

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

The parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, located in South Saint Louis City, comprised of small neighborhoods filled with multi-generational families, strives to answer God's call to.....

- + COMMIT to live the Gospel;**
- +CELEBRATE Eucharist as a community;**
- +SERVE the needs of others;**
- + PARTICIPATE in parish life and ministries;**
- +STRIVE to be a sign of God's love!**

Contact Information

Rectory - 4092 Blow Street, St. Louis, MO 63116-2796
Website: www.ihm-stl.org

314-481-7543
Fax 314-481-6316

Parochial Administrator	Rev. Aaron Nord	314-481-7543	anord@ihm-stl.org
Deacon	Rev. Mr. Jim Murphey	314-481-7543	jmurphey@ihm-stl.org
Pastoral Associate	Mrs. Debbie Gartner	314-481-9385	dgartner@ihm-stl.org
St. Louis LifeTeen	Lauren Scharmer	314-288-8873	lauren@saintlouislifeteen.org
St. Vincent de Paul		314-289-6101 ext. 1187	

Celebration of the Holy Mass

Saturday 4:30 p.m. (Sunday Vigil)
 Sunday 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
 Weekdays Monday-Friday 8am Mass (Daily Chapel)
 1st Saturday of the Month 8:00 a.m. (Daily Chapel)
 Holydays As announced inside bulletin

Eucharistic Adoration

1st Saturday of the month following 8:00 a.m. Mass until 11:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Rectory. First time parents will need to attend one meeting prior to the baptism.

Sacrament of Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation is normally organized by the parish school or PSR program attended by the candidate. Others are invited to contact the parish priest for preparation to receive this sacrament.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Please schedule an initial meeting with the priest or deacon at least 6 months prior to the tentatively planned date for the ceremony.

Holy Orders and Consecrated (Religious) Life

Those discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life may contact the parish priest or the Archdiocese Vocations office at 314-792-6460.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Rectory to make an appointment with the parish priest.

Care for those who are homebound, hospitalized, or in nursing home. Please call the Rectory to arrange for Communion to be brought to any parishioner who is unable to come to Mass. Please inform the Rectory as soon as any parishioner is admitted to any hospital or nursing home.

Devotions

Perpetual Help Following Tuesday 8:00 a.m. Mass

Rosary Following weekday Masses

Becoming a Catholic

Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults/Youth or Catechumen Meetings are weekly from September thru May to discuss your questions and the Catholic Faith. Call the Rectory for information.

South City Deanery PSR

Catholic Religious Education for children attending public or private non-religious schools. Call 314-773-3070.

New Parishioners

Please register as soon as possible by calling the Rectory.

Bulletin items are due no later than 10 a.m. Monday for the following week's bulletin. (Holiday deadlines can change without notice.)

Mass for the Intentions Week

Mon.	1/4	8:00 a.m.	James T. Spencer
Tues.	1/5	8:00 a.m.	Bernice & John Bock
Wed.	1/6	8:00 a.m.	Harold Gartner
Thurs.	1/7	8:00 a.m.	Ann Donohue
Fri.	1/8	8:00 a.m.	Josephine Wahoff
Sat.	1/9	4:30 p.m.	Jim & Kathleen Gunn
Sun.	1/10	7:30 a.m.	Our Parish Family
		10:00 a.m.	Marie Gartner



LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

Pray for those who are sick and their caregivers. Pray for Paula Bonn, Pat Compas, Mike Smith, Gayle Mohr, Bob Spellmeyer (Brother in law of Kathy Schulte), John Leaders, Andrew Freeman (Grandson of Jim and Roxanne Wolfslau), Edna Walters, Jerry Brendel (husband of JoAnn, father of Jason), Edna Walters, Sandy Ceriotti, Alene May (mother of Annette DeGreef), Evelyn Vetz, Steve Baum (nephew of Jean Provaznik), Bob Simmons, Frank Sandrowski, Dorothy Seper, Rosemary Young, Don Smith, Therese Shurig, Kathleen Moody (daughter of Charlie & Julie), Deacon Jack Burke (brother of Joan Mowery), Stephanie Hagan (wife of Barry), Anna Corson, Nick Corson Lammert and those parishioners who are homebound, living in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes, and all in our Prayer Book. May our Lord Jesus bring them comfort and healing.

If someone has been left off the prayer list or if you would like to add someone, please contact the rectory office.

