

# Holy Redeemer Parish

Founded 1886  
17 Joy Ave. Webster Groves 63119



**Holy Mass:**

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 am

Weekdays: M-F 6:15am (Summer Months)  
6:15 & 8:15 am (During the School Year)

**Holy Days:** See Bulletin Announcements

**Eucharistic Adoration:**

Tuesday 9:00 am until Wednesday 6:00 am

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

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

**Rectory/Office:** 314-962-0038

**Website:** [www.holyr.org](http://www.holyr.org)

Pastor:	Reverend Kevin Schmittgens
In Residence:	Reverend Charles Samson
Deacon:	Patrick Waldschmidt
Deacon:	Stephen L. Murray, M.A.

# December 3, 2023

# 1st Sunday of Advent

Fr. Kevin Schmittgens, Pastor	fatherkevin@holyr.org	Holy Redeemer School	(314) 962-8989
Fr. Charles Samson,	charlessamson@kenrick.edu	Mrs. Pam Galluzzo, Principal	principal@holyr.org
Dea. Stephen Murray, M.A.	stephen-murray@sbcglobal.net	School Secretary	office@holyr.org
Dea. Pat Waldschmidt	patrickwaldschmidt@archstl.org	Todd Senzig, Music Director	music@holyr.org
Parish Office	(314) 962-0038	Teresa Roberson-Mullins, CRE	PSR@holyr.org
Parish Office Hours	Mon-Fri 9 am - 4:00 pm	Molly Berra, Youth Director	youth@holyr.org
Bulletin Deadline	Monday at Noon	Parish Council	parishcouncil@holyr.org
Laurie Medley, Parish Secretary	lmedley@holyr.org	St. Vincent De Paul Helpline	(314) 289-6101 Ex 2250
Carol Herber, Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@holyr.org		

Monday, December 4

St. John Damascene  
 Isaiah 2:1-5 Mt 8:5-11  
 6:15 am: Joseph F. & Kathryn H. Darpel  
 8:15 am: Maria Argentina Perez Abaunza

Tuesday, December 5

Isaiah 11:1-10 Luke 10:21-24  
 6:15 am: Sue Mondello  
 8:15 am: David Rauh

Wednesday, December 6

St. Nicholas  
 Isaiah 25:6-10a Matt 15:29-37  
 6:15 am: Jim Murphy  
 8:15 am: Mary Louise & Casper Sack

Thursday, December 7

St. Ambrose  
 Isaiah 26:1-6 Mt 7:21,24-27  
 6:15 am: Ann Manubay  
 8:15 am: Bob & Janet Hart

Friday, December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin  
 Gen 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6,11-12, Luke 1:26-28  
 6:15 am: Frank & Lucille Boyer  
 8:15 am: Thanksgiving for Manubay Family (S.I.)  
 7:00 pm: Ralph Henry

Saturday, December 9

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin  
 Isaiah 30:19-21 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8  
 5:00 pm: People of the Parish

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent  
 Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8  
 7:30 am: Marvin J. Sack  
 9:00 am: Erica Karpinski  
 11:00 am: Bob & Janet Hart

S.I. - Special Intention

## Your Gifts to God and Parish. Thank you!

### Special Collections:

### December 25 - Seminary Collection

	Actual	Budget
<b>11/19/23</b>		
<b>11/26/23</b>		
Envelopes	\$ 24,709	
Online	\$ 17,022	
Total	\$ 41,731	\$ 15,335
<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>\$ 273,140</b>	<b>\$ 337,370</b>



## REST IN PEACE

Charles Major

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and may eternal light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.

### Please Pray for Our Military:

1st Lt. Connor Doran - Army  
 Capt. George Hardin - Army  
 Airman Ethan Baer - Navy  
 Sean Haug - Navy  
 2nd Lt. Max Hartrich - USMC  
 Capt. Riley Konzen - USMC  
 LCpl. Logan Smith - USMC  
 Capt. Patrick Visser - Army  
 PV2 - Alex Beckerle - Army  
 Spc. Joseph Lowry - Army



If you would like to add your family member, please email the rectory at [lmedley@holyr.org](mailto:lmedley@holyr.org).

### PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Catie Barnes	Jim Hardin	David Schilli
Joe Cantalin	Ruth Henry	Rhonda Simeone
Jamie Christy	Cletus Henry	Rick Slais
Salvatore Colletti	Teresita Manubay	Bev Straub
Torni Corno	Johanna Marnatti	Mary Swift
Bethany Curtis	Ginny Miller	Kathy Timpe
Gayla Daugherty	Bob Nawrocki	Judie Tucci
Susy Dolan	Will Newman	Paul Vogt
Janet Doubek	Don Pokorny	Ken Wetzel
John Dwyer		Patricia Wilhelm
Patrick Fox		
Claire Galli		

## PASTOR'S CORNER

*"The world is full of the grandeur of God and those who recognize it take off their shoes; the rest sit around and pick blackberries."*

-Elizabeth Barrett Browning

The best-selling book *The Lovely Bones* tells the story of Susie, a fourteen year old girl who just so happens to be dead since she is murdered in Chapter One. The book does not unravel in the usual murder mystery way; there is no doubt about who the killer is. Instead the book decides to show the impact of Susie's murder, on her parents, on her sister and brother, on the young man who has a crush on her, on total strangers and even on the man who took her life. Without giving too much away, the thing that struck me about the book (the movie version fails miserably) is how the author infuses ordinary everyday things with an unusual richness and depth of meaning. Suddenly, a piece from a Monopoly game becomes a cherished reminder of a lost daughter. A borrowed dress becomes a connection with a sister. In one scene, a simple eighth grade school picture falls out of a young man's stack of books as he heads off to college several years after the murder. That remembrance transports him back to a lost yearning, a vanished devotion. And most deliciously of all, a simple icicle becomes an emblem of retribution, vindication and justice. Sadly, it seems that we tend to miss a lot of this in our ordinary lives. But when tragedy strikes, when suddenly we are awakened, a world of meaning is revealed, a world richly charged with that grandeur of God of which Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote.

Advent is a time to stop and attend to that marvelous grandeur. Our Scriptures this weekend all have basically the same message for us: WAKE UP. Wake up to the grandeur. Wake up to the depth and meaning that surrounds you. Wake up to the grace of God that literally surrounds, permeates and saturates our existence. If you can't sense it, you are not doing it correctly.

The question that is faced on the first Sunday of Advent is simply this: are we taking off our shoes in the powerful presence of God or are we mindlessly picking blackberries?

Here is one of my favorite grandeur of God stories:

I once had a very sad and difficult task. One of our students at Borgia found her mother dead early one Friday morning. Her mother had been suffering for a long time, but her passing still came as a dark shock. What made this situation even more difficult is that the young woman had similarly found her father dead five years earlier in much the same way. The girl was now orphaned and alone. (She did have relatives.) Nevertheless, it was heartbreaking and good old Fr. Kevin was called to help. What do I say? What do I do? What solace could I give?

As I drove up to her house, I was greeted by a pack of six dogs, her family's pets, dogs of varying sizes and shapes: tiny, medium and jumbo. As the scene played out, I was reminded of my poor father. My dad loathed dogs, and every single dog he encountered sensed that loathing and thus were mystically drawn to my father, despite his angry protestations and rejections. The instant I arrive at the house, all the dogs surround me, bounding about. It became obvious that all wanted to be my friend. I go into the house and as I am talking to the young woman one of the dogs boldly jumps up between us, sits in my lap, turns, looks at me and, in that marvelous magical dog way, encourages me to relax. "Pet me and this will be OK." the dog seems to say. And as I do, I indeed become more relaxed, more at ease and most importantly, more attentive to this hurting young woman to give her encouragement, compassion and presence.

