



[The shepherds] made known the message that had been told them about this child.... And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

LUKE 2:17, 19

What Do You Hold in Your Heart?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

On New Year's Eve, some of my friends try to recall a significant event from each year, beginning with the most recent, and work their way back. They tell me that memories from the first couple of years, the most recent, are fairly easy to call to mind, but after that, memories get reduced to births and deaths, marriages and moves to new homes, vacations, and ultimately to not remembering anything significant for some years. It's an interesting conclusion—not remembering anything significant—given the human emotions and energies we pour into trivial disagreements, unresolved conflicts, and family issues.

The Gospel recounts how Mary reflected upon the events of her Son's birth and how she kept them all in her heart. I suspect that many of the events we might recount from that New Year's Eve exercise would end up being some of the moments we hold in our hearts. Most would likely revolve around family, all those people we keep in our hearts. Others might be about job promotions or successes, or memorable recognitions. We justifiably keep these as treasures to remember.

As Mary did, we might learn something about ourselves by pondering significant personal faith events. I doubt most of us will recall one for each year, which may say something about how seriously we take our faith lives. Yet those we do recall could be treasures of the past that will bless us in the present. ●

Reflect

**What do the events
you carry in your heart
say about who you are?**

Dear Padre,

I understand that all Catholics, not just priests and religious, are called to holiness. How can laypeople become holy?

The five elements of holiness are the same for all the baptized, always in the context of their vocational calling.

Prayer: In the liturgy, we join our sisters and brothers to offer communal worship where we are nourished and formed by word and sacrament. In private prayer, we maintain, clarify, and nourish our relationship with God.

Love of neighbor: We are called to treat others with the acceptance and respect that God has for each person. Every person is our neighbor, especially people in need (Matthew 25:40).

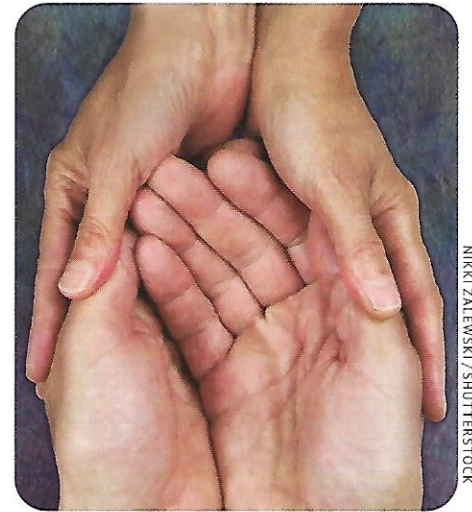
Living one's vocational commitment: Being faithful to a spouse in marriage, working for family harmony, staying true to dedicated singleness in the world or in the religious community setting—all are avenues of holiness.

Penance and self-discipline: The Christian life demands self-denial, control, and sacrifice. Christians must deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23).

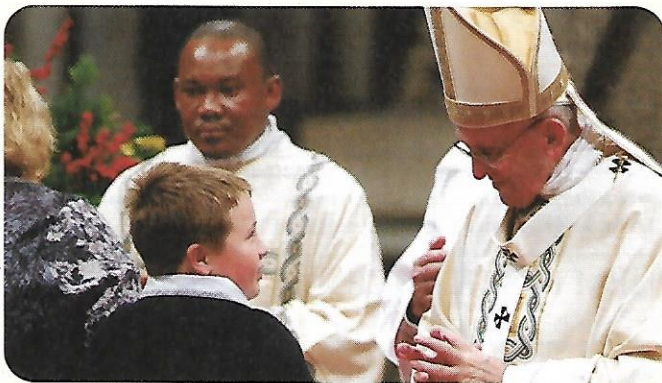
Reaching out in discipleship: Holiness also comes from and finds its noblest expression in a life of service and ministry. Baptism initiates us into the fullness of Christian reality, which ultimately means discipleship—sharing our faith and serving others, especially the most needy.