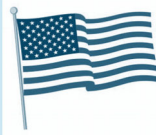


REST IN PEACE

In your charity please pray for

John Hagedon

**May he join his loved ones
in joyful reunion with Jesus.**



**WE PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING
OUR COUNTRY IN THE ARMED
FORCES. WE HOLD THEM IN OUR
HEARTS AND AWAIT THEIR SAFE
RETURN.....**

Lance Cpl. Andrew Ceriotti, U.S. Marines
Pvt. David Walters, U.S. Army
LT. Benjamin D. Stolarski, U.S. Navy
Spec 4 Ian R. Larson, U.S. Army
P2 Derek Ryan, U.S. Army
Sgt. Lou Bollasina, U.S. Army
A1C John Pipes USAF
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Clark U.S. Force
Todd Bruemer, U.S. Navy
M.K. 2 Brett Winkelmann, Coast Guard
Cpl. Matthew T. Straub, U.S. Marines
Sgt. Victor A. Will, U.S. Army
Sgt. James A. Will, U.S. Army
Tech Sgt. James Dobrynski, U.S. Air Force
SSgt. Steve Appelbaum, U.S. Air Force
Lance Cpl. Troy Smith, U.S. Marines



COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF:

December 20, 2020

Envelopes: \$3621

Loose: \$182

Parish Maintenance: \$65

Due to early bulletin submission, the December 27th collection was not available. It will be posted in the January 10th bulletin.

- Thank you to all who make our IHM Parish Family strong & caring!
- Thank you to all who give of their time and talent, helping out in so many ways!
- Thank you to all who give back to God so generously with your **hard-earned** donations

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday through Thursday
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

PARISH NEWS



ST. PATRICK'S CASSEROLES

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Because of Covid-19 we stopped the casserole program. We are going to try to start again in February, 2021.

Have you ever wondered what the priest means when he says, "You can pick up your casseroles in the back of church"? The Ladies Sodality has sponsored a program with St. Patrick's Center to make casseroles for them. We take around 30 casseroles on the 3rd Thursday of February, April, June, August, October and December to St. Patrick's Center. When I say we I mean ladies and gentlemen from the parish and even some that have moved from the parish make the casseroles for us. Everyone is welcome to participate. The Ladies Sodality supplies the containers, some of the ingredients and the recipe. You would supply the hamburger, onions, celery and the cheeses. One of the committee women would call and ask if you could do a casserole for that month. You are under no obligation to say yes for that month if you have a lot going on, she will try you the next time. All you have to do is put the recipe together, freeze it and bring it up to the IHM hall. Then we take the casseroles to St. Patrick's Center. Right now, you would maybe only have to make a casserole two or three times a year. But we are asking for your help, if you would like to be on the list to make a casserole or if you have any questions about the program, please call one of the St. Patrick's casserole committee ladies listed below.

Janet Sullivan 631-9158
Marilyn Murphy 631-8999
Eileen Schindler 329-6033

Everyone must wear a mask entering and exiting the church. Parents with children nine and under may determine when the child is old enough to attend Mass and can abide by the safety guidelines.

We ask you to please sit in the open pews away from the aisles.

Please use your own best judgement concerning when you will return to Mass. Do not jeopardize your health.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the rectory.



2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you would like your 2020 Contribution Statement mailed to you, please drop a **LONG #10 self-addressed stamped envelope in the Collection Basket**. Statements will be sent out starting the second week of January.



IHM Boy Scout Troop 179 will once again be holding its annual Super Bowl Pizza Sale Fundraiser. These pizzas are fresh, 14" and made by our Scouts themselves. All proceeds go towards helping our Scouts earn their way to Summer Camp and other activities. We will be taking orders for pizzas from now until Feb 3, 2021. Pizzas will be available for pick up in the cafeteria between 2:00 and 5:30 PM on Saturday Feb 6th. Orders can be placed with a Scout at the back of Church, or by calling John Ebert at 314-258-0613.

As always, thank you for your continued

I though you should know – January 3, 2021

Happy New Year! I hope you are thinking about a New Year's resolution. Maybe you have already made one! While I've failed to achieve many past resolutions and plans, others changed my life and still bless me today. So, this New Year at Immaculate Heart of Mary will start with a short series of homilies called "Resolve", about simple choices we can make to strengthen our resolve. I put the homily that introduced our new message series below. I hope this series helps you!

