

# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

200 Front Street, Pierce City, MO 65723

August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 - Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

## St. Mary's Catholic Church

Pastor: Fr. Matthew Rehrauer 476-2827ext. 102  
Office Mgr: Shelly Wroblewski 476-2827ext. 101  
PCP: Cody Washam 489-5450  
DRE: Martha Randall 489-4589  
E-Mail: [st\\_marys@live.com](mailto:st_marys@live.com)  
Website: [www.stmaryspcmo.com](http://www.stmaryspcmo.com)

## St. Mary's Catholic School

Principal: Jason Kramer 476-2824ext. 106  
School Sec.: Gina Debes 476-2824ext. 107  
Cafeteria: Lanea Haase 476-2180ext. 108  
SMSBP: Fares Masri  
E-Mail: [Jason.kramer@stmarys-piercecity.org](mailto:Jason.kramer@stmarys-piercecity.org)  
Website: [www.stmaryspcmo.com](http://www.stmaryspcmo.com)

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR AUGUST 22 – AUGUST 30

### ST. MARY'S

Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+Betty Rakoski
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	+Laura rose Severs Anniversary
Monday	8:15 a.m.	Rosary & Communion Service
Wednesday	8:15 a.m.	St. Mary's Parish Family
	6:30 p.m.	Justice and Peace
Friday	8:15 a.m.	+Phyllis Mitchell
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	St. Mary's Parish Family
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	+Barbara Bauer

### ST. AGNES

Tues. 8:30 a.m.  
Thurs. 8:30 a.m.  
Sun. 10:30 a.m.

## EVENTS OF THE WEEK:

Monday, August 24	Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Wednesday, August 26	St. Mary's School Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the C.R.
Saturday, August 29	Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist
Sunday, August 30	Special Collection: Mission Co-Op

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, August 31	8:15 a.m. Rosary & Communion Service
Wednesday, September 2	8:15 a.m. Mass
	7:30 p.m. Mass
	Knights of Columbus Meeting at 8:00 p.m. in the C.R.
Friday, September 4	8:15 a.m. Mass
Saturday, September 5	Memorial of St. Teresa of Calcutta

## OUR GIFT TO GOD LAST WEEK: Collection Counters in September:

Our weekly budget is \$7,800.00                      Last Week's Collection: \$ 5365.00

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** Charlotte Sloan, Louise Bellm and all the sick and shut-ins of our parish.

**RENTALS AND USAGE** of the gym, cafeteria, pavilion, and chairs & tables has to be run through the church office. This has to happen, so that we know who is using the facilities, and so that nothing is double booked. Thank you for our cooperation.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** PSR/CCD still needs 3 teachers. If you would like to volunteer please call Martha Randall at 489-4589.

**Classes will begin Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m.** at this time you will be able to register your children.

**GROTTO:** We need a volunteer to take over the care of the grotto. If anyone is interested please contact the church office at 476-2827 or Marjorie Layton 476-2265.

We would like to thank Marjorie Layton for all of her years of volunteering to take care of the grotto.

**MISSING FAN:** Our big fan that was stored in the garage has gone missing, so if you have borrowed it or know where it is at please contact the church office. Thank you

## NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

The summer has been busy and exciting, but nothing beats the excitement of starting a new school year. This has been a summer like no other getting everything ready for this school year. It was so great to see the students walk in the door as I greeted them Thursday morning. Classes began at St. Mary's on Thursday, August 20th with 68 students entering the doors from Kindergarten to 8th grade (up 10 from a year ago). This coming Tuesday our PS students will begin and then PK will start on Wednesday. When we have everyone accounted for we will have a total of 80 students at St. Mary's, this is up from 74 a year ago. It's not too late! If God is calling you to enroll your students at St. Mary's, we will make room for them.

We are looking forward to a blessed year. Please, keep the families, the students, and the staff in your prayers as we go through this new school year.

Jason Kramer

## 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 22:19-23  
Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8  
Romans 11:33-36  
Matthew 16:13-20

**Monday August 24**  
**St. Bartholomew**  
Revelation 21:9b-14  
Ps 145:10-13, 17-18  
John 1:45-51

**Tuesday August 25**  
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-17  
Ps 96:10-13  
Matthew 23:23-26

**Wednesday August 26**  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18  
Ps 128:1-2, 4-5  
Matthew 23:27-32

**Thursday August 27**  
**St. Monica**  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
Ps 145:2-7  
Matthew 24:42-51

**Friday August 28**  
**St. Augustine**  
1 Corinthians 1:17-25  
Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11  
Matthew 25:1-13

**Saturday August 29**  
**Passion of John the Baptist**  
1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
Ps 33:12-13, 18-21  
Mark 6:17-29

When Jesus ordained Peter to become the rock upon which he would build his Church, he made a promise. The gates of hell, he said, speaking of the netherworld that belongs to the principalities and powers of darkness (see Ephesians 6), "shall never prevail against it."

Jesus did not say that hell would never win battles against the Church. He said that the *gates* of hell would not win. Of course they won't; gates don't attack! Gates protect. Gates hold inside their boundaries whatever has been enclosed by a fence or wall. Do you know anyone who's been imprisoned by their sins? Or by hellish circumstances?

