

(continued from the front cover page)

Jesus follows John in order to help us become better believers as God intends.

This week of Advent, place yourself in the grand scheme of salvation history, reflect on what God's promise to send his son means for your life and how we can prepare for Christ's return at the second coming. Place your hope in the Lord, and trust his divine plan. We invite you to pray about the virtue of hope with these scripture passages and accompanying reflection questions:

- Isaiah 40:3-5 Think about John the Baptist as the voice calling out in the desert, in what ways do you exude hope or want to exude hope in your daily life?
- Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 Are you caught up on daily anxieties and earthy pleasures, or do you use spiritual life to help alleviate your fears and keep you focused on salvation with Christ?
- Romans 5:1-11 Do you see hope in our spiritual life for our own redemption and deeper conversion to Christ? Do we ask the Holy Spirit to give us the virtue of hope?

(Resource: Catholic Apostolate Center)

DEANERY 3 VOCATION DAY: Mark your calendars now for April 18th, 2026, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. This will be a Deanery 3 wide Vocation Day held at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, Lebanon. Fr. Scott is working with pastors to prepare and plan for this day with representatives from all of our parishes in the deanery. As a reminder, Deanery 3 includes El Dorado Springs, Stockton, Bolivar, Humansville, Buffalo, Marshfield, Conway, and Lebanon. This event will be a first of its kind for us bringing together the deanery as a whole. It will include great guest speakers, a keynote presentation, breakout sessions, prayer and activities for all ages, lunch and a 4:00 p.m. Sunday vigil Mass. Each of us has a vocation to serve God as a priest or religious, a married man or woman, or a dedicated single person. To know God's plans for our vocation we must learn to pray and discern asking His will and listening for His voice. Once we have discerned His will, then we must live it and do so with generosity and joyful hearts. Plan to attend and don't say we didn't tell you, as this is five months early notice. This is for everybody, those currently living their vocation, those discerning their vocation, and those who want to learn more about how to discern.



St. Catherine of Siena Mission

Humansville, Missouri

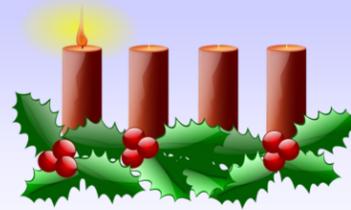
PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We remember those in our mission who are sick or unable to be with us: Robert Agee, Myrna Bressner, Sienna Cortes, Carol Gorman, Paula Keller, Gary Kirkpatrick, Matthew Limbrick, Bobette & Phillip Owens, Annette Petrone, Tony Petrone, Dean Siemer, Henri Thibault, Logan Tillmon, Danny Vasquez. If you need prayers, please call Alice 754-8447, Paula 754-8067 or Fr. Scott 326-8764.

PCCW PRESIDENT: For information on meetings & projects contact Alice McIntosh, 417-754-8447.

**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA MISSION
OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

11/23/2025

Env/Cks:	\$	110.00
Plate:		80.00
CCSOMO:		75.00
Total:	\$	265.00



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Bolivar, Missouri

November 30, 2025

"Our Catholic parish family welcomes all to share in Christ and the call to everlasting life through faith, prayer and fellowship."

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT—HOPE

The first week of Advent is centered around the virtue of hope. This theological virtue is incredibly integral to the Christian life, but it can be incredibly complex. Day to day, we are hopeful for anything from our favorite sports team to win a game to a promotion at work. Hope in our faith lives, however, goes deeper. We hope in Jesus himself, that he rose from the dead and will return in the second coming, and although they are already assured, we still hope in God's love, mercy, and graces to be poured out on us each day. In Advent, we hope for the normal spiritual graces, but we also hope for Christ's coming at Christmas and at the second coming. We enter into the past like our Jewish ancestors who await the coming of the Messiah. We, as Christians, await the Messiah's arrival at Christmas. But knowing the end of Christ's earthy life and what is promised in eternal life, we pray for the strength and the grace to live upright lives in the hope of the Second coming and the resurrection of the dead: Christ's ultimate and promised victory. As the Catechism explains: "When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming."

By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (CCC 524). The precursor discussed here is St. John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and the last Old Testament prophet. The Catechism explains "John surpasses all the prophets, of whom he is the last. He inaugurates the Gospel, already from his mother's womb welcomes the coming of Christ, and rejoices in being 'the friend of the bridegroom,' whom he points out as 'the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.' Going before Jesus 'in the spirit and power of Elijah,' John bears witness to Christ in his preaching, by his Baptism of conversion, and through his martyrdom" (CCC, 523).

