

Welcome to

Holy Trinity Parish

407 Cherry St.
Weston, MO 64098
www.holytrinitycatholic.org

Twelve Apostles Parish

Church: 17900 Humphrey's Rd.
Platte City, MO 64079
Office/mail address: 407 Cherry, Weston, MO 64098
www.twelveapostlescatholic.org

Telephone: 816-640-2206

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time January 24, 2016

Do not be sad and do not
weep - for rejoicing in the
Lord must be
your
strength



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Today's reading from the Gospel of Luke offers us the first words of Jesus as he begins his public ministry. The words reflect his understanding of his Spirit-anointed mission. His words are his "Mission Statement." Good stewards rejoice in being followers of Jesus. They realize that Jesus' commission is their commission as well. They embrace it and adopt it as their own. We, too, have "glad tidings" to bring to a suffering world. This year, how will we fulfill Christ's commission in the world in which he has placed us, using the gifts he has entrusted to us?

International Catholic Stewardship Council E-news January 2016

Mass Times:

Saturday 5:00 PM – Twelve Apostles Church
Sunday 7:30 AM – Holy Trinity Church
9:00 AM – Twelve Apostles Church
10:45 AM – Holy Trinity Church

Weekday Mass times are listed inside the bulletin.

Confessions heard: Saturdays: 3:15-3:45 PM at Holy Trinity; 4:15-4:45 PM at XII Apostles; First Fridays after 8am Mass & anytime by appt.

Anointing of the Sick: Please contact the pastor, preferably before going to the hospital, to receive this Sacrament.

Parish Staff:

Father Steven C. Rogers - x203, pastorHT-XII@kc.rr.com
Mrs. Julie Hoffman, Office Manager - x201, secyHT-XII@kc.rr.com
Mrs. Susanna Bartee, Holy Trinity Dir. of Rel. Ed.-x200; dreHT@kc.rr.com
Ms. Katie Troup -x304, DRE-XII Apostles: dreXII@kc.rr.com; Youth Minister--both parishes: ymht-xii@kc.rr.com
Mrs. Judy Sloan, Child Care Coordinator (offered during 7:30am & 10:45am Masses at Holy Trinity)
Mrs. Darlene Darby, Office Assistant, x202
Mr. Gary Loveless, Holy Trinity Custodian/Maintenance
Mrs. Maureen Vernon, Parishes' Safe Environment Coordinator

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you *observe or suspect* sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
 2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
 3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected *sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult* to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Jenifer Valenti, at 816.812.2500 or JeniferValenti@att.net, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.
- The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Victim Advocate Kathleen Chastain at 816.392.0011 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

Office Hours: M, W, Th, F – 9AM-Noon, 1-4PM (closed Tuesdays); PSR Office Hours: M & W–10AM-Noon, 1-4PM

Bulletin deadline: 8am Wednesday. Please notify us of change of address, phone, email, etc.

New Parishioners: Welcome! Holy Trinity and Twelve Apostles have been serving the northern Platte County area since 1842 and 2008, respectively. **We welcome all guests and newcomers to our parish families!** Newcomers are asked to register at the earliest opportunity. Forms are available in the back of church, on our websites, or from the parish office. We look forward to knowing you!

Is A Wedding or Baptism in Your Plans? Congratulations! Remember: sacramental preparation is required prior to these events. You must be a registered parishioner for the past year or have a letter from your previous pastor before dates are scheduled.

Weddings: Parishioners wanting to be married should contact Fr. Rogers nine months in advance.

Baptism: Expectant parents should contact Fr. Rogers comfortably prior to the baby's birth for baptism preparation.

First Penance/Eucharist, Confirmation: Children preparing for these sacraments must have completed the prior year of religious education.

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 24 Jan 2016
Readings: p. 63 in *Breaking Bread*

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 23

5:00pm--XII +Special Intention

Sunday, January 24

7:30am-HT +Rev. John Wandless

9:00am--XII Parishioners of XII Apostles

10:45am-HT Parishioners of Holy Trinity

NO WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK

Saturday, January 30

5:00pm--XII +Special Intention

Sunday, January 31

7:30am-HT Private Intention

9:00am--XII Parishioners of XII Apostles

10:45am-HT Parishioners of Holy Trinity

FLOOD RELIEF:

A message from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops: **An EMERGENCY COLLECTION will be taken up Jan 23-24** for the humanitarian and institutional Church needs created by the storms in the South & Midwest regions of the U.S. that began before Christmas 2015.



