

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Magi from the east
arrived in Jerusalem,
saying, "Where is the
newborn king of the Jews?"

We saw his star at its
rising and have come
to do him homage."

~ Matthew 2:1-2



Church of the Annunziata

9305 Clayton Road • St. Louis, MO 63124 • (314) 993-4422 • Fax (314) 994-7877 • www.annunziata.org

Celebration of the Eucharist

Sunday 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.
Monday - Friday 7:00 and 7:45 a.m.
Saturday 7:00, 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Holy Day Eve 5:30 p.m. (Vigil Mass)
Holy Days 7:00 and 7:45 a.m.
Holidays 7:00 and 9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.
Last Sunday of the month, all the Sundays of
Advent and Lent, or anytime by calling one of
your priests at the rectory.

Holy Communion for

Homebound Parishioners

Please call the Rectory to make arrangements.

Sacrament of Baptism

By appointment, usually on Sunday at 12:15 p.m.
Please call the Rectory for more information.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Only registered, active members of our parish and
their children may celebrate their weddings at
Annunziata, with a six-month preparation period.

Parish Staff

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(314) 993-8133 ext. 225

OUR WARM WELCOME TO ALL!

We welcome all who come and worship with us. If you wish to join our parish faith family, or have a change in your contact information, kindly complete this form. You can return it to the Rectory, place it in the collection, or give it to a Priest or Deacon.

Name _____ Cell/Phone Number _____

Address/Zip _____ Email _____

Please make the above changes to my parish record. I would like our Church Family to pray for:

I wish to find out more about the Catholic faith.

I would like to speak with a Priest/Deacon

FROM OUR PASTOR



Maybe it's a trophy kissed and held aloft to the cheers of adoring fans. Perhaps it's a ring displayed at banquets or conventions. It could be a gold medal and the top spot on a winner's stand. It might be a scholarship or an invitation into an honor society. It could be any award that signals victory. It becomes a motivator to reach higher, work harder, and sacrifice more. For many, it is the dream.

There is another award, a fairly small one—an upside down, five-pointed, decorated, dull gold star mounted on a blue ribbon and worn close to the neck. *No one* sets out to win it; this star is not a dream come true. Receiving this award is dictated in large part by circumstances, but in much large part by incredible bravery. For of the 3,440 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, over half did not survive the action for which it was received.

The recipients were ordinary people doing extraordinary things. In May 1967, Army major Charles Kettles volunteered to lead a helicopter squad into a white-hot battle zone to transport reinforcements and retrieve the wounded. Intense enemy fire killed reinforcements before they could leave their aircraft. The enemy targeted the landing zone, yet Kettles remained there until all others had departed. Later returning to the battlefield, the enemy badly damaged his copter and severely wounded his gunner, but he still managed to get more troops back to base. He went back again and left only when informed that all soldiers had been retrieved. But airborne, he learned that eight soldiers remained on the ground. With complete disregard for his safety, he did a U-turn and headed to the site, totally unprotected by cover fire. All enemy fire concentrated on his aircraft alone, inflicting tremendous damage. Yet Kettles managed to return the last eight to safety. *"We got the 44 out. None of those names appear on the wall in Washington. There's nothing more important than that."*

The Medal of Honor also has been awarded to a conscientious objector, one whose bravery was celebrated in the film *Hacksaw Ridge*. Army private Desmond Doss felt compelled to serve in WWII, but good conscience would not let him kill. For his beliefs, his superiors and fellow soldiers cruelly treated him. Ultimately, the Army allowed him to serve as a combat medic; he chose not to carry a weapon on the battlefield. Desmond participated in the three-week battle of Okinawa, the bloodiest battle in the Pacific theatre. During the assault, the soldiers were required to climb a sheer 400-foot slope, only to be met at the top by heavy artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire. Rather than seeking cover, and twice injured, Doss tended to wounded all over the battlefield, lowering them down off the ridge on a rope-supported litter. All told, Private Doss evacuated 75 men *by himself*. *"I was praying the whole time. I just kept praying, 'Lord, please help me get one more.'"*