Also on the theme of resolutions, your parish staff would like to tell you more about our goal "Dramatically Better Sunday by August 15, 2021". Maybe some of you are asking, "What about our Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm?" Everything in our goal applies just as much to our Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30, because coming to our Saturday Vigil Mass is a way to worship Jesus on Sunday. It counts just as much for what we care about. The reason why we used the word "Sunday" in our goal was that the word "Sunday" was a simple way to focus on what matters most: not everything that happens on the weekend, but what happens as we gather for Eucharist.

Or, perhaps some of you are asking, "How do we draw young families if we have no school?" Our neighbor parishes with schools face the same challenges. Their Sunday congregations are shrinking as fast or faster than ours. Plus, we already have some young families that come here for Sunday Mass. Those beautiful families come here because they believe in Jesus, because they love God, and because our Sunday Mass helps them. We can help more families like them if we pray for growth and if resolve to follow where the Lord leads. Your parish staff thinks the Lord is leading us to pray well on Sunday, to invest love in the people we know, and to invite people to come to church.

Or, perhaps some of you are asking, "Can our parish really grow?" Well, the vast majority of people who live near us speak English and the biggest demographic in our neighborhood is 25 to 34 year-olds. Many of them were raised Catholic, even if they have fallen away. Even more of them believe in God, even if sometimes they struggle. Lots of people could come here to pray, if this place welcomed them, introduced them to Jesus, and helped them grow in faith and hope and love. The real question is, "Can we become a place like that?"

Merry Christmas, everyone! I hope you had a joyful celebration of the great feast day of our Lord's birth. Today we have a special day remembering the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, the human family that gave us the joy of Christmas. Their resolve to obey God blessed all of us, and we heard more of that story today. Mary and Joseph's resolve to come pray with Jesus in God's temple meant that the Prophetess Anna and everyone who heard her were blessed with the comfort and courage, and the old man Simeon was blessed with the sight of God's promise to him coming true. Think of it! The good resolve of the Holy Family meant that people saw God's promises that had hoped for so much come true. God plans something similar for you.

God's word said to us, "Put on as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another." Whoever you are, whether you are a brother or sister or uncle or aunt or cousin or mom or dad or son or daughter or grandma or poppa, you are part of a family. What blessings could come and what prayers might be answered by your resolve set aside resentment, bear with others, and forgive! God's word said to us, "He stores up riches who honors his mother; ... kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins." When you resolve to show mercy to your mother or father, your resolve opens your life to God's blessings. Yet family life is trench warfare, not air warfare, and it takes a lot of working, waiting, and giving to keep making progress little by little. It takes resolve.

Resolve is the quality that makes us firm in keeping a commitment, and it is different than willpower. Willpower is a general human quality that applies to every area of your life, and it is a lot of work to increase your level of willpower. Worth doing, sure—but it's a long process. Resolve is different. Resolve is a specific quality to keep a specific commitment. Here's examples of resolve: "I am resolved to get a new job. I am resolved to have more fun afternoons with my sister. I am resolved to go to church each weekend." You can have strong willpower, but weak resolve to keep some specific commitment; you can have weak willpower, but strong resolve to keep some specific commitment. And here's some good news: unlike willpower, resolve can be increased by simple choices. Increasing resolve is quick fix.

So we are going to take the next three weeks for a quick series of messages on resolve. Each week, we'll look a specific choice that can increase your resolve, and maybe help you know God's love for you more, too. Let me give you a preview of coming attractions, and then I'll close with a question and an invitation for the week ahead.

Circumstances can strengthen or can break our resolve: but we can shape circumstances. Our internal monologue, that voice we let talk in our head, can strength or can break our resolve, but faith in Jesus can change that interior monologue so that we can think true. Our level of clarity can strengthen or can break our resolve, but on the questions of what we are doing and whether and why it is worth it, we can get clear. Next week, we'll start going deeper on these ideas. I invite you to join us and get support for a stronger start in 2021. Meanwhile, here's a question for the week ahead. What actually counts? For the year ahead, what resolution is going to be worth your blood, sweat and tears? What is most relevant to what matters most? The clearer more you get clear on that, the stronger will be your resolve.

-Fr. Aaron Nord



IMPORTANT DATE PLEASE READ — August 15, 2021

August 15th seems like a rather normal day of the year, however for our parish and parish staff, **August 15, 2021** is the goal date that has been established for **Dramatically Better Sundays** here at Immaculate Heart of Mary! We want to be a **Growing parish of Growing disciples**.

