

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.



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

205 E. Middle St.
Hamilton, MO 64644

MASS

Sundays 7:45 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: To Be Determined

Sacrament of the Sick: By Appointment

PASTOR

Fr. Matthew Bartulica
8005 NW 316 St., Gower, MO 64454
mbartulica@hotmail.com

OFFICE

409 S. Main St., Gallatin, MO 64640
660-663-2146
Office Manager: Sarah Clark
C 660-425-5674 shmicatholic@gmail.com

MAIL: P.O. Box 188, Hamilton, MO 64644

www.shmicatholic.org

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1, 2024

MASS INTENTIONS

7:45 am Rita Chadwick †

PRAYER REQUESTS

Kris Bruce

{Send Prayer Requests to Sarah in the Office}



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.

ABORTION BILL HOPE

Repeal of Missouri's abortion amendment remains a possibility, the head of the state's Catholic conference says. Read about it at <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/260523/missouri-abortion-amendment-close-vote-sparks-hope-catholic-leader-says>

MASS MINISTERS

If you are a lector, or are interested in being a lector, please call or text Jane Kavanaugh at 816-465-0511.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

November 24, 2024

\$630.00



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

—St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

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*. There will be Mass on **Monday, December 9 at 5:00 pm at Sacred Heart**. Please make plans to attend Mass on this glorious feast honoring our Blessed Mother!

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The entire parish is invited to a Christmas party on Monday, December 9th in the parish hall following the 5:00 pm Holy Day Mass. The Altar Society will provide a pot luck meal and bingo prizes. We hope you'll join us for fellowship, food, and fun.

DECEMBER MASSES

Other December Masses will be Tuesday, December 24th, 7:00 pm for the Christmas Vigil (NO Christmas Day Mass) and Tuesday, December 31, 5:00 pm for New Year's Eve (No Mass on January 1). The church calendar can be found online at www.shmicatholic.org/shcalendar.

Masses at Mary Immaculate in Gallatin are as follows: Monday, December 9th, 6:30 pm, for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary; Tuesday, December 24th, 6:30 pm, for Christmas Vigil; and Tuesday, December 31st at 5:00 pm for New Year's Eve. www.shmicatholic.org/micalendar

BULLETIN LINKS: All links are *clickable* when the bulletin is viewed from the website at www.shmicatholic.org/shbulletin.html.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy November Birthday
to Donna Sanders!

Please print your birthday (year optional), and if applicable, wedding anniversary, on the calendar located on the small table, next to the bulletins, at the back of the Church. We want to start listing birthdays and anniversaries in the bulletin. Thank you!

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Congratulations! Sacred Heart has met our parish goal of **\$2,406.00**! The diocese has received 13 gifts totaling **\$3,153.00**, which is **131%** of Sacred Heart's goal. The church will receive half of any overages, 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*. Thank you for your support!

NOTIFY THE OFFICE WHEN LEAVING

If you/your family are leaving Sacred Heart Church, it's very important that the **office is notified**. Ways to do so are: Email shmichurch@gmail.com, leave a message at 660-663-2146, or place a note in the collection. Thank you!

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.