


The Catholic Parishes of Crawford County

January 4th & 5th, 2025



The Epiphany of the Lord

Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,
 "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
 We saw his star at its rising
 and have come to do him homage."
Matthew 2:1-12

JANUARY 5, 2025

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Phone: (573) 885-3520 Fax: (573) 885-3501
 Address: 415 W. School Ave., Cuba, MO 65453
 Email: hcccuba@gmail.com
 Web: holycrosscubamo.org

Fr. Anthony (Tony) Onyeihe: (573) 462-6522
 aonyeihe@diojeffcity.org

S. Karen Thein SSND: (507) 514-3226

Deacon Chad Lewis: (573) 885-3520

Holy Cross School Office:

Phone: (573) 885-4727
 Email: holycrossschoolcuba@gmail.com
 Website: www.hcschoolcuba.org
 Principal, Melinda Osentoski:
 holycross.osentoski@gmail.com

School Advisory Members:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Aminta Abdinova | Mike Kempf |
| Alan Collins | Christy Moreland |
| | Kathy Royal |

Parish Council Members:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Jim Bathe | Mike Kempf |
| Jerry Dubbelde | RuthAnn Kuethe |
| Alice Engelbrecht | Esli Navarro |
| Joe Howdeshell | Diane McCameron |
| Don Hudson | Ruth Woodson |
| Vicky Dunakey | Kayla Korte |

Finance Council Members:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Larry Howdeshell | Donna Conduitt |
| Teresa Leicht | |

Mass Schedules:

Holy Cross

Saturday 6:00 p.m. **Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**
Tuesday 8:30 a.m. Wednesday 8:30 a.m. Friday 8:00 a.m.
 Mass in Spanish: (every 1st & 3rd Sunday) at 11:30 a.m.

St. Francis Caracciolo


Saturday 4:00 p.m. Thursday 8:00 a.m.

St. Michael

Sunday 8:00 a.m. ~~Tuesday 8:30 a.m.~~

Bishop McKnight's Monthly Prayer Intention:

"For hope to find a home in our hearts as we embrace the joy of Christ's birth. Amid the jubilation, may we also find time in prayer to experience the calm and peace of God's presence in our lives."



- Jan. 4** – First Saturday Mass - 8:00 a.m.
- Jan. 5** – The Epiphany of the Lord
- Jan. 5** – Mass in Spanish – 11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 7** – Holy Cross School Resumes
- Jan. 7** – Joint Councils meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 8** – Faith Formation Class 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 9** – The Baptism of the Lord
- Jan. 20** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Mission Statement:

We, the Catholic parishes of Holy Cross, St. Francis, and St. Michael, aware of the intergenerational communities and the various cultures living in our communities, welcome all – no matter where they are on the journey of Faith. We strive to strengthen the communities of Faith by working together through prayer, works of Justice and concern for our neighbors.



Ministry Scheduler Pro

Go to this link to see the schedule:

www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/HolyCrossCuba

Mass Intentions for 1/6– 1/12, 2024

- 7 H.C. Tues. 8:30 p.m. - No intention requested
- 8 H.C. Wed. 8:30 a.m. - Charles Hillyer ☩
- 9 St.F. Thurs. 8:00 a.m. - Dan Carey ☩
- 9 H.C. **C.M.** 10:00 a.m. - No intention requested
- 10 H.C. Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Paul Sagel ☩
- 11 St.F. Sat. 4:00 p.m. - Wayne Weirich ☩
- 11 H.C. Sat. 6:00 p.m. - Angelina Thompson ☩
- 12 H.C. Sun. 8:00 a.m. - People of the parish
- 12 H.C. Sun. 10:00 a.m. - Knights and Ladies Auxiliary #8920 ☩

Mass at Cuba Manor (CM):



The Mass at Cuba Manor this month will be celebrated on the 2nd Thursday of the month (January 9th) 10 a.m. All are welcome.

Parish Collections: December 28 & 29, 2024

| Parish | Envelopes | | Loose | | Total |
|-------------|------------|---|----------|---|------------|
| Holy Cross | \$2,340.00 | + | \$444.00 | = | \$2,740.00 |
| St. Michael | \$712.00 | + | \$245.00 | = | \$957.00 |
| St. Francis | \$510.00 | + | \$229.00 | = | \$739.00 |

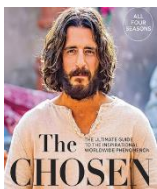


Joann Mullen, Eugene Kempf, Charlotte Vavra, Helen Mattox, Suzy Hutchins, Lona Pogue, Janet Lyons, Catherine DeClue, Julie Coster, Donna Lott, Joyce, Joe Kuenz, Cayden Richards, Mariana Weber, Don and Kaye Robertson, Dustin Drennan, Yazmin Viramontes, Carolyn Horsefield, James Happle Sr., Sandy Mowry, Aiden Leos, Jerry Welter



St. Michael Donuts After Mass:

Every Sunday, St. Michael invites all to enjoy fellowship and donuts after Mass. While renovations are underway at St. Michael, Mass and the donut fellowship are being held at Holy Cross.



“The Chosen” (watch and discuss)

Friday, January 10th

at 6:30 PM

HC Parish Hall

All are welcome

Altar Society:



The Altar Society WILL **NOT** have a meeting in the month of January.

Adoration: Every Wednesday



Adoration: Every Wednesday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. after the Mass. Weekly Sign-up sheets at Holy Cross. You can sign up online at Ministry Scheduler Pro. *What hour can you be before the Blessed Sacrament?*

Faith Formation:



Classes are Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Classes in January are:

January 8

January 15

January 22

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults):



The next session is: **January 12th at 1:00 p.m.**

Please keep them in your prayers as they deepen their relationship with Christ and discern their call to join the Church.