From the MCC/Missouri Catholic Conference: The end of 2015 left Missouri in a state of emergency after days of continuous rain resulted in record-breaking floodwaters. During the first week of 2016, 200 roads in Missouri were closed due to flooding, leaving many residents isolated and unable to reach safety. The damage to homes, buildings and lives goes beyond monetary value. Those affected have and will continue to undergo emotional stress in their struggle to rebuild their lives. Catholic organizations around the state, especially in the St. Louis area, are working to help those affected by giving them shelter and assistance in getting their lives back in order.

Please consider a generous gift to the special second collection for flood relief this weekend.

There are "SPECIAL OFFERING" envelopes on the table with the bulletins or in the pews for your contribution.

Please note: Father Rogers will be out of the office this week, through February 2, thus there will be no weekday Masses until Wednesday, February 3.

SPECIAL QUILTING SESSION

THIS SUNDAY—12-4PM

The Quilt Group is well on its way to having nine or more jean quilts to pass along to the homeless. Help is needed to finish up the quilts; they will meet this Sunday, January 24, at Holy Trinity, from Noon-4pm and welcome anyone who would like to help. Questions? Call Lori Mathews at 807-3220.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation Group meets each Sunday from 9:00- 10:30 AM in Holy Trinity Parish Hall for coffee, fellowship and faith formation. We are watching some inspiring talks by Bishop Robert Barron followed by group discussion. Please join us! No advance preparation is required!

Join us for a fresh start on your spiritual journey with **33 Days to Morning Glory**, an easy DIY retreat in preparation for consecration to Jesus through Mary! Whether it is your first or repeat consecration, all are welcome! Meetings will be held on Monday evenings, 6:30-8:30 PM, for six weeks, beginning February 15, in the home of Lisa Mancin, 18385 371 Hwy, Platte City. Consecration day is the Annunciation, March 25. Please call or text Shirley Goode, 816-225-4274, to register or for questions.

RCIA continues this Wednesday, Jan. 27, 7pm, at Holy Trinity.

20s & 30s Young Adult Group: Class continues at the home of Chris & Katie Barmann, 17605 N Braeburn Ct., Platte City, on Mondays, January 25, and February 1, 6:30-8pm. Free childcare at Seven Bridges Clubhouse; drop off at 6:15pm. Questions, call Katie at 608-347-4757 or Chris at 816-589-9148. If you've thought about coming, we would love to have you!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS for all....

FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP FOR YOUTH AGES 9-14--Twelve Apostles Knights of Columbus Council will conduct the Knights of Columbus' 45th Annual Free Throw Championship on Sunday, January 31, at the Platte County Community Center North (Y) from 2:00-4:00PM. Since we are a new council, this will be our 1st Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship.

ALL boys and girls, ages 9-14 (as of Jan. 1, 2016), are invited to participate. A contestant's father does not have to be a member of the Knights nor does a contestant have to be Catholic. All participants compete in their respective age and gender divisions, and will be required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent at the contest. Contestants may live anywhere, but can only compete in ONE local council level competition. Winners will advance to the District, Regional and State levels of competition in the Knights of Columbus. There is no cost for participating.

Volunteers from the Knights of Columbus and their families are needed to help run the contest. Contact Jim Begani, this year's chairman, at (816) 891-7166, or at jbegani@qvmsservices.com.

WELCOME--Twelve Apostles Knights of Columbus Council would like to welcome the newest members of our council: John Bennett and Jeff Holmes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR 1ST PANCAKE BREAKFAST--Twelve Apostles Council No. 16189 thanks everyone for your attendance, volunteer help, and donations that have allowed us to purchase all equipment and supplies needed to serve our pancake breakfasts. We held our 1st breakfast at Northland Career Center cafeteria on Sunday, January 10. We want to especially thank Paul Bobowski who is serving as our initial Chairman this fraternal year.

Our next breakfast will be held on Sunday, February 28. Contact Paul Bobowski at (816) 668-7199 if you wish to volunteer to help in any way.