For laypeople, the main arena of holiness is where they live, work, play, and struggle every day. It is there that they must proclaim “the kingdom of God is in our midst,” and answer their call to holiness. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



NIKKI ZALEWSKI / SHUTTERSTOCK



CNS PHOTO / PAUL HARING

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***As we begin this new year, let us ask ourselves....
Do I know how to look at people with the heart?
Do I take to heart the people with whom I live?....
Let us ask for the grace to live this year with
the desire to take others to heart and to care for
them.***

HOMILY, VATICAN, JANUARY 1, 2020

MONDAY

January 2
Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
1 Jn 2:22–28
Jn 1:19–28

TUESDAY

January 3
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:29–3:6
Jn 1:29–34

WEDNESDAY

January 4
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
1 Jn 3:7–10
Jn 1:35–42

THURSDAY

January 5
St. John Neumann, Bishop
1 Jn 3:11–21
Jn 1:43–51

FRIDAY

January 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5–13
Mk 1:7–11

SATURDAY

January 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14–21
Jn 2:1–12

SUNDAY

January 8
Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1–6
Eph 3:2–3, 5–6
Mt 2:1–12

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.



Immaculate Conception Parish Family



162nd YEAR OF SERVICE

307 N. Walker St. | Montgomery City | Missouri | 63361

Fr. Ernest Dike, Parochial Administrator, edike@diojeffcity.org

Janet Cobb, Bookkeeper/Secretary | 573.564.2375 Parish Office | imm-con@sbcglobal.net | www.mcicparish.org | Office Hours M-Th 9:00am-3pm **Bulletin Deadline: Wed. 9:00 AM**

Ms. Dana Schroeder, School Principal | Judy Cobb, School Secretary | immaculateconception@icschool-mc.org | 573.564.2679 - School Office

Society of St. Vincent DePaul - 573.835.3631

Parish Council Members: Beth Cobb-President; Dennis Benney-Vice-President; Mary Pottebaum, Vicki Parker, and Dennis Cobb

January 1, 2023 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 2nd
Tuesday, January 3rd
Wednesday, January 4th
Thursday, January 5th
Friday, January 6th
Saturday, January 7th
Sunday, January 8th

No Mass - Montgomery City
No Mass - Montgomery City
No Mass - Jonesburg
No Mass - Montgomery City
No Mass - Montgomery City
5:00 PM Mass - Mont. City +Don Benney
8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg
10:00 AM Mass - Mont. City - Our Parish Family



July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Church & School Financial Report:

	Income	Expenses	Difference
November 2022	\$43,919.74	\$50,355.15	-\$6,435.41
Fiscal Year July-June 2022-23	\$314,068.07	\$297,340.30	\$16,727.77
Needed Weekly	- \$ 13,232.95		
December 4th -	\$7,181.62-Church; \$5,443.00-ICS/Daycare; \$12,624.62-Total		
December 11th -	\$4,163.00-Church; \$4,469.00-ICS/Daycare; \$8,632.00-Total		
December 18th -	\$2,257.00-Church; \$5,560.00-ICS/Daycare; \$7,817.00-Total		
December 25th -	\$8,345.11-Church; \$2,310.00-ICS/Daycare; \$10,655.11-Total		

A friendly reminder: That if there is a funeral at any of the two parishes or a school cancellation due to weather, there will be no scheduled Mass

Last Week's Envelopes: 61

Thank you!! With God all things are possible!

Parish Membership: Call the parish office to register.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:15 PM - 4:45 PM, or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism: Call the parish office to set up an appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage: Call the office at least six months prior to the date you would like to get married to make arrangements and set a date.

To Become a Catholic: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults begins in the Fall and sacramental initiation normally occurs at the Easter Vigil. Call for details.

If you are hospitalized or if you have a family member who is homebound, please call the office/rectory at 573-564-2375.

Immaculate Conception Parish Mission

To proclaim the good news of the Gospel; to build community among the parishioners that we may journey in our faith together, giving witness to love and unity; to serve the needs of others in whatever form they may exit in our midst and to celebrate the realities of our faith together.

Who is an Active Parishioner?

- Registered in the parish
- Regularly participates in Mass and the sacraments
- Supports the parish financially
- Annually completes a stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure form and fulfills that commitment

Liturgical Ministers for January 7th & 8th

Ministries	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Lector	Landon Pottebaum	Jerry Witthaus
Children's Liturgy	No During Saturday Evening Mass	Bonnie Walker
Communion Minister	Gary Hoette	Eileen Lotton
Ministers of Hospitality	Steve & Beth Cobb Kasey & Mary Pottebaum	Ron & Dianne Talley Dana Schneider & Brady Craven
Servers	Reed Pottebaum Malorie Schulte	Emelia Hans Kendra Rakers
Gift Bearers	Hospitality Ministers	Hospitality Ministers
Money Counters	Don & Sandy Oakes Judy Cobb	Megan Hans Steve Williams

Bishop McKnight's January prayer intention for our Local Church is:

For foster parents and adopting parents; may they experience the support of the Church and the love of God as they expand their homes to make room for more children in their families. We pray to the Lord.

Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday, January 2nd	No Mass - Montgomery City
Tuesday, January 3rd	No Mass - Montgomery City
Wednesday, January 4th	No Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, January 5th	No Mass - Montgomery City
Friday, January 6th	No Mass - Montgomery City
Saturday, January 7th	5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 4:30 PM)
Sunday, January 8th	8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg 10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 9:30 PM)

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, January 2nd	8:00 AM-5:00 PM - ICS Family Work Day
Tuesday, January 3rd	6:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Adoration
Wednesday, January 4th	6:00 PM - Home & School Meeting 7:30 PM-Knights of Columbus Mtg
Thursday, January 5th	
Friday, January 6th	
Saturday, January 7th	
Sunday, January 8th	11:30 AM - Epiphany Party 6:00 PM - 5th/6th Grade PSR 6:00 PM - Confirmation Class



Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to the following couple(s) as they celebrate their special day!

Greg & Kate Healy - 13 years of marriage on January 2nd

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvements/Maintenance	\$ 70.00
Seminary & Infirm Priests Fund	\$ 927.00
School Donation	\$ 2,000.00

(This is NOT included in Page 1 totals)

Tuesday Mass Schedule

Tuesday evening Masses will resume on January 10th instead of December 27th as originally planned. At 5:00 PM Adoration will close with Devotion to the Divine Mercy and Benediction. Mass will start at 5:30 PM.



Epiphany Party

On January 8, 2023, we are “resurrecting” the Epiphany Party! We will gather at the Knights of Columbus Hall after 10:00 AM Mass and eat around 11:30 AM. Pork Burgers, Hot Dogs, drinks and table wear will be furnished. Please bring a dish to share along with your favorite game to play! Questions, please contact Dianne Talley at (573) 564-2359 or (573) 590-3158. Come and enjoy an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship!

Pictures for Pictorial Directory

If you were unable to have your picture taken for the Pictorial Directory, we would like to encourage you to call Pat Korman who will make arrangements for you to have your picture taken in church. Her phone numbers are: (573) 564-2313-home and (636) 359-0001-cell. Everyone should have received their pictures by now. If you have NOT, please give Pat a call!

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

How appropriate that on the first day of every year we honor Mary, the Holy Mother of God, for it was her willing and obedience to God’s plan that enabled the Incarnation and therefore initiated what in time became Christianity. Today is also the World Day of Peace and so we look to Mary, the Queen of Peace—who bore the Prince of Peace—as our model and inspiration for holding peace in our hearts, our communities, and in our world.

Question of the Week

What happened in my life in 2022 that I treasure in my heart? How do I recognize God’s role in these blessings?

Prayer Partner Mass

Fr. Ernest will be out of town this week, so Prayer Partner Mass will be on January 12th instead of this week.

Merry Christmas!

There is a Christmas gift for each family in the church vestibule. We hope you enjoy the book, “Holy Moments”, written by Matthew Kelly. If you did not get a book last weekend, please pick one up on your way out of church!



Teen Prayer Group

There will be a teens small group session for Grateful Living The Joy of Stewardship starting in February. The sessions will be held at the home of Courtney Cothren.

Parish Office Holiday Hours

The Parish Office will be closed as follows:
January 2, 2023

Immaculate Conception School News



December 22nd thru Jan. 3rd - Christmas Break
January 2nd - Family Work Day 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
January 4th - School Resumes
- Home & School Meeting @ 6:00 PM
January 13th thru 15th - Winter Weekend Crop - Scrapbooking Event
January 28th thru February 4th - Catholic Schools Week

IC Scrip Cards



Whenever you purchase a gift card from the IC School Scrip Program, the school receives a percentage of the purchase price. The percentage will vary from one company to another but there is no extra charge to you. A \$25 card costs you \$25. Why not let some of your money that you would spend anyway go to a good cause? There are a few ways to obtain the cards. You may purchase physical cards at the school or after Masses on the first full weekend of the month. **You may also go online to www.RaiseRight.com to create an account to purchase e-cards, reload select cards, or place a large order for physical cards. If you have any questions, call Gina Smith, coordinator, 573-289-8635.**

Diocesan Support For Our School

We want to thank the Diocese of Jefferson City for supporting our school! In last week's bulletin, the \$10,800.00 donation was for our school and was made possible by our diocese. The \$7,000.00 DEEF Money we received earlier this school year was also from the diocese who is doing their part in helping make our school successful!