It is quite exciting! Whether this is your first Sunday with us or if you have been here for decades, we want you to know that YOU are important to us! Our goal is to improve your Sunday experience. We want our parish to flourish and most of all we want to bring Jesus to the center of our lives.

We have six steps in place to help us accomplish the goal. I will be presenting each step in the following weeks. It has always been important to have a place where we can feel welcome, go for support and know that you matter. We believe 2020 has increased the need for all of these needs.

Reminds me of the words from the theme song for Cheers:

Making your way in the world today
Takes everything you've got
Taking a break from all your worries
Sure would help a lot
Wouldn't you like to get away

Sometimes you want to go
Where everybody knows your name
And they are glad you came.....

It is our hope and prayer that Immaculate Heart of Mary is a place where you can find solace, support and grow closer to the Lord, through a Warm Welcome, Moving Music, Relevant Message, Faith Family, Continual Learning and by Communicating our Vision.

COVID, IHM and 2021

We are very aware and conscientious about the safety of our parishioners and guests. Please know that your safety and wellbeing is important. We continue to follow guidelines of wearing masks, social distancing, hand sanitizing, cleanliness and more to make our parish a safe environment.

To those who are able to attend Mass, we are glad you are with us. For those who cannot at this time; know that you are not forgotten. We realize and understand that watching Mass as home is not the same as being with your parish family, in the church and receiving Jesus in Communion. We are saddened by the circumstances. We hold everyone in our prayers.

We know the importance of being connected to our parish. To help with that connection, we are working diligently to bring Live Streaming to Immaculate Heart of Mary. We are researching and taking action to make sure that it will be available in the near future. We want to bring you the best quality possible, to enhance your viewing of our Masses. YOU matter to us!

For those who do not know about Live Streaming; If you have internet service on your phone, tablet or computer, you will be able to go to our parish website www.ihm-stl.org and find Live Stream where you can watch live and prerecorded.

Thank you, Debbie Gartner



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ON-LINE DONATIONS
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Parish available through our
website!

Please click on the **Give to IHM** button on our homepage (www.ihm-stl.org) to set up your donation. One-time and recurring (weekly, monthly and yearly) options are available.

All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law, and your on-line donation will be confirmed by a receipt from the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Thank you for your generosity to our parish!

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Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Evangelization

The Gospel today is certainly appropriate for our reflections on evangelization. The wise men journey from the East to pay homage to the King of the World. They then return to their homeland. Evangelization follows a similar process. We must give our Lord homage and worship and journey to see Him and know Him better. Only then, after we have spent time in prayer and worship, can we share the fruits of our prayer with others. Evangelization is sharing our experience of Jesus Christ with others and guiding them into relationship of joy with Him as well. Consider how often you share the Good News of Christ with others in simple ways and in more bold ways. Would there be enough evidence in your home that you are Catholic and follow Jesus Christ?

archstl.org/dynamic

Email Please!

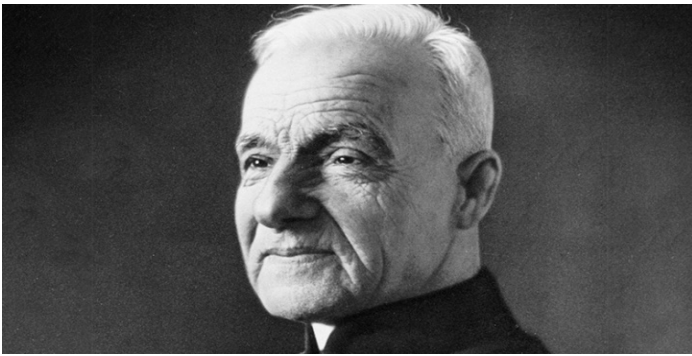
We would love if you would share your email with us! Your email would be used for parish communication only. If you would like to share your email address with us, please send an email to dgartner@ihm-stl.org.



JOKE OF THE WEEK



Saint of the Week



Saint André Bessette
Saint of the Day for January 6

Saint André Bessette's Story

Brother André expressed a saint's faith by a lifelong devotion to Saint Joseph.

Sickness and weakness dogged André from birth. He was the eighth of 12 children born to a French Canadian couple near Montreal. Adopted at 12, when both parents had died, he became a farmhand. Various trades followed: shoemaker, baker, blacksmith—all failures. He was a factory worker in the United States during the boom times of the Civil War.

