



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.

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
www.harrisoncatholic.org

Pastor:

Rev. James M. Fanrak

Deacon:

Dc. Mark Scouten

Parish Manager:

Robin Markham

Adult Scripture Study:

Tom Hoberock

Buildings, Maintenance:

Craig Bailey

Catholic Christian Women:

Holly Coffman

Catholic Youth Ministries (CYM):

Cemetery Committee:

Marlene Rowe

Custodian:

Holly Coffman

Eucharistic Adoration:

Carmen Andrade

Finance Council:

Joe Koenig

Flocknote:

Robin Markham

Knights of Columbus:

Frank Handley

Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree:

Val Stechly

Legion of Mary:

Pat Knickerbocker

Libraries:

Jennifer Johnson

Liturgy, Sacraments, Devotions:

Dc. Mark Scouten

Music Ministry:

Julie Jasper

Pro-Life:

Sandra Guidry

Religious Ed, Formation (PREP):

Holly Coffman

Sacristans:

K. Jones, M. Stephens

Alternate Sacristans:

E. Scouten, C. Bailey

Safe Environment:

Holly Coffman

Social Justice/Charitable Outreach

Robin Markham

Trail Life USA:

Wes Bradford

Tribunal:

Dc. Mark Scouten

Wedding Coordinator:

Bonnie Tauer

Welcome New Catholics (RCIA):

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

2022 WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday,	April 9
8:00 AM	Rosary & Confessions
8:30 AM	MASS: SI – Tuazon Family
4:30 PM	Rosary & Confessions
5:00 PM	MASS: +Richard Dix, 6 th Anniv.
Sunday,	April 10 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
8:00 AM	Rosary & Confessions
8:30 AM	MASS: +Mel Pollock
Monday,	April 11 – NO MASS
Tuesday,	April 12
5:00 PM	Rosary & Confessions
5:30 PM	MASS: +Helen Roberts
Wednesday,	April 13
5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
5:30 PM	MASS: SI - In Honor of St. Joseph's Fatherhood
Holy Thursday,	April 14 – Mass of the Lord's Supper
8:30 AM	NO MASS
9:00 AM	Rosary w/Catholic Christian Women
5:00 PM	Confessions
5:30 PM	MASS: SI – Jane Krone, BD
Good Friday,	April 15 – Passion of the Lord
8:30 AM	NO MASS
3:00 PM	Confessions, Stations of the Cross
5:30 PM	Communion Service: Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross & Holy Communion
Holy Saturday,	April 16
8:30 AM	NO MASS
5:00 PM	NO MASS
8:00 PM	Easter Vigil Mass: +Norm Rowe
Easter Sunday,	April 17 – The Lord's Resurrection!
8:00 AM	Rosary & Confessions
8:30 AM	MASS: +Newt & Ruth Foster



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

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

Personal Listening Devices are Available for Mass. Please see an usher in the vestibule to sign one out.

ONLINE BULLETINS for Mary Mother of God Church and St. Andrew's Church may be found at harrisoncatholic.org.

BISHOP TAYLOR ANNOUNCED EFFECTIVE MAY 15-16, 2021, MASK WEARING IS OPTIONAL. His letter of May 9 stated: I believe that due to the universal availability of the vaccine, we can now make mask-wearing optional, effective. In addition, Communion on the tongue during Mass is now allowed. **I do recommend, but do not require, continued mask-wearing for those who are not yet fully vaccinated or who are otherwise vulnerable.**

MMG livestreams the Saturday 5 PM & Sunday 8:30 AM Masses. Go online to the Mary Mother of God Catholic Church Facebook account or visit the church website at harrisoncatholic.org. Click Resources; then click livestream. For daily Masses, visit the MMG Facebook account.

GOOD FRIDAY DINNER TICKETS ON SALE THIS WEEKEND ONLY!

The Knights of Columbus will prepare Shrimp Scampi with Salad, Dinner Roll, Dessert & Drink for \$5 per plate. Dinner will be served in carry-out containers to take home or eat in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 4 PM. To RSVP call the church office or Holly Coffman to place your order. **Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible so there will be plenty of food for everyone!**

Pentecost Prayer Group will meet Sundays following the 8:30 AM Mass until the "Matthew" Bible Study resumes on May 15.

Catholic Christian Women (CCW) will meet **this Tuesday, April 12** at 6 PM in the Parish Hall Conference Room. All women in the parish are always welcome to attend!

PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) – This Wednesday...

5:00 PM Stations of the Cross & Confessions
5:30 PM Mass
6:00 PM Dinner for Students/Teachers/Family
6:30-7:30 PM **K-7 Classes Only**



Catholic Christian Women (CCW) will pray the Rosary this **Thursday, April 14**, at 9 AM. Coffee and sweets will follow in the Hall after the Rosary. Everyone is welcome!

The Legion of Mary will now meet at **4:30 PM** on **Thursday** in the Altar Server Sacristy (room behind the altar). It is an open meeting and everyone is welcome to attend and pray with us.



HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL is Monday at 6:15 PM. **ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL** is Thursday at 6:30 PM. Any questions, contact Julie Jasper at 688-9369 or julesjasper93@gmail.com.



FASTING & ABSTINENCE: All who have attained their 14th year are bound to abstain from meat on **all Fridays of Lent.** **GOOD FRIDAY FASTING:** All Catholic between the ages of 18-59 are limited to one full meal on this day and two smaller meals which together do not equal one full meal.

A plenary indulgence is available for anyone who prays the Stations of the Cross. This week, we will pray the Stations on Wednesday at 5 PM before the 5:30 PM Mass and on Good Friday at 3 PM.



EASTER MEMORIALS OR HONORARIUMS – Memorials (for a deceased loved one) or Honorariums (for a living loved one) are available for a \$10 donation. Easter flowers will remain throughout the Easter Season on the Altar. No names will be placed on the individual flowers, but an acknowledgment will be placed in the church bulletin. An acknowledgment card will also be sent to the person you wish to honor or remember. If you wish to make a memorial or honorarium, please use the envelopes available in the vestibule. Fill in the appropriate addresses on the envelope. Return the envelope via the church office or in the collection basket by Palm Sunday, April 10. **Thank you for beautifying our church!**

Mary Mother of God College Scholarship Applications for high school seniors are due in the church office no later than **April 15**. If you need an application, contact the church office or Holly Coffman.



