



Sts. Joachim & Ann Parish

4112 McClay Road • St. Charles, MO 63304-7918

636.441.7503 • Fax: 636.441.6574

*Parish Website: www.stsja.org *Archdiocesan Website: www.archstl.org

Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Friday; 9:00am to 4:00pm
(Closed for lunch Noon to 12:45pm)

Deadline for submittals for the Parish

Bulletin: Tuesdays at Noon to
jvanacker@stsja.org

Eucharistic Schedule

Eve of Sunday 5:00pm
Sundays 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am
Daily 6:30am; 8:00am

Eucharistic Adoration

9:00am Tuesday until 7:15pm Wednesday
6:00pm Saturday until 7:00am Sunday

Sacrament of Penance

Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:45pm or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism

Parents must be registered parishioners and practicing Catholics who have participated in the Baptismal Preparation Program. Contact the Parish Office for details.

Sacrament of Matrimony

At least one party of the couple must be a registered parishioner and a fully initiated practicing Catholic. Contact the parish priest of your choice at least six months in advance of the desired wedding date to arrange for marriage preparation.

Holy Orders & Consecrated Life

Those discerning a vocation to priesthood or consecrated life are encouraged to contact one of the parish priests for information and referral to the Archdiocesan Vocation Office.

Eucharist for the Homebound

Contact the parish office to arrange for the Eucharist to be brought to your home during a period of infirmity.

Crisis Pregnancy Assistance

Birthing - St. Charles	636-724-1200
Pregnancy Resource Center	636-278-1212
Project Rachel	314-792-7565
Priests for Life	1-888-PFL-3448
Mary Queen of Angels	636-379-5070

Sts. Joachim and Ann

Care Service 636.441.1302

Serving those in crisis and preventing homelessness and hunger in St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren Counties since 1981

Ministries and Services

Pastor	Rev. John A. Brockland, JCL	441.7503
Associate Pastor	Rev. James L. Gahan	441.7503
Deacon	Deacon Tim Schultz	441.7503
Deacon	Deacon Jack Lipin	441.7503
School Principal	Mrs. Debbie Pecher	441.4835
DRE Children's Programs	Mrs. Rose Wieschhaus	926.0021
Parish School of Religion	Mrs. Rose Wieschhaus	926.0021
Altar Society	Mrs. Julie Huber	441.9667
Athletic Association	Mrs. Shannon Schultz	314.651.7114
Bereavement Ministry	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Potts	939.3428
Bereavement Ministry	Mrs. Pat Bennett	636.544.4600
Bl. Teresa Outreach	Mrs. Connie Tarin	636.634.0317
Boy Scouts	Mr. Mike Venegoni	279.1127
Care Service	Mrs. Miriam Mahan	441.1302
Cub Scouts	Mr. Michael Woodruff	314.482.5629
Donut Sunday	Mr. Roger Worner	447.6792
Eucharistic Adoration	Mrs. Kathy Rodamaker	636.352.9341
Eucharist for the Homebound	Mrs. Jayne Gilfoil	922.4466
Evangelization	Mrs. Jackie Zoll	636.734.4653
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Rev. James Gahan	441.7503
Facilities Oversight	Mr. Del Zerjav	441.4461
Finance Council	Mrs. Jan Difatta	244.0122
Funeral Luncheons	Mrs. Jeanette Gray	939.4550
Groundskeeping Committee	Mr. & Mrs. Dave Hoban	636.244.0302
Girl Scouts	Mrs. Patty Hough	636.697.6489
JASSS	Mrs. Betty Lickenbrock	936.0308
Knights of Columbus	Mr. Deaton Ellis	636.579.9052
Ladies' Club	Mrs. Helen Vernier	922.7573
Lectors	Mrs. Pat Maher	314.691.0112
Liturgical Art/Environ.	Rev. James Gahan	441.7503
Liturgy Committee	Rev. James Gahan	441.7503
Liturgy for Children	Mrs. Kathy Bendyk	441.5336
Men's Club	Mr. John Hoelscher	928.0650
Money Counters	Mrs. Mary Ann Grahn	441.3362
Music Ministries	Mr. Orin Johnson	636.980.6255
Nursing Home Min.	Mrs. Norma Hitt	970.2052
Parish Pastoral Council	Ms. Jane Muich	922.1315
Parish Picnic	Mr. Phil Dukeman	314.397.0411
Prayer Chain	Mr. Rich Rodamaker	636.578.7202
Pro-Life Apostolate	Mrs. Mary Auer	939.4953
PTO	Mrs. Maggie Brewer	314.602.7044
Sacristan Ministry	Mr. Steve Yallaly	447.1475
Safe Environment	Mrs. JoAnne Van Acker	441.7503
School Board	Mr. Tim Wheeler	314.619.3331
Servers	Rev. James Gahan	441.7503
Social Justice in Action Committee	Mrs. Miriam Mahan	441.1302, X-230
Sunday Morning Nursery	Mrs. Rose Wieschhaus	926.0021
Sunday Preschool	Mrs. Dee Yust	928.6642
St. Patrick Casseroles	Mrs. Mary Lopez	397.4815
Stitches for Life	Mrs. Molly Rudy	447.7566
Technology Committee	Mr. Mike Oberhill	441.3815
Technology Committee	Mr. Patrick Swackhammer	636.336.2345
Ushers & Ministers of Hospitality	Mrs. Adeline Callahan	636.447.7565
Youth Ministry	Rectory Office	441.7503

