

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Order of Christian Funerals states, "at the death of a Christian, whose life of faith was begun in the waters of baptism and strengthened at the eucharistic table, the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end nor does it break the bonds forged in life. The Church also ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them in the funeral rites with the comforting word of God and the sacrament of the eucharist." (4) We, and the soul of our beloved, benefit from the rites of the Church but increasingly there are more frequently set aside in parts of American culture today.

I take this occasion to again encourage you, our priests, deacons and parish staffs, to be forthright in recommending our four diocesan Catholic Cemeteries in those instances where the parish does not provide a cemetery. For reference, see pages 18-19 of the 2024-2025 diocesan directory. Unlike many other for-profit cemeteries which often change ownership and oversight, our Catholic cemeteries remain with reliable unchanged ownership, on-going endowed perpetual maintenance, and decades of respectful burial recordkeeping. Our responsibility perdures over decades and centuries. It remains holy ground.

In recent years the practice of cremation has grown. Please assist the faithful and their families in teaching and preaching that "the ancient Christian custom [remains] to bury or entomb the bodies of the dead; cremation is permitted, unless it is evident that cremation was chosen for anti-Christian motives." (19) The cremated remains, preferably after the body is present for the Church's rites (cf., 413-414, 418)—but acceptable to have the cremated remains present for a funeral Mass (415), are to be treated with the same respect given the human body, including the use of a worthy vessel, manner and care in placement, transport and final disposition. (417)

Part of the reason our Catholic cemeteries remain so vitally important is that they call to mind the resurrection of the dead and offer a fitting place to focus the Church's remembering of the dead and offering of prayer for them. Thus, our Church continues in teaching that "the cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires." (417; cf., DDF, *Ad resurgendum cum Christo*, 3-7) Thank you for your efforts to instruct our people on this topic.

Finally, in this month of November when we celebrate All Souls and pastorally remember our beloved dead, it continues to be a salutary practice for us to recommend our Catholic cemeteries to our parishioners, family and friends—as holy ground until the final day of our Lord's return. May the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+ Most Reverend James V. Johnston
Bishop of Kansas City-Saint Joseph

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500 or crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Advocate, at 816.392.0011 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

Mary Immaculate Catholic Church



409 S. Main St.
Gallatin, MO 64640

MASSES

Thursdays 9:00 am

Saturdays 6:30 pm

Sundays 10:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Half Hour Before Weekend Masses

Sacrament of the Sick: By Appointment

RECTORY

1728 St. Joseph St., Trenton, MO 64683

Pastor: Fr. Timothy Leete

C 816-266-9248 timothy.leete@gmail.com

OFFICE

409 S. Main St., Gallatin, MO 64640

660-663-2146

Office Manager: Sarah Clark

C 660-425-5674 shmichurch@gmail.com

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1, 2024

MASS INTENTIONS

6:30 pm Jean Buffington †
10:30 am The Intentions of the Parishioners

PRAYER REQUESTS

James Phillips, Marsha Clark
{Send Prayer Requests to Sarah in the Office}

MASS MINISTERS

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Lector: Sue Morris
Server: Blake Bonderer

Monday, December 9, 2024

Lector: Tony Gronniger
Server: Volunteer

SACRIFICIAL GIVING
November 24, 2024
\$939.00

SAT. MASSES PAUSE FOR WINTER

The final Saturday evening Mass for 2024 will be on Saturday, November 30. Saturday Masses will resume in April, 2025.

DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTIONS

Pope Francis: Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Bishop Johnston: Let us pray for those working to overcome addiction in any form; that the grace and love of Christ will bring them encouragement and strength and fill them with hope.

SECOND COLLECTION

The next second collection will be on Sunday, December 8th for Religious Retirement.

“We cannot all do great things,
but we can do small things
with great love.”

—St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

FOOD PANTRY & DIAPERS UPDATE

Catholic Charities has let us know that they are discontinuing food pantry distribution services in the northern part of the diocese that is served by the Cameron distribution center. The last food distribution will be December 10th.

We are working on the possibility of transferring diapers to be distributed from MI.

Please pray that Catholic Charities has something else in mind for those in need in our area.

PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join us under the gold dome for an evening of sacred choral and instrumental music at the **Prelude to Christmas Concert** performed by musicians from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Thursday, December 5, 2024, starting at 7:00 pm, Music for Harp begins at 6:30 pm. Located at 416 West 12th Street - Entrance on 11th and Broadway, KC, MO 64105. Tickets at bit.ly/4eMQh9I.

GIVING TREE 2024

Our Mary Immaculate community will once again be providing Christmas gifts to kids in our community who otherwise would go without. The tree and sign up sheets are in the back of the church. All gifts are due under the tree no later than **Sunday, December 15th**.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

This year, Gallatin churches and community organizations are hosting a Christmas dinner for families served by our Christmas outreach. We hope to include Meals on Wheels folks as well. The dinner will be held on December 29th from 1:30-3:00 pm at the Gallatin high school. MI needs: 2 people to help with food planning, 1 person to help with table decorating, volunteers to make potato soup (We need enough to serve 120 people so 10-15 volunteers would be great!), and volunteers to help serve food and visit with our guests. Sign up sheets are in the back of the church.

ACA GOAL UPDATE

The diocese has received **15 gifts** totaling **\$7,189** which is **239%** of Mary Immaculate's goal of **\$3,014.00!** THANK YOU! Mary Immaculate will receive half of the overages paid to the ACA, but *feel free to make a donation directly to the church instead of the ACA if you would like.*

The other parishes in our group have met their goals: Trenton \$2,705 of \$2,249, Bethany \$1,632, and Princeton \$3,450 of \$1,296. Thank you for your support! To learn more about the ACA visit www.kcsjatholic.org.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

Holy Day of Obligation

Whenever December 8 falls on a Sunday, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary transfers to Monday, December 9. This year in the US, the obligation to attend Mass also transfers, thus making Monday, December 9 a *Holy Day of Obligation*. Masses on **Monday, December 9** are at 9:00 am in Trenton, 4:30 pm in Bethany, and **6:30 pm at Mary Immaculate**. Please make plans to attend Mass on this glorious feast honoring our Blessed Mother!

DECEMBER HOLIDAY MASSES

Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30 pm
No Christmas Day Mass
Tuesday, December 31 at 5:00 pm
No New Year's Day Mass

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

Men of the parish are invited to the next Knights of Columbus meeting at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 5th.