The Knights of Columbus will award a college scholarship this spring for the 2022-2023 academic year. Applications may be found at harrisoncatholic.org. Select Groups and click Knights of Columbus. Please submit your application to the church office no later than **April 15**. Questions? Call Nick Simon at 688-7700.

The Knights of Columbus Lenten Food Drive (40 Cans or 40 Bucks) ends this Wednesday. If you still wish to make a food or monetary donation, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you for your generous contributions!



The Adoration Chapel will close at 9 PM on Holy Thursday and remain closed on Good Friday and Holy Saturday until it opens at 8:30 AM on Easter Sunday!

The Holy Thursday Collection for Seminarian Education will be held April 14. The money from this diocesan collection will support the educational and housing expenses of the seminarians in our Diocese. The letter from Father Jeff Hebert, Director of Vocations at our Diocese is enclosed in this bulletin. For more information, contact the Vocations and Seminarians Office at 501-664-0340.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION – Pope Francis asks for our support to help Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the Church to minister in parishes, Catholic schools, religious education, and preserve sacred shrines. The pandemic hit hard the Christians depending on pilgrimages to work. This collection will help to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land where the Church was born. Please be generous.

Annual Divine Mercy Novena – This Novena was promulgated by Saint Faustina Kowalska and is prayed each day from Good Friday until the Second Sunday of Easter, known as Divine Mercy Sunday. There are pamphlets about the devotion to The Divine Mercy and the Divine Mercy Novena available in the church vestibule.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – Military & Emergency Personnel, Victims of Natural Disasters, COVID-19, Terrorism and War, Vocations, Carl Bell, Donnie Billups, Carol Bomboy, Sue Brain, Ray Brysch, Betty Burge, Ken Clouse, Brian Coffman, Larry/Rita Coffman, Jim/Karen Conner, Noah Cuevas, Bruce Durand, Glen Feldman, John Forrest, Casey Gibbs, Bill/Levi/Ruth Haley, Chris Haley, Pete Hartman, Leon/Russell Heard, Lorita Henry, Dianne Hoberock, Linda Hoyet, Chris Jasper, Leah Jordan, Laverne Keehn, Larry/Sherry Keeter, Daniel Kester, Emory Keys, Dr. Charles Klepper, Mary Koenig, Bernie Kohl, Brian Long, Bobbie Lowery Family, Bill May, Mike Mooneyham, Janice Munzner, Deb O'Connor, Eliska Pollock, Kathy Robinson, Tim Rynders, Margaret Mary Schlacter, Dc. Mark Scouten, Ed Servis, Phil Sides, Margaret Smith, Bob Stephens, Kathleen Stimson, Bonnie Tauer, Ting Tuazon, Ashley/River Wygle. **Our Nursing Home Residents:** David Allen, Mary Allen, Terry Bodson, Steve Crawford, Patsy Hahn, Lylia Laffoon, Alan Lasecki, Bonnie Lundblad, Ann May, Bob/Diane Patterson, Mary Ralston, Giovanna Sandri, Billie Signer, Liz Smalley, Jean Williams. **Please keep our list current by contacting the office to add/delete names.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Apr 10: Lk 19:28-40 / Is 50:4-7 / Phil 2:6-11 / Lk 22:14-23:56
 Apr 11: Is 42:1-7 / Jn 12:1-11
 Apr 12: Is 49:1-6 / Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
 Apr 13: Is 50:4-9a / Mt 26:14-25
 Apr 14: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 / 1 Cor 11:23-26 / Jn 13:1-15
 Apr 15: Is 52:13-53:12 / Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 / Jn 18:1-19:42
 Apr 16: Gn 1:1-2:2 / Gn 22:1-8 / Ex 14:15-15:1 / Is 54:5-14
 Is 55:1-11 / Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4 / Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28
 Rom 6:3-11 / Lk 24:1-12
 Apr 17: Acts 10:34a, 37-43 / Col 3:1-4 / Jn 20:1-9



It's time for Co-Ed Church Softball! Anyone 15 or older who loves to play needs to sign up in the vestibule or contact Lori Curry for more info at 870-715-2928 or Lori@ozarkmoving.com.



Due to a miscommunication, the cards inserted with the funeral flowers were misplaced, so I do not know who sent the beautiful flower arrangements, but they were all lovely and I thank you! Also, I so appreciate my church family for all of your love, prayers, visits, cards, goodies, and Masses for Dan. I am so blessed to have you in my life! – Mary Allen

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – COME & VISIT YOUR SAVIOR!

"The sacred host exposed to our view speaks of the infinite power of Love manifested on the glorious Cross. The sacred host speaks to us of the incredible abasement of the one who made himself poor so as to make us rich in him, the one who accepted the loss of everything so as to win us for his Father. The sacred host is the living, efficacious and real sacrament of the eternal presence of the Savior of mankind to his Church." Pope Benedict XVI

Call Carmen at 305-815-1795 to schedule a time.

Sunday @ 7 AM, 9 AM, 10 AM, 11 AM, Noon, 3 PM & 5 PM

Monday @ 7 AM, 10 AM, 1 PM & 5 PM

Tuesday @ 7 AM, 8 AM, 10 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM & 2 PM

Wednesday @ 7 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM & 6 PM

Thursday @ 1 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM & 6 PM

Friday @ 1 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM & 5 PM

Saturday @ Noon, 1 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM & 4 PM

PLEASE NOTE: If the Harrison schools are closed due to the weather, then Adoration is closed for your safety.