Seminary & Infirm Priest Collection

Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to the Seminary and Infirm Priest Collection. To date, we have collected \$1,247.00 which is a little over half of our \$2,424.00 assessment. There is still time to give to this great cause. Can't find your envelope? Just put it in a plain envelope with your name on it—inside or out—and write "Seminary & Infirm Priest Fund" on it, and just drop it in the basket along with the regular collection.

National Youth Conference

NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) registration is now open for November 2023 in Indianapolis. For more information on the Conference go to: <https://diojeffcity.org/national-catholic-youth-conference/>

Calling All High School/College Students

The Diocese of Jefferson City is now hiring for **summer missionaries!** These are paid summer jobs for graduating seniors in high school through college age. More information on the poster in the church vestibule or from Fr. Ernest!



2022-23 Catholic Stewardship Appeal

\$12,485.00 - Parish Goal

<u>Committed</u>	<u>\$ Received</u>	<u>% of Goal</u>	<u>Over(Under)</u>
\$3,980.00	\$3,280.00	26%	(\$9,205.00)

Events Around the Community (See Flyers if available in the church vestibule.)

January 13-15, 2023 - Winter Weekend Crop (Scrapbooking Event)
For more information call Lanie Gardner at (573) 823-5756
January 22, 2023 - Knights of Columbus Annual Sausage Dinner

Quilt Raffle Tickets Available



The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary have quilt raffle tickets available for \$1.00/each or 6/\$5.00 donation. The tickets will be available thru the Knights of Columbus Sausage Dinner when one lucky person will receive it! Please see any auxiliary member for tickets. They will also be available at the sausage dinner.

Head Count for December

December 3rd - 63	December 4th - 97
December 8th (Immaculate Conception) - 105	
December 10th - 71	December 11th - 102
December 17th - 72	December 18th - 112
December 24th - 191	December 25th - 79
December 31st -	

Grand Total for December -



Deserts Needed

The annual Knights of Columbus Sausage Dinner is right around the corner. If you like to bake, they would love to have your pies, cakes, and/or cookies for deserts. Thank you!

Thank You....

....to the Immaculate Conception School students and teachers for the very enjoyable Advent and Christmas Program. As a teacher myself, I understand the time, effort, and practice it must have taken to put together such a "production". Congratulations on a job well done! By the way, my favorite songs were "Go Tell It On A Mountain" and "Feliz Navidad". The students really looked like they were having fun doing those songs!

Anonymous

Please keep in your prayers the following people:

Residents of St. Andrews New Florence Nursing & Care Center, Hwy 19 & Picnic Road, New Florence, MO 63363 - Dorothy Bowman, Mary Pettig, and Susie Ryan

Contact the parish office to have someone added!



Please pray for: Pat Klein, Nick Schneider, Lucille & Marvin Griesbauer, Pat Merz, Parker Calbreath (son of Chris & Stacy Calbreath), Al & Christine Barger, Marla Daniels, John Rybacki (father of Sue Beck), Kim Dryden, Christine Welter (niece of Kathy Holtz), Matt Brumagin, Don Zerr, Peggy Readey, and Becky Queathem (who is having neck surgery on Jan. 7th).

Contact the parish office to have someone added!



Please pray for all our men and women serving in the armed forces. Corey Stulce, Tanner Cobb, Steve (Hip) Hill, Noah Richard, Dylan Willis, and Daniel Lohmann.

Contact the parish office to have someone added!



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See!
I will not forget
you, I have carved
you on the palm of
my hand.
Isaiah 49:15



**God Bless
our
Parish Family!**

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Welcome
everyone, anytime
on Tuesdays
starting at
6:00 AM we have
Eucharistic
Adoration: A
special time to
worship and praise
our Lord and
Savior, Jesus
Christ and to
deepen your
intimate friendship
and be nourished
and strengthened
by his Presence
and Love. At
5:00 PM
Adoration will
close with
Devotion to the
Divine Mercy and
Benediction.
Mass will start at
5:30 PM.



Michael Auchly
Owner

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