Christians are not called to take a defensive posture against attacks and encroachments from evil-doers. Christians are called to take the offensive – we are called to attack the very gates of hell, knock them down, and

conquer the devils that are trying to drag people into their kingdom of misery and eternal death.

What Jesus did 2000 years ago to free people from evil he still does today through you and me.

For the sinners who want to escape from evil before it's too late, Jesus gave gate keys to Peter when he ordained him as the first shepherd (priest and pope) of



Christianity. These keys have been passed from generation to generation through the unbroken line of Catholic priests.

What are the keys? The gates of hell are unlocked by Sacraments; they open the way to eternal life. When a priest "looses" (releases)

the grace and forgiveness of God upon a repentant sinner during the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or when a priest "binds" a man and woman together in the Sacrament of Marriage, it's Jesus who's doing it through him.

The supernatural power of the Sacraments conquers evil every time we take them seriously and rely on the graces they provide.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. Where is there a locked gate in your life, which needs to get blown open so that Jesus can rescue you from some sort of darkness?
2. What will you do this week to utilize the Sacraments more deeply, more profoundly?
3. Who do you say Jesus really is, and how do you encounter this Jesus in the Sacraments?
4. Which Sacrament (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Marriage, Ordination, or the Anointing of the Sick) is most powerful for you personally? Why?



## St. Mary's Catholic Church

Pierce City, MO 65223

Pastor Fr. Matthew J. Robinson

August 20, 2020

My Dear People, I wanted to write you again to pass along a bit of good news. In keeping with the second phase of re-opening the State of Missouri, re: Covid 19 restrictions, the Lawrence and Newton County health departments have lifted restrictions in terms of the number of people that are "allowed" to gather in churches. There is no longer a given number. The State, County(s) are still holding to the recommendation that six foot distancing be observed and encourages use of face masks. With this, the tape has been removed from every other set of pews. With families considered as "ONE," which is absolutely spiritually and theologically correct, with mindful staggering of seating, there should easily be room for 75+ at St. Mary and 55+ at St. Agnes. Should it be that a larger gathering is a concern, there are also daily Masses. There are fewer people who attend, and that makes for a great deal more room to spread out. Please consider this. I am fully aware of and fully understand that the dispensation to attend Sunday Mass is in effect. No problem there at all. Further the lifting of the restrictions by the health departments is not to be confused with an "all clear." There is a risk to being out and about. The thing is that, I do not want my people to miss the grace of the Sacrament or the graces that come to us through being present to and at the Sacrifice of Christ. If you are more confident with the smaller crowd at daily Mass, it is there as an option. In the same vein, the Bishop has given permission to all the priests to administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the sick, and to hear confessions. Reiterating something that I said at Mass when I arrived here, I do not want my people going into surgery or dealing with serious illness without the presence of Christ and the grace of the Holy Spirit that comes from the Anointing of the Sick. Call, drop by or talk to me before or after Mass. Just make sure to remind me now and then, as I have told you, I am getting senile each day! What is said about the Sacraments is also said in terms of talking about things. There's time. It is essential to the spiritual health and vitality of the Mystical Body of Christ that we know that the Priest is here as God's providence. That is also so in terms of each of us. By God's design and will, when united to Christ, working with the grace given us through the Holy Spirit, we are gifts to each other.

I am fully aware that you get that very often in sermon, (ad nauseam) but I figured I would throw it in here as well! Although the Bishops has prohibited congregational singing at Mass, there is provision for Choirs and Music to be part of the liturgy. We are working to get that re-incorporated into Mass as soon as possible. There is a richness in sacred Music that touches the soul and communicates the grace of God that cannot be brought about in any other way. In terms of Extraordinary Ministers of Communion at Mass, we will not be restoring that for a while yet. The area of assigning READERS and GREETERS / USHERS and MONEY COUNTERS is a different matter. We would like to being assigning Readers and Ushers beginning in September. If you are a READER, USHER, or MONEY COUNTER, and are not yet comfortable coming back to Mass, please give the office a call, so that we know not to assign you for the time being.

The time that we are entering into is a time of restoration, rebuilding and has the potential of strengthening the Mystical Body of Christ. The hand of the evil one is evident in this whole ordeal which we have been through. I know that no one talks like that anymore. That is half the problem, and part of the reason there are so many evils that can often make us wonder if Christ is really with us. Yet, working together, being one with Christ and each other in the Eucharist (Mass) we are gifted to bring the power of his resurrection into this time to bring about the greater good. EXACTLY how each of us as individuals will be doing our part will become clear soon enough. Any ideas, I'd appreciate hearing them, talking about them and helping as I can. Programs from the top have an important place and can bring about great blessing, but without the Spirit inspired work of individuals and groups in the local Church, the Universal Church is impoverished and impeded.

That is enough for the moment. The School year begins at St. Mary's today. Your love for the children of our Parishes is expressed in a very special way through the School. Your prayers and support are not only appreciated, they are part and parcel of the blessing bestowed on our young'uns. (young ones) They learn, with your help, the meaning of, unless you have the heart of a Child, you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Please continue to pray for those suffering during this time, and an end to this ordeal, as well as for the repentance of those who have used it to attempt to bring about a destructive blow to the faith and the faithful. Remember daily the promise of Christ to his disciples, "I am with you always, even to the end of time."

God Bless - Fr. Matt

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fr. Matt". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.