THE JOURNEY FROM Ash Wednesday to Easter Activities Your Family Can Do Together - Lent 2022

PALM SUNDAY – Jesus showed his love for us

WEEK OF APRIL 10: Note: The Passion Reading for Palm Sunday is very long, so you might want to read only the Procession reading (Luke 19:28-40)

REFLECTION: When Jesus came to the city of Jerusalem, people treated him like a hero, waving palm branches and cheering. Just a few days later, many of those same people would turn against him and cry out for his death. They followed the crowd because they were afraid, instead of standing up for what they knew was right.

PRAYER: Jesus, every time we fail to stand up for those who are treated unfairly, we are like the crowd in Jerusalem that turned their backs on you. Help us to have the courage to stand up for others and to always speak the truth. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

ACTIVITY: Jesus said that whatever we do for another person, we do for him. Who, in your community, needs someone to speak up for them or show support in other ways? Could it be a family who came to the U.S. from another country? Someone of a different religion? Someone who doesn't speak English? Check out social service and faith-based agencies in your community and discuss as a family how you might help a family or individual in need. -- Unbound.org

Parish communications, such as prayer requests, updates, Mass cancellations, etc., arrive 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 or text flockmmg to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates. Need help to set up your flocknote? Contact the church office.

2022 Catholic Arkansas Sharing Appeal (CASA) - To date, our parishioners have given **\$10,515.00 or 50%** 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.

→ 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>



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.

Arkansas Catholic Subscription Drive continues. You might have overheard this conversation in our parish. One person asks, "How did you know that?" The other person replies, "I read it in Arkansas Catholic." What are you missing by not subscribing and reading Arkansas Catholic? The award-winning weekly newspaper of the Diocese of Little Rock offers complete print and digital subscriptions.

- The print edition is delivered to your mailbox every week. Subscriptions are only \$30 a year (\$28 for seniors). Pick up a subscription envelope in the pews, visit arkansas-catholic.org or call 501-664-0125.

- And you can get Arkansas Catholic Digital the same day it's published on your computer and most smart devices. Postal delays are no longer a problem.

1. Log on www.digital.arkansas-catholic.org and sign up for free.
2. Click the red "Sign Up" link.
3. Register for your free account and set up your password.
4. Log in, and you now have access to the digital edition, plus all issues back to 2002.

Every Tuesday afternoon, you will get an email with a link to access the latest edition.

Calling All Future Arkansas State Students: We at St. John Newman University Parish in Jonesboro are here for you. We have Mass at 5 PM every Sunday followed by dinner, as well as Faith Night on Wednesdays beginning with pizza. Some of the things you might be interested: retreats, social events, service events, and more! Check us out on the website at astatecnc.com or on social media at ASTATECNC. Questions? Call 870-972-1888.

SIGN UP TODAY!! The Offertory Gift Bearers have the privilege of bringing to the altar the bread, wine, and water that will be miraculously transformed into the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We encourage you, or you and your family, to participate in this ministry; consider a birthday or anniversary date. Sign-up sheets are in a Gift Bearer binder in the vestibule.

MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR – LET US ALL SHARE THE JOY OF SERVING THE LORD!! Please sign up as soon as possible. If you are new to serving (Halleluiah!) please contact the church office or fill in your chosen ministry on the back of the bulletin, drop it in the collection basket, and someone will contact you for a brief training session.



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.)

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.**

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - As we begin this new year we thank the Lord for His many blessings, some of which have come in disguise. I am personally very grateful for your friendship and your prayers that have carried us through a challenging year. You are in my daily prayers.



We will be updating our Adoration schedule, which I have not done in a while and I appeal to your kindness and patience.

If you are already registered as an "Adorer", please write back to me at g.carmen.8786@gmail.com letting me know your day and hour, and if you intend to keep that schedule this year (of course emergencies will be respected).

If you would like to register, either for the first time or to return, please write to the same email as above letting me know what day would be best for you. Our weekly bulletin shows the hours that are currently available, although there may be some variants, for which I apologize.

Looking forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please call me at 305-815-1795. With my best wishes for a happy, healthy, and peaceful 2022!
– Carmen Andrade



DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK Office of Vocations

2500 North Tyler Street • Post Office Box 7239 • Little Rock, AR 72217-7239 • (501) 664-0340

Dear friends in Christ,

On July 1, 2010 we established the Holy Thursday collection to give everyone the opportunity to help support the education of our seminarians. Since that time, you have donated over \$3,940,300.70. As of 2009, Bishop Taylor has ordained 43 new priests. Your generosity has been overwhelming, and I want to thank you for your prayers and support.

I am pleased to share with you the good news of your Holy Investment in Faith! This past year the Diocese of Little Rock ordained five men to the priesthood. They faithfully and enthusiastically serve your needs all across our diocese. I am proud to say, and they would confirm, that the fruit of their vocations are a result of your prayers and sacrifices.

The good news of your Holy Investment in Faith continues! In 2022, God willing, 2 additional men will be ordained to the priesthood to serve the people of our diocese. This is in addition to the 139 active diocesan, missionary, and religious priests already serving our diocese. Today the median age of our active diocesan priests has dropped to 48 years.

As you already know, the success of your Investment in Faith is dependent upon God's grace and your donations. Your donation directly supports the education of the future priests of our diocese. We currently have 21 seminarians and anticipate growing even more this fall. I invite you once again this year to open your hearts and help support these young men who will someday be your priests. The education cost for each of the 21 diocesan seminarians is \$36,000 per year, which is equivalent to a total cost of \$756,000.00. We need your help to be able to prepare our seminarians for the priesthood. Every dollar is important. Every gift is an expression of faith.

Many of you have envelopes for this collection in your monthly packets. I have also asked every pastor to place envelopes in the pews this weekend. Preferably, anytime between now and Easter, you can put the envelope in the parish collection basket, or you can mail your contribution directly to the diocese.

I want to thank you on behalf of Bishop Taylor, our seminarians and myself for your generous support and prayers. I am very proud of our seminarians who are men of prayer and who work and study diligently so that they can be good and holy priests for you in the years to come. Please be assured that you are included in their daily prayers as well as in my own. I am confident that you will respond generously again this year to the Holy Thursday Collection so we can continue to build and to invest for the future and to make a difference well past our time.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Jeff Hebert
Director of Vocations

IS CONFESSION STILL AN EASTER DUTY?