A Pastor's Perspective...A continuation of the Papal Bull of Indiction of the Holy Year THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

+ FRANCIS

6. "It is proper to God to exercise mercy, and he manifests his omnipotence particularly in this way". St. Thomas Aquinas' words show that God's mercy, rather than a sign of weakness, is the mark of his omnipotence. For this reason the liturgy, in one of its most ancient prayers, has us pray: "O God, who have revealed your power above all in your mercy and forgiveness..." Throughout the history of humanity, God will always be the One who is present, close, provident, holy, and merciful.

"Patient and merciful." These words often go together in the Old Testament to describe God's nature. His being merciful in concretely demonstrated in his many actions throughout the history of salvation where his goodness prevails over punishment and destruction. In a special way the Psalms bring to the fore the grandeur of his merciful action: "He forgives all your iniquity, he heals all your diseases, he redeems your life from the pit, he crowns you with steadfast love and mercy" (Ps 103:3-4). Another psalm, in an even more explicit way, attests to the concrete signs of his mercy: "He executes justice for the oppressed; he gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the sojourners, he upholds the widow and the fatherless; but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin" (Ps 146:7-9). Here are some other expressions of the Psalmist: "He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds... The Lord lifts up the downtrodden, he casts the wicked to the ground" (Ps 147:3, 6). In short, the mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality with which he reveals his love as that of a father or a mother, moved to the very depths out of love for their child. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that this is a "visceral" love. It gushes forth from the depths naturally, full of tenderness and compassion, indulgence and mercy.

7. "For his mercy endures forever." This is the refrain that repeats after each verse in Psalm 136 as it narrates the history of God's revelation. By virtue of mercy, all the events of the Old Testament are replete with profound salvific import. Mercy renders God's history with Israel a history of salvation. To repeat continually "for his mercy endures forever," as the psalm does, seems to break through the dimensions of space and time, inserting everything into the eternal mystery of love. It is as if to say that not only in history, but for all eternity man will always be under the merciful gaze of the Father. It is no accident that the people of Israel wanted to include this psalm – the "Great Hallel," as it is called – in its most important liturgical feast days.

Before his Passion, Jesus prayed with this psalm of mercy. Matthew attests to this in his Gospel when he says that, "when they had sung a hymn" (26:30), Jesus and his disciples went out to the Mount of Olives. While he was instituting the Eucharist as an everlasting memorial of himself and his paschal sacrifice, he symbolically placed this supreme act of revelation in the light of his mercy. Within the very same context of mercy, Jesus entered upon his passion and death, conscious of the great mystery of love that he would consummate on the Cross. Knowing that Jesus himself prayed this psalm makes it ever more important for us as Christians, challenging us to take up the refrain in our daily lives by praying these words of praise: "for his mercy endures forever."

8. With our eyes fixed on Jesus and his merciful gaze, we experience the love of the Most Holy Trinity. The mission Jesus received from the Father was that of revealing the mystery of divine love in its fullness. "God is love" (Jn 4:8, 16), John affirms for the first and only time in all of Holy Scripture. This love has now been made visible and tangible in Jesus' entire life. His person is nothing but love, a love given gratuitously. The relationships he forms with the people who approach him manifest something entirely unique and unrepeatable. The signs he works, especially in favor of sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick,

and the suffering, are all meant to teach mercy. Everything in him speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of compassion.