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What ran through the veins of medal recipients to account for conduct above and beyond the call of duty? Certainly, they understood the limits of self-importance. A me-centered person could never do what they did. He would immediately see that he has too much to lose, and the fear of loss holds him back. Next, these soldiers had a sense of total commitment. To their missions. And to their brothers. Major Kettles probably didn't know those soldiers he evacuated. Private Doss likely suffered abuse at the hands of those he saved. But they committed themselves to sacrificing their very lives for a greater good. And finally, they had a trust in the presence of God that allowed them to step forward under fire. Carl Bentley, a soldier on Hacksaw Ridge, said: "It's as if God had his hand on [Doss'] shoulder. It's the only explanation I can give." Gary Rose, another medal recipient, put it this way, "If you don't believe in God, you should have been with us on that day."

We are nearing the 45th anniversary of the longest continuing war in U.S. history. It is more than just a fight over the legality of abortion. It is no less than a spiritual battle for our country's soul. It pits our personal desires to do what we want, when we want, however we want, against the need to recognize the plight of the voiceless, defenseless unborn. If we will not protect the unborn, we will *never* cure the many social ills plaguing us, for the right to life is the foundation on which all other rights rest. So we are called to battle against the present darkness of evil that has misguided and hardened the hearts of so many around us.

But in large measure, we are not answering the call of duty. We have cowered under the nonsense that standing up for life is "offensive" speech that shouldn't be mentioned in polite conversation. We have failed to witness to our faith in our homes, workplaces, or the public square because others might not like what they see, or worse, because it is inconvenient. Our Church leaders have not spoken up because they don't want to be unpopular with the people in the pews, or because they want to curry favor with the local politicians.

Recently, Archbishop Joseph Naumann, the newly elected head of the U.S. bishops pro-life activities committee, told us that this must change. "[I]f the Church is silent on the destruction of life, we're being negligent, and leaving our young people vulnerable to making this tragic decision." To our priests, he mentioned the need to preach on the sanctity of life, even at the risk of losing some people. "We can't fail to talk to our people about these real sins that affect the lives of our people. If we talk about sins they don't commit, of what good is that?"

The challenge is to all of us. For the battle is heart-to-heart, and it requires us to stand up directly in the line of fire. It can be difficult to challenge the views of family and friends. It takes commitment to speak and act in support of life. And for many, it takes great sacrifice to vote for of the pro-life candidates of another political party. But the battle is not about our needs. It is about the greater good of saving lives: unborn babies and their families. May we remember the prayer of a man who risked himself to go far above and beyond.

"Lord, please help me get one more."

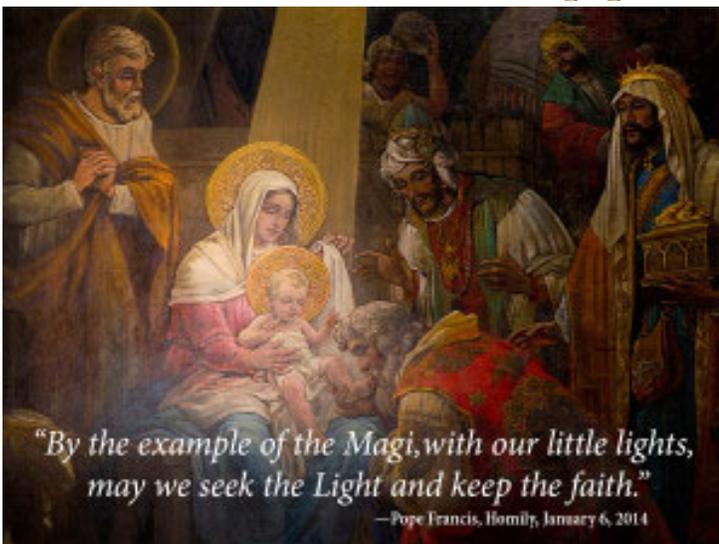
EPIPHANY BLESSING FOR HOME AND FAMILY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation,
for through your goodness you have given us shelter from the cold
and the light of your Word to brighten the darkness of night.
We come to you bearing no gifts for everything we have is a gift from you.
All we can offer is our love for each other and our faith in your Son.
Transform, then, these humble gifts into an epiphany,
a revelation of your divine presence, and bless this house and all who come to it.
May this home and this family be a light for all who are lost and afraid,
a place of peace and hospitality for those in need,
and a sign that you are indeed God with us.
And when our long journey has ended, lead us all by the star of your mercy
that we may come home to you to the dwelling place you have prepared for us in heaven.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Pastoral Associate Corner

