

# 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.    |

|                                 |                                |                              |                         |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 18

Jeremiah 23:5-8 Matt 1:18-25  
 6:15 am: Bob & Janet Hart  
 8:15 am: John & Ann Streeter

Tuesday, December 19

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a Luke 1:5-25  
 6:15 am: Joseph F. & Kathryn H. Darpel  
 8:15 am: Laura Kopsky Witte

Wednesday, December 20

Isaiah 7:10-14 Luke 1:26-38  
 6:15 am: Dan L'Ecuyer  
 8:15 am: David Rauh

Thursday, December 21

St. Peter Canisius  
 Song of Songs 2:8-14 Luke 1:39-45  
 6:15 am: Jan Brockland  
 8:15 am: Elizabeth S. Telthorst

Friday, December 22

1 Samuel 1:24-28 Luke 1:46-56  
 6:15 am: Frank & Lucille Boyer  
 8:15 am: John G. Wilmsen

Saturday, December 23

St. John of Kanty  
 Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Luke 1:57-66  
 5:00 pm: Joseph & Alberta Simeone

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12,14a, Rom 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38  
 7:30 am: People of the Parish  
 9:00 am: Barbara, Jerome & Kathleen Oates  
 11:00 am: Bill & Teresa Haynes

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:1-6 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14  
 4:00 pm: Bill Hartrich  
 10:00 pm: Bob & Janet Hart

S.I. - Special Intention

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

**Special Collections:**

**December 25 - Seminary Collection**

| 12/03/23            | Actual            | Budget            |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Envelopes           | \$ 10,091         |                   |
| Online              | \$ 5,334          |                   |
| Total               | \$ 15,425         | \$ 15,335         |
| <b>YEAR TO DATE</b> | <b>\$ 288,565</b> | <b>\$ 368,040</b> |



**REST IN PEACE**

Dorothy Ruzycki  
 Mother of Steve Ruzycki

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

## PASTOR'S CORNER

### Accountability: the longest four-letter word in the English language.

How long has it been since your last confession? Let's talk...

A lot of Catholics question the need for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *Why do I need to go to a priest? Why can't I just confess to God directly?* Let me be clear: There is nothing wrong with personal prayer and certainly, every single time we attend Mass we always do a short examination of conscience and ask the Lord for mercy and forgiveness. **Nevertheless**, there are some compelling reasons for going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Let me share a few of them with you.

#### Confession prompts us to examine our conscience.

Who doesn't need some good old fashioned self-examination? Would you really want to hang around or have a relationship with someone who never looked honestly at his or her life and sought to make adjustments? In any human endeavor, whether it be in business or sports or relationships, it is always imperative and vital to honestly evaluate where you are, what you are doing wrong and what you can do better. I believe that last part is especially important because if you are not improving, you are probably getting worse. Most people seem like they are doing OK in their spiritual lives, but if you are stagnant, you are at an extremely dangerous juncture in your life. It becomes exceptionally easy to slide. The Sacrament of Reconciliation gives us an opportunity to look at ourselves honestly, openly and, at times, brutally. It is a moment for God's grace to transform our hearts and heal them.

#### Confession of sins lets us know if we are too easy or too hard on ourselves.

Whenever someone comes into the confessional, I can almost immediately sense if they are too lax and soft about their sin, or too stringent and severe. Talking with a real life human being and opening your soul to them, often keeps one on a healthy path. Without breaking the seal of confession, I remember times when someone comes in and confesses something, and then immediately says this: *but I don't consider that a sin*. It is part of a confessor's job to let them know that maybe they need to look at this or that aspect of their sin or consider how someone else (a parent, a child, a spouse, a sibling) might feel about their actions. Often, they walk away realizing that what they did just might be a bigger problem than they thought it was. On the other hand, there are a few individuals who are way too scrupulous, who beat themselves up needlessly. There are a lot of reasons for this behavior, most of them very bad. The Sacrament often helps these individuals find a healthy balance in their lives.

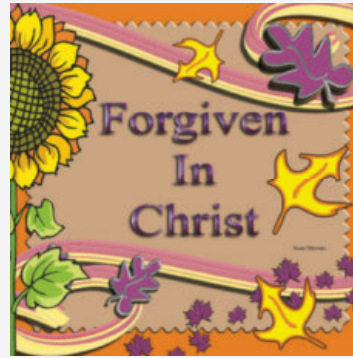
#### The Sacrament of Reconciliation can be an occasion for (quick) counseling.