At 25, André applied for entrance into the Congregation of Holy Cross. After a year's novitiate, he was not admitted because of his weak health. But with an extension and the urging of Bishop Bourget, he was finally received. He was given the humble job of door-keeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, with additional duties as sacristan, laundry worker and messenger. "When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and I remained 40 years," he said.

In his little room near the door, he spent much of the night on his knees. On his windowsill, facing Mount Royal, was a small statue of Saint Joseph, to whom he had been devoted since childhood. When asked about it he said, "Some day, Saint Joseph is going to be honored in a very special way on Mount Royal!"

When he heard someone was ill, he visited to bring cheer and to pray with the sick person. He would rub the sick person lightly with oil taken from a lamp burning in the college chapel. Word of healing powers began to spread.

When an epidemic broke out at a nearby college, André volunteered to nurse. Not one person died. The trickle of sick people to his door became a flood. His superiors were uneasy; diocesan authorities were suspicious; doctors called him a quack. "I do not cure," he said again and again. "Saint Joseph cures." In the end he needed four secretaries to handle the 80,000 letters he received each year.

For many years the Holy Cross authorities had tried to buy land on Mount Royal. Brother André and others climbed the steep hill and planted medals of Saint Joseph. Suddenly, the owners yielded. André collected \$200 to build a small chapel and began receiving visitors there—smiling through long hours of listening, applying Saint Joseph's oil. Some were cured, some not. The pile of crutches, canes and braces grew.

The chapel also grew. By 1931, there were gleaming walls, but money ran out. "Put a statue of Saint Joseph in the middle. If he wants a roof over his head, he'll get it." The magnificent Oratory on Mount Royal took 50 years to build. The sickly boy who could not hold a job died at 92.

He is buried at the Oratory. He was beatified in 1982 and canonized in 2010. At his canonization in October 2010, Pope Benedict XVI said that Saint Andre "lived the beatitude of the pure of heart."

Reflection

Rubbing ailing limbs with oil or a medal? Planting a medal to buy land? Isn't this superstition? Aren't we long past that? Superstitious people rely only on the "magic" of a word or action. Brother André's oil and medals were authentic sacramentals of a simple, total faith in the Father who lets his saints help him bless his children



ROSES FOR EXPECTANT MOMS!!!

If you are expecting a child, we as a Parish would like to pray for you throughout your pregnancy. There are red roses on the table in front of the Blessed Mother's statue in the back of Church. Please write the parents-to-be names and due date on the card attached to one of the roses asking for prayers until the delivery. After baby(ies) arrive, please call Kathy at 314-832-6553. We will then share your blessing in our bulletin.

Keep the following couples in your prayers:

Jessica & Patrick	December
Teresa & Mike	January
Shannon & Andrew	March
Michael & Kat	July

God Bless,
Immaculate Heart of Mary Pro-Life

ROSES FOR LIFE

Please note that next weekend, January 9th & 10th, we will conduct our annual PRO LIFE "ROSES FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN".....

Tables will be set up in the back of church, one at each door entrance, and one at the east entrance to church, by the parking lot.

Please sign one with your name and address and place in the basket on the table.

We will then mail these to our two senators and representative in Washington, DC, so they will receive them on January 22, 2021, the horrific anniversary date, when abortion was legalized!! (Roe vs Wade)

Please continue to pray for an end to abortion! It is unconceivable what we have done to and do, to his most precious gift of life he gave us, our innocent babies!! God have mercy on us all!

Thank you for your continued help!!!

Your Pro Life Committee
832-6553

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS

January 2/3rd

4:30 p.m.	Art Benjamin
7:30 a.m.	Mike Kuhlman
10:00 a.m.	Becky Will

January 9/10th

4:30 p.m.	Darlene Kustra
7:30 a.m.	Howie Hirschfield
10:00 a.m.	Judy Hudson

January 16/17th

4:30 p.m.	John Ruzicka
7:30 a.m.	Glenn Mertens
10:00 a.m.	Barb Vineyard



Table of Plenty

We are in desperate need of volunteers for our Table of Plenty program.

If you are able to help by taking food to those who are unable to leave their home, please contact the rectory office at 314-481-7543.



7-Session Virtual Enrichment Experience

Mon/ Thur Evenings: January 18-February 8, 2021

Starting at 7:00 p.m.

Apply online: <https://stl-wwme.org>

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