be interwoven with prayer for peace and good deeds, so that the joy of the expectation of the King of Peace may be felt in your hearts, families and in the world which does not have hope. Thank you for having responded to my call."

2024 Calendars

We would like to give a great big Thank you to Moore Funeral Home for our 2024 Calendars. They are in back of church, Please take one as you go.



Christmas for Kids

Just a reminder, We will need all of the gifts returned back to Church by Sunday, **December 10th.**



Thank you all for helping support the Children of our Community.

Caring Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center Baby Bottle Campaign 2023.



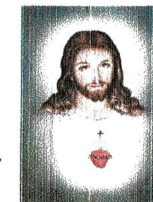
Help support mothers and babies from our local community. Baby bottles are available in Church this weekend. Please, stop after Mass and pick up a baby bottle, fill it and return your filled baby bottle by the 4th Sunday of Advent, **December 24th.** Life is the most precious Gift of all.

First Thursday Adoration
December 7th after 8:00 am Mass

A Holy Hour of Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is so important to Jesus that a multitude of souls go to heaven who otherwise would have gone to hell. (Jesus to Blessed Belanger)

"The only time our Lord asked the Apostles for anything was the night He went into agony. Not for activity did He plead but for an Hour of companionship." "During a Holy Hour we grow more and more into His likeness." "The purpose of the Holy Hour is to encourage deep personal encounter with Christ."

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"Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to that Adoration."

Father Donald Calloway, M.I.C.
presents

MARY, THE MASTERPIECE OF GOD



December 4, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

doors open @ 6:15 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

1020 W. Main St.

Park Hills, MO 63601

Tickets \$20.00 each

Book Sale & Signing Immediately after event in parish hall.

contact Mary Reed @ 618-691-8918 or Kristin Tate @ 573-631-6997