The confessional is really not the place for psychological counseling, although some of that may occur. The confessional is really not the place to solve all of life's problems, although it may be a start. The confessional is not the place for therapy, although I (and many others) have found it very therapeutic. If the Sacrament takes longer than fifteen minutes, it may be time to set up another appointment outside of the confessional or even some professional counseling. The Sacrament is a religious ritual, one where someone may speak freely in the most sacred place of confidentiality. (There are few places in our society that offer that.) I consider the Sacrament helpful when someone tells me: *I've never thought about it that way*.

(A quick word about the **Seal of Confession**. From the Code of Canon Law: **Can. 983 §1. The sacramental seal is inviolable; therefore it is absolutely forbidden for a confessor to betray in any way a penitent in words or in any manner and for any reason. Can. 984 §1. A confessor is prohibited completely from using knowledge acquired from confession to the detriment of the penitent even when any danger of revelation is excluded.** Priests may not reveal what they have learned during confession to anyone, *even under the threat of their own death* or that of others. Punishment for breaking the seal of the confessional is conferred by the severity of the violation: "a confessor who directly violates the seal of the confessional," that is: explicitly connects a sin to a penitent, "incurs a *latae sententiae* (automatic) excommunication." Got it?)

#### The Sacrament of Reconciliation gives us a human, objective assurance of forgiveness.

The idea of Sacraments is that they are physical, tangible gifts of grace. You do not have to wonder if God really forgives you



because you actually hear the priest pronounce it. *Ego te absolvo a peccatis tuis in nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.* "I absolve you of your sins in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen." After First Reconciliation with our second graders this year, I went over to their classroom the next morning to congratulate them. (They all had their Act of Contrition perfect!)

One of the boys began marching around the room and proclaimed: I HAVE ZERO SINS! It was awesome. We need to have that same blessed assurance because it is a necessary grace to move beyond our faults, beyond our sins, beyond our failings, in order to grow.

#### Other quick reasons for the Sacrament:

- ◇ We receive grace to resist sin through the Sacrament, as well as forgiveness.
- ◇ We learn humility by having to confess to another person.
- ◇ There is built-in accountability.
- ◇ Our relationship with the rest of the Church is healed.

This week, priests will be available in the confessional on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, after 8:15 Mass in the morning and 7 pm in the evening.

Prepare for the coming of Christ in a new way in your life. Celebrate the Sacrament of Rebirth. And dare I say it: be accountable!

*Father Kevin*

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Daniel Sullivan  
Marilyn Wandling  
Bill Seymour  
Joann Dorr  
Wayne Dorr  
Dorothy Martz  
Paul Martz  
Ann Manubay  
Manubay Family  
Jerry & Mary Ann Baum Family  
Donna Crump  
Wayne Scherer  
Ruth Scherer  
Francis X. Anderson  
Theresa Anderson  
Elizabeth & Joe Foster  
Cullen Shearburn  
Logan Shearburn  
Dudley Shearburn  
Carolyn Kibbons  
Patricia McAuliffe Sharp  
Dolan Family  
McAuliffe Family  
Wachtel/Wilson Families  
Stevens/Shaghnessy Families  
Kaiman Family  
Peterson Family

## Welcome to our Parish!

### Margaret Donohue Family

**Tricamo Family**  
Amy & Mary

**Elliott Family**  
Andrew, Laura, Noah & Harper

### Karen Bartlett Family

**Havel Family**  
Luke, Susan, Alex & Jakub

**Toal Family**  
Patrick, Annie & Edward

**Conte Family**  
Tony & Patsy

**Thomson Family**  
Matt, Elizabeth, Leo, Calvin & Harvey

**Wilson Family**  
Chris & DeAnn

**Hermann Family**  
Pat & Bob

**Miller Family**  
David & Paulette

## TUNE IN TO CATHOLIC RADIO!

Covenant Network Catholic radio fills the airways with inspirational and educational programming that will help prepare your heart and mind to welcome the Christ Child at Christmas. Listen to Catholic radio on KHOJ 1460 AM or 96.7 FM. You can also listen anytime on our Covenant Network App or at [OurCatholicRadio.org](http://OurCatholicRadio.org).