As you all know, dogs are used like that clinically. When the World Trade Center was attacked, dogs were brought in to comfort the rescuers. Believe it or not, one of the dogs I met that very day was a 9/11 veteran. That week, the dog went to a firefighter sitting by himself. The firefighter complained that he did not want a mangy mutt near him. But dogs are not to be denied. She simply sat next to him for a couple of minutes. After a while the man put his finger on the dog. Next the man started slowly stroking the dog's neck. Before you knew it, the dogs was licking the exhausted firefighter all over the face.

The hound of heaven. The dogged grace of God.

No one can tell me that the little dog that came and sat on my lap that fateful day was not charged with the grace and loving kindness of God. No one can tell me that canine encounter was a fluke. I assure you that on that day, no blackberries were picked. I just solemnly took off my shoes (metaphorically speaking) and basked in the grandeur of God.



*Father Kevin*

# Advent by Candlelight

Featuring Guest Speaker Susan O'Leary  
7:00-9:30 p.m. • Tuesday, December 5  
Holy Redeemer Church Meeting Room

All women of the parish are invited to gather for an evening of reflection and fellowship from 7:00 – 9:30 PM on Tuesday, December 5, in the Holy Redeemer Church Meeting Room. Guests will enjoy an evening of candlelight, desserts and the company of friends while listening to our inspirational speaker, Susan O'Leary. Susan is a mother, grandmother and the co-author, with her husband, Dennis, of *Overwhelming Odds*, the story of how their nine-year old son John recovered from life-threatening burns, and how their family endured with faith and joy.

The event is free, but space is limited. Please contact Megan Pardeck or Sarah Andres to reserve your spot.

Megan Pardeck  
[megan.pardeck@gmail.com](mailto:megan.pardeck@gmail.com)  
(314)-874-3240

Sarah Andres  
[sarahmarieandres@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahmarieandres@yahoo.com)  
(314) 956-3101

Webster Presbyterian Church in coordination with Churches Together for Justice is having a Vigil in memory of those who have died from gun violence or been injured. This vigil is in coordination with the National Gun Violence Prevention Program Vigil in Washington DC.

**The DATE IS DECEMBER 6 from 6:00-7:00pm. We will meet at Webster Presbyterian Church between 5:30-5:45.** sign in and name your church, pick up a candle and/or a sign, then join the line along Lockwood Avenue. Our hope is to line Lockwood from Webster Presbyterian all the way to Holy Redeemer and even to Emanuel Episcopal. Remember to dress for the weather. If you need any further information contact Barbara Richter at [brichtersr@gmail.com](mailto:brichtersr@gmail.com).



## JOIN THE CHILDREN'S PAGEANT!

We are excited to announce the return of the Children's Pageant presented before the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. Please email Laura Welch at [Laurakaywelch@gmail.com](mailto:Laurakaywelch@gmail.com) if you have a pre-k through 8th grader interested in participating.

Practices will be held on Saturday, December 9th from 9:00-10:15am and Friday, December 22nd from 3:00-4:15pm. A 45 minute choir practice will follow pageant practice for those in 2nd grade and above wanting to participate in the choir during the Christmas Eve Mass.

Please join us **DECEMBER 15 for the Christmas Party at Sts. Peter & Paul kitchen: 816 Allen Ave. 63104.**

Parking available in chain link fenced lot. Enter door on far left. Entry code: 4855 or ring bell.

We are in need of new or used adult coats, seasonal clothes, gloves, hats, socks, blankets, toiletries (any size) and desserts. Dinner served at 5 pm. All ages welcome! Service hours available. Donations may be dropped off at 710 Tuxedo Blvd on front porch. Monetary donations may be made payable to Mary Toler with Sts Peter & Paul in memo section.

Thank you for your generous support of the poor and homeless during this Christmas Season.



**GAMAM** — There will be no food collection in November and December for GAMAM to allow more donations to Fr. Bob and other charities. We will continue in January. Watch bulletin for details and I wish you very Blessed Holidays! Thank you so much!

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!