In other words, John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets who called Israel to repentance and sought to prepare the people for Christ's mission and personal call to follow him in a totally new way. John the Baptist's call to a radical new way of life, "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel", is meant to disorganize and reorient one's life, and (continued on the back cover)

PARISH INFORMATION

Sacred Heart Catholic Church: 1405 W. Fair Play, Bolivar, 65613
417-326-5596 (office)

website: www.sacredheartbolivar.org

email: sheartbolivar@gmail.com

St. Catherine of Siena Mission: P.O. Box 42, Humansville, 65674
417-754-8825

PASTOR: The Very Rev. Fr. Scott M. Sunnenberg, 417-326-8764

PERMANENT DEACON: Rev. Mr. James Farrar, 417-818-0600
jfarrar@dioscog.org

OFFICE MANAGER: Mary Rowley, 417-326-5596

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00a-4:00p

FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR

Kindergarten-High School: Darlene Arendt, 417-298-6237

MUSIC MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Carol Divin,
417-326-6576

Practice for the Mass choirs are on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the choir practice room.

PARISH COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (PCCW)

Dana Landwehr, President, 660-223-2969 *Meeting is the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Conference Room. We meet in the chapel at 5:30 p.m. for prayer. All women of the parish are invited.*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Eric Shinault, 417-350-2686

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR: Ryan Skopec, 515-414-9257

ST. WENCESLAUS CATHOLIC CEMETERY

INFORMATION: Jim & Jane Otradovec, 417-327-5660

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Baptism: Please contact the Pastor for a meeting/class.

Marriage: Please contact the Pastor at least six months prior to the wedding for marriage prep classes.

OCIA Classes: Inquiry classes for adults who are interested in joining the Catholic Church contact Fr. Scott or Deacon Jim.

HEART TO HEART.....by V. Rev. Scott M. Sunnenberg

A LOOK AT LEO: “Hope acts as the deep seated drive that keeps us walking in difficulty, that prevents us from giving up in the fatigue of the journey, that makes us certain that the pilgrimage of existence will lead us home...”
November 26, 2025

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend at all Masses, the Magnificat Advent Companion booklets are available. Please take one per family and any leftovers will be made available next weekend. As always, these are an excellent resource to help us enter into prayerful contemplation as we await the historical birth of Jesus, make ready our hearts to receive Him now and look for the day that He will return again. Advent invites us all to do as John the Baptist did in preparing the way of the Lord and making space in our all too busy world for Jesus. Additional Advent resources you may wish to consider can be found at Clunymedia.com where some excellent classic books are being re-printed for today and made available. One in particular I would recommend is “*The True Meaning of Christmas*” by Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. Another excellent online source is the daily video series “*33 Day Dedication to our Eucharistic Jesus*”, with the Dominican Fathers, which can be found at spiritualdirection.com Relevant Radio is offering a FREE daily prayer, listen, and reflect Advent Calendar delivered to your email with everything except chocolate. Sign up at relevantradio.com Catholic Extension Society has prepared a free downloadable Advent companion which includes thoughtful reflections for each Sunday, as well as prayer reminders and helps so that we can reconnect with what Advent truly means. Sign up at give.catholicextension.org And for the especially adventurist try checking out the Nativity Escape Room where participants can hone their problem solving skills while discovering more about the birth of Jesus. This is a “print and go” activity with materials for ages 8-15. This item is currently available at a discount price of \$7.99 for a limited time. Check it out at teachsundayschool.com Last but by NO means least are the FANTASTIC resources available on FORMED with our FREE parish subscription made available to all parish members. There are more than fifty items to watch, listen and learn from activities to movies, documentaries to cartoons, as well as lessons for all ages. If you have not previously signed up, take a moment to do so now at formed.org under the Sacred Heart Bolivar tab and begin benefiting and receiving blessings immediately.

On December 16, from 5-7 p.m., our parish will serve a Christmas dinner to those participating in the Community Christmas events through COM. This is the continuation, as many may already know, of the good work began over forty years ago with Share Your Christmas, now, and newly under the direction of COM our community is coming together once again to share the meaning Christmas and message of Christ. We are joining with the parishioners of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church to prepare and serve the dinner in our McKenna Hall. I would like to invite all parishioners, young and young at heart to help by serving the dinner, welcoming the participants, bussing tables, and setup/cleanup. The kitchen team consisting of our ladies and others from St. Alban will be preparing a wonderful meal to fill the bellies—help us to provide a warm environment to fill the souls.