Averianna Gail Huber  
Kyle & Kaytlyn

Leo Marley & Kai Lennox Schmerber  
Robert & Heather

James Marion West  
Robert & Lauren

Grayson William Olszeski  
Ali & Adam

Cecily Catherine Loida  
Aaron & Rachel

Dorothy Marie McMillin  
Marshall & Lauren

Corrine Helene Ulrich  
Laura & Aaron

Ari Benjamin Bowring  
Katie & Eric

Nora Eileen Byrne  
Austin & Hannah

Eleanor Kate Hemesath  
Nathan & Lauren



**SAVE**

**THE**

**DATE!**

# 1.27.24

HOLY REDEEMER CWL PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Reservations will open in early January.  
Please contact Ali-Ann O'Brien @ 314.803.6000  
if you would like to host a dinner.



## Lector & Extraordinary Minister Assignments

| Date        | Mass Times | Lector          | Extraordinary Ministers            |                                    |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| December 23 | 5:00 pm    | Rosemary Meyers | Katie Mank<br>Maureen Werner       | Beth Mayer<br>Paul Mayer           |
| December 24 | 7:30 am    | Patricia Futhey | Joe Zaph<br>Phyllis Matteuzi       | Kathy Rehmer<br>Mark Abad          |
| December 24 | 9:00 am    | Jerry Baum      | Christine Luebbert<br>Tim Malyszko | Sue Flanigan<br>Barbara Richter    |
| December 24 | 11:00 am   | Maria Savage    | Maria Savage<br>Julia Taylor       | Terri Gaffney<br>Theresa Jeevanjee |

### Schedule Notes:

#### 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 Eve Masses:

**7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am**

#### New Year's Day Masses:

**8:15 & 10:00 am**

### **EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES:**

December 31– Copy due December 20th

January 7 - Copy due December 22nd

### **Results of GotSneakers Fundraiser**



Thank you to Holy Redeemer, Annunciation and St Simon parishes for donating your old sneakers to the GotSneakers fundraiser. The proceeds will be used for our sister parish, St Jean du Sud in Haiti. Overall, we collected 680 pairs of sneakers and received \$330.75. All of these shoes were either sanitized and resold in third-world markets or recycled into materials that can be re-used. By diverting these 680 pairs shoes from landfills, and by not manufacturing the 171 pairs of usable shoes, we displaced 20,400 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and save 1,534,760 gallons of water.



### **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 23 | 5:00 pm    | Claire Kessler<br>George Kessler |
| December 24 | 7:30 am    | Riley Guller<br>Connor Noakes    |
| December 24 | 9:00 am    | Jack Johnson<br>Jack Keaveny     |
| December 24 | 11:00 am   | Ethan Heavey<br>Andrew Malyszko  |



## 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

**Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord. Consider escaping the Christmas rush and enjoy some quiet time with Christ. Please prayerfully consider stopping by Eucharistic Adoration. There is an urgent need for someone to be present from 3-4PM on Tuesdays. Please call me if you can help. Glenn Fox 314-803-9292**

### 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.

## Our Common Home Ministry & Green Machines

**REDUCE! REUSE! RECYCLE!**

You reuse your Christmas decor every year- look at you making the sustainable choice! Other ways to reuse at the festive time of year is a way to honor God and all of nature.

This week we will highlight how to **REUSE!**

-go ahead, use that beautiful china instead of disposable- it's the holidays!

-wrap gifts in fabric pieces and ribbons, then collect them after the gifts are opened for next year

-use twine and a spruce sprig on packages instead of plastic bows

-thrift your next Christmas sweater- that pug in a Santa hat looks adorable!

-turn last year's Christmas greetings into this years gift tags!



# Holy Redeemer YOUTH MINISTRY

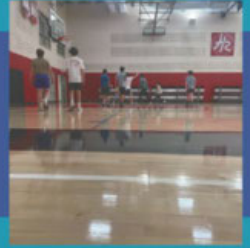


## Life Teen - High School

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

## 7th and 8th Graders

weekly Edge Hang out 7th & 8th Grade, Every Thursday **5:30 - 6:30pm** in the School Cafeteria



## OPEN GYM

ALL 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OPEN GYM NIGHT ON **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH** 7:00 - 9:00 PM IN THE SCHOOL!



## Steubenville

Registration is open! **July 12-14, 2024**  
Open to Current 8th - 12th Graders  
Registration due Feb 1st

### Follow us on social media



Questions? Contact Molly Berra  
Email: mberra@holyr.org



# seek<sup>24</sup>

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  
 Dr. Toby Harris - Haiti Committee Member  
 Cyndi Caimano - niece of Corky & Harry Bahr

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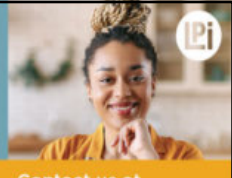
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