FEBRUARY MEETING TIME CHANGE--Since Twelve Apostles Council's next meeting falls on Ash Wednesday, February 10, we will change our starting time to 8PM. All members are invited to attend our meeting after attending the 7pm Ash Wednesday Mass at Twelve Apostles.

Applications for Knights of Columbus scholarships, fellowships and grants are due as follows. (Scholarships are available to Knights and their families.)
(1) FEBRUARY 15, 2016 DEADLINE for scholarship applications to the **Missouri State Council**. Contact mokofc.org for application forms and information, or contact Mike Deamos, Scholarships Chairman at (660) 584-7234.
(2) MARCH 1, 2016 DEADLINE for scholarship applications to the **National Office of the Knights of Columbus**. Contact the Dept. of Scholarships, at (203) 752-4332 or at kofc.org/scholarships.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

We offer our prayerful condolences to Dan & Vonda Ovaitt & family on the death of Dan's mother, Mildred Ovaitt. May she rest in peace and may God comfort all who mourn her.

CHOCOPALOOZA and ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPER

Holy Trinity Women's Guild will again host "Chocopalooza" - a celebration of all things chocolate—after both Masses on Sunday, February 7.



And, as is our long-time tradition, we will host a simple soup supper after our 6pm Ash Wednesday Mass on February 10. We are looking for 15 people to share a crockpot of meatless soup. Please contact Martha Carletti at mcarletti@benedictine.edu or call/text 816-8510-4013 if you can help.

Living Mercy in the Jubilee Year of Mercy KNOW! GROW! GO!

Our parishes' response to the collection for Uplift has been truly heartwarming. Thank you! Donations to-date have been delivered and are surely appreciated during this cold weather. We will continue to accept donations for Uplift through next weekend, Jan. 31.

Please see the flyer on the table with the bulletins for a complete list of items needed.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET HAD A CHANCE TO SEE THE "THANK YOU" VIDEO FROM BEAUTY FOR ASHES (FOR OUR COLLECTION FOR THEIR XMAS BANQUET), CHECK IT OUT ON OUR WEBSITES!



POTLUCK DINNER

Our next Year of Mercy potluck will be Saturday, February 6, at 6:30pm, at Holy Trinity. Father Rogers will speak on how to minister to/welcome the alienated and "fallen-away" Catholic, and Sr. Rita Killackey on the healing aspects of annulments. All are welcome. Bring a dish to share.

KATIE'S CORNER YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS



HT/XII
Youth Group

Confirmation:

Thank you to our chaperones for the retreat this past weekend: Mark Reichert, Jim Sullivan, and Amber Cook.

Our next class is January 31, 9am at Holy Trinity, 3pm at XII Apostles—*Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit*.

If you haven't signed up for a Confirmation interview yet, please do so ASAP.

Youth Group (Grades 7-12)

We are beginning a new program this semester called Decision Point. Join us for the first session on January 31, 1:30-3pm at XII Apostles for Your Choices Matter. We'll look into how to make better choices and we'll have some fun along the way.

TWELVE APOSTLES NEWS

PSR News:

Parents of Second Graders: we will have a meeting to discuss First Communion next weekend, January 31, during PSR class time. Please join us in the cafeteria.



Eucharistic Adoration during Lent:

The Lenten season in this Jubilee Year of Mercy is quickly approaching. XII Apostles Parish will offer Lenten Adoration opportunities on each of the Lenten Thursdays:

**February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17
3:00 – 7:30 PM**

7:30 - Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Please commit to hours of Adoration on the Thursdays of Lent.

A sign-up board is located in the narthex.

Sunday evening opportunities on the first and third Sundays continue: February 7, 21, March 6, 20. 5:00 – 6:00 PM

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES: This week you received (or should soon receive) a letter from Father Rogers asking you to review your pledge to the financial support of Twelve Apostles. Please return pledge card as soon as possible. Thank you so much for your support.

Reminder: if you use the blank gold building fund envelopes (found in the narthex) for a building fund contribution, be sure to include your name on the outside of the envelope so we can give you credit. Thank you!

REMINDER: Parish photo-directory — if you had your photo taken for the parish photo-directory and have not yet picked yours up, they are located on the table near the bulletin board in the narthex. You will find yours in an envelope with your name on it.

