

(con't. from the front cover) Jesus' baptism reminds us that He was one of us. He revealed that we humans must allow ourselves to be fragile, seeking and willing to change course when love calls for it.

As we recall Jesus' baptism, let us remember that we are baptized into Him, to share the grace of His approach to life. The Spirit may not descend on us like a dove, but that Spirit enables us to share Jesus' freedom and to love in the ways our moment calls forth. We should not forget that we, like Him, are beloved and well pleasing to God. (resource: National Catholic Register)



**DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:** If you are celebrating your 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, or 50+ years of Holy Matrimony any time during 2026, please join Bishop Edward M. Rice for the celebration of Holy Mass followed by a light lunch reception on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Springfield, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Please RSVP by January 23, 2026, by calling Sharon in the Diocesan Family Life Office at 417-866-0841. Family members are welcome.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (SEAS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT):** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Springfield is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant to support and manage the daily operations of the Parish Office. This position offers a wide range of responsibilities in a busy, service-oriented environment and requires proficiency in multiple software programs. A detailed job description is available by contacting Diane in the Parish Office at 417-887-6472. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm. The position includes a comprehensive benefits package featuring health insurance, retirement, vacation and sick leave. If you feel called to serve in a parish setting and to reflect Christ's love in your daily interactions, please submit resume, references, and a letter of interest to Reverend Thomas P. Kiefer, Pastor, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 2200 W. Republic Road, Springfield, MO 65807



*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 & Daniel 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**

**1/4/2026**

Env/Cks:	\$	430.00
Plate:		8.00
Seminarian/Diocesan Clergy:		25.00
Total:	\$	463.00

# Sacred Heart Catholic Church

*Bolivar, Missouri*

**January 11, 2026**

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

## **BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

One of the things we know for certain about Jesus is that He was baptized by John.

In the Gospels, Mark ([1:9-11](#)) recounted it as a simple fact. Luke ([3:21-22](#)) refers to it only indirectly and John ([1:32](#)) simply mentions that the Baptist saw the Spirit of God descend on Jesus. Matthew's version minimizes the implication that Jesus followed John, claiming that when Jesus came for baptism, John protested that it should be the other way around because he was not worthy.

All of that indicates that Jesus really did turn to John and his ritual as a sign of commitment to what God was doing in their midst.

If Jesus' disciples were so worried about the implications of His baptism, we might ask, "Why did Jesus do it, and what did it mean for Him?"

Jesus himself insisted that there had never been anyone like John ([Matthew 11:7-14](#)). It wasn't just his countercultural appearance or even his fiery message. Most striking of all, John attracted crowds and moved them to undergo a baptism that signified their promise to live like people happily aware that the reign of God was at hand. John awakened people to possibilities in ways the Pharisees, Sadducees and even the Essenes were unable to do.

We can imagine that Jesus began His mission in a posture of discernment and continued to allow Himself to be led by God's Spirit for the rest of His life. Rather than having a plan and sticking to it, he grasped the freedom to respond to the needs of the moment as a sign of God's love with no other agenda.

With all of that in mind, we can interpret Jesus' baptism as a sign of his deep identification with us in all that is human — including in his desire to discern and carry out God's design in unforeseeable circumstances. We can perceive how he looked to his tradition (Isaiah) and to the prophets of his moment of time (John) and how he combined those into his prayer for guidance about how to carry out his vocation.  
*(Con't. on the back)*

## **PARISH INFORMATION**

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

**website:** [www.sacredheartbolivar.org](http://www.sacredheartbolivar.org)

**email:** [sheartbolivar@gmail.com](mailto: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@dioscrg.org](mailto:jfarrar@dioscrg.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

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you to all who assisted with the Mary, Mother of God/New Year's celebration, especially our music ministry and those who volunteered for the liturgical ministries that day, our sacristan and those who assisted with decorations.

This weekend we officially conclude the Christmas season and enter back into a period of Ordinary Time that will take us to Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. As we pack up the decorations, put away our Nativity sets and take down our Christmas trees, let us remember the blessings of Advent and the Christmas Season as we go forward.

Please remember this coming Wednesday we will have our second Wednesday Adoration from 6-7 p.m. with confessions from 6:15-6:45 p.m. available. If you did not find that you were able to make it to confession during Advent, this is a great opportunity.

Please remember in your prayers, Fr. Mike McDevitt, who has been taken ill and is being hospitalized. The doctor's are not hopeful for a good outcome.

The 2026 calendars are available for the taking. Please be sure and take as many as you need, but please use the ones that you take.

Alpha House is in need currently of diapers, wipes and baby blankets, which they are specifically requesting from donors. Please drop these off at Mass this weekend if you are able. Items may be placed in front of the Christmas trees by the west windows.

As we begin this new calendar year of Our Lord 2026, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will Consecrate the US to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, coinciding with America's two hundred and fiftieth!!! Please consider attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion on the First Friday of each month (for at least 9 consecutive months) to honor Jesus and His Most Sacred Heart. Additionally, on each of these First Friday's, offer prayers in reparation to "The Heart that has loved men so and is loved so little in return," pray for the renewal of our nation, and offer this time as part of a New Year's resolution to grow in holiness.

Through the hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Scott

**7TH ANNUAL CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE:** Is your life stuck in a rut? Is your faith feeling stale? Join hundreds of men for a day of life-changing motivation at the 7th annual Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at Catholic High School. This year's Keynote speaker, Marcel LeJeune, will help you take your faith to the next level! He has decades of experience leading men closer to Christ—so they can lead those around them to Christ. No matter where you are in your faith journey, you will gain the knowledge and motivation you need to be a true disciple. We're building a culture of men who will transform our families & communities. Don't miss this opportunity. Register for free today by visiting [www.CatholicConference.men](http://www.CatholicConference.men) or scan the QR.



### **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-January 14**

8:30a Mass Candy Graves/SH

6:00p Adoration/SH

7:00p K of C meeting/McK Hall

#### **Thursday-January 15**

8:30a Mass Barbara Perry+/SH

#### **Friday-January 16**

6:00p Mass Bill Clouse+/SH

#### **Saturday-January 17**

4:00p Mass Parish Family/StC

6:00-6:15p Confession/SH

6:30p Mass Mary Sue Cassett+/SH

#### **Sunday-January 18**

7:30-7:45a Confession/SH

8:00a Mass Parish Family/SH

10:30a Mass Gerard Porter+/SH

### **WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP**

#### **OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

#### **Sacred Heart Parish**

**1/4/2026**

Env/Cks:	\$4,615.00
Plate:	402.00
Maintenance:	1,280.00
Seminarian/Retired Clergy:	40.00
Latin America:	25.00
Total:	\$6,362.00

**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, Tim Smith, 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.



#### **CHURCH CANCELLATION POLICY DURING INCLEMENT**

**WEATHER:** When Bolivar school is closed due to snow or ice, all church activities scheduled for that day will also be cancelled as well, i.e. Mass, meetings, Parish Office, etc. If the weather is bad over the weekend, please stay

alert to the Sacred Heart Parish Facebook page for any and all updates regarding the Mass schedule. If Mass is cancelled on Sunday then there will not be PSR or OCIA. If you do not have a presence on Facebook, now would be a good time to arrange with a friend or family member who does so that they might give you a call when they see the notice posted.

**DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS REGISTRATION OPENING:** 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://diosc.org/diocesan-eucharistic-congress>

#### **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.*