Jesus, seeing the crowds of people who followed him, realized that they were tired and exhausted, lost and without a guide, and he felt deep compassion for them (Mt 9:36). On the basis of this compassionate love he healed the sick who were presented to him (Mt 14:14), and with just a few loaves of bread and fish he satisfied the enormous crowd (Mt 15:37). What moved Jesus in all these situations was nothing other than mercy, with which he read the hearts of those he encountered and responded to their deepest need. When he came upon the widow of Nain taking her son out for burial, he felt great compassion for the immense suffering of this grieving mother, and he gave back her son by raising him from the dead (Lk 7:15). After freeing the demoniac in the country of the Gerasenes, Jesus entrusted him with this mission: "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you" (Mk 5:19). The calling of Matthew is also presented within the context of mercy. Passing by the tax collector's booth, Jesus looked intently at Matthew. It was a look full of mercy that forgave the sins of that man, a sinner and a tax collector, whom Jesus chose – against the hesitation of the disciples – to become one of the Twelve. Saint Bede the Venerable, commenting on this Gospel passage, wrote that Jesus looked upon Matthew with merciful love and chose him (*miserando atque eligendo*). This expression impressed me so much that I chose it for my episcopal motto.

9. In the parables devoted to mercy, Jesus reveals the nature of God as that of a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy. We know these parables well, three in particular: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the father with two sons (Lk 15:1-32). In these parables, God is always presented as full of joy, especially when he pardons. In them we find the core of the Gospel and of our faith, because mercy is presented as a force that overcomes everything, filling the heart with love and bringing consolation through pardon.

From another parable, we cull an important teaching for our Christian lives. In reply to Peter's question about how many times it is necessary to forgive, Jesus says: "I do not say seven times, but seventy times seven times" (Mt 18:22). He then goes on to tell the parable of the "ruthless servant" who, called by his master to return a huge amount, begs him on his knees for mercy. His master cancels his debt. But he then meets a fellow servant who owes him a few cents and who in turn begs on his knees for mercy, but the first servant refuses his request and throws him into jail. When the master hears of the matter, he becomes infuriated and, summoning the first servant back to him, says, "Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" (Mt 18:33). Jesus concludes, "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart" (Mt 18:35).

This parable contains a profound teaching for all of us. Jesus affirms that mercy is not only an action of the Father, it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are. In short, we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. Pardoning offences becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves. At times how hard it seems to forgive! And yet pardon is the instrument placed into our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart. To let go of anger, wrath, violence, and revenge are necessary conditions to living joyfully. Let us therefore heed the Apostle's exhortation: "Do not let the sun go down on your anger" (Eph 4:26). Above all, let us listen to the words of Jesus who made mercy an ideal of life and a criterion for the credibility of our faith: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7): the beatitude to which we should particularly aspire in the Holy Year.

...More to come...May the celebration of Christmas this week be an occasion for mercy in all our comings and goings! It is truly the most sacred gift we can give, one that can heal hearts!

...Blessings to you and your families for joyful, love-filled, and memorable Christmas!

✠ Mass Schedule

Monday, December 21, Late Advent Weekday

6:30am Gary Lewis
8:00am Josephine V. Flores

Tuesday, December 22, Late Advent Weekday

6:30am Rev. Herbert Hauck
8:00am Mary Alice Osseck **All School Mass**

Wednesday, December 23, Late Advent Weekday

6:30am All Souls
8:00am Darrell Osseck

Thursday, December 24, Late Advent Weekday

4:00pm Max Pidcock
6:30pm Bob Turner
11:00pm People of the Parish

Friday, December 25, Nativity of the Lord

7:30am John Anzalone
11:00am People of the Parish

Sat., Sun., December 26/27,

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

5:00pm Stella Terrana
7:30am People of the Parish
9:30am Jerry Gassel
11:30am Herb Heist

Christmas Eve - December 24, 2015

Lectors

4:00pm Randy Tarin, Tim Lange
6:30pm Jim Rau, Jackie Lundergan
11:00pm Pat Maher, Constance Mitchell

