



## MARY MOTHER OF GOD CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Mailing Address: PO Box 2150**

**Physical Address (No Mail): 1614 Maplewood Rd.**

**Harrison, Arkansas 72602**

**Church Office & Rectory – 870-741-5234**

**Church Fax – 870-741-4234**

Emails & Prayer-Line Connection: [mmgchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:mmgchurch@yahoo.com)  
[www.harrisoncatholic.org](http://www.harrisoncatholic.org)

### SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Mondays As Scheduled

Tuesday & Wednesday – 5:30 PM

Thursday, Friday & Saturday – 8:30 AM

### HOLY DAY MASSES

As Announced

### CONFESSIONS

One-Half Hour Before All Masses

Or By Appointment w/Father Jim at 870-741-5234

### PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Mary Mother of God Catholic Church is to carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ, as members of His living body, the Church, to bring the Kingdom of God into the world through evangelization, worship, Religious education, and service in our families, in our parish, and in our community.

### CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

We welcome new members to our Church through the process and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Please contact the church office.

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parents and Godparents are required to participate in a preparation process before the Baptism of children. Registration is required. Please contact the church office.

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements for wedding must be made at least six months in advance. Please contact the church office.

### COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

Extraordinary Ministers are available to bring Holy Communion to parishioners who are not able to attend Mass. Call the church office about anyone who would like to receive the Eucharist at home.

### SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact Father Jim.

### Pastor:

### Deacon:

Church Secretary:

**Rev. James M. Fanrak**

**Dc. Mark Scouten**

Robin Markham

Adult Scripture Study:

Buildings, Maintenance:

Catholic Christian Women:

Catholic Youth Ministries (CYM):

Cemetery Committee:

Custodian:

Eucharistic Adoration:

Finance Council:

Flocknote:

Knights of Columbus:

Knights of Columbus, 4<sup>th</sup> Degree:

Legion of Mary:

Libraries:

Liturgy, Sacraments, Devotions:

Music Ministry:

Pastoral Advisory Council:

Pro-Life:

Religious Ed, Formation (PREP):

Sacristans:

Alternate Sacristans:

Safe Environment:

Social Justice/Charitable Outreach

Trail Life USA:

Tribunal:

Wedding Coordinator:

Welcome New Catholics (RCIA):

Tom Hoberock

Craig Bailey

Darlene Coffman

Terra Atkinson

Marlene Rowe

Doherty Family

Carmen Andrade

Joe Koenig

Robin Markham

Craig Bailey

Val Stechly

A.K. Clements

Jennifer Johnson

Dc. Mark Scouten

Julie Jasper

Father Jim Fanrak

A.K. & Loretta Clements

Holly Coffman

Jones, Stephens, Sandri

Scouten, Bailey

Holly Coffman

Robin Markham

Wes Bradford

Dc. Mark Scouten

Bonnie Tauer

Wayne & Judy Keith

### NEW IN PARISH

To register in the parish, please fill out the form below.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish Moved From:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish City:** \_\_\_\_\_

( ) New In Parish ( ) Change of Address/Phone/Email

*We welcome all visitors to Mary Mother of God Catholic Church. We hope you enjoy your stay in this area and may God be with you on your trip home.*

## 2020 WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>December 19</b>	
8:00 AM	Rosary & Confessions	
8:30 AM	MASS: +Ida Reding, 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniv.	
4:30 PM	Rosary & Confessions	
5:00 PM	VIGIL MASS: +Walter Israel	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>December 20 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	
8:00 AM	Rosary & Confessions	
8:30 AM	MASS: SI – All Parishioners	
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>December 21 – NO MASS</b>	
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>December 22</b>	
5:00 PM	Rosary & Confessions	
5:30 PM	MASS: +Mary Clark, 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniv. (12-20)	
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>December 23</b>	
5:00 PM	Rosary & Confessions	
5:30 PM	MASS: +Charles Sippel, Sr.	
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>December 24</b>	
8:30 AM	NO MASS	
4:00 PM	Christmas Vigil Mass: +Bill Burge	
11:00 PM	Christmas Vigil Mass: SI – All Parishioners	
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord</b>	
8:00 AM	Rosary & Confessions	
8:30 AM	MASS: SI – Haley Grandchildren	
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>December 26</b>	
8:00 AM	Rosary & Confessions	
8:30 AM	MASS: +Richard Dix	
4:30 PM	Rosary & Confessions	
5:00 PM	MASS: +Bill Ogier, 6 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. (12-30)	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>December 27 – The Holy Family</b>	
8:00 AM	Rosary & Confessions	
8:30 AM	MASS: +Jim & Esther Virnig	



**VIGIL CANDLES** - If you wish to light a 6-day vigil candle, a suggested \$3 donation is requested.

**ONLINE BULLETINS** for Mary Mother of God Church and St. Andrew's Church may be found at [harrisoncatholic.org](http://harrisoncatholic.org).

**CONFESSIONS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE** one-half hour before all Daily and Saturday/Sunday Masses or by appointment.



**IF YOU HAVEN'T SIGNED UP FOR FLOCKNOTE YET, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. UPDATES FROM OUR BISHOP AND FATHER JIM WILL CONTINUE FOR WEEKS TO COME.** Parish communications, such as prayer requests, updates, Mass cancellations, etc., arrives as a **Flocknote message**. Individuals and/or families are subscribed so they will either receive messages as emails or texts per their preference. If you do not receive prayer request emails and would like to, sign up now! Registration is easy. There are two ways to connect (pick one): Visit our parish at: [www.flocknote.com/marymotherofgodchurch](http://www.flocknote.com/marymotherofgodchurch) or text flockmmg to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates. Need help to set up your flocknote? Contact the church office.

## **EVERYONE MUST WEAR A MASK TO CHURCH!**

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**FAITH AT HOME** – Effective October 1, the dispensation of attending Mass has been lifted for persons who are in good health, not especially vulnerable, and not caring for someone who is especially vulnerable. Persons who are vulnerable with certain medical conditions identified by the CDC, including asthma and diabetes, are still dispensed from attending Sunday Mass. The Diocese of Little Rock continues to compile a list of online resources to help you stay connected and continue to practice your faith at home, including online Masses, readings, and prayers. This list at [dolr.org/covid](http://dolr.org/covid) is updated frequently as new information becomes available.

**Mary Mother of God Church is now livestreaming our Saturday 5 PM & Sunday 8:30 AM Masses.** You may go online to the Mary Mother of God Catholic Church Facebook account or visit our church website at [harrisoncatholic.org](http://harrisoncatholic.org). Click Resources; then click livestream.

For daily Masses, check out the MMG Facebook account.

The church doors will be unlocked from 9 AM to 6 PM daily. For private prayer and reflection, you are most welcome to pray in the chapel or the church.

Until further notice, all committees, organizations, services, and meetings are suspended until further notice. If you have any questions, contact the individuals listed on the bulletin.

