

(continued from the front cover)

The Holy Spirit speaks to today's families

Today, the Holy Spirit still continues to guide "all peoples", "all couples", "all parents". But we need to listen to the Spirit who speaks in us. If the Son of God came to live with us as a child, and only the eyes of faith can perceive His presence, how important it is to remind ourselves that everyday things are never of little importance, that daily occurrences are never useless or purely coincidental. The eyes of faith are necessary to grasp the hidden and the beyond. Everything becomes a "place" to encounter or reject God's presence. Everything is a sign for those who believe.

The gospel of the family

To live the gospel of the family is not easy today. Those who want to defend life from the moment of conception are criticized or attacked. Yet in the Gospel we find the way to live a beautiful life on the personal and familial level, a way that is certainly challenging, but attractive and all-embracing. It is a way that still deserves to be trusted and undertaken after the example and through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth itself. There are happy and sad, serene and difficult moments in every family. This is life. To live the "gospel of the family" does not exempt us from experiencing difficulties and tensions, of encountering moments of pleasant fortitude and painful weakness. Families who are wounded and marked by weakness, failure, difficulty...can rise again if they learn how to draw from the font of the Gospel. There, they can rediscover new possibilities of starting over.

(Resource: Vatican News)

DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS REGISTRATION OPENING SOON: In case you haven't heard, August 15, 2026, in West Plains, MO at the civic center, our diocese will celebrate it's 70th year by having an all day Eucharistic Congress. There are special keynote speakers who will be here; special activities for youth to be involved with, Mass, breakout sessions and many things for all of us to take part in. Registration for this is \$10 per person or \$45 per household. Do not wait to get registered for this. You can go online to find out more information by going to: <https://dioscg.org/diocesan-eucharistic-congress>

Throughout 2026 there will be lots of special resources and things to take part in that will be leading up to this Diocesan Eucharistic Congress. Please be sure and read, read, read the things that will be emailed to you and put in our parish bulletin so that you are aware and can be part of this exciting time. **Registration opens for this Diocesan Eucharist Congress on January 12, 2026.**



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**

12/21/2025

Env/Cks:	\$	490.00
Plate:		14.00
Total:	\$	504.00



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Bolivar, Missouri

December 28, 2025

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son." ... When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazorean" (Mt 2:13-15, 19-23).

Family in movement

If there is a fact that is striking when reading today's Gospel text, it is all the "motion" verbs: depart, arise, flee, take refuge, stay.... There is even a map that is no less impressive: Bethlehem, Egypt, then Nazareth. Certainly, the key to all this "movement" is found in the citation of the Prophet Hosea: "Out of Egypt I have called my son" – a place of refuge for the persecuted and the place of departure for Israel's Exodus. The Family of Nazareth thus traces the journey of many persecuted people and refugees down through history. At the same time, it recalls the powerful hand of God who knows how to liberate His people. The experience of the family of Nazareth cannot but make us think of the many families today who are also "in movement" – certainly of those families forced to leave their homes and their own land in search of peace, serenity and work, but also of those families who live with the apprehension and anxiety of not making ends meet, of unstable marital situations, the fear of illness... In the family of Nazareth, our families, as well as the human family, can learn to allow ourselves to be guided by God's powerful hand. If it is true on the one hand that in many situations people feel like "refugees", "strangers in their own homes", or in the heart of a dear one, it is also true that every obstacle, every difficulty can be transformed into an opportunity to "depart", an opportunity for a "journey toward conversion" which alone can lead to serenity, peace, stability.

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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@dioscg.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: "We all desire peace for nations wounded by conflicts, but let us remember that harmony and respect start with our every day relationships, the gestures and words we exchange at home, (work), in the parish, with schoolmates, and in sport (recreation)." Dec. 19, 2025

Dear Parishioners,

Please remember that our parish will celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, which is a holy day of obligation on January 1, with a Mass at 10:00 a.m. (please note NOT 10:30 a.m.). We will also have a Holy Hour to ring in the New Year starting at 11:30 p.m. on December 31, and concluding at 12:30 a.m., January 1, with Benediction. All are invited to join us for this Eucharistic Adoration as the New Year arrives, let us begin it on our knees and in prayer.

Blessings and sincere wishes for a Happy and Holy Year 2026! May this year of our Lord find you and yours closer to His Most Sacred Heart than ever before and may the gift of faith, hope and love be yours.

Fourth Sunday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place this Sunday, December 28th, between the 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Masses. Please consider coming early to the 10:30 a.m. Mass or staying late after the 8:00 a.m. Mass to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with your Parish Family. Please remember that First Friday all day Adoration is approaching quickly. The sign-up sheet is next to the St. Wenceslaus shrine. First Saturday Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, January 3. Hope to see many of our families and parishioners there.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the Christmas flowers this year in honor and memoriam. Let us remember all of those commemorated in our prayers. Thank you also who contributed to our Angel Tree helping to make Christmas brighter for those who benefit from your generosity.

Please let us know if you plan to be in the hospital OR find yourself unexpectedly hospitalized so that we can provide prayer and pastoral care to you or your loved one. Due to restrictions, if you don't tell us we won't know you are there. Call the Parish Office, email or let myself/Deacon Jim know.

Blessings and peace to you,
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 31

8:30a Mass Fr. Scott Sunnenberg/SH
11:30p HOLY HOUR

Thursday-January 1—HOLY DAY

10:00a Mass John H. Rodgers+/SH

Friday-January 2

7:00a-5:30p—All Day Adoration
6:00p Mass Barbara Perry+/SH
6:30p Confession/SH
7:00p Benediction/SH

Saturday-January 3

4:00p Mass Jimmie Thibault+/StC
6:00-6:15p Confession/SH
6:30p Mass Helen Chappell+/SH

Sunday-January 4-Epiphany

7:30-7:45a Confession/SH
8:00a Mass Jim Estes+/SH
10:30a Mass Margaret Dick+/SH

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Sacred Heart Parish

12/21/2025

Env/Cks:	\$3,041.00
Plate:	361.00
Maintenance:	70.00
Seminarian/Retired Clergy:	30.00
St. C. reimbursement:	14.16
Mass Offering:	20.00
Total:	\$3,536.16

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND: Dennie Austin, Rick Bigler, Kevin Breesawitz, Becky Briggs, Ron Dane, Carol Divin, Ken Divin, Lisa Doyle, Deacon Jim Farrar, Fred Letterman, Jackie Lore, Mary McGinnis, Kathleen Ricke, Sandra Samek, David Sandgren, Sue Shields, Mark Stanek, 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.

CORNERSTONE CATHOLIC SCRIPTURE STUDY: You are welcome to join this Catholic in depth study of the Scriptures that is for men and women. There is a Tuesday morning group at St. Francis de Sales in Nixa; a Thursday morning group at Holy Trinity in Springfield; and a Tuesday evening group at SEAS in Springfield. For information please call Paula at 417-894-4678 or Mary Ellen at 417-849-1793.

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.