Servers

Volunteers Needed for 4pm, 6:30pm & 11pm Masses

Christmas Day - December 25, 2015

Lectors

7:30am Dottie Morelli, Jane Muich
11:00am Mike Oberhill, Curie Lohrman

Servers

Volunteers Needed for 7:30am & 11am Masses

December 26,27, 2015

Lectors

5:00pm Bill Scary, Kathy Rodamaker
7:30am Barb Russo, John Ryan
9:30am Perry Simeroth, Diane Svoboda
11:30am Bob Shive, Cindi Johnson

Servers

5:00pm Joseph Cunningham, Nicholas Grabner, Cole Polley
7:30am Joe Hartz
9:30am Owen Hurlbert, Ian Hurlbert, John DiFatta
11:00am Ethan Watson, Matthew Klekar, Michael Pulliam

The Week Ahead

Mon., Dec. 21 PSR 6-7:30pm & 7-8:30pm
School Board 7pm Faculty Room
Tues., Dec. 22 Parish Reconciliation 6:30pm
Thurs., Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Mass Schedule
4:00pm, 6:30pm, 11:00pm
Fri., Dec. 25 Christmas Day Mass Schedule
7:30am, 11:00am
Mon., Dec. 28 PSR not in session
Thurs., Dec. 31 Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass - 5:30pm
Fri., Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary Mass - 9:00am

Readings for the Week

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Stewardship of Our Treasure

5 to 10 Year Plan Weekly Sunday Offering Goal \$ 24,728.00

Sunday, 13 December 2015

Envelopes	\$ 15,866.00	
On-line giving	\$ 4,287.13	
Loose	\$ 744.38	
Youth	\$ 8.00	\$ 20,905.51
Budget vs Actual for this Sunday		\$ (3,822.49)

Fiscal Year-to-date Sunday Offering Goal	\$ 593,472.00
Fiscal year-to-date Actual Offertory	\$ 555,918.66
Budget vs. Actual Fiscal Year-to-date	\$ (37,553.34)

Care Service	1,252.50
Immaculate Conception	1,347.80
Seminary	35.00
Christmas Offering	10.00

Christmas Club for Major Needs

5 to 10 Year Plan Goal for Christmas Club 2016	\$ 180,000.00
Yr to Date	\$ 81,198.51
Budget vs Actual for Fiscal Y-to-date	\$ (98,801.49)

Parish Construction Debt

Loan Balance as of 11-5-2015	\$ 604,476.32
Payment 12-4-2015 Principal	\$ 21,952.78
Interest	\$ 1,622.48
	\$ 23,575.26

Current Loan Balance \$ 582,523.54

*Due to early bulletin submission, Stewardship information will be updated in the coming weeks.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reconciliation

There will be an extended opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance on Tuesday, December 22nd, beginning with an examination of conscience at 6:30pm
Both priests will hear confessions until all are heard.

Eucharistic Adoration

We have Eucharistic Adoration from Tuesday 8:30am until Wednesday 6:30PM and Saturday 6:00pm until Sunday 6:00am. We have two Adorers in each hour except Tuesday 2:00pm and 3:00pm and Wednesday 1:00am and 3:00am. Come spend an hour with Our Lord.

We are in need of an additional adorer on Tuesday at 2pm & 3pm and Wednesday at 1am & 3am.

Call or text Kathy Rodamaker at 636-352-9341 or email kathy_rodamaker@yahoo.com.

Church Decorating

We will gather after the 11:30am Mass this Sunday, December 20th, to decorate the Church for Christmas. Many hands make light work!



Sts. Joachim and Ann School Embracing God's Love, One Child at a Time

We hope you will join us for the Story of the Nativity on Monday, December 21st at 2:00 in church. Please come and share in scripture and sing along with our carols.

Please also join us at our next All School Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 8:00AM as we celebrate Advent and prepare for Christmas.

Classes will resume on January 4, 2016.

On behalf of the Faculty and Staff at Sts. Joachim & Ann School, we want to wish everyone a joyous and blessed Christmas!

Parish School of Religion News Alive in Love, Alive in God!