**Knights of Columbus – Fruitcakes from Assumption Abbey in Ava, Missouri** are now available through the Christmas Season. The two-pound fruitcakes are \$27.50 each. Proceeds help our seminarians. Sign-up sheets are in the vestibule and Floyd Crawford from Yellville will deliver your orders to the church throughout the Christmas Season. Any questions, call Floyd at 870-321-8826.

## 2020 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### **St. Andrew's Church - Yellville**

Friday, Dec. 25 11 AM Christmas Mass

### **Mary Mother of God Church – Harrison**

Thursday, Dec. 24 4 PM – Vigil Mass

Thursday, Dec. 24 11 PM – Vigil “Midnight” Mass

Friday, Dec. 25 8:30 AM – Christmas Day Mass



**Please Note:** (1) The 4 PM Christmas Vigil Mass WILL NOT be a “Children’s” Mass this year. (2) There will be no caroling before the Masses. (3) On Christmas Eve & Christmas Day all Masses at MMG will be livestreamed to the Parish Hall to accommodate everyone. For those who choose to view at home, please visit the church website at [harrisoncatholic.org](http://harrisoncatholic.org). Click Resources; then click Livestream.

The collection at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be for the Diocesan Clergy Welfare Fund. This fund provides retirement and health care benefits to retired and infirm priests around our diocese. Our priests spend every day of their adult lives as humble and devoted servants, doing God’s work and serving us until age or infirmity calls them to retirement. Your contributions to the Clergy Welfare Fund make our priests’ retirement possible. Please share with them the generosity that they continue to share with us.

## 2020 CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

For	From
Christopher Allen	Pam & Ken Clouse
Antida Archuleta	Travis, Renae, Meadow & Kyle
Richard Dix	Lorraine Dix
Martin & Mildred Dryden	Joe & Mary Koenig
Ruth Foster	Laurie & Dewayne Dixon
Father Greg Hart	Marilyn Ogier
Tom Jamison	Donna Jamison
Rose & Irene Koenig	Joe & Mary Koenig
Basilisa Lavidon	Cecille Scott
Bill & Nick Ogier	Marilyn Ogier
Alejandro Placencia	Cecille Scott
Lucia Placencia	Cecille Scott
Rolando Placencia	Cecille Scott
Mel Pollock	Pam & Ken Clouse
Mel Pollock	The Pollock Family
Jim Rowe	Marlene Rowe
Norm Rowe	Marlene Rowe
Shields Family	Val & Betty Stechly
Stechly Family	Val & Betty Stechly
Bill Utaski	Linda Utaski

## 2020 CHRISTMAS HONORARIUMS

For	From
Dan & Mary Allen	Pam & Ken Clouse
Carmen Andrade Family	Cecille Scott
Craig Bailey	Joe & Mary Koenig
Betty Burge	Pam & Ken Clouse
A.K. Clements Family	Cecille Scott
Rose Ann Dirst	Pam & Ken Clouse
Newt Foster	Laurie & Dewayne Dixon
Ruth Haley Family	Cecille Scott
Chris & Cathy Jamison	Donna Jamison
Joe & Polly Jamison	Donna Jamison
Kathryn Jones	Joe & Mary Koenig
Pat Knickerbocker Family	Cecille Scott
Melissa LaRossa & Shelby	Donna Jamison
Sandra Luckenbill Family	Marlene Rowe
Robin Markham	Pam & Ken Clouse
Deb O'Connor Family	Marlene Rowe
Jerry Rowe Family	Marlene Rowe
Mark Rowe	Marlene Rowe
Scott Family	Cecille Scott
Steve & Loretta Tarochione	Pam & Ken Clouse



## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Dec 20:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Rom 16:25-27 / Lk 1:26-38
Dec 21:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a / Lk 1:39-45
Dec 22:	1 Sm 1:24-28 / Lk 1:46-56
Dec 23:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 / Lk 1:57-66
Dec 24:	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Lk 1:67-79 Vigil: Is 62:1-5 / Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 / Mt 1:1-25 Night: Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-15
Dec 25:	Dawn: Is 62:11-12 / Ti 3:4-7 / Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-16 / Jn 1:1-18
Dec 26:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / Mt 10:17-22
Dec 27:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 / Col 3:12-21 / Lk 2:22-40



I want to thank everyone for the get-well cards that were sent to Ron Schoborg; and now sympathy cards that have arrived from so many people who cared deeply for Ron, as I do. Requests for Masses are still coming in; this is tremendous. I want to thank everyone for being such great friends with Ron. He cared so much for all of you. Also, thank you so much to the Knights for their help with our yardwork. I appreciate them so much.

– Carol Schoborg

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** – Military & Emergency Personnel, Victims of Natural Disasters, COVID-19 & Terrorism, Vocations, Carl Bear, Donnie Billups, Sandi Black, Joyceline Boudreaux, Ron Branaman, Gynola Bratton, Shari Broscovak, Ray Brysch, Betty Burge, Jenny Carder Family, Loretta Clements, Brian Coffman, David/Joelene Conner, Jim/Karen Conner, Barbara Crothers, Kathy Cuevas, Decker Family, Lorraine Dix, Gia Dowell, Baby Willa Durham, Jazzlyn Espinoza, Glen Feldman, Newt Foster, Kendall Fowler, Casey Gibbs, Edmund Griggs, Bill Haley, Lorita Henry, Dianne Hoberock, Tommy Hudson, Chris Jasper, Anthony Joel Jones, Lavonne Keehn, Mary Koenig, Eleanor Lipsmeyer, Sandra Luckenbill, Jim Luyet, Melanie Martin, Barbara Meyer, Paula Millet, Monte Family of STL, Al Moore, Dave/Lou Ann Neuroth, Mollie Norman, Deb O'Connor, Leisa Phillips, Harlan Pollock, Michael Reding, Summer Rykert, Giovanna Sandri, Carol Schoborg, Dc. Mark Scouten, Ed/Yvonne Servis, Phil Sides, Mike/Margie Stephen, Bob Stephens, Bishop Taylor, Pennie Veach Family, Steve/Loretta Tarochione, Walters Family. Our Nursing Home Residents: David Allen, Terry Bodson, Steve Crawford, Marie Green, Alan Lasecki, Bonnie Lundblud, Nikki Patten, Mary Ralston, Virginia Reed, Billie Signer, Liz Smalley, Patricia Smith. **Please contact the office to add/delete any names. Names will be removed the end of December.**

## ADORE THE EUCHARIST!! – IT'S A DIVINE INVENTION!!

"May Christ's faithful have the occasion to worship the sacred mysteries of the Body and Blood of the Son of God in a worthy manner, and continually experience within themselves the fruits of the redemption." *Redemptionis Sacramentum*

**Contact Carmen at 305-815-1795 or the church office to sign up for a Holy Hour.**

**Sunday @ 7 AM, 9 AM, 10 AM, 1 PM & 2 PM**

**Monday @ 6 PM**

**Tuesday @ 2 PM & 6 PM**

**Thursday @ 11 AM, 4 PM & 6 PM**

**Saturday @ 11 AM, 2 PM, 3 PM & 4 PM**





**2020 Catholic Arkansas Sharing Appeal (CASA)** - To date, our parishioners have given **\$16,017.50 or 76%** of our designated goal of **\$21,000**. Thank you for your support in helping our diocese to continue to carry on the missionary work of Jesus.