Cathy Caridi, J.C.L. – April 2, 2009

Q: When I was a kid, everyone was required during Lent to make his “Easter Duty”. Every parishioner received a card from the parish. When we went to confession before Easter, we handed the card to the priest. By Easter he had a huge stack of cards, showing which parishioners had made their Easter Duty and who hadn’t. But nowadays, people hardly ever go to confession like they used to, and nobody talks about Easter Duty. Has this requirement been abolished like so many other things? – Janet

A: Canon law is grounded in theology. The most fundamental theological teaching about the sacrament of penance—that reception of the sacrament is necessary when we are conscious of having committed grave sin (c. 988.1)—will never change, because as Catholics we believe that this sacrament was instituted for this very purpose by Christ Himself. What can change over time, however, are the disciplinary practices (what one might call “housekeeping details”) pertaining to this sacrament, like that described in Janet’s question. Let’s take a look at what the current law says about confessing one’s sins at Easter time, and compare it to church law in the past.

Most American Catholics are at home with the traditional notion that while we should go to confession throughout the year, it is particularly necessary at Christmas and Easter time. In fact, however, there is no legal requirement to receive the sacrament at these particular times. Canon 989 states merely that everyone who has reached the age of discretion is required to confess his grave sins at least once a year. On the surface, it’s a very simple, straightforward canon, but let’s unpack it to be sure we understand exactly what is required of us.

The mention of the “age of discretion” refers to the fact that children who are too young to have made their First Confession are of course exempt from this obligation. The implication, therefore, is that once a child has reached the age of reason and has received the sacrament of penance for the first time, this annual requirement applies.

The canon notes specifically that a Catholic is required to confess his *grave* (i.e., mortal) sins. Thus if he is not conscious of having committed any such sins, there is no requirement to receive the sacrament. The preceding canon does note that it is recommended that the faithful also confess their venial sins (c. 988.2); but a recommendation is not an obligation.

Therefore, technically speaking, a person who does not commit any mortal sins throughout his life is not required to go to confession at ANY time, including the Easter season. Obviously canon 989 does not contain any particularly stringent requirements, and to many Catholics may actually seem quite lax! Was the law more demanding in the past?

Not at all. The current Code of Canon Law was promulgated in 1983 by Pope John Paul II, replacing the previous code of 1917. Our current canon 989 is virtually identical to the 1917 code’s canon 906. That canon, in turn, was based on the discipline decreed by the Church during the Council of Trent (1545-1563), formulated in response to protestant claims that sacramental confession of one’s sins to a priest was not of divine origin and was unnecessary. We can see that with regard to a Catholic’s obligation to confess his sins annually, nothing whatsoever has been changed for nearly 500 years!

It is important to keep in mind here that the code is mandating the absolute minimum that is acceptable for a practicing Catholic. If one adheres to the minimum requirements, he is not violating the law—but that does not necessarily mean that doing only the bare minimum is a good idea.

Nor is it a good idea to fall into the trap of thinking that it is not worthwhile to confess sins that are “just” venial. Pope John Paul, in his 1984 Apostolic Exhortation *Reconciliation and Penance*, noted that venial sin “must never be underestimated, as though it were automatically something that can be ignored or regarded as ‘a sin of little importance’” (17). It is well known that the late pontiff himself confessed his sins every single day—and one might reasonably assume that they were venial, rather than mortal sins!

So what was happening in Janet's parish when she was a kid? The practice she describes, which was not unique, was one means that parish pastors sometimes used in the past to try to ensure that none of their parishioners received Holy Communion at Easter time in a state of mortal sin.

For while the code does not mandate that we Catholics must receive the sacrament of penance at any particular time of the year, it does specify that we receive Holy Communion during the Easter season. Canon 920 notes that once a Catholic has received his First Holy Communion, he is obliged to receive this sacrament at least once a year, during paschal time (i.e., between Easter and Pentecost). This, and not a perceived requirement to go to confession, is the actual origin of the term "Easter Duty".

But it does tie in directly with a requirement to receive the sacrament of penance first, if one has committed mortal sin. Canon 916 simply restates Catholic sacramental theology when it asserts that anyone who is conscious of grave sin may not receive the Eucharist without first having gone to confession.

Consequently, a pastor like Janet's might reasonably have expected that at Easter, Holy Communion would be received by everyone in his parish—including some who ordinarily might not receive the sacrament, for a variety of reasons. Perhaps there were some parishioners who the pastor knew well were not regularly practicing their faith, or who might even be living scandalously sinful lives. If such people were to approach a priest distributing Holy Communion at Easter Sunday Mass, he might logically be concerned that they could still be in a state of grave sin. In order to obviate this problem, the pastor apparently established a system to determine whether in fact each parishioner had received the sacrament of penance before Easter. If he knew that everybody had done so, he might rest easier about giving them all the Eucharist. It was not a fool-proof system, of course, but it was a logical and sincere attempt to ensure that nobody was making a sacrilegious Communion in the parish.

A couple of significant problems with this approach are perhaps the reasons why it is not a current, widespread practice. Firstly, the system presumes that every parishioner will go to confession in his own parish. But there is no obligation to receive the sacrament of penance in a particular church or from a particular priest. Canon 991 states clearly that every Catholic is free to confess his sins to a confessor of his own choice, even to one of another rite. Lest anyone wonder whether this is an innovation in the 1983 code, the corresponding canon in the 1917 code was, once again, virtually identical. This means that anyone may lawfully go to confession in any Catholic parish; and this holds true even if, for example, the Catholic is a member of the Latin rite and he wishes to go to confession at a Byzantine-rite Catholic parish. So if Janet's pastor did not receive a card from one of his parishioners, it was always possible that the person had gone to confession somewhere else. The pastor could not necessarily make any definitive conclusions about a parishioner's failure to submit the card to him.