**Sunday, December 3rd**

**8:00am till 12:30pm**

**Holy Redeemer Gym**

**\$10 per person (children under 2 free)**

**Free picture with Santa in his sleigh**

**All proceeds benefit our sister parish in**

**St. Jean du Sud, Haiti**



## Lector & Extraordinary Minister Assignments

Date	Mass Times	Lector	Extraordinary Ministers	
December 9	5:00 pm	Jerry Jones	Sue Darcy Mike Darcy	Geri Baumgart Maureen Werner
December 10	7:30 am	Paul Fiess	Ellen Fusz Ann Fusz	Phyllis Matteuzi Kathy Rehmer
December 10	9:00 am	Patrick Murphy	Laura Welch Sara Johnson	Barbara Richter Carol Devanny
December 10	11:00 am	Theresa Jeevanjee	Maria Savage Susanne Doran	Theresa Jeevanjee Pam Mahoney

### Schedule Notes:

**Dec 3 - Breakfast with Santa**

**Dec 5 - Advent by Candlelight**

**Dec 8 - Immaculate Conception  
Holy Day of Obligation  
Masses: 6:15 & 8:15 am, 7:00 pm**

### Advent Confession Schedule:

**Dec 19, 20 & 21  
After 8:15 am Mass, and 7:00 pm**

**4th Sunday of Advent Masses  
Dec 23 & 24 - 5pm, 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am**

### Christmas Masses:

**Christmas Eve  
4:00 pm & 10:00 pm**

**Christmas Day  
8:00 am and 10:00 am**

**New Year's Day Masses: 8:15 & 10:00 am**

### **EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES FOR DECEMBER:**

December 10 - Copy due December 4th  
December 17 - Copy due December 7th  
December 24 - Copy due December 13th  
December 31- Copy due December 20th

### Interested in becoming Catholic?

In the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIA, you will learn about the teachings of Jesus, as the Catholic Church has handed them on, and also have the opportunity to participate in the life of the parish through service and prayer. If you or someone you know would like more information, please contact Mary Ziegler (314) 732-8708 or the parish office (314) 9962-0038.



### **Holy Redeemer Parish ACTS Retreat weekend for men: Jan 4 – 7, 2024**

This parish-based retreat offers the opportunity to renew your spirituality, to strengthen your faith and its application in your daily life and to build lasting friendships and parish community. It is presented by a team of Holy Redeemer men with spiritual direction from our parish priests.

The retreat begins Thursday evening, January 4th, with check-in at 6:00 pm at Holy Redeemer Church, 17 Joy Ave. Webster Groves, MO 63119. Transportation will be provided to and from the retreat center, located in Eureka. The retreat will conclude at the 11:00 am Mass on Sunday at Holy Redeemer.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET A REGISTRATION FORM, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE. (314) 962-0038**

## Server Schedule

Date	Mass Times	Servers
December 9	5:00 pm	Finn Rose Molly Rose Owen Rose
December 10	7:30 am	Will Siems Chloe Drabik
December 10	9:00 am	Maggie O'Connell Ben Wazlawek Zach Wazlawek
December 10	11:00 am	Paul Geiss Patrick Geiss Danielle Ziegler

## Christmas Food Drive !



This year, we will be collecting food for the food pantry at Immaculate Conception in Maplewood. Empty boxes for the food drive are available at the church exits for you to take home and fill with non-perishable food items (PLEASE, NO GLASS CONTAINERS). The boxes filled with food should be brought to the RECTORY GARAGE before/ after any of the Masses the weekend of December 9-10.

We are in need of drivers with vans, covered pick ups or SUVs on Sunday, December 10, to deliver the boxes of food to Immaculate Conception in Maplewood between 12-1 PM.

We are also in need of volunteers to help unload the filled boxes from parishioners' cars approximately 15 minutes before and after all the Masses on Saturday & Sunday, December 9-10.

If you have any questions, please contact Billy @ 314-363-8327 or Jim @ 314-853-7747



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Spend some Quiet Time With Our Lord**

**9:00 am Tuesday** & continues through Wednesday before the 6:15 am Mass.

**Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy**  
Pray for Peace in Our World at 7:15 pm

**Drop in for a few minutes .....or hourly time slots are available starting at 9 am on Tuesday until 5 am Wednesday morning. Contact Glenn Fox at 314-803-9292 if interested.**

## St. Vincent De Paul

During this season of giving, we are truly blessed by the generosity of our parishioners in your support for our neighbors in need.