**The Journey** - Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.  
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



**Catholic Cemetery Gravesites** are available to purchase from a Cemetery Committee representative. Gravesites are \$500 each. **A monthly payment plan is available.** If four or more gravesites are purchased at the same time, a 10% discount is applied, and the cost is \$450 per gravesite. Any questions, call Marlene Rowe at 365-0236.

### → Check out FORMED.org ←

**It's EASY and FREE to Register!** Visit FORMED.org with your favorite web browser. Click Sign Up. Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization". Find your parish by name. Enter your email and that's all there is to it! There are movies about saints (both adult and children), numerous Bible studies, Catholic Answers, audio books, apologetics and much more! **Now you can deepen your faith life even more!** Sign up for FORMED Daily to receive a short clip by email from the platform's best content each day. Visit <https://FORMED.org/promo/daily-reflections-signup>

The diocesan initiative One Church invests each year in a small mission church in our diocese that needs a leg up to become a thriving community. **The 2020-2021 partner is St. Bartholomew Church in Little Rock.** All funds donated to One Church for the next 12 months will help the parish build a new Parish Life Center, which they currently don't have. Please pray for this project and give today. To give or for more information visit: [dolr.org/one-church](http://dolr.org/one-church).



**PROJECT RACHEL** – Has abortion left you with a broken heart? You are not alone. Peace starts here. Non-judgmental. There is hope. Healing is possible. Experience the love and mercy of God. Please call/text 501-663-0996 or email [rpuello@dolr.org](mailto:rpuello@dolr.org). All inquiries are strictly confidential.

**The Diocesan Tribunal** - It is the mission of the Diocesan Tribunal to hear the cases of those who are divorced and who are petitioning the Church to make judgment on the possible invalidity of their marriage, due to some impediment, inadequate consent, or the inability to fulfill the duties of the married state. The Tribunal makes every effort to carry out its pastoral ministry in this process.

Petitions for decrees of nullity may be obtained from recognized Diocesan Tribunal advocates. These persons are specially trained in this work. Please contact our local advocates, **Deacon Mark Scouten at 870-741-1579 or Lucia McArthur at 407-288-3103**, for more info and the paperwork to present a petition.

"If anyone is living in a marriage that has not been recognized by the Catholic Church, it would be wise to consult with a priest to see whether that situation might be rectified. It could be as simple as repeating your marriage vows quietly in front of a priest and receiving the Church's blessing. In that way, one would become eligible to receive the sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist." – *Arkansas Catholic*, Nov. 14, 2015, Father Ken Doyle  
**Contact Father Jim for more information.**

### BAPTISM GODPARENT / CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Being a baptism godparent/confirmation sponsor means actively being a good Catholic witness and example, a role model, and ready to give help and advice to the one baptized/confirmed.

When choosing a baptism godparent/confirmation sponsor, do consider the church requirements for a valid choice:

- Not a parent of the one being baptized/confirmed.
- Must be at least 16 years old.
- A practicing Catholic who is leading a good Christian life and is not invalidly married.
- Must have already made First Communion and been confirmed.

A baptized non-Catholic Christian may be a witness to the baptism, but only together with a Catholic godparent.

**STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES** – If you do not receive envelopes for the collection and would like to ... OR ... if you receive envelopes for the collection and do not want to, contact the church office by email, phone, or drop a note in the collection. Thank you.

**The Eighth Annual Catholic Schools Scholarship Appeal** kicked off Nov. 15, 2020 through October 31, 2021, to benefit students whose families do not have the financial resources to provide a Catholic education without financial assistance. Marguerite Olberts, associate superintendent of schools, is asking everyone to pray for the success of this year's appeal. "Sadly, there are Catholic schools throughout the country closing due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We don't want that to happen in Arkansas. Catholic schools are facing a combination of financial challenges: decrease subsidy from parishes, canceled fundraising events and a greater need for financial assistance for families negatively affected by the pandemic. So, this year's appeal is needed more than ever." This program is sponsored by the Office of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Little Rock. For more info, contact Marguerite Olberts at 501-664-0340, ext. 394.



**Veterans Day Salute DVDs** recorded by Wes Bradford are now available! To order your DVD copy, please call the church office, reply to this flocknote, or call or text Holly Coffman at 416-9928.





## Alumni Update

**CCM Conway is looking for alumni of any age who graduated from colleges in the Conway area.**

University of Central Arkansas  
University of Arkansas  
Community College Morrilton  
Central Baptist College

Head over to [conwaycatholic.com](http://conwaycatholic.com) to update your contact information and check out what happening at CCM.



**MASS FOR LIFE** - On Sunday January 17, Bishop Taylor will preside at our annual diocesan Mass for Life. The Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Little Rock at 12:05 PM. This Mass will also be live streamed on the [Diocese of Little Rock YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqj8k8k8k8k8k8k8k8k8k8k) to allow anyone to watch online. Subscribe to the channel to get notifications when new videos are posted. Unfortunately, because of coronavirus, there will not be Eucharistic Procession for Life or a Hearts for Life Conference in 2021. Arkansas Right to Life still plans to host the March for Life on January 17 at 2 PM behind the Capitol. Please contact the Respect Life Office 501-664-0340 ext. 326 or email [cphillips@dolr.org](mailto:cphillips@dolr.org) for more information.

**CALLING ALL MEN for the 11th Annual Arkansas Catholic Men's Conference! - February 6** - Due to the continued threat of COVID-19, this year's conference will be virtual! In spite of this, we will continue with a great conference with some outstanding speakers! Fr Stephen Gadberry (a.k.a Father Flex), Fr. Mauricio Carrasco, and Deacon Danny Hartnedy. Our theme this year "Are you man enough be like Jesus?" will call us up to be the men God wants us to be at home, at work, in our community and in our Church! Since this year's conference is virtual, there is NO Registration Fee. However, we are asking for donations to offset the cost of production and promotion of the event. Spread the news, invite a friend, plan a watch party on Super Bowl Saturday for the Arkansas Catholic Men's Conference! Go to <http://www.arcatholicmen.com> for more info on how to register.



## Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## ABOUT THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK – (Previously called “Last Rites”)

This Sacrament is the way that Jesus through the Church cares for the person who is dying, but there is so much more to it. **Please call** (or have someone call for you) the church at 741-5234 **when you are admitted** to the hospital, or to hospice care for serious illness, or for surgery. (Medical personnel will not do this for you unless you direct them.)

**THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK** - The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was instituted by Christ and is attested by Saint James. *“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call the Presbyters of the Church and let them pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.”* James 5:14-15

This Sacrament confers special grace which unites the sick person more intimately to the Passion of Christ for his good and for the good of all the Church. It gives comfort, peace, courage, and even the forgiveness of sins if the sick person is not able to make a confession. Sometimes, if it is the will of God, this Sacrament even brings about the restoration of physical health. (From: COMPENDIUM, Catechism of the Catholic Church: USCCB, 2006, pages 90-92.)

