

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

200 Front Street, Pierce City, MO 65723

December 19, 2021 - Third Sunday of Advent

St. Mary's Catholic Church

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St. Mary's Catholic School

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E-Mail: jason.kramer@stmarys-piercecity.org

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SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR DECEMBER 18- DECEMBER 26

ST. MARY'S

Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+ Maury McDunner
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	+ Dwight & Laura Rose Severs
Monday	8:15 a.m.	Rosary & Communion Service
Wednesday	8:15 a.m.	NO MASS
Christmas Eve Friday	6:00 p.m.	St. Mary's Parish Family
Christmas Day Saturday	12:00 a.m.	St. Mary's Parish Family
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Special Intentions RSD
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	+Jim & Jo Ann Conley

ST. AGNES

Tues.	8:30 a.m.
Thurs.	NO MASS
Sat.	10:00 a.m.
Sun.	10:30 a.m.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK:

Sunday, December 19

Setting up the Christmas Trees after Mass. This is a big job, so the more that can help makes it a lot easier.

Advent Penance Service Pierce City 4p.m.

Decorating the church for Christmas at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come and help

Christmas Eve Mass St. Mary's 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Masses: St. Mary's 12:00 a.m. Midnight St. Agnes 10:00 a.m.

Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Tuesday, December 21

Friday, December 24

Saturday, December 25

Sunday December 26

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, December 27

8:15 a.m. Rosary and Communion Service

Tuesday, December 28

Feast of The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Wednesday, December 29

8:15 a.m. Mass

Friday, December 31

New Year's Eve Vigil at St. Mary's 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 1

New Year's Day Mass at St. Agnes 10:00 a.m.

OUR GIFT TO GOD LAST WEEK: Collection Counters in January:

Our weekly budget is \$7,800.00

Last Week's Collection: \$ 4797.00

TUCKPOINTING PROJECT: To date our parish has \$42,138.00 toward our \$65,000.00 goal. Thank you! If you have not yet made your pledge, please add your gift, whatever the amount, in unity with those who have already given by mailing or putting your pledge in the collection marked tuckpointing. We are still short \$ 22,862.00 of meeting our goal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS Dawnata Hopkins, Louise Bellm, Ester Miller, Charlotte Sloan, Andrea Kristek, and all the sick and shut-ins of our parish.

ROSARY: The Rosary is said Tuesday-Friday every day at **11:00 a.m.** Everyone is welcome to come. Also if you are within 1 mile of the church you can listen to it on the radio station 88.1FM. Please call the parish office and let us know if there is a better time of day for you to join us in praying the Rosary.

2022 CALENDARS are in the back of church.

THE PCCW LADIES are selling pecans during part of December. We will sell after both weekend Masses. You may also contact an officer to purchase them. The price is \$12.00 a bag. We appreciate your support. Contact Bonnie Parrigon at 417-489-3866, Patty Osterloh at 417-540-4182 and Beverly Phillips at 417-737-0774. Thank you.

DURING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON, the PCCW will be sending cards to those are in nursing homes, those who are shut-ins, and those who are ill. We invite you to join us in remembering these parishioners. These members include the following:

David Baker, 4 Lawrence 2200, Wentworth, Mo 64873

Louise Bellm, 813 East Walnut, Aurora, MO 65605

Carolyn Boman, 101 N. Gibbs, Pierce City, MO 65723

Helen Clapper, 420 Maple Rise Path, Chesterfield, MO 63005

Wilma Fenske, 402 Ford Street, Pierce City, MO 65723

Wilbert Fenske, 2675 Farm Road 2090, Purdy, MO 65734

Helen Marie Mettlach, Lacoba Villa #1, Apt, D, P.O. Box 885, Monett, MO 65708

Imogene Kutz, 5035 Highway JJ, Wentworth, MO 64873

Andrea Kristek, 738 Kristek Lane, Monett, MO 65708

Lillian Kristek, Lacoba Villa, Apt. 2, P.O. Box 885, Monett MO 65708

Mary Catherine Miller, Saint Lukes Nursing Center, 1220 E. Fairview Ave., Carthage, MO 64836

Father Peter Morciniec, Springfield Villa, Room 327, 1100 E. Montclair St., Springfield, MO 65807

Nora Montgomery, Lawrence County Manor, 915 Carl Allen Street, Mt. Vernon, MO 65712

Verla Osterloh, Lacoba Nursing Home, 850 U.S. HWY 60, P.O. Box 885, Monett, MO 65708

Tina Paul, 301 Pleasant Drive, #38, Monett, MO 65708

Charlotte Sloan, 21873 Lawrence 1053, Pierce City, MO 65723

Jean Ann Stephens, Missouri Veterans Home, 1600 S. Hickory St., Mt. Vernon, MO 65712

John and Janice Stricklin, 203 N. Elm St., Pierce City, MO

James and Carolyn Witt, 4067 Lawrence 1020, Pierce City, MO 65723

Josephine Witt, 409 W. Newman, Pierce City, MO 65723

Betty Wrobleski, Lacoba Nursing Home, 850 U.S. HWY 60, Monett, MO 65708

NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

The staff and children of St. Mary's School would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We will see all of you next year.