This year, your giving has allowed us to continue to provide the means for families to have holiday meals and gifts for the children in their families. We are truly grateful for your support. If you know of anyone who needs assistance, please have them call our hotline at 314-289-6101, mailbox 2250.



## Holy Redeemer Youth Ministry



### Life Teen - High School

All High School Students are welcome to join us every Thursday **night** from **7:00 - 8:30 p.m.** in the church meeting space, for a night of fun, fellowship, and snacks

**11/23: No Lifeteen Due to Thanksgiving!**

### 7th and 8th Graders

All 7th and 8th graders are invited to join us for open gym night on

**Friday, November 10th**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm** in the school!

Starting November 16th we have a weekly 7th & 8th Grade Edge meeting Every Thursday 5:30 - 7:00pm in the School Cafeteria

**11/23: No EDGE Due to Thanksgiving!**

seek<sup>24</sup>  
focus

January 1-5, 2024  
St. Louis, MO

## Be the Light

**There is a lot of talk in the Church today about evangelization and missionary discipleship, but what does that look like?**

Join us for the **Making Missionary Disciples Track** at SEEK24 to learn from experts and leaders in evangelization. Develop the tools and skills of discipleship to *be the light* of Christ and transform your parish and communities.

**For more information:**

Molly Berra  
Mberra@holyr.org



# PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK RELATIVES AND FRIENDS



Norbert Krekeler, brother of Mary Ann Baum  
 Rosemary Rowe, sister of Sr. Angela Senyszyn, OSF  
 Stephen Serati, son of Marlene  
 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  
 Julia Furey-Bastian, niece of Rob & Jane Furey  
 Patricia J. Doubeck, mother of James  
 Rita Hill, sister of Germaine Schlueter  
 Ken Johnson, friend of Faith & Deeds Fletcher  
 Joan Martin  
 Terry Jordan, friend of Marlene Serati  
 Sarah McCready, aunt of Michelle Mikosz  
 Brendan Mahoney, son of Pam & Peter  
 Joan Dailey, mother of Mary Schurk  
 James L. Dubek - father of James  
 Anne Radovich - mother of Phyllis Hartrich  
 Jim Siebel, son-in-law of Barbara Oates  
 Pat Geiss, mother of Tim Geiss  
 Allison Alexander  
 Judy George, friend of Carol Devanny  
 Bethesda Orchard Residents  
 Mary Ann Borage, mother of Pam Rogers  
 Nazareth Living Center Residents

Our Lady of Life Residents  
 Evan Hummel, grandson of Bob & Janet Hart  
 Leah Taylor, friend of Pam Mahoney  
 Tricia Peckham, daughter of Kate & Bob Nawrocki  
 Ann Hattrich, sister of Kate Nawrocki  
 John Coburn, brother of Pat Consiglio  
 Mary Moran, sister of Pat Consiglio  
 Rick Thomas, friend of Deeds & Faith Fletcher  
 Robby Johnson, friend of Kathy Robinson  
 Katie Fechter— Sister in Law of Barb & Gary Roufa  
 Jane Wegert - Mother of Todd Senzig  
 Marie Senzig - Aunt of Todd Senzig  
 Andy Baumgart - nephew of Steve & Geri Baumgart  
 Theresa Waltos - mother of Amanda Waltos Hieger  
 Rita Gralike - Aunt of Rhonda Simeone  
 Jim Schurk - brother of Mark Schurk  
 Paul Christman - cousin of Mary Ziegelman  
 John Costello - Great-nephew of Phyllis Matteuzi  
 Michelle Drinning - daughter of Brenda Drinning  
 Peggy Probst - daughter of JoAnne Probst

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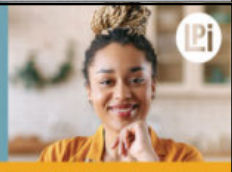
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