The second objection is more pastoral than canonical, and concerns a penitent's privacy. While there are plenty of Catholics who are quite content to confess their sins face-to-face, in the sight of the priest (who may recognize them if he already knows them personally), there are also a significant number of faithful who prefer anonymity. There is certainly nothing wrong with a penitent preferring to use a confessional with a grill or other privacy-screen between him and the confessor; nor even with a person wishing to confess specifically to a priest who does not know him at all! Especially, though not exclusively, in cases where a penitent feels a particular embarrassment about having to confess a certain sin, it may be much easier to receive the sacrament in the darkened interior of a traditional confessional-box, from an unknown confessor whom he may very well never meet again. Even if a parishioner believes that the priest(s) of his own parish may not be able to identify him, the need to somehow reach around inside the confessional and hand the priest a card may very well enable him to do just that! Thus this system, while intended to encourage parishioners to go to confession before Easter, could actually discourage some of them from doing so.

To answer Janet's question, therefore, the law concerning mandatory reception of the sacrament of penance has certainly not changed in our lifetimes. But the disciplinary practice at her childhood parish—which in any case was never a universal custom—is not in force throughout the Catholic Church today. The methods which the Church may use to urge or encourage Catholics to frequent the confessional can vary; but the need for us all to receive this sacrament regularly will always remain unchanged.

PLENARY INDULGENCE

Pope Francis Extraordinary Blessing “urbi et orbi” at Rome on March 27, 2020.

Pope Francis granted a plenary indulgence to all the faithful who watched or listened to his blessing “to the city and the world” on March 27, 2020 at the Vatican. This plenary indulgence in effect eliminated all temporal punishment due to sin for those who watched or listened to his extraordinary blessing.

What is temporal punishment due to sin?

The temporal punishment due to sin is a consequence of sin that will have a definite end, that is when the soul is fully purified and totally ready to enter heaven.

The temporal punishment due to sin is usually associated with purgatory, that state after death in which God, in His mercy, will cleanse us of all imperfections so that we can enter into heaven. But this purification may also take place in this life by the practice of prayer, penance, and good works.

Pope Francis granted a plenary indulgence on the special occasion of his blessing “to the city and the world” on March 27, 2020. But there are plenary indulgences associated with many other spiritual works, too. Some are:

1. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for at least one half hour.
2. Devout reading of the Sacred Scriptures for at least one half hour.
3. The pious exercise of the Stations of the Cross.
4. The recitation of the Rosary in a church or public oratory or in the family, a religious community, or a pious association.

Pope St. John Paul II explained in a general audience in 1999 that plenary indulgences depend on “our turning away from sin and our conversion to God”. That is why there are conditions for receiving an indulgence:

1. Sacramental confession.
2. Eucharistic communion.
3. Prayer for the Pope, at least one Our Father and one Hail Mary.
4. All willful attachment to sin, even to venial sin, must be absent.
5. Only one plenary indulgence may be acquired each day.

When a priest is not readily available, the requirements of sacramental confession and communion are suspended until a priest is readily available.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1472-1473, 1478-1479)

MARY MOTHER OF GOD CATHOLIC CHURCH
HARRISON, ARKANSAS

[illegible]

2022 APRIL MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR

5 PM Saturday Mass

Rosary: ***Volunteer Needed***
 Lector: Jane Krone

E/M: Wes Bradford
 Elisabeth Scouten

Servers: Jacob Bradford
 Matthew Bradford

Ushers: Everett Burr
 Chuck Draper
 Terry Draper

8:30 AM Sunday Mass

Rosary: Greg Jasper
 Lector: Mary Bausch

E/M: Greg Jasper
 Mike Galligan
 Mary Billups

Servers: Keeley Culpepper
 Jacob Simon

Ushers: Alvin Hanson
 Regina Hanson
 Gerry Gokenbach
 James Virnig

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Apr 1	Debbie Berry	Apr 10	Cambree Hodges	Apr 23	Laurel Eddings
Apr 1	Tristen Smith	Apr 11	Kathy Pinson	Apr 23	Meredith Huddleston
Apr 2	Scarlett Everts	Apr 12	Patricia Castellano	Apr 23	Bobby Lowery Jr.
Apr 3	Shela Aldape	Apr 13	Craig Bailey	Apr 25	Chris Rose
Apr 4	Mary Billups	Apr 14	Blaise Bonds	Apr 26	Carl Bell
Apr 4	Avery Pratt	Apr 15	Maria Padilla Flores	Apr 27	Terry Bodson
Apr 5	Briar Bellinghausen	Apr 16	Robert Carrera	Apr 27	Bonnie Tauer
Apr 6	Darlene Coffman	Apr 16	Zachary Caputo	Apr 28	Steve Gutting
Apr 6	Glen Feldman	Apr 16	David Durand	Apr 28	Rai Lamb
Apr 5	Regina Hanson	Apr 17	Wyatt Mahoney	Apr 28	Julia McFadden
Apr 8	Nick Paradiso	Apr 18	Jane Krone	Apr 29	Traci DiCarlo
Apr 8	Bill Van Leeuwen	Apr 19	Martha Sandoval	Apr 30	Mary Bray
Apr 9	Jimmie Wells	Apr 23	Crystal Applegate	Apr 30	Tim Huddleston
				Apr 30	Venice Rubio

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Apr 8	Kathy & Ubaldo Cuevas	Apr 18	Dick & Linda Hoyet
Apr 10	Richard & Laurie Criger	Apr 28	Travis & Renae Whiteside
Apr 11	Ken & Pam Clouse	Apr 29	James & Patricia Bel
Apr 13	Rickey & Brenda Amerson	Apr 30	David & Cynthia Durand
Apr 16	John & Debbie Berry		

Joseph F. Koenig, C.P.A.

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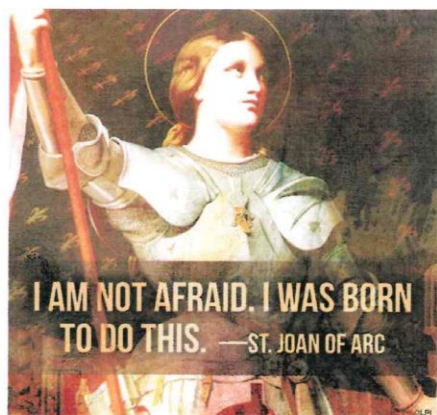
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128 N Willow Street, Harrison, AR 72601

Are You Interested?