***"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength."* Mark 12:30-31**

Upcoming Events

Dec 21 PSR Class, 3rd Grade Parent Activity Night -
Christmas Nativity Play in Church 6:30PM
Dec 28-Jan 3 No PSR Christmas Break



The That Man is You program second semester will be starting on Saturday morning

Jan 9th. Breakfast at 0630, presentation at 0700, and concluding at 0800. Please join the 50 or so men already enrolled in the program. semester # 1 is NOT a prerequisite for semester #2. Call Joe Wooldridge at 636-922-4761 to get registered.

December 20, 2015



MERCIFUL
~ LIKE THE ~
FATHER

Jubilee Year of Mercy

Imagine how different the world would be if we all slowed down enough to notice other peoples' pain; to offer uplifting smiles, encouraging words, and consolation; and to open our eyes to the invisible wounds. Let us all try to develop the habit of going out of our way to engage and comfort the afflicted.

~Matthew Kelly

Sunday Morning Nursery

Babysitting services will not be available on Sunday, December 27, 2015 or Sunday, January 3, 2016. The normal schedule will resume on Sunday, January 10, 2016 with babysitting services offered during the 9:30am Mass.

Ushers The Christmas schedule is on the counter in the vesting sacristy. Please consider helping! Thank you!!



We are asked to pray for those who have died:

- Daniel Reale, husband of Rita Reale

Shop For Our Schools

Is your Christmas shopping finished?? If not, let Shop for our Schools make it easy for you. This is the last weekend for Shop for our School availability before Christmas. We've got lots of last minute ideas and stocking stuffers. Have you thought of gift cards to Applebee's, Chevy's, Paul's Donuts or Starbuck's? Maybe your teen would like Subway, St. Louis Bread Co or Cecil Whittaker's? Do you need new Christmas or New Year's Eve outfits? We have cards to Kohl's, Dillard, Macy's, Limited, Banana Republic and more! Let us make your shopping "daze" easier! Merry Christmas from all of the Shop for our School volunteers!

Hours Saturday: After 5:m Mass; Sunday: after 7:30am Mass (1st & 3rd Sundays), after 9:30am Mass and before 11:30am Mass. During the week: Orders received for IN-STOCK items by 8:30am will be filled and sent home with a student as requested or can be picked up in the school office after 2:00pm

Teen Ministry Events

Come join us for the following events.

Wednesdays in the Youth Ministry Room - from 7-9pm

January 6 - Adoration - Epiphany Party
13 - The Ultimate Gift - Movie
20 - Bible Study - Prayer Night
27 - Game Night

Sundays in the Cafeteria - from 7-9pm

January 17 - Steubenville Kickoff Night
February 14 - Valentine's Day Party

For more information, contact Phillip Uro, 314-614-4901.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2015

Hospital Visits

Contact the Rectory Office if you or a loved one are hospitalized so that one of our priests can visit. 636-441-7503

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THE SICK

Especially those in our parish:

Tim Goedeke	Tricia Woods	Bette Chant
Jacob Burnett	Jillian Litton	Joanna Schneider
Christine Chapman	Daniel Palms	Lisa Phillips
Lori Mayo	Lenore Kelly	Pat Knickmeyer
Tariq Eddington	Debbie Ilges	Jeff Coleman
Christopher Gwin	Chakita Fields	Bob Ruzensky
Kathy Cartwright	Regis Blutas (son)	Juanita Fernandez
Bob Boland	Tony Winkler	Loretta Schleeper
Michael Gasper	Becky Fretz	Chris Wooldridge
Mike Fischer	Ronald Williams	Frank Schmersahl
Debbie Shaw	Bill Rogers	Ed Leith
Kelly A. Smith	Bessie Gavura	Edith Layton
Jessica Thomas	DJ Heiger	Gerry Moore
John Kientzel	Jo Schaeffering	Luke Kahrhoff
Angie Terry	Chelsi Hauser	Brett Haubrich
Dennis Christensen	Barton Lehr	Tasha Herbig
George Nugent	Tracy Sherman	Sarah Mahler
Maggie Brown	Kurt Heist	Arnold Meyer
Sue Behrends	Ralph Ponzar	Kit Flor
Tony Kavadas	Margaret Priest	Dan Meyer
Marian Irwin	Mary Long	Marissa Wanninger
Eleanor Monolo	Dorothy Pelletier	Diane Dorn
Dan Schaefering	Richard Hendel	Rich Neuner
Nancy Conover	Ronnie Stockmann	Edward Ruethling
Angie Merton	Mary Ann Mills	Henrietta Buchheit
Mara Berry	Francesca Taullo	Mariah Tarin
James Beck	Shawn Criscione	

Christmas Floral

Anyone wanting to help defray the cost of our church floral decoration for the Christmas season may do so by filling out the form below and returning it to the rectory.