With the past several years of the amazing generosity of our parishioners to Giving Tuesday, we are going to take this year off from formal participation in the Giving Tuesday fundraiser. This is a time that many may want to consider other ways to give beyond the annual financial gift to Giving Tuesday. Perhaps you will go through a closet finding the good stuff that can be given away; maybe you will sign up to help with our Community Christmas dinner as mentioned above; maybe you will visit a nursing home with your family to brighten someone’s day, or drop off something fresh baked to a senior living alone. Maybe you will call the Parish Office and see if there are any volunteer projects that can use some hands to help; maybe you will give a gift to a Christmas toy fund drive or to place under a giving tree. Whatever you do, give from the heart and it will be enough. Thank you to all who have made our Giving Tuesday’s such a beautiful success and testament these past years. *Giving Tuesday is December 2, 2025.*

Please notice in the December calendar our Christmas Mass schedule. Please note that we will have Mass during midnight this year as well as the other regular Christmas times. Please also note that we will have Adoration and Benediction on New Year’s Eve from 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Through the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Scott



**ADORATION
TO THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT**

First Friday-7:00 AM-5:30 PM

Second & Third Wednesday-6:00 PM

Fourth Sunday-between Masses

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Wednesday-December 3

8:30a Mass Fr. Peter Morcinic+/SH

Thursday-December 4

8:30a Mass Paula Howard+/SH

Friday-December 5

7:00a-5:30p All Day Adoration/SH

6:00p Mass Jim Estes+/SH

Saturday-December 6

8:30a First Saturday Mass Deceased Family

Members of Fern Griggs/SH

4:00p Mass Joe Hubbert+/StC

6:00-6:15p Confession/SH

6:30p Mass Edith Francka+/SH

Sunday-Dec. 7—Second Sunday of Advent

7:30-7:45a Confession/SH

8:00a Mass Parish Family/SH

9:15a Faith Formation

10:30a Mass Jerry Lee Coleman+/SH

**Monday-Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary**

(Holy Day of Obligation)

7:00a Mass Emil & Virginia Stanek+/SH

6:00p Mass Parish Family/SH

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Sacred Heart Parish

11/23/2025

Env/Cks:	\$1,865.00
Plate:	372.10
Maintenance:	220.00
CCSOMO:	1,838.00
Total:	\$4,295.10

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND: Rick Bigler, Kevin Breesawitz, Becky Briggs, Ron Dane, Carol Divin, Ken Divin, Lisa Doyle, Deacon Jim Farrar, Jackie Lore, Mary McGinnis, Kathleen Ricke, Sandra Samek, David Sandgren, Sue Shields, Jerry Sukovaty, Bev & Sam Swihart, and Fr. Pat Wissman. Those in skilled care facilities: Carol Francka, Judy Gailey, Shirley Harris, Ann Kathka, Don Keiter, and Barbara Wood.

MILITARY PRAYER ROSTER: Please remember those in our parish families serving in the military: Airman Alex Ball, Airman Blane Breth, Airman Blake Gitner, Navy E3 Fireman Lucas Guynn, LCpl. Samuel Wick, and 2 Lt. Nick Yocom.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY FOR PARISH SENIOR CITIZENS: Do you have a need for a handyman at your home? The parish men’s Helping Hands ministry are willing to come do some light work for you. For information, call Dave at 509-230-3938 or John at 314-560-7771.



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE/ANGEL TREE AVAILABLE:

This weekend in the gathering space is a Christmas tree with tags on it containing wish gift tags for **Community Christmas that are RED** and wish gift tags for **Angel Tree that are WHITE** to help a family here in our church.

Please pick one and bring the UPWRAPPED gift along with the tag attached to the gift by DECEMBER 7TH. *The gifts with the red tag can be placed under the tree and the gifts with the white tag can be placed in the work sacristy room next to the kitchenette. Thank you for your generosity.*

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS: We are collecting for Christmas poinsettias. If you would like to donate to this to remember a loved one or for special blessings received, please complete this and return to the Parish Office by December 14.

Intention: _____

Donated by: _____

Amount: _____

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

First Friday: 6:30-6:50 p.m.

Saturday: 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart *or by appointment.*