YES!! We Need You!! YOU can be an active participant at Mary Mother of God Church! We want many people to volunteer so no one gets 'stuck' with certain ministries all the time!

Lector: Read the Scripture readings during Mass.
Rosary Leader: Lead before Mass.
Musician: See or call Julie Jasper.
Extraordinary Minister: Distribute the Body of Christ during Communion.
Altar Servers: All youth who have celebrated their First Holy Communion.
Usher: Greet people, guide them to empty seats, hand out bulletins after Mass, check pews after Mass for debris or loose hymnals/missalettes.

If so, call the church office!



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DR. TOM BUTLER

CHIROPRACTIC ORTHOPEDIST CERTIFIED IN ACUPUNCTURE
SPORTS PHYSICIAN

PATRICIA H. VIRNIG

Attorney At Law

132 N. Willow
Harrison, AR 72601
Hours: 9 AM to 5 PM



870-741-0002

Fax: 870-741-0003

Mary Mother of God Catholic Church
Catholic Christian Women (CCW)
107 Years of Serving Our Parish
See Bulletin For Meeting
Dates & Times



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord—Pope St. John Paul II rightly taught, "To believe in Jesus is to accept what he says, even when it runs contrary to what others are saying. It means rejecting the lure of sin, however attractive it may be, in order to set out on a difficult path of Gospel virtues." Acceptance, rejection, suffering, betrayal, fear, reluctance, persecution, and painful, undeserved and unjust death are all played out in dramatic fashion today. Jesus spoke of God's unconditional love, mercy, and forgiveness. Who doesn't like hearing about love, especially God's? Jesus did not have backs turned on him, face intense suffering, and succumb to a horrific death because he spoke of God's love. All of those things occurred because of the implications of actually believing in God's love.

God's love comes with an intimate and equal bond with love of neighbor. This moves the believer outward to truly see their brothers and sisters as equals and compels them to work for a world that mirrors God's kingdom: a world based on justice, peace, mercy, and forgiveness. Sometimes, people want to keep God's love to themselves and use it solely for their own benefit. When they only want to use God's love to justify their own intentions and for their own projects, problems occur.

Sin makes something hurtful, destructive, and self-serving look very attractive and justifiable. The lure of sin creates friends who begin to believe the lie that the sin expounds. This is what happened on Calvary. When you begin actually doing what Jesus is saying and translate love into action, it inevitably will upset popular and longstanding conventions and structures. Many of these serve to protect status, foster personal gain and success, and further divide those who have from those who do not. Most people who hear the Gospel are attracted to what they hear, at first. When they realize that it means standing apart from popular opinion, even if that opinion is against the Gospel and sinful, they cower back in fear and join the throngs shouting, "Crucify him!" There is an ambivalence found in many believers as they struggle with whether their belief is strong enough "to set out on the difficult path of Gospel virtues."

©LPi

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• Sunday Lunch •
11:30 AM—2 PM



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Pray For Peace!

In Memory of Newt & Ruth Foster

April 10, 2022

WATCH

TRIDUUM: A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE

This film cinematically walks through the locations of the Holy Week story, representing the most important days of human history. Immersed in the real and sacred places of the Holy Land, the pilgrim faithful is brought tangibly nearer to the story, the landscape, and the reality of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



FORMED LIVE!

Jesus' Descent into Hell

Holy Saturday
April 11th, 2020

JESUS' DESCENT INTO HELL

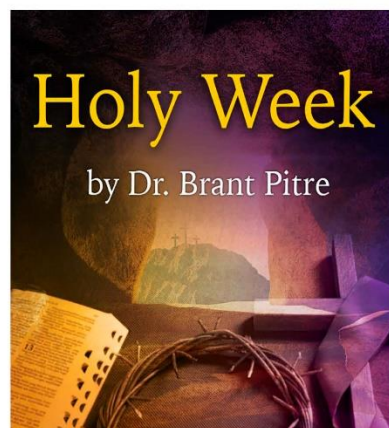
Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Michael Barber as they unpack the celebration of Holy Saturday: Jesus' descent into hell, which is often misunderstood.

LEARN

LISTEN

HOLY WEEK BY DR. BRANT PITRE

Dr. Brant Pitre takes listeners on a Scriptural walk from Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday. Learn about Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, why he cursed a fig tree, the importance of the "blood and water" that flowed out from Christ's side, and more.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
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JOURNEYING TOGETHER SYNODAL REPORT TO THE DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK
Mary Mother of God Church – Harrison, AR – Fr. James Fanrak, Pastor / Deacon Mark Scouten

Section 2: Narrative – How MMG Parish organized the consultations:

Parish organization leaders as well as volunteers at large were sought out to be facilitators and note-takers during the consultations.

Manageable-sized small groups were made available and gathered; usually offered after Masses, and at the regular meetings of the various parish organizations. Individual consultations were also held as requested.

The facilitators and note-takers recorded and summarized the conversations held at these meetings.

In addition, consultation questionnaires were sent to all registered households in the parish. Returns were recorded and summarized.

All input was synthesized by the parish secretary and committee. This formed the basis of this report.

Section 3: Top Three Revealing Discoveries:

- 1) The people of the parish do feel a part of the Church, and they do their “journeying together” as they are present and participate in the Mass, the Sacraments. They also “journey together” as they become involved in the ministries, organizations, gatherings, and socials that are done as a parish family.
- 2) The people of God, our parishioners, have a very positive and warm experience of how the Church is journeying with them. They feel welcomed, acknowledged, and valued as individuals within the parish. They sense that leadership is trying to care about them, about their welfare and needs. They feel that fellow parishioners are one with them as a family-like group. Parishioners sense that they can reach out to other parishioners in their time of need.
- 3) The people of Mary Mother of God Parish are thirsting for better and more reaching out to those who seem no longer to come to church, as well as to welcoming those who are searching for a church and spiritual family. They would also like to strengthen their bonds with the Lord and with one another through additional spiritual and corporal works of prayer, service, and fellowship.