Preparing for the Jubilee Year of Hope

The Universal Church prepares to celebrate the **Jubilee Year 2025**, marking the 2025th anniversary of the Incarnation of Our Lord. The theme for the **2025 Jubilee**



Year is "Pilgrims of Hope." It invites us to deepen our relationships with God, with one another, and with creation, while sharing the hope of the Christian faith with the world. This holy year, celebrated every 25 years, will provide opportunities to

experience God's grace through Jubilee Masses, pilgrimages, and other spiritual events. The **Diocese of Jefferson City** is actively preparing to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope. To learn more about upcoming events and how you can participate, visit the Diocese's Jubilee webpage: diojeffcity.org/jubilee-year

Let us embrace this holy year with open hearts and journey together as **Pilgrims of Hope!**

Quilting Group Temporary New Location:

Every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the quilting group will gather at the **Golden Echoes Center** (401 N. Spring St., Steelville) until renovations are complete at St. All are welcome to join and help make quilts for those in need!



2024 – End of the Year Statements:



End of the year statements for 2024 greater than \$2,000 will be mailed out in the following weeks.

Those less than \$2,000 will be available upon request. This is to help reduce cost spending on mailing.

What is National Catholic Schools Week?

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2025 is January 26 – February 1. Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. Stay tuned for what Holy Cross School plans to do for CSW!



Catholic Schools

United in Faith and Community

Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. Stay tuned for what Holy Cross School plans to do for CSW!

January is Poverty Awareness Month!



During Poverty Awareness Month, join the U.S. Bishops, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and the Catholic community in the United States in taking up Pope Francis' challenge to live in solidarity with the poor!

To learn more go to: www.povertyusa.org

Dear Parishioners,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for your thoughtful and generous Christmas gifts. Your kindness and support mean so much to me, and I feel truly blessed to serve as your pastor.

Your gifts reflect the love and faith that make our parish such a special community. I am deeply touched by your generosity and by the spirit of giving that shines so brightly among you.

As we step into the New Year, I pray that God may richly bless each of you and your families. May this year bring you abundant joy, health, and spiritual growth. Together, let us continue to walk in faith and share the love of Christ with all those around us.

Thank you once again for your thoughtfulness. Please know that you are always in my prayers.

With gratitude and blessings,

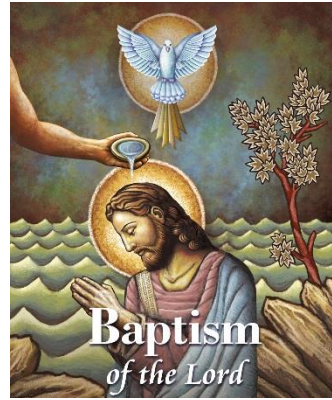
Fr Tony Onyeihe

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children:

We are reminded time and again in Scripture to seek the Lord's help, and as people of faith, we believe that our prayers are heard. January 23rd is designated as a day of prayer and penance in all the Dioceses of the United States of America. We are called to observe this day through prayer, fasting and/or giving alms.



Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ marks the end of the Christmas season. Next week we will begin Ordinary Time in the Church's liturgical year.



Jesus being baptized identifies Him with sinful humanity. Since he is God, the Son, he is without original sin and no personal sin. Our baptism is to cleanse us of both original and personal sins and to make us children of God. Jesus made a personal commitment to his heavenly Father to save humanity from sin and to reconcile us with him. Through our baptism into Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are called to make individual personal commitments to Jesus to continue his mission on earth. We are to show respect, love, and mercy to those who society may not care for.

The Epiphany of Our Lord:

The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek verb "epiphainen", which means "to manifest," or "to make known." The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world.

Three of those events are:

- The visit of the Magi (or the 3 Kings).
 - The Baptism of Jesus on January 9th
 - The miracle at the wedding feast in Cana - Jesus' 1st miracle.
- Home blessing, there is a tradition of "chalking the doors" by writing a formula on top of a doorway to your home. The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar — the 3 Magi who came to visit Jesus. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase of, "*Christus mansionem benedicat*" "May Christ bless the house." The "+" represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "25" at the end, marks the year. May Christ bless our homes; may He stay with us and dwell within throughout the year. 20+C+M+B+25.



Sunday, January 19, 2025

St. Michael Update:



We are still working with the insurance company, to sort out what will be covered and what is going to be the parishes responsibly.

As of now the quotes/estimates that we have received are:

- Roof: \$21,227.23 (job completed and paid by donor)
- Flooring throughout: \$70,461.53
- Asbestos removal: \$10,800.00
- HVAC Systems: \$38,995.00
- Replacement Lighting: \$13,983.00
- Still to waiting to receive a quotes on: painting, and replacement for the furniture, cabinets, etc...

Totals as of December 27th 2024:

- St. Francis Building Maintenance Fundraiser: **\$6,106**
- St. Michael Building Maintenance Fundraiser: **\$56,251**
- Holy Cross School Matching Donation: **\$4,420**
- Seminarian/Infirm Priest Assessment:

| | Amount Assessed | Amount Donated |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Holy Cross | \$2,584 | \$465 |
| St. Francis | \$367 | \$430 |
| St. Michael | \$360 | \$30 |

Into The Breach Video Series

The organization of the Knights of the Columbus created a video series called: *INTO THE BREACH VIDEO SERIES