**2021 CATHOLIC CALENDARS** are still available in the vestibule. **Please, only one per family.** If you would like a calendar and are unable to come to church, please call or email the office and a calendar will be mailed to you. Many thanks to Holt Memorial Chapel for providing these calendars to our parishioners.

**Pro-Life Coordinator Needed for Our Parish** - With the move of Loretta and A.K. Clements back to their home state of Louisiana, Mary Mother of God Church has an immediate need for a Respect Life Coordinator for our parish. Being an advocate for the unborn, the most vulnerable in our society, and having an active Pro-Life Ministry is vital to the moral and spiritual growth of our parish, our nation, and our world, especially in light of recent events. If you are interested in taking the lead in this most important mission, please contact A.K. at 870-420-3156 (home) or 225-229-9938 (cell) for more info. Thank you and God bless you and your family.

**New Informed Choices for Women Center Needs Volunteers** - The new Informed Choices for Women Center, located at 714 West Sherman Ave. in Harrison, needs volunteers during the week to help man their pro-life Christian outreach to women in crisis pregnancies. The non-profit Center provides a variety of options and services to women (and men) during and after their pregnancy, including free ultrasounds in an effort to bring their babies to full term and birth. This center is a blessing to our area and is an opportunity for us as Christians to get involved in the Respect Life ministry locally. If you can spare an hour or two a week to help in this effort, please call the Center at 870-280-3169 for more information. God will richly bless you.

**John Michael Talbot's INNER ROOM School of Spirituality**  
- Visit [www.inner-room-school.org](http://www.inner-room-school.org).

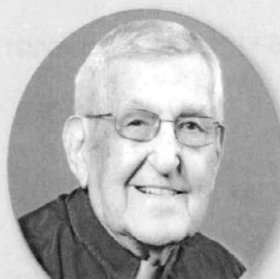


The Catholic Diocese of Little Rock is committed to protecting children and young people. If you are aware of abuse or have been abused by Clerics, Church volunteers, or Church workers, please contact the State of Arkansas Hotline for Crimes against Children at 1-800-482-5964 and the Chancellor for Canonical Affairs, Deacon Matthew A. Glover, 501-664-0340 ext. 361. For pastoral assistance, please contact the Victim Assistance Coordinators for the Diocese of Little Rock: Dr. George or Dr. Sherry Simon at 501-664-0340, ext. 425. Diocese of Little Rock, 2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72207.





FATHER KEVIN ATUNZU



FATHER ROBERT DIENERT



FATHER NHO DUY 'DOMINIC' DO



FATHER RALPH ESPOSITO

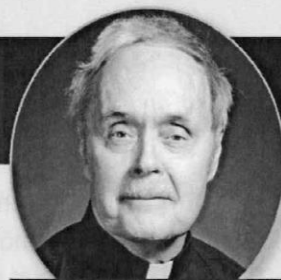


FATHER CLAYTON GOULD

## *A Class All Their Own*

DIocese OF LITTLE ROCK RETIRED PRIESTS 2020-2021

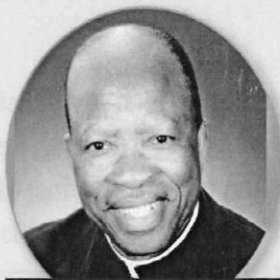
The Christmas collection is the primary source of income for the Clergy Welfare Fund that supports our retired and infirm priests. Please be generous.



FATHER ED GRAVES



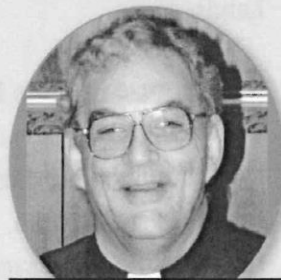
MSGR. J. GASTON HEBERT



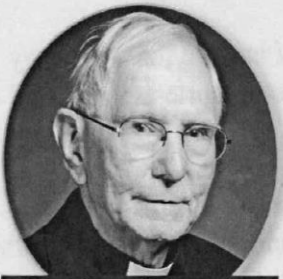
FATHER PIUS AJUNWA IWU



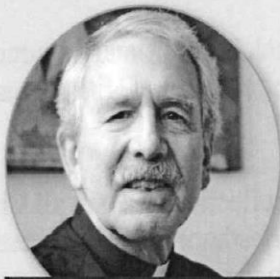
FATHER THOMAS KELLER



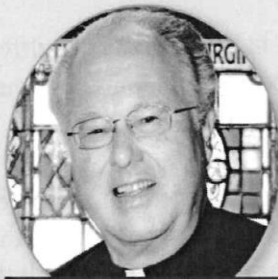
FATHER JON McDOUGAL



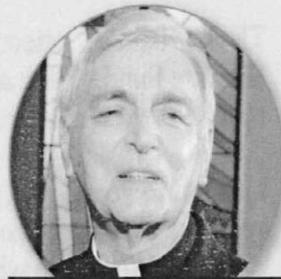
FATHER HENRY MISCHKOWIWSKI



FATHER JOHN OSWALD



MSGR. RICHARD OSWALD



FATHER JOSEPH PALLO



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FATHER ANDREW SMITH



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For more information, contact Dianne Brady, Director of Stewardship and Development,  
(501) 664-0340, email [dbrady@dolr.org](mailto:dbrady@dolr.org) or visit [dolr.org](http://dolr.org)



Office of the Bishop

## DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 • (501) 664-0340 Fax (501) 664-6304

### Christmas 2020

Dear Friends,

In the words of St. John Vianney, "The priest is not a priest for himself; he does not give himself absolution; he does not administer the Sacraments to himself. He is not for himself, he is for you ... The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus." Every day of a priest's adult life is a gift of humble devotion and service to us, whose spiritual lives he is entrusted to nurture and care for in doing the work of God's hands.

The Diocese of Little Rock has 18 retired priests who receive monthly benefits from the Clergy Welfare Fund and those who are still able continue their lives of service in prayer, hearing confessions, and even substituting in parishes for pastors absent due to vacation or illness. Most of our priests work well into their 70's and beyond, caring for the spiritual life and welfare of their people, and there are many nearing retirement. They have given us the gift of their hearts and their lives of service and dedication; let us give them the gift of assurance that their retirement days are spent with dignity and care.

The Christmas Collection in the Diocese of Little Rock is the primary source of income for the Clergy Welfare Fund. Your support will help us continue to provide benefits for our retired priests, and build the fund to meet our future obligations.

I appeal to you to join me in supporting this special collection taken at all Christmas masses. Please continue to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood in our Diocese, and for happy and healthy retirement for those who have served us so well throughout the years. Pray also for those priests in active ministry who deserve our support, encouragement, and care.

I pray daily for you and your loved ones! May you receive the peace and joy of Christ this Christmas season and every day of the coming year.

Sincerely In Christ,

+Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock

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*Pray*  
FOR THE  
PROTECTION  
OF THE UNBORN

**Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 20, 2020** — In Blaise Pascal's work, Pensees, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.

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See Bulletin For Meeting  
Dates & Times



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# Merry Christmas!