APPOINTMENTS

If you are unable to make your appointment, please find a replacement

Saturday, December 25 4:00 p.m. Mass

Readers: Madeline Ceselski, Beverly Miller

Ushers: Tom Cahalan, Tommy Cahalan

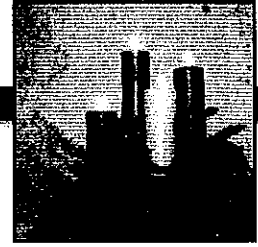
Sunday, December 26 8:30 a.m. Mass

Readers: Joe & Denise Crowell

Ushers: Ian Brottlund, Jim Conley

AFTER YOU COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, consider sharing them with the church. As the spirit of gratitude to God Permeates our lives at this time of year, please prayerfully consider including our parish in your giving. Your generosity helps to give others the most precious of gifts – the love of God, and the sacraments and ministries of the Church. Remember that the tax laws intentionally encourage charitable giving. By writing a check to St. Mary's by December 31, 2021, you can reduce the sting of income taxes if you itemize. Giving is, of course much more than a tax brackets and deductions. Your gifts provide the necessary support for all our parish does. Thank You!

MERRY CHRISTMAS



4th Sunday of Advent, Cycle C

Micah 5:1-4
Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

Monday December 20
Isaiah 7:10-14
Ps 24:1-6
Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday December 21
Song of Songs 2:8-14 or
Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21
Luke 1:39-45

Wednesday December 22
1 Samuel 1:24-28
1 Sm 2:1,4-8
Luke 1:46-56

Thursday December 23
Malachi 3:1-4,23-24
Ps 25:4-5ab,8-10,14
Luke 1:57-66

Friday December 24
2 Samuel 7:1-5,
8b-12,14a,16
Ps 89:2-5,27,29
Luke 1:67-79

Saturday December 25
Christmas Day
Isaiah 52:7-10
Ps 98:1-6
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18

The final Sunday of Advent shows Elizabeth and her unborn son, John, reacting to the nearness of the unborn Christ. We know that Elizabeth immediately understood that Mary was pregnant with the Lord, because the Gospel says she was filled with the Holy Spirit. But how could the fetal John understand? How could he leap for joy while still in the womb?

If it's true that an unborn baby is not a person with a soul until it takes its first breath, as is claimed by many who believe that abortion is okay, how could the unborn John recognize the presence of the unborn Savior?

The faith to recognize the presence of Christ -- in the womb of people's lives, in the Eucharist, in the humanity of unborn children, etc. -- comes from being fully alive in the Holy Spirit, who was given to us fully during our baptisms. However, it takes a humble willingness to let God change our minds about what we think is true in order to be open to God's Spirit teaching

us what is indeed true.

John as a fetus was incapable of understanding anything, especially when it happened outside the womb, yet he leapt for joy. This teaches us that we don't need to see God working in the world or solving our personal problems before we can leap for joy. We don't have to understand what God is doing, and we don't even have to know his plans.

The Holy Spirit enlivened the faith of Elizabeth and John through an act of grace that depended on Christ's future activity. For us, our faith is enlivened by the grace God provides in the Sacraments.

The joy that comes from recognizing the presence of Christ is God's Christmas gift to us. It's a joy that's meant to last all year. It's a lifestyle, not a holiday. It comes from a faith that appreciates God for working mercifully in ways that we can see and ways that we cannot see, because we trust in his goodness. Even when we suffer or feel sorrow, we can learn to recognize the presence of Christ.

And then what? Like John, we are called to be heralds of Christ's presence. How? First by sharing our joy with others.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. How much is the joy of Christ's Spirit within you affecting your outward life?
2. What will you do this Christmas to become more aware of the Holy Spirit increasing your faith?
3. Give examples of how the Spirit of Christmas is really the Holy Spirit.
4. What activities have helped you get into the Spirit of Christmas? How has this affected your preparations for celebrating Christmas as a holy day?