Section 4: Most Common Observations:

- 1) About why parishioners do not come to church and about why they do not participate in Mass and other parish activities and groups
 - Illness, company, disabilities,
 - Distance from church, no transportation,
 - Irreverence during Mass,
 - Too many requests for money,
 - Pedophilia, scandal,
 - Priests and hierarchy stray from the authentic, traditional teachings of the Church,
 - Dissatisfaction with political leaders,
 - Covid,

Section 4: Most Common Observations:

1) Continued

- Personal scheduling,
- Very little talk about mortal sin, hell,
- Validity of sacraments,
- People's judgmental stance of others at Mass, Church

2) About what parishioners like and appreciate what's going at Mary Mother of God Parish:

- Welcoming feeling, "family" feeling,
- Spiritual environment, friendliness,
- Rosary, extraordinary ministers,
- New Pentecost Prayer Group
- Scripture Study
- The structure, the rituals, the prayers
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Availability of Confession
- Knights of Columbus events
- Legion of Mary, prayer and visiting
- Corporal and Spiritual works
- Very accommodating Mass schedule
- Wonderful organization leaders
- Pastor, deacon, sacristans, homilies
- Livestreaming of Masses and events
- Music Ministry, Youth Choir and Musicians
- Trail Life Youth
- PRE, Youth Ministry
- Flocknotes, bulletins, prayer needs alert
- List of those needing prayer in bulletin
- Visits and Communion to homebound
- Gospel is taught
- Fellowship – sharing food
- CCW (Catholic Christian Women)
- Greeting card ministry
- Kitchen ministry that builds connections and friendships
- Simple, understandable teaching
- Appreciate the bishop and hierarchy for their asking parishioners' thoughts
- Church secretary
- Use of parish hall for dinners, get-togethers, family events
- Magnificat, Formed, EWTN
- Spiritual Director
- Caring and ministering when there's a death
- Beautiful, well-kept gardens, lawns

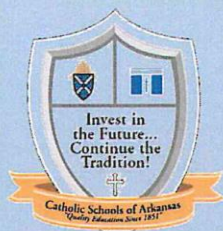
3) About what parishioners want more of and what they want begun at MMG:

- Speak more about the good the Church does
- Communal Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Local theology study programs
- Pilgrimages to Holy Places
- Motivational speakers' resources
- Novenas, Missions, Cursillos
- Benedictions, Eucharistic Processions
- Communal Anointing of the Sick, Healing services
- Encourage Religious Orders (nuns, priests and brothers) to go back to religious habits, etc.
- That the Bishop visit more
- That the hierarchy speak more clearly about how to deal with public figures, political figures who vocally disagree with the authentic teaching of the Church
- Stronger evangelization committee
- More visible and active welcoming committee
- Get-togethers, coffees after Mass
- Socials for all the parish, meals
- Penance Services, Tridentine Rites, Tridentine Priests
- Restore lost Church traditions and rituals, separation of church and state
- Catholic issues study programs
- Empty-nester ministry
- More emphasis on Respect Life
- 6:30 or 7 PM Mass on Days of Obligation
- 4 PM Saturday Mass in Winter
- PRE, Sunday School after Sunday Mass; more emphasis on Youth Ministry
- That the Bishop and hierarchy be fully open, honest, and accountable about abuses, scandals
- More attention to homeless; saving the environment
- Make annulment process smoother
- Latin Mass once in a while
- Church teaching to be more appealing and inclusive, more definite and fixed rather than negotiable
- Young people to become more invited in, active in church
- Catholic parochial school
- Clearer, more definite, authentic Catholic teaching from bishops, pope, magisterium
- Against China government appointing bishops
- More frequent updated parish directory and pictures
- More about Centering prayer
- Laudato Si, Fratelli Tutti groups
- Life in the Spirit seminars
- Clearer teaching on homosexual, trans-sexual issues
- More publicity about the charitable works which the church does

**MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR
SIGN-UP SHEET**

<u>MINISTRIES</u>	<u>Sat Mass</u>	<u>Sun Mass</u>	<u>Name & Phone #:</u>
<u>Rosary Leader:</u>	Yes / No	Yes / No	<hr/> <hr/>
<u>Lectors:</u>	Yes / No	Yes / No	<hr/> <hr/>
<u>Extraordinary (Communion) Minister:</u>	Yes / No	Yes / No	<hr/> <hr/>
<u>Altar Servers:</u>	Yes / No	Yes / No	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<u>Ushers:</u>	Yes / No	Yes / No	<hr/> <hr/>

Please complete and return to the church office or in next weekend's collection basket.
If you are new to serving in any of these ministries, someone will contact you for a brief training meeting. Thank you!



Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Little Rock
P.O. Box 7239
Little Rock, AR 72217

Bishop

Most Reverend Anthony B. Taylor

Superintendent

Mrs. Theresa Hall



Faith Academics Service



ARKANSAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP APPEAL

November 13, 2021

Dear Parishioner,

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, 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 79 students attending Arkansas Catholic schools with awards ranging from \$400 to \$1,500 per student.

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 \$526,505. 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. They 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.dolr.org/schools/scholarship-appeal.

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St. Joseph

Faithful Protector of Mother and Child

The infant Christ “came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph” (PC 5). The humble and often hidden carpenter of Nazareth accompanied Mary in her pregnancy, assisted at the birth of the Messiah in a stable, presented Jesus in the Temple, fled with his family far from their homeland to protect them, and lovingly raised Jesus as his own son in the years to come.

While the angel of the Lord appeared to Mary to announce that she would bring forth the Savior of the world, it was revealed to Joseph in a series of dreams how God’s plans would be brought to fulfillment. As Pope Francis highlights, “God trusted Joseph, as did Mary, who found in him someone who would not only save her life, but would always provide for her and her child” (PC 5).