Courtesy of Newt Foster

**MARY MOTHER OF GOD CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**HARRISON, ARKANSAS**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>November 29</b> <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>November 30</b>  <b>NO MASS</b>	<b>December 1, 2020</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass	<b>December 2</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass ++ K-8 Online Classes 6-8 PM Confirmation 6:30-7:30 PM HS Class	<b>December 3</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>December 4</b> <i>First Friday</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>December 5</b> <i>First Saturday</i>  8:10 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ 4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Mass
<b>December 6</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ Second Collection: National Retirement Fund for Religious	<b>December 7</b>  <b>5 PM Rosary</b> <b>5:30 PM Vigil Mass</b> ++ Knights of Columbus 6:30 PM Meeting	<b>December 8</b> <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i> <i>Immaculate Conception</i> <i>of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>  <b>8 AM Rosary</b> <b>8:30 Holy Day Mass</b> <b>5 PM Rosary</b> <b>5:30 Holy Day Mass</b> ++ <b>Noon Mass in Yellville</b>	<b>December 9</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass ++ K-8 Online Classes <b>NO Confirmation Class</b> <b>NO HS Class</b>	<b>December 10</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>December 11</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>December 12</b>  8:10 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ 4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Mass
<b>December 13</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>December 14</b>  <b>NO MASS</b>	<b>December 15</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass	<b>December 16</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass ++ K-8 Online Classes 6-7:30 PM Confirmation-- (Holy Hour w/Confessions) 6:30-7:30 PM HS Class	<b>December 17</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>December 18</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>December 19</b>  8:10 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ 4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Mass
<b>December 20</b> <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>December 21</b>  <b>NO MASS</b>	<b>December 22</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass	<b>December 23</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass ++ <b>NO PREP CLASSES</b>	<b>December 24</b>  <b>4 PM Vigil Mass</b> <b>11 PM Vigil Mass</b> ++ Diocesan Clergy Welfare Fund Coll.	<b>December 25</b> <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i> <i>Nativity of the Lord</i>  <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> ++ Diocesan Clergy Welfare Fund Coll. ++ <b>11 AM Mass in Yvl</b> 	<b>December 26</b>  8:10 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ 4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Mass
<b>December 27</b> <i>The Holy Family of</i> <i>Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>December 28</b>  <b>NO MASS</b>	<b>December 29</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass	<b>December 30</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass ++ <b>NO PREP CLASSES</b> <b>Classes Resume</b> <b>on January 6, 2021</b>	<b>December 31</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ <b>5:30 PM Vigil Mass</b>	<b>January 1, 2021</b> <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i> <i>Solemnity of Mary,</i> <i>Mother of God</i>  <b>8 AM Rosary</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass</b> ++ <b>11 AM Mass in Yvl</b>	<b>January 2</b> <i>First Saturday</i>  8:10 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ 4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Mass

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THIS CALENDAR.**



## 2020 DECEMBER MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR

**5 PM Saturday Mass**

**8:30 AM Sunday Mass**

*If you are unable to serve, please find your replacement. Thank you.*

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Dec 1	Gary Wilcox	Dec 12	Peter Kershaw	Dec 23	Gregory Klott
Dec 5	Keyla Aldrete	Dec 13	Dianne Hoberock	Dec 24	Michelle Aldrete
Dec 7	Kaitlyn Coffman	Dec 14	Jeffrey Dalton	Dec 25	Jesus of Nazareth
Dec 7	Thomas Heffran	Dec 14	Eliska Pollock	Dec 25	Anna Culhane
Dec 7	Cathy Phipps	Dec 15	Bre Benner	Dec 25	Mariah Lizarda
Dec 8	Maria Alvarez	Dec 17	Tom Hoberock	Dec 27	Brian Ramirez
Dec 9	Dan Allen	Dec 17	Art Honeyman	Dec 28	Celia DeWoody
Dec 9	Gloria Amerson	Dec 17	Lacy Wilson	Dec 28	Diana Hodges
Dec 9	Patsy Astorino	Dec 18	Casey Humphreys	Dec 28	Giovanna Sandri
Dec 9	Matthew Eddings	Dec 18	Bob Terrell	Dec 29	Jake Simon
Dec 9	Lynn Hancock	Dec 19	Deb Fesenmyer	Dec 29	Ronald Worrell
Dec 9	Mary Stephens	Dec 19	Liliam Mastrobuono	Dec 30	Griffin Aubert
Dec 9	Matthew Webb	Dec 20	Phil Sides	Dec 30	Eziecheal Humphreys
Dec 12	Jewell Hardaway	Dec 21	Levi Fry	Dec 30	Stella Krone
Dec 12	Adan Juantos-Garcia	Dec 22	Norman Lasko	Dec 31	Mary Allen
		Dec 23	Helen Heffran		

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Dec 13	Terry & Donna Rodery	Dec 24	A.K. & Loretta Clements
Dec 14	Ernest & Joyceline Boudreaux	Dec 28	Jonathan & Jasi Dezort
Dec 17	Dewayne & Laurie Dixon	Dec 28	Mark & Debbie Martin
Dec 21	Todd & Lori Curry	Dec 28	Bill & Ana vanLeeuwen
Dec 21	Michael & Seychelle Mahoney	Dec 29	Stephen & Josephine Kershaw





## DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 • (501) 664-0340 Fax (501) 664-6304

November 19, 2020

To all doctors, nurses, administrators, support staff and other co-workers in Catholic health care:

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday during a time of pandemic, I thank God for many things—for God's loving presence, for the gift of faith, for family and friends (even though we can't be physically together now). I also thank God right now for the gift of life and health. Especially as COVID-19 continues to increase in our country and in much of the world, we have a reminder of how important our physical health is.

This pandemic has been a challenging time for all of society. Whether someone has been infected, cared for someone who has been infected, or simply experienced changes of life because of the measures needed to combat it, no one has been exempt.

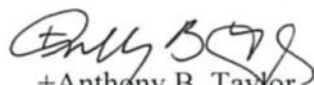
Above all, though, I know that COVID-19 has affected you as healthcare workers. You stand on the front lines, often putting yourselves at risk in order to serve your patients. Your generosity of heart and zeal for your ministry give life to many, especially right now.

As the Bishop of Little Rock, I thank God for the great work undertaken by Catholic healthcare ministries in Arkansas, ministries that can only exist because of people like you. Your daily work is an extension of the healing ministry of Jesus. Like the ministry of Jesus, your work is loving, sacrificial, and life-giving. Just as the ministry of Jesus did, your work gives hope and strength to all it touches—and to society as a whole!

I know these are trying times for you. You want to help and heal, even as you know there is still much to be done in combating COVID-19. I encourage you to persevere, and I pray for your resilience and strength as you confront the challenges that lie ahead. We may celebrate Thanksgiving differently this year than in other years, but our need to be grateful is even stronger than ever.

