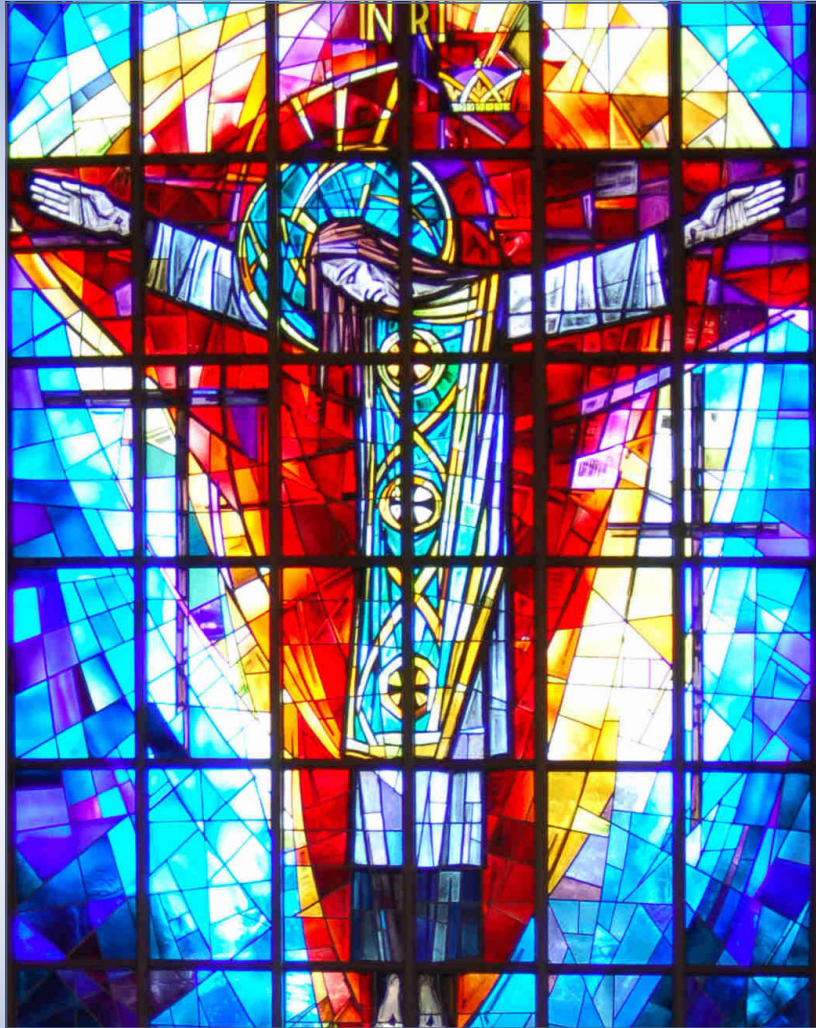


Holy Redeemer Parish

Founded 1886
17 Joy Ave. Webster Groves 63119



HOLY MASS:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Weekday: M-F 6:15 & 8:15 AM (September-May)

M-F 6:15 & 8:00 AM (June-August)

Holy Days: See Bulletin Announcements

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. until Wednesday 6:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.

Rectory/Office: 314-962-0038

Website: www.holyr.org

PASTOR Reverend Kevin Schmittgens

DEACON: Deacon Stephen L. Murray

December 15, 2019

Third Sunday of Advent

Fr. Kevin Schmittgens	fatherkevin@holyr.org	Holy Redeemer School	314-962-8989
Deacon Stephen L. Murray, M.A.	stephen-murray@sbcglobal.net	Principal—Mrs. Pam Galluzzo	principal@holyr.org
Music Director, Todd Senzig	music@holyr.org	School Secretary	office@holyr.org
Rectory Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 AM—4:30 PM		PSR Mrs. Kathleen Govero	cre@holyr.org
Bulletin Deadline: Monday Noon-contact	pat@holyr.org	Youth Director, Mike Huggins	youth@holyr.org
Carol Herber	bookkeeper@holyr.org	Parish Council	parishcouncil@holyr.org
Parish Office	314-962-0038	St. Vincent dePaul Helpline	314-289-6101 X2250