The Epiphany of the Lord



**"The Magi set out because of a deep desire
which prompted them to leave everything
and begin a journey. It was as though they
had always been waiting for that star."**

(Pope Benedict XVI)

**As you begin 2018, my prayer for each of you
is that in your journey,
may you always seek Him,
be guided by that star,
and
may you experience His everlasting
Love and Peace.**

...IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE



*Please Pray
for Our Men and Women in the Armed Forces*

1Lt. Winston Boldt, U.S. Army
Lt. Col. Michael Butler, Chaplain U.S. Army
Captain Kevin Collins, U.S. Army
LCDR Michael Collins, U.S. Navy
Captain Patrick Collins, U.S. Army
Captain Courtney Fox, U.S. Army
Captain Zachary Fox, U.S. Army
Soosan Good, U.S. Army
Lt. Charles Horn, M.D., U.S. Navy
1Lt. Robert Mandel, U.S. Army
Col. John M. Oberkirsch, U.S. Army
Sgt. Ryan Rittenhouse, U.S. Marine Corps

Master Sgt. Patricia Roddy, U.S. Marine Corps
Maj. Rommel L. Romero, U.S. Air Force
Chelsea Schaffer, U.S. Army
Frankie Schaffer, U.S. Army
Sgt. Eric Secrease, U.S. Army
SSgt. Anthony J. Smith, U.S. Army
PFC. Nicholas Spangler, U.S. Army
1Lt. Thomas J. Spearing, IV, U.S. Air Force
1Lt. August B. Valentine, U.S. Marine Corps
Sgt. Michael White, U.S. Army Rangers
Cpl. Robert Wigginton, U.S. Marine Corps
James Peterson, *retired* U.S. Marine Corps

*Almighty God, Our Father,
We ask that you bless the men and women of our Armed Forces.
Give them courage, hope and strength.
Grant strength and peace of mind to all the veterans who served and sacrificed for our
country. For all those suffering from the physical or spiritual wounds of war.
We pray Lord that you surround them, embrace them, lift them from darkness and despair and
heal them with your Merciful Love.
Be with the military families waiting for the safe return of their loved ones
sustaining them in faith, hope and love.
Hear us Lord as we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.*

**** Please contact the Rectory to add a loved one's name. ****

REOPENING TOMORROW, JANUARY 8, 2018!

Our Nation, our Church, and Christianity in general are facing increasing attacks from the secularization of our Western culture.

WE DESPERATELY NEED GOD'S HELP!



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is an immediate prayer. The moment you arrive, you have proclaimed your faith in God! Just going is a great prayer! And it doesn't matter how long you stay, because increasingly you will realize how intimate this prayer to God is - and you will want to spend more time with Him.

When Jesus Spoke about God's generosity in the passage from Luke 11, He said, ". . . How much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him."

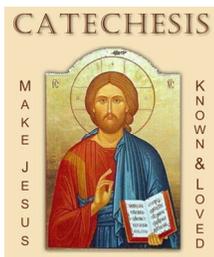
Annunziata's Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is located adjacent to Faris Hall.

The **CURRENT** Adoration schedule:

Mondays 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. & Thursdays 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

With your future added participation, it is our hope that we can expand this schedule to more fully share as a Parish in Eucharistic Adoration! Please prayerfully consider participating in this wonderful ministry.

Call Pat Carmody (314-991-0818) to sign-up or ask any questions you might have.



PSR Classes resume TODAY
Sunday, January 7th, 2018.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Everyone is invited to participate in this lively discussion of the Bible, which meets every other Monday from 7:30 - 8:10 a.m. in Faris Hall. For more information, please call Don Carmody at 314-854-8600.

THE NEXT MEETING IS
JANUARY 8, 2018.