So, thank you! And be assured of my prayers for you now and throughout these challenging times.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
+Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock





Office of the Bishop

## DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 • (501) 664-0340 Fax (501) 664-6304

### Statement on the “REPORT ON THE HOLY SEE’S INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND DECISION-MAKING RELATED TO FORMER CARDINAL THEODORE EDGAR MCCARRICK (1930 TO 2017)” issued November 10, 2020

I am grateful to Pope Francis for his commitment to bringing healing to the victims of clergy sexual abuse and to preventing such cases from being mishandled in the future, regardless of the prominence of the accused perpetrator. Yesterday we received concrete proof of his commitment to transparency and to bringing the light of truth to bear on this darkest of evils that has, in the case of ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, reached even the highest echelons of the hierarchy in the Church. This 449 page report chronicles not only the horror of McCarrick’s abuse of minors and young adults, but also the mishandling of allegations by even by such saintly persons as Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI and those that advised them, albeit due in part to having received faulty information from several now deceased New Jersey bishops and the failure of Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò to investigate when told to do so while working in the Secretariat of State in the Vatican and later mishandling the case when he was papal nuncio to the United States.

When in 2017 Pope Francis first became aware of a concrete allegation against then Cardinal McCarrick, he ordered a canonical trial of McCarrick which in February 2019 resulted in the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state. Pope Francis also ordered the investigation, the results of which were released yesterday, of how such a person as Mr. McCarrick could have risen to the highest ranks within the Church, including who had a hand in covering up misdeeds of which they had knowledge and why allegations received previously were not taken seriously. In May of 2019 Pope Francis also promulgated “*Vos Estis Lux Mundi*”, a papal decree which introduced sweeping changes in order to hold bishops accountable for sexual abuse or covering up, making reporting obligatory for clerics and allowing anyone to complain directly to the Vatican if needed. To report an incident of sexual abuse and related misconduct by a Catholic bishop, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or call 800/276-1562.

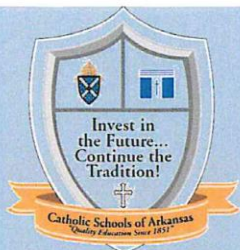
The Diocese of Little Rock continues its commitment to keeping children safe. Anyone who has been abused sexually by a priest or representative of the Church is encouraged to contact first the Arkansas Child Abuse Hotline at 800/482-5964; and to contact Deacon Matthew Glover at 501/664-0340 ext. 361, or Laura Gottspomer, our Victims Assistance coordinator at 501/664-0340 ext. 425.

We remain united in our pain and our support for all victims of sexual abuse and pray for healing and reconciliation within our Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock  
November 11, 2020





## Office of the Bishop

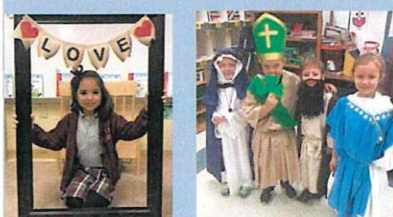
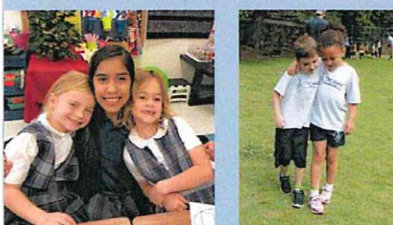
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*Bishop*

Most Reverend Anthony B. Taylor

*Superintendent*

Mrs. Theresa Hall



Faith Academics Service



## ARKANSAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP APPEAL

November 14, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Sadly, there are Catholic schools throughout the country closing due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. You can help prevent this from happening in Arkansas through your gift to the Arkansas Catholic Schools Scholarship Appeal. Our Catholic schools are facing a combination of financial challenges: decreased subsidy from parishes, cancelled fundraising events, decreased enrollment, and a greater need for financial assistance for families negatively affected by the pandemic.

The Arkansas Catholic Schools Scholarship Appeal is held annually to give tuition assistance to families with a demonstrated need. Catholic schools throughout the state submit applications on behalf of these families. Last year funds from the appeal provided tuition support to 54 students attending Arkansas Catholic schools with awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 per family.

Families who qualify are granted assistance through Parish subsidies, school fundraising, foundations, and individual donors. However, even with this financial support, a need still exists for more tuition aid. This year our calculated need is \$465,000. Please help us by donating to the Arkansas Catholic Schools Scholarship Appeal. Every dollar received from donations will be used to aid those in need of financial assistance.

Catholic schools are an integral part of the teaching mission of the Church because they assist parents in the important obligation of educating and forming their children through faith development. This year our schools have responded beautifully finding creative and practical solutions to challenges related to safety and virtual learning. They continue to provide a rigorous education, rooted in the Gospel, and rich in the cherished traditions and liturgical practices of our faith. Even in the midst of a pandemic, our schools are ensuring that students will have the foundation to live a moral and upright life to face the challenges brought by changes in the world today.

Thank you for your support of the Arkansas Catholic Schools Scholarship fund. Please keep our schools in your prayers.

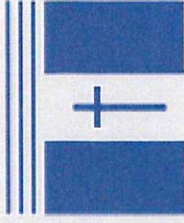
Sincerely In Christ,

Most Reverend Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock





# Arkansas Catholic Schools Scholarship Appeal



A Catholic education is a gift that serves the child, their family, and the community throughout their lifetime and beyond. The cost of tuition is a challenge to hundreds of our families who desire a Catholic education for their child. Parish subsidies, school fundraising, and foundations provide funds for financial assistance, but not enough.

All funds raised through this appeal go directly to an Arkansas Catholic school to provide tuition assistance to a family with a demonstrated financial need. Your gift will help keep these children in our Catholic schools. Please be generous, and remember our Catholic schools in your prayers.

**“Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life.”**

Pope Francis

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Mail check made payable to: **AR Catholic Schools Scholarship Appeal, Diocese of Little Rock, 2500 N Tyler St., Little Rock, AR 72207** or set up an online monthly pledge or one-time gift at [www.givecentral.org/arkansas/](http://www.givecentral.org/arkansas/).

Thank you so much for your gift. You are changing lives and impacting the future.

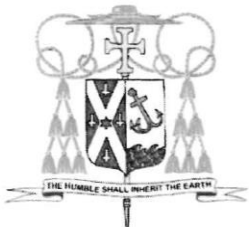
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Office of the Bishop

## DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

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October 22, 2020

### **Clarification regarding Pope Francis' statement about Civil Unions**

The major theme of Pope Francis' apostolic ministry has been to call the Church to reach out with mercy to those on the margins. This is the mercy of coming close to Jesus. Mercy is the lens through which Pope Francis calls us to view and respond to situations of poverty, migration, racial and income inequality, the environment and people affected by unjust discrimination—among whom are homosexuals, who have been marginalized throughout history. We can debate points of theology but debates seldom change hearts and usually lead to both parties clinging all the more tenaciously to the truth as they understand it. Mercy as a concept separate from Jesus can end up being simply license, but when we truly try listen to the other with a heart conformed to that of Jesus, we begin to look for ways to remedy situations that disadvantage those on the margin.