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 16

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17 Matthew 21:23-27

6:15 am Charles Schrank

8:15 am Heather Weston

Tuesday, December 17

Genesis 49:2, 8-10 Matthew 1:1-17

6:15 am Parish Purgatorial Society

8:15 am Phillip Strohl

Wednesday, December 18

Jeremiah 23:5-8 Matthew 1:18-25

6:15 am Lemoine & Virginia Skinner

8:15 am Jim Perabo

Thursday, December 19

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25 Luke 1:5-25

6:15 am Louise Burke

8:15 am Sandy Speciale

Grades K-3

Friday, December 20

Isaiah 7:1-14 Luke 1:26-38

6:15 am Richard M. Schmidt

8:15 am Deborah Modesto

All School Mass

Saturday, December 21 St. Peter Canisius

Song of Songs 2:8-14 Luke 1:39-45

5:00 pm Bill Berberich & the People of the Parish

Sunday, December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:101-4 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24

7:30 am Jan Brockland

9:00 am Lynn Rosen

11:00 am Francis Heck

**MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 21-22
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

- 5:00 pm S. Darcy, M. Darcy, C. Perreault, R. Petty, K. Plurad, J. Samson, M. Shasserre
- 7:30 am M. Abad, A. Abad, P. Brockland, J. Christy, G. Christy, M. Sack, J. Zapf
- 9:00 am D. Goodwin, W. Huhmann, C. Keenoy, D. Lawler, P. Miano, T. Miano, B. Oates
- 11:00 am S. Doran, T. Knipp, L. Knipp, J. Franke, C. Ahlheim, D. Ahlheim, D. Mason

SERVERS

- 5:00 pm M Andres, M. Andres, S. Dorsey
- 7:30 am T. Dino, W. Dino, P. Devlin
- 9:00 am A. Cervantes, L. Devlin, I. Boland
- 11:00 am M. Fiordelisi, S. Fiordelisi, E. Garrett

LECTORS

- 5:00 pm Jerry Jones
- 7:30 am Cathy Jeep
- 9:00 am Sara Johnson
- 11:00 am Susanne Doran

DECEMBER NEWS

Our Webster Parishes **Advent Penance Service** will be held on **Monday, December 16 at 7:00 PM**. Multiple priests will be available for confessions.

Giving Tree Gifts due today! Thank you !

LOOKING AHEAD

There will be no Adoration on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th or New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31st.

Also, there is no Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet at 7:15 PM.



REST IN PEACE

Claire Audrain

Peter Sargent, husband of Alice

Hilda Brennecke

Finding Joy in Creation

The difficult thing about talking about environmental issues is that, unfortunately, it has become politicized. One's views on environmental issues tend to be influenced by where you land in the political spectrum. Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato Si* of some fundamental truths that transcend the politics of these issues. (To be honest, you cannot completely escape it.) First, he reminds us that the planet is our common home and our common legacy. No matter our political differences, we all breathe air, we all need water to survive. And we all hope to leave breathable air and clean water for our children, our grandchildren and beyond. (For me, that would be spiritual children.) Once again, the symbol of a physical house or building or church works well here. I do not want to live in filth, and I don't want to pass a mess to the next generation.

The second fundamental truth that the Pope wants to share with us is to see that our connection with nature and the environment is also about our connection to God. Talking about St. Francis of Assisi he writes:

Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise. He communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them "to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with reason."

He continues:

If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously. The poverty and austerity of Saint Francis were no mere veneer of asceticism, but something much more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled.

On this Third Sunday of Advent, a time when we focus on joy, may we find that joy in all of God's wondrous Creation.

Father Kevin

FR BOB'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Each year at this time HR parish lends a helping hand to those less fortunate through Fr. Bob's Christmas Appeal. Please take one or more of the boxes, which have been placed near the entrances to Church and fill them with any non-perishable food items (**PLEASE, NO GLASS CONTAINERS**). Please return the boxes filled with food to the **GARAGE AREA UNDER CHURCH before/after any of the Masses next weekend, DECEMBER 14-15.**

We are in need of drivers with vans, covered pick ups or SUVs next Sunday, December 15, to deliver the filled boxes of food to Bradley Hall, 5017 Maffitt at N. Kingshighway between 12-1 PM.

We are also in need of volunteers to help unload these filled boxes from parishioners' cars approximately 15 minutes before and after all the masses on Saturday & Sunday, December 14-15.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim @ 314-853-7747

OUR COMMON HOME MINISTRY

There are many ways to consider the Earth, our common home, during the thoughtful and joyous season of Advent. Reduce the gifts ordered online as a way to curb carbon. Better yet, walk to some of our amazing Webster Groves shops to support the local economy. Consider alternative wrapping for those gifts, such as newspaper or get creative with fabric scraps and ribbon. If gift paper is your thing, consider purchasing paper without metallic foil or glitter, as those cannot be recycled.

Christmas Light Recycling: We will collect your old or broken light strands again this year to keep them from the landfill. Please find the drop-off box at HR school in the front door. Thank you for keeping such items from the landfill. Remember to save your broken electronics for a special recycling. These items should NEVER be put in a curbside dumpster. The next collection nearby is at Richmond Heights Community Center, January 11, 8-12. More info can be found at a MRCrecycling.net.

The OCHMinistry will be available on Sunday, January 5 in the CMR after the 9 & 11:00 Masses to offer information and to invite families and parish ministries to make a New Year's Resolution to take care of our common home.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Toni Berberich Mary Slais Alberta Simeone
Torni Corno David Schilli Patricia Wilhelm
Betty Mueller Candido Leyson Will Newman
Susy Dolan Alice Vogt Richard Champion
Judie Tucci Joe Cantalin Johnna Marnatti
Fr. Tim Vowels Rosemary Dreyer Steve Thomson
 Jim & Mary Swift Mardel McGuire
Ginny Miller Catie Barnes Claire Galli
Kenneth & Henry Burton Will Schmitt Patrick Fox
Ralph & Betty Nuelle Barb Ferrenbach

Helen Claire Mashburn, mother of Janet Doubek
Norbert Krekeler, brother of Mary Ann Baum
Rosemary Rowe, sister of Sr. Angela Senyszyn, OSF
Brad Brouwer, brother-in-law of Stephanie Hosler
Stephen Serati, son of Marlene
Frank Rohlfing, friend of Barb Oates
Trent Russell
Austin Lopez, nephew of Mike Huggins
Michael Miana, friend of the Serati family
Peter Schreiner, grandson of Audrey Schreiner
Jim Serati, son of Marlene Serati
Jean Marie Darcy, sister of Mike & Sue Darcy
Tom Darcy, brother of Mike & Sue Darcy
Julia Furey-Bastian, niece of Rob & Jane Furey
Patricia J. Doubeck, mother of James
Mary Jenniches, friend of Christine Keenoy
Carol Warren, mother of Ellen Bengé
Rita Hill, sister of Germaine Schlueter
Ken Johnson, friend of Faith & Deeds Fletcher
Ann Sullivan, aunt of Connie Moore
Ed Geiss, father of Tim
Judy George, friend of Carol Devanny
Joan Martin
Terry Jordan, friend of Marlene Serati
Ann Mank, mother of John
Sarah McCready, aunt of Michelle Mikosz
Bill Dickson, friend of Chris Keenoy
Margaret Bannister, former School Secretary
Dawn Dailey, sister-in-law of Mary Schurk
Tess Fortier, niece of Mary Schurk
Brendan Mahoney, son of Pam & Peter
Mary Maloney, mother of Katie Mank

Due to privacy laws we no longer are informed of hospital stays. Family members, please notify the rectory.

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Catlyn Portwine, USMC, Granddaughter of Kenneth Portwine
Bryant Young, Great grandson of Ralph & Betty Nuelle
Brook Blum, Nephew of Sr. Carolyn Mruz, OSF
Vincent Burke, Jr., son of Louise Burke
Jeston David Miler, husband of Lori Ann Schmidt

ACTUAL BUDGET

12/08/19 Envelopes	\$ 11,418.00	\$ 22,100.00
Online	\$ 7,893.00	
Total	\$ 19,311.00	\$ 22,100.00
YEAR TO DATE	\$ 721,482.00	\$861,200.00

"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." James 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

December Collection
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary—December 25

Thank you for your support!

MINI VINNIE

This program combines the youth of the parish with their parents to make sandwiches for those in need in the inner city. This month we re meeting on Sunday, December 15th following the 9:00 AM Mass in the Church Meeting Room. SVDP supports this mission by paying for the bread, meat and condiments. Cost averages \$225/month. It is a great program because young people can do service work in a meaningful way that makes a difference.

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

Holy Redeemer SVDP recently helped a Neighbor with their rent. They were in serious danger of being evicted. This family had a son with very serious health issues. Requirements for his care required regular trips to Nashville, TN with long stays in a hotel. As with most people, this caused the family to lose income and incur unexpected extra expenses that "sapped the family budget". Because HR SVDP likes to go to extraordinary means to advocate for our Neighbors, we not only helped with the rent and food, we make a personal appeal to a large, local corporate landlord to show down the eviction process to a crawl. Our advocacy worked! Good news is that they will not be evicted! We spent about \$1000.00

This is what we do at SVDP, we help our neighbors in very real and practical ways. Without the generosity of our HR Parishioners, we would be unable to assist in any tangible way. To donate, use the envelopes provided in the back of church, with online giving, or in your packet. For more info tmeyer0215@yahoo.com

HOLY HAPPENINGS

"Finding Joy Through A Grateful Heart"

Advent is a beautiful season where we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. In this third week the theme is waiting. Here at Holy Redeemer School as we wait for the coming of Jesus we have several activities that we do to help our students understand this time in our Church year.

During this past week our Holy Families, which are mixed groups of students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade, met and decorated gifts to take home. On these gifts each student committed to four things they will do to serve the people in their family. These service activities will be our gift to Jesus. Also, our students in grades three through eight attended the sacrament of Penance which was our opportunity to confess those times when we did not do our best and commit to doing better.

In the classrooms I visited, I saw a great deal of evidence that the teachers are doing preparation activities with their students. In Preschool they have a bulletin board titled "We shine when we are kind" where the teachers acknowledge all of the kind acts they see happening daily. They are also reading books which discuss the real, true meaning of Christmas. During their religion discussions they focus on what we can do for others instead of focusing on what they want for Christmas. Of course, there are traditional Christmas crafts of Santas, gingerbread men and Christmas trees being made, and they are learning Christmas songs to sing at their upcoming Christmas party. In addition, this month they are celebrating the authors Kimberly and James Dean who have written the Pete, the Cat books.

As I entered the Pre-Kindergarten classroom they were singing Christmas carols and decorating their own Christmas tree. In addition, they are reading The Advent Story, and each day the Special Helper adds another piece to the manger scene so by Christmas the scene will be complete. They also have a Sparkle Box where they place a slip with a child's name each time they "catch" them being kind. During their learning centers, the students were painting candy canes, building gingerbread houses and working with Mrs. Porterfield.

Next week I will share even more Advent/Christmas practices that I am seeing as I move through the building.

If you would like to learn more about our school or schedule a personal tour, please call the office at 962-8989. We will be hosting an Open House on Sunday, January 26, from 10-1pm. All are welcome.

FIAT WOMEN'S GROUP

All women are invited to Kenrick/Glennon Seminary on the third Thursday of the month for prayer and a talk. The next meeting will be on December 19th. The speaker will be Father James Schumer, Vice-Rector for Cardinal Glennon College and Assistant Professor of Sacramental and Liturgical Theology at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. The Rosary will be prayed at 8 and Fr. Schumer will speak from 8:15-9. Coffee will be offered afterwards in the Fireside Lounge until 9:30 AM. For more information or to watch videos from past Fiat talks, see: www.kenrick.edu/fiat

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 15

ACTS Pulpit Talks
Children's Liturgy—9:00 AM Mass
Mini-Vinny—10:00 AM CMR
RCIA—9:30 AM
Pageant Practice—2:00 PM Church
Youth Group—Café 7:00 PM

Monday, December 16

Advent Penance Service 7:00 PM
PSR—6:30 PM

Tuesday, December 17

Eucharistic Adoration
Rosary—7:15 PM
Parish Council—7:00 PM Rectory

Wednesday, December 18

EDGE—7:00 AM
Cub Scouts—3:15 PM CMR

Thursday, December 19

Girl Scouts—3:15 PM CMR
Choir Rehearsal—6:15 PM Church

Friday, December 20

Saturday, December 21

Men's Fellowship—8:00 AM RMR
Women's ACTS—7:00 PM CMR

Sunday, December 22

Children's Liturgy—9:00 AM CMR
RCIA—9:00 AM School
SVDP—10:00 AM RMR
Baptisms—Noon Church
Pageant Practice—2:00 PM Church
Youth Group—7:00 PM Café

Basketball practices and games are being held in the gym this weekend.

PREVENT AND PROTECT

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has developed a new system for safe environment compliance called Prevent and Protect STL. Everyone ministering to minors and vulnerable adults (clergy, employees and volunteers) in the Archdiocese are **required** and asked to register in the new system before March 31, 2020. This includes those new to service and those who are currently in service. For those who have already attended a Protecting God's Children workshop your previous training date will transfer to this new system. In addition to attending a live Protecting God's Children workshop all clergy, volunteers and employees will register for an updated background screening, view two new online training modules on abuse reporting and the Code of Ethical Conduct, and agree to the updated Code of Ethical Conduct. Please go to www.preventandprotect.org to register.

Holy Redeemer Children's Christmas Eve Pageant - 2019

No acting or singing experience necessary...for this fun 15 minute pageant before the 5pm Christmas Eve Mass, singing some favorite Christmas songs.

We have a variety of roles available (shepherds, sheep, angels)

Two mandatory practices: Sunday, December 15th 2-3:15pm and
Sunday December 22nd 2-3:15pm

We are also recruiting singers for our children's choir during the mass, 1st grade and up.

Two choir practices: Sunday, December 15th 3:15-4:15 pm and
Sunday, December 22nd 3:15-4:15 pm.

email Rachel Kessler rachel@kessler.tv wit your child's name, age, and role preference

“Come As You Are” to a Small Church Community (SCC) at Holy Redeemer! We began forming small church communities (SCC) in January 2015 and over sixty people are now active in seven groups. You too can invited to continue creating small groups within our larger parish community. This invitation is open to every parishioner, no matter age or current involvement in the parish.

Small church communities us connect life and faith. SCCs are groups of 8-12 parishioners who meet on a mutually agreed schedule. Those meetings are in a format that focuses on Sunday scripture and how it inspires our daily lives. After a fellowship time, the readings for the next Sunday are read and discussed. This provides us an opportunity to learn about each other and our life journeys.

Why do we need SCCs? Although there are many life-long members of our parish, there are many more that don't yet have a close connection to Holy Redeemer. We have a very friendly parish, but it is easy to fall between the cracks and not be involved in parish life. In a SCC, you have the opportunity to deepen your prayer life and relationships with other parish members. These groups will strengthen our parish as we share our lives with one another.

These SCC groups will begin in January. Sign-ups for the program will open in December. Each participant will be asked to provide the days of the week and times of day which are best suited to their schedule. From there, groups will be organized to begin meeting in January. The meetings will last for about an hour and a half and will be held in parishioner's homes.

Please consider this opportunity to deepen your faith by participating in a SCC. No experience or preparation is necessary – just come as you are.

COME AS YOU ARE SIGN-UPS!

Sing-ups for the program run the first three weeks in December. Sign-up sheets are now available at the church entrances.

YOUTH GROUP

LIFETEEN—Join us this Sunday for Lifeteen from 7-8:30 PM! All high school teens are invited to attend. Lifeteen meets in the cafeteria.

Donuts and Prayer: All 7th and 8th graders are welcome to join us for donuts and prayer on Wednesday, December 18 from 7:30-8:00 AM in the Church Meeting Room. All are welcome to spend some time in prayer before school..



Spend some time with Jesus after the 8:15 Mass on Tuesday through to the next morning before the 6:15 AM Mass. Or join us to pray the holy rosary and chaplet of Divine Mercy beginning at 7:15 PM on Tuesday evenings.

For more information contact Ann Wollaeger at annwol@icloud.com or 314-420-8050.

CHURCH DECORATING

Help is needed after the 11:00 AM Mass on December 22nd to put up our beautiful Christmas trees and manger scenes!

We could use some young people to carry up the statues from the Rectory and Church storage areas, as well as assembling the trees and mangers. The more hands, the lighter the workload.

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If you are aware of any parishioner who is homebound and would like to receive Communion, please contact the Rectory at 962-0038. We have Eucharistic Ministers available to visit and bring them Communion.

INFORMATION SHEET

Church name & address
Holy Redeemer #301450
17 Joy Avenue
Webster Groves MO 63119

Contact person: Pat Mosher, 314-962-0038

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