RETREAT—Sophia Spirituality Center, Atchison, KS

Walking Through Lent in God's Mercy

Thursdays, February 18 & 25, March 3 & 10 -- 10 am – 11:30 am

This four week series will explore the ideas and values of Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of God's Mercy. Come and spend time with the Scriptures, Pope Francis' words, Church teachings and our life experience. The retreat is led by Sister Mary Elizabeth Schweiger, OSB, staff member of Sophia Center. She holds a degree in Christian spirituality with certification in spiritual direction.

For more information or to register, call 913-360-6151 or visit Sophia Spirituality Center's website at www.sophiaspiritualitycenter.org

USING YOUR SUPPORT ENVELOPES whenever possible makes it easier for our volunteer collection counters to record your contributions. Thanks for using your envelopes for our weekly offertory, building fund, and second collections.

CONTRIBUTION ACKNOWLEDGMENTS have been or will be mailed to all registered households by the end of January. If you have any questions about your statement, please do not hesitate to contact us at the parish office.

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN....

Ruby Deux was considered to be a loner. It wasn't her choice. She was snubbed, shunned, spurned and scorned by all the people in her life. Although no one had a good reason to avoid her. She wasn't violent or aggressive, she wasn't a witch, she wasn't a criminal. The rumor mill grinds foul grain. Rumors reduced Ruby to being peculiar, creepy and weird in a threatening way. The rumors started to fly the night she was born. The little family she had referred to her as a "mistake."

She had been bounced around, in a bad way, until she was seven when an old woman started to care for her. Ruby was sure she had a mother, only she had never met her, or her father. That meant she had a grand mammy too, only they were nowhere to be found. Still it didn't feel right leaving them out of her life even though they were never in it. Ruby called the old woman her Auntie. Calling her Auntie was more than an endearment, it helped connect her to something significant and special.

Auntie always told her, "Ruby, you were not a mistake, you were a surprise." Ruby never allowed herself to feel the difference. Auntie renamed her Ruby, but her birth name was Mae, "You are a precious jewel in the eyes of God, rare like a ruby, rich in color and as valuable as gold. Don't you forget it!" But Ruby couldn't grasp the full meaning of being a surprise. All the rumors haunted her spirit and convinced her otherwise. The rumors crafted her to be a potion brewing, spell-conjuring witch, and an immoral woman of the night. Ruby was born with somebody else's past; she had no future.

Ruby had no children. She had no husband. No formal education. When Auntie died, Ruby was alone. Being alone didn't stop the rumors. The rumors kept her on the wrong side of the tracks and on the darkest side of the color spectrum. She didn't work; no one would hire her. She had no family; rarely did anyone come for a visit.

She lived in a shack on the outskirts of town. Auntie had given the property to her after she died. It was a one room hut with a tin roof that leaked like a sieve. It looked more like a shed for livestock than it did a home for a human. Not having much made the shack look even smaller. She cooked outside over an open fire, and there she washed her clothes. There she canned her food. Most things were done outside. The privy wasn't luxurious like an outhouse. It was humble and discreet, just a bare necessity.

She grew herbs, vegetables, and chickens. She drew water, sweet and salty, from an old well, and harvested honey from a string of bee hives twice as old as her Auntie. Auntie had recovered the hives from a trash heap when she was a little girl. Rejected, beaten down and worn out, those hives produced more clover honey in one year than Ruby could have used in a lifetime. She sold the extra honey to church-goers for their Sunday dinners of chicken and biscuits. She sold lots of honey along with mint and lemon balm for Sunday tea. With every transaction came a reaction, "Don't be blabbing your big mouth now, no one needs to know I was here." Ruby had no one to blab it to, she was all by herself, fated from her beginning. She didn't resent that fact, she accepted it. It was a blessing.

Ruby managed well; the rumors were for everyone else. That's what kept them away; that's why she was a loner. The rumors had nothing to do with Ruby. Ruby was Ruby. Rumors were rumors. Her situation was sad, but she wasn't. She rejoiced in her many blessings. She had her chickens and bees. She had her bible. Auntie had taught her to read. With her bible in hand, she was never alone.