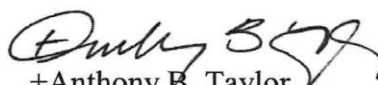
I believe that is why, without changing any of the teaching of the Church about the immorality of homosexual acts, Pope Francis has tried to find ways to reassure homosexuals that God loves them, that they have a place in the life of the Church and that we have an obligation to remove all the disadvantages that they suffer unjustly. One of these injustices is the fact that in most societies the legal union of civil marriage conveys tangential benefits to incentivize marriage that are not intrinsically connected to marriage itself, and are denied to those who are not in a legal union. That is the background for Pope Francis' statement about civil unions in the documentary "Francesco" which premiered in the Rome Film Festival on October 21, 2020. I note that comments in an interview like this can be insightful but are not meant to articulate doctrine. Here is what he said:

*"Homosexual people have the right to be in a family. They are children of God. You can't kick someone out of a family nor make their life miserable for this. What we have to have is a civil union law; that way people are legally covered."*

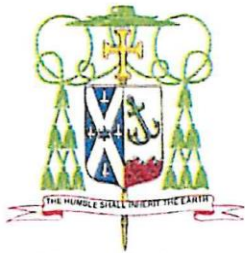
That's his concern. Civil unions of homosexuals would grant most of the tangential benefits of marriage without being a true marriage, which is of course impossible for a homosexual union, and thus a misnomer, even though U.S. law describes it as marriage. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that marriage by its very nature is "ordered to the good of the couple, as well as to the generation and education of children." (CCC 1660) One look at our bodies reveals that both the procreation of children and the complete unitive act of intercourse requires physical complementarity, which are not present in a same-sex union. However, a stable bond between persons of the same sex has the possibility of offering some good for those persons, especially when that bond is chaste in nature. Notice that this union is civil, solely for the purpose of ensuring civil benefits. It has no status in Church law. Some of the tangential civil benefits of marriage that could be made available to homosexuals in a civil union are: health insurance benefits, surviving partner inheritance benefits, joint tax return benefits, medical decision-making, hospital visitation rights, funeral decision-making and tax free transfer of property.

This statement regarding civil unions is one small expression of a much broader vision of inclusion that Pope Francis has proclaimed throughout his papacy.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
+Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock





Office of the Bishop

## DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 • (501) 664-0340 Fax (501) 664-6304

September 25, 2020

### **On Lifting the Suspension of the Sunday Mass Obligation, effective October 1, 2020**

To the people of the Diocese of Little Rock,

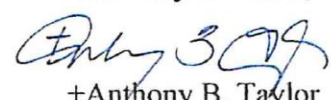
The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, and our Sunday communal celebration of the Eucharist is a central and non-negotiable part of who we are as Catholics. However, in view of the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, effective March 12, 2020 I dispensed everyone in the Diocese of Little Rock temporarily from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass in person, with the stipulation that everyone keep holy the Lord's Day in other ways, for instance through participation in Mass transmitted over the internet, through Eucharistic Adoration or other time spent in prayer, for instance a family rosary. And then effective the weekend of March 21-22, in view of the increasing danger and following the advice of our governor, the public celebration of Mass was suspended for the entire state of Arkansas, with the exception of small, self-contained groups at the discretion of the priest. This was consistent with the steps taken in dioceses throughout the world and lasted for 6 weeks.

On May 4, 2020—once we had a clearer idea of the steps to be taken to prevent the spread of the coronavirus at Mass—I authorized the resumption of the public celebration of Mass on a limited basis with the stipulation that all participants be required to wear masks the entire time they are in the Church, that the space occupied not exceed 25% occupancy, that 6' of physical separation be maintained between family groups and individuals, plus other steps be taken to ensure the safety of the participants, including the sanitizing of hands and surfaces, the temporary removal of hymn books and the temporary suspension of the ministry of choirs and altar servers. The progressive re-opening of our Churches continued throughout the summer and as of June 15, 2020 we were able to authorize up to 66% occupancy in Churches where that was possible while still maintaining the required use of masks and 6' physical distancing. During this time the dispensation from the obligation of Sunday Mass attendance continued.

Today I am happy to announce that our anti-COVID protocols have been effective in preventing the spread of the disease at Mass. We are not aware of even a single case of transmission linked to participation in worship in any Catholic Church in Arkansas—or for that matter, not any other Catholic Church in the United States where these protocols were in place. **Therefore, we are now in a position to lift the dispensation from the obligation of in-person Sunday Mass attendance for everyone who is in good health and not especially vulnerable or caring for someone who is especially vulnerable—effective October 1, 2020. The celebration of the Eucharist is at the center of our relationship with Jesus, whose true body and blood, soul and divinity we receive in this sacrament—the greatest treasure in our lives. Of course if a person feels ill, or has been exposed to COVID-19 and is in quarantine, or is otherwise especially vulnerable, for instance due to chronic illness or the frailty of old age, they remain dispensed—but still have the obligation to otherwise keep the Lord's Day holy.**

In the event that due to the ongoing requirement of physical distancing, the number of people seeking to attend Mass exceeds the capacity of the Church building and any overflow areas provided, any who are turned away have fulfilled their obligation before the Lord by the mere fact of having attempted to come to Mass, so long as they then participate in Mass via the internet, or observe some other way of keeping holy the Lord's Day, for instance through a family rosary or time spent in Eucharistic Adoration.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
+Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock





## DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 • (501) 664-0340 Fax (501) 664-6304

Clarification and Reminder 9/29/20  
Feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

To the people of the Diocese of Little Rock,

As we prepare to lift the suspension of the obligation of Sunday Mass attendance for those who are in good health, not especially vulnerable and not caring for someone who is especially vulnerable, the following clarification and reminder is in order.

Clarification: if you are in a risk group identified by the CDC or—after serious prayer and deliberation—remain very fearful otherwise, you can consider yourself still dispensed. Older adults and persons with certain medical conditions, including asthma and diabetes, have been identified by the CDC as being at greater risk. When dealing with fear or otherwise in doubt, feel free to consult with your pastor regarding your specific situation.


Protocols: all of the measures we have taken for protecting our people at Mass not only remain in place, they should be more strictly observed due to the larger number of people who will be attending Mass. In addition to mask wearing the entire time you are inside the Church, 6' physical distancing and hand sanitizing upon entry into the Church, the following (about which questions have been asked) should also continue to be observed:

Communion on the hand. You receive on the hand with the mask still on, step aside, lower the mask, place the host in your mouth, raise the mask and return to your place. There is no Communion on the tongue except during the Latin Mass. Those desiring to receive on the tongue should wait until the congregation has left, and then receive communion from the tabernacle, the priest or deacon sanitizing his hands before and after.

Dismissal: People should be dismissed row by row from the back of the Church to the front and instructed to go directly to their cars. People should not be allowed to congregate in the vestibule or immediately outside the Church following Mass.

The Eucharist is the greatest treasure the Lord has left us and it is my hope that increased participation will draw us closer to the Lord at this difficult time and provide us the spiritual nourishment we need amid the challenges we face. May the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael protect us as we move forward in our journey of faith.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
+Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Informed Choices ministry exists to evangelize, encourage and empower men/women in making life affirming choices.