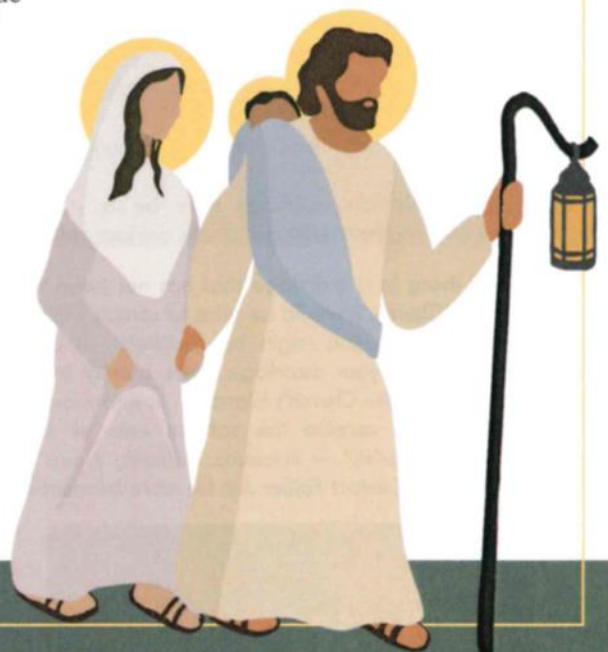
Dear St. Joseph,
help us to
imitate your
faithful trust and
courage.

Like every other human family, the Holy Family had to confront real and concrete challenges. Yet, “in every situation, Joseph declared his own ‘fiat’” (PC 3). His “yes” to the Lord meant that regardless of the hardship and personal sacrifice to himself, he consistently chose to put the needs of Mary and Jesus before his own. Joseph’s devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us.

During this Year of St. Joseph, each of us can find in him “an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble” (PC, Intro). Joseph shows us how to say “yes” to life, despite our own fears, frailties, and weaknesses. For it is Joseph who was “chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true ‘miracle’ by which God saves the child and his mother” (PC 5).

May we, too, be miracles in the lives of those who are most in need, especially at the beginning and end of life. Dear St. Joseph, you who were “able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting always in divine providence” (PC 5), help us to imitate your faithful trust and courage.

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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

July 26, 2021

To the people of the Diocese of Little Rock,

I have recently been asked whether the Diocese of Little Rock should re-impose restrictions such as mandatory mask-wearing, physical distancing and disinfection of surfaces in response to the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in Arkansas, 85% of which involve the highly infectious Delta variant. It has been suggested that since only 40% of Arkansans have been vaccinated, we need to do something to protect the other 60%, many of whom could be vaccinated but refuse.

It is important to note that with the universal availability of effective vaccines, the present threat is much different from that which occasioned the restrictions when COVID-19 first became a threat. Now, other than people with a medical condition that disqualifies them, anyone above age 12 can readily be vaccinated at no cost to themselves. As for those below age 12, for whatever reason, there have been very few serious cases involving younger children who may have some degree of natural immunity. The vaccine is effective in preventing most infections, even of the Delta variant, and vaccinated people who do become ill generally experience a much milder case than otherwise. Moreover, the vaccines are the best way to minimize the degree to which the virus can keep mutating. The vaccine's connection with abortion-derived fetal cell lines is very remote and our cooperation with such acts via receiving the vaccine is passive (no active cooperation) and so the Vatican has declared their use "morally acceptable" given the grave danger of the pandemic. Therefore, everyone who can be vaccinated has been repeatedly and strongly encouraged to do so—not only by me, but also even by Pope Francis—and so in the end, those who fail to do so have to be willing to accept the consequences of their decision. Diocesan policy will not be dictated by those who despite strong and clear encouragement, refuse to take the necessary steps to protect themselves and others. So for now, the only restriction that remains in place diocesan-wide is that the Precious Blood will continue not to be distributed to the faithful at Mass.

Having said that, given the principle of subsidiarity, individual parishes are free to take steps to address the threat locally. This could include making mask-wearing mandatory at one of their Masses, or setting aside one section of the nave for physical distancing and the exclusive use of mask-wearing participants.

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 3rd 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



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



Catholic Arkansas Sharing Appeal

What your Donation Can Do!

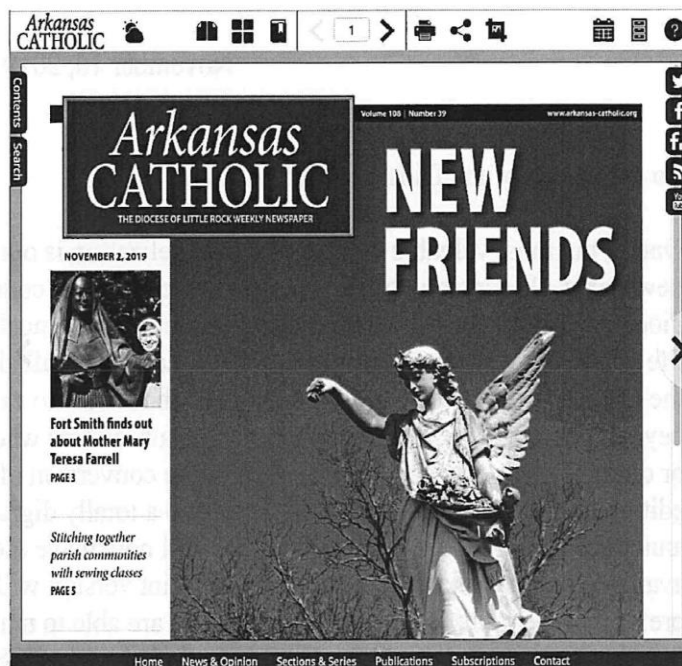
\$25	Provides religious education book for two people.
\$50	Provides a partial scholarship for a student to attend a Campus Ministry retreat.
\$135	Provides a scholarship for one youth to attend a Search weekend.
\$150	Provides utility bill assistance for a family through our Family Assistance Program.
\$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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NEWC21

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.