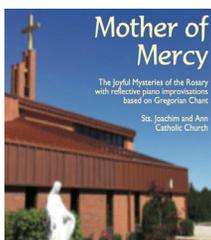


Donor's Name: _____

To Be Remembered: _____

Amount of donation (\$12 ea) _____

Please make checks payable to Sts. Joachim and Ann



Music Ministry Notes

NEW CD! J&A music ministry is excited to let you know of a new CD which will be available to everyone the four weekends before Christmas!

A CD to assist you in praying the rosary along with contemplative piano music by our Director of Music Ministries.

This CD will be offered for a \$10 donation

(and a few remaining copies of our previous CD will be available for a reduced price as well!)

Catholic Book Club During the month of December we will not meet but everyone is invited to read the booklet *Pondering In Your Heart*, *Advent Reflections* by Rita McDonald, SSND. A few copies are available for \$2 if you are interested please contact Rose at wieschhausr@stsja.org or 636 926-0021. For the month of January we will be reading the book *Smart Martha's Catholic Guide for Busy Mom's* by Tami Kiser. Motherhood is so demanding, it's easy to become a Martha always worried about the next thing we have to do and rarely choosing the better part, as Martha's sister Mary did. Tami Kiser understands. She's a busy mom of nine who juggles teaching at her children's parish school, volunteering at her parish, running a household, and many other responsibilities. Her Smart Martha seminars have helped thousands of women learn to set their priorities so that they still have ample time for Jesus throughout the day. This is the book that can help any frazzled Martha become more spiritually focused, more holistically fulfilled, and more mentally prepared than ever before. Discover practical tips that will help save time and your sanity. Any adult in the parish is welcome to purchase and read the book ahead of time and then join us on January 26 at 7PM in Room 100 for discussion.

Food Pantry Tax Credits Available for 2015

The State of Missouri is once again offering the **Food Pantry Tax Credit**. Monetary donations and donations of food (with a receipt) to Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service Food Pantry, up to \$5,000 and made by December 31, 2015, are eligible for a 50% tax credit (up to \$2,500) on your Missouri tax return. If you are married, filing a combined Missouri income tax return, you can double your tax credit up to \$5,000 with a \$10,000 donation.

To find out more, please contact your personal tax professional, call our Finance office at (636) 441-1302, ext. 260 or contact the Missouri Department of Revenue at: <http://dor.mo.gov/taxcredit/fpt.php> (website), income@dor.mo.gov (email) or by telephone at (573) 526-8733 (individual); (573) 751-4541 (corporation). Please pass on this information to your friends, neighbors, and contacts in support of our mission, "to serve those in crisis and to prevent homelessness and hunger."

Update Membership Information

Does our Church database have YOUR family membership record correct?

Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory (if you haven't already done so).

If you have changes to your membership record, please complete the form below and return it to the rectory so that the information in the Guide Book and Directory is correct.

PLEASE PRINT

Family Name: _____

Family Members: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

____ Do not include family phone number in the directory

____ Do not include family in the directory at all

Please make the following changes: _____

*New parishioners will automatically be listed in the Guide Book & Directory unless stated otherwise on registration form.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2015

Oddwalk Ministries to be featured on CatholicTV

December 22, 2015 Shannon Cerneka and our very own - **Orin Johnson** - will be on CatholicTV's talk show, "This is the Day" to talk about Oddwalk Ministries.

Oddwalk Ministries helps young and old alike embrace life as Eucharistic people through fun, upbeat, and interactive music and witnessing. Oddwalk has performed in front of thousands of teenagers and adults at events such as National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM), comedy clubs, World Youth Day catechetical sessions, and several diocesan youth rallies and conferences. Oddwalk has also performed in parish settings, helped lead retreats and prayer services, as well as made countless appearances in a variety of venues.

This is the Day airs live on Tuesday and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. (ET) and re-airs Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 4:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Thursdays at 12 a.m., Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Mondays at 12 a.m. For on-demand viewing of this show please visit our website at www.CatholicTV.com/shows/this-is-the-day.