### **Informed Choices provides:**

- Pregnancy Testing
- Pregnancy options education
- Healthy pregnancy education
- Limited ultrasounds
- Post abortion recovery
- Referrals for
  - Pre-natal care
  - Social services
  - Adoption
- Parenting Skills
  - Support mothers & fathers beyond pregnancy
  - "Earn While You Learn" program where clients earn items and resources to provide a healthy environment for their child

## WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

- PRAYER PARTNER
- FINANCIAL SUPPORTER
  - One Time Gifts
  - Monthly Gift
- DONATE ITEMS
- VOLUNTEER
  - Men/Women Volunteers
  - Youth Group Service Projects: yard work, sort baby items
- PROMOTE & PARTICIPATE
  - Baby Bottle Campaign
  - Annual Banquet(s)
  - 100-Hole Golf Marathon
  - Community Events

## CURRENT NEEDS

- Diapers sizes 1&2
- New baby items
- New (unused) car seats



312 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Mountain Home 870-424-4673  
 Monday – Thursday 10:00a – 6:00p  
 Closed Fridays

715 W Sherman, Harrison 870-280-3169  
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
 Closed Wednesdays

[Informedchoiceswomenscenter.org](http://Informedchoiceswomenscenter.org)





**Do you love to sing?**  
**Do you love to make music for the Lord?**  
**IS GOD CALLING YOU TO MUSIC MINISTRY?**

**Adult Choir**—The Adult Choir meets every Thursday at 6:30pm and sings at the Sunday 8:30am Mass and other Holy Days of Obligation.

**Youth Choir**—The Youth Choir consists of students in grades K-12. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm immediately following PREP class. They sing at the scheduled Youth Masses throughout the academic year. Hand chimes and other instruments are used, as well.

**Hand Bell Choir**—The Hand Bell Choir meets on Tuesday evenings at 6PM and plays at approximately 7 Masses throughout the year.

**Silver Bells**—Silver Bells is a group, specifically for the senior members of our parish. Opportunities for food, fellowship, and fun are guaranteed!

*What does Music Ministry mean to me?*

"Singing in church has been an important part of my life for as long as I can remember. It was such a natural routine for me that I would feel as if I had not participated in Mass if no singing was involved. Music ministry continues to be a meaningful part of my life even as a senior member of the parish. It is only through God's blessings that I continue in this ministry and gain a greater connection to my fellow choir members and our church congregation. I would strongly encourage others who appreciate music during church services to seriously consider giving music ministry a try."—Kevin Cheri (Adult Choir member)

"I like singing in the church choir because it lets me glorify God in a way that I enjoy. I also like the choir because it makes me feel peaceful especially when I am singing about God."—Eliana & Charlize Adamos (Youth Choir members)

"I have been a part of this amazing handbell group since it started three years ago. Even though I do have a music background, I find playing handbells challenging. Instead of playing all the notes in a song, each bell is a part of the whole that makes the music. I am thankful that I have been able to use my talents to bring more to our Mass celebration. Being a part of our music ministry has been a blessing to me."—Bonnie Tauer (Hand Bell Choir member)

"These bells make our old souls sing!"—Silver Bells members

**If you are interested in sharing your musical talents, contact**  
**Julie Jasper, Director of Music Ministry at (870)688-9369 or [julesjasper93@gmail.com](mailto:julesjasper93@gmail.com)**





## Catholic Arkansas Sharing Appeal

### What your Donation Can Do!

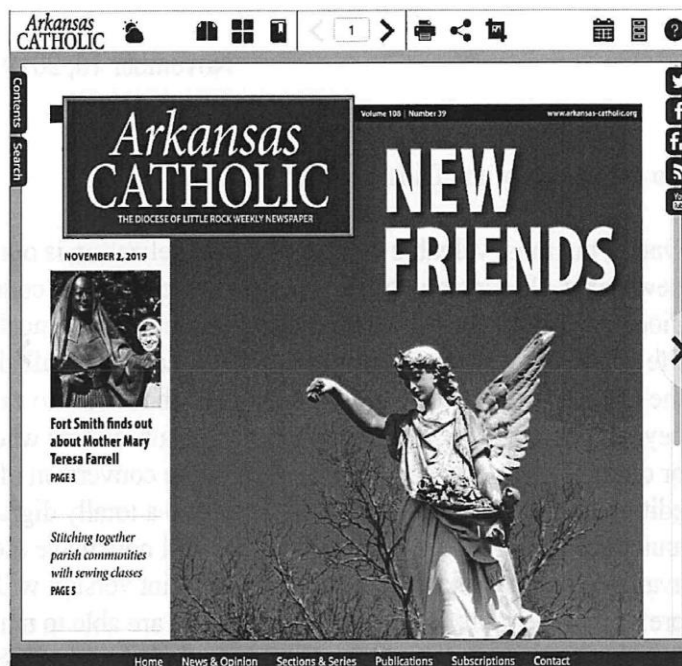
\$25	Provides religious education book for two people.
\$50	Provides a partial scholarship for a student to attend a Campus Ministry retreat.
\$135	Provides a scholarship for one youth to attend a Search weekend.
\$150	Provides utility bill assistance for a family through our Family Assistance Program.
\$250	Provides dental care for a patient of the Westside Free Medical Clinic.
\$500	Covers the cost of an application for a work permit for an eligible immigrant.
\$700	Provides assistance in updating equipment for religious education.
\$1,000	Provides a Project Rachel experience for a woman experiencing the pain of a past abortion.
\$1,500	Provides Bibles and rosaries for people incarcerated in the criminal justice system for six months.
\$2,000	Covers the legal fees for the adoption of a baby through Catholic Adoption Services.
\$4,000	Provides a scholarship for one student to receive a Catholic education for a year in a parish school.
\$36,000	Covers the expenses of educating one seminarian for one year.

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- Click the Share  icon on your screen.
- Click "Save to Home Screen."
- Click "Add."

The link is now added to your home screen for fast access.



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NEWC19

# MAJOR CHANGES TO SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM!!!



**In the Diocese of Little Rock,  
Beginning July 1, 2017:**

**WHO** must do safe environment training and background checks:

**1) Employees**

**2) Volunteers with Routine Contact w/ Minors**

- a. This includes only volunteers who have routine contact with minors as an essential part of their volunteer duties.
- b. Volunteers who do not have routine contact with minors as an essential part of their duties do not have to do safe environment training or background checks.

**WHAT** training programs:

**“CMG Connect”** → online training for **adults**  
(<http://www.dolr.org/safe-environment>)  
(or directly at: <https://littlerock.CMGconnect.org>)

**“Circle of Grace”** → in-classroom training for **children/youth**

We will no longer use VIRTUS’s “Protecting God’s Children” or “Touching Safety.”  
Instead, we will use products supported by **Catholic Mutual Group (CMG)**.

All data from VIRTUS will be moved over to CMG Connect. No one who has already done safe environment training and a background check will have to re-do anything at this time. Users who are due for a 5-year recertification will be notified how to do that by their parish/school safe environment coordinator, who will also have info on both new programs.