*Does your marriage need a tune up?
 Or even a major overhaul?
 Sometimes a marriage can run along fine
 and then things change.
 They may need your time and attention.*

Retrouvaille is a marriage program for couples whose marriage has become off course. It begins with a weekend program that can help get your relationship back on track. It is an effective program that has worked for thousands of couples and it can work for your marriage.

The next program begins with the weekend of February 2 - 4, 2018. For information, 800-470-2230 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com or contact Kerry (314-753-2022) or Tom (314-409-4199).

Please join

THE CORNERSTONE CATHOLIC
SCRIPTURE STUDY

a study that will lead you on a faith journey that can transform your heart and mind. The Cornerstone is excited to be returning to Annunziata's newly remodeled Faris Hall. We would like to invite Annunziata parishioners to our Visitor's Day, January 11, 2018, at 9:15 a.m. We will study the second half of the Gospel of John, reflecting on Jesus' passion and resurrection. As we connect with God and each other, we grow spiritually and increase our awareness of God's presence in our daily life. For more information, please contact Marilou Wilson at 991-0261 or visit our website: www.thecornerstonescripturestudy.org.

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Auguste Chouteau	January 8, 1990
Harry J. Hegeman	January 8, 2010
Elizabeth Mary Grant	January 9, 1999
Charles Lucas Hunt	January 10, 1987
Helen Susan Moss	January 11, 1993
Lucy Flynn O'Brien	January 11, 2013
Richard O. Roberts	January 11, 2010
Cicardi A. Bruce	January 12, 1981
Edward Lawrence Keyes, Jr.	January 12, 2013
Celeste L. Gunther	January 13, 1995

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF
JANUARY 8 - 14, 2018:

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28 or Mk 1:14-20 and Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

MASS INTENTIONS

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, January 6

7:00 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Louis Maginnis
9:00 a.m. Norman Schaefer
5:00 p.m. Mimi Barksdale

Sunday, January 7

7:00 a.m. Celebrant's Intention
9:00 a.m. People of the Parish
11:00 a.m. Roger A. Hebrank

Monday, January 8

7:00 a.m. Mark Holton Family
7:45 a.m. Mr.&Mrs. William Francis,
III, & Family

Tuesday, January 9

7:00 a.m. Poor Souls in Purgatory
7:45 a.m. Bett O'Neill

Wednesday, January 10

7:00 a.m. Emily Stock
7:45 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. A. Genovese &
Family

Thursday, January 11

7:00 a.m. Lydia & William Lackland
7:45 a.m. Ruby Mae Graskewicz

Friday, January 12

7:00 a.m. Charles J. Cella
7:45 a.m. Wilma Hayden

Saturday, January 13

7:00 a.m. Gloria Ehrler
9:00 a.m. Norman Schaefer
5:00 p.m. Loyola Landolt

Sunday, January 14

7:00 a.m. Celebrant's Intention
9:00 a.m. People of the Parish
11:00 a.m. Tricia Folger

Saturday, January 6

5:00 p.m.

Lector:
Steve Clark

Eucharistic Ministers:
Pat Carmody
Don Carmody

Servers:
Catherine Farley
Owen Farley
Peter Farley

Sunday, January 7

7:00 a.m.

Lector:
Jackie Naunheim

Servers:

9:00 a.m.

Lector:
Meg Griesedieck
Eucharistic Ministers:
Marilyn Morrison
Geoff Morrison

Servers:
Ava Fichter
Peter Grace
William Grace

11:00 a.m.

Lector:
John Cronin
Eucharistic Ministers:
Donna Heckler
Jane Garvin

Servers:
Chase Murphy
Charlie Wolf

Saturday, January 13

5:00 p.m.

Lector:
Chrissy Nardini

Eucharistic Ministers:
Suzanne Collins
Bill McDowell

Servers:
David Held
Harry Nardini
Audrey Raibley

Sunday, January 14

7:00 a.m.

Lector:
Veronica McDonnell

Servers:

9:00 a.m.

Lector:
John Roberts
Eucharistic Ministers:
Stella Alexander
Carol Donelan

Servers:
Jorie Gyawali
Isabella Tornabene

11:00 a.m.

Lector:
Kathy Driscoll
Eucharistic Minister:
Sally O'Hallaron

Servers:
Katie Donnelly
Lizanne Donnelly