JASSS - Sts. Joachim & Ann Senior Service & Social Club Seniors 55 & Older New members welcome!

Monday, January 4 - Board meeting, 1:00pm in the Care Service. All members welcome to help us plan our events!
Merry Christmas to All!

12th Annual Boys & Girls J & A 2nd Grade Basketball Camp

Begins Saturday, January 9, 2016. Four weeks (Saturday evenings) for \$20. Register by Jan. 2, 2016 on the Sts. Joachim and Ann website under the Athletics tab. This provides a great way to introduce the girls & boys to basketball in a non-competitive way to see if they will enjoy the game. The goal is to introduce the girls/boys to basketball and some of the basic fundamentals (dribbling, passing, shooting) in a fun environment Parents are welcome to assist in 'station' activity during camp **providing they are compliant with the Safe Environment Program.**

If any questions about the camp, please email basketball@stsj.org or call Beth Versheldon @ 314-220-7982. If you have questions regarding your status in the Safe Environment Program, contact JoAnne Van Acker, 636-441-7503 or jvanacker@stsj.org

Sts. Joahim & Ann Food Pantry Needs

Personal Care Items, Toilet paper, Bath soap, Shampoo/Conditioner, Laundry detergent

Items can be dropped off at the Care Service – 4116 McClay Road – Monday through Friday from 8:30am until 4:30pm, or call Jan at 636-441-1302, ext. 262.

Lost!

Gold crucifix necklace with the figure of Jesus in white gold. The Cross was very different, larger than most - and of great sentimental value. If found, please contact Jeanne at dclowns@att.net or take it to the rectory office. Thank you!

THANK YOU, PARISHIONERS, for ALL YOUR

BLESSINGS! Thank You for Your Support of the Annual Catholic Appeal. Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service has been awarded \$90,000 for the 2016 year from the Annual Catholic Appeal by Archbishop Carlson. Through your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal, you are personally helping to serve people in need in a meaningful way that can influence change. ACA proceeds help provide safe, secure housing to those who are vulnerable and ensure that they receive case management, integrated services and tools necessary to overcome homelessness and reach self-reliance through SYSTEMIC CHANGE. Thank you for your generous contributions to the ACA, which assists the families and individuals served by the Care Service as well as many other agencies who help those most in need. As the 2016 Appeal approaches, we will be seeking volunteers to share with others the impact our mission has on the community. If you would like to help us tell our story, please contact us at (636) 441-1302, ext. 263.

Dear Friends of the Care Service...

It's been 35 years of touching the lives of thousands and thousands, and every one of you made it possible!

I am SO thankful to all of you who participated on our Adopt A Family Program this year...

All those who have been planning since April, all those who were on the phones, all those entering the data, making arrangements with all the corporations that provided trucks, carts, and anything else we needed to make the weekend a success.

The speech given at Church to kick off the program in October, the announcements in bulletins, Channel 5 coverage, Newspaper articles...

To ALL who helped us set up on Friday, to ALL those who worked so diligently to receive the gifts with grace and gratitude... to all those who checked the boxes and counted them twice to make sure no one would be forgotten...

To all those who hosted the event and made sure everyone had plenty of fluids, food and a kind SMILE!

Those who set up the Santa's Work Shop for so many little ones to wrap and participate in the Miracle on McClay.

And to ALL those who, with great humility, gave away and delivered gifts to the most vulnerable in our communities... In the rain!

I personally want to thank, as well, Bernie McMenamy and the Royal order of the Squirrels, for their ongoing Labor of Love ... To St. Charles Community College for their generosity by providing us with the space, security and cleaning crew ... THANK YOU!!!

To all who helped us clean up and then set up at the Care Service so our program will continue all this week for families with children presently in emergency shelter due to homelessness.

To the Tihen Family for giving SO much of themselves for another year of sharing and caring for those that otherwise would not have the gift of LOVE under their Christmas Trees this year... THANK YOU!

And most of ALL... the community that embraces us, that through their generosity and kindness have adopted hundreds and hundreds of families and individuals who will forever remember that someone cared for them in their time of need... and as you go about your day on December 25th, remember that you brought a smile to the faces of almost two thousand children on Christmas morning!

May God bless every one of you and may you have a Blessed Christmas!

Miriam