My good friend Susan Sullivan introduced me to Ruby. Susan was a social worker and kept a protective eye on Ruby. Susan liked honey and she like Ruby. They shared something in common. Ruby was kept out, and Susan felt like an outcast. Susan had grown up in a prominent family, well off, and well known. Susan chose not to work in the business that had made the family fortune, instead she chose social work. Over time Susan became estranged from her family and friends. That made her feel like an outcast, alone and beaten down, but hanging out with Ruby lifted up her spirit. Ruby was authentic and real.

The year was 1999. Y2K was on the top of people's minds. The world was going to end at the stroke of midnight, the Times Square crystal ball would crash to the ground, burst into a gazillion pieces like life itself, and all would be lost. No one would survive, except for

people like Ruby, who didn't know any better. Truth be told, people feared their lives would be reduced to the life of Ruby. Y2K meant nothing to Ruby; she knew how to survive.

The day Susan and I paid Ruby a visit, Ruby offered us her remedy for the 21st Century, a turning point in life. With a wicked grin, Ruby laughed, "I've got a millennium potion sure to cure all that ails you! I call it 'Y2K', to kill the blues away." Ruby sang as she worked. Susan and I watched and listened with rapt attention. Ruby gave us each a large plastic jug of sun-brewed tea, sweetened with an herb infused honey. It was powerfully delicious, wickedly good to say the least. Ruby was so interesting and charming and joyous, neither Susan nor I thought to be suspicious. We had tea with Ruby and life was grand.

That year the Catholic Church hung banners at the doorways to all the sanctuaries throughout the world, "Open wide your doors to Christ!" At a time when the outlook was low, this motto helped to boost people's spirits high. The Holy Doors were opened in Rome, and all the church doors opened with a giant welcome. With Ruby's tea and the banner of the church hanging high, the future looked great. That day with Ruby, Susan and I talked about promise and possibility about how wonderful the world would be if people really 'got it'. Ruby pretended to give us space and let us rejoice as she went about preparing our jars of honey, but she captured every word spoken.

On Easter Sunday of the year of 2000, Susan and I met at church. I was a regular and Susan had not been to church in many, many years. As the saying goes, Susan was nervous in church. She joked about being struck by lightning. I liked to sit up front but Susan felt she should stay close to the back, near an exit. We compromised and sat near the aisle in the middle of the church.

As the opening hymn was being sung, I looked over to Susan and noticed she was sweating bullets. "Are you okay? Is lightning about to strike?" I asked. "I'm fine!" she snapped. "Just breathe," I said. "I can't."

The music ended; people sat down in their pews. Susan stepped into the aisle and started to run out of the church when something came over her. She stopped cold in her tracks. She froze. Not a muscle moved. She looked like she had stopped breathing. Susan stared forward, her eyes glazed over, her mouth gaped open; she was cold like a dead trout. Her reaction made me think the church might have been struck by lightning. Laughing, I stood up and stepped toward her to offer some assistance. She motioned for me to stop as she stared forward.

Suddenly, I and half the congregation turned to see what had fixated Susan. Whispers from the back pew broke the prayerful silence. "Oh, my Lord!" "What's going on?" "Who is that?" "I never thought I would live to see that." "WOW!" Tears poured down Susan's cheeks, "That's the most beautiful thing I have ever experienced!" She stepped forward and stretched out her arms.

Before her was Ruby Deux, dressed to the nines, in a designer dress, with a designer bag, high heels, wearing a big Easter hat, and bible in hand. Honey sales had been good that year. Ruby grinned from ear to ear as she walked up the center aisle toward Susan and me. The rumor waters parted that day. Ruby embraced Susan and said, "You said, 'All are welcome!' I'll never forget it!" The outcast and the one kept out stood together, united in the house of God, with the people of God. That's a sign of the resurrection. That's God's mercy in motion. What a beautiful cure for the Y2K blues.

The Holy Doors were opened for the year of the Millennium. The same doors are opened now. The doors to Christ open wide to where the people are. The Holy Doors have opened for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Let us open wide our doors to where the people are, embrace and welcome all the Ruby Deuxs in our midst. Who knows, they may have a cure that takes care of all that ails us today. We are in need of a good potion.

I say, it is time to have tea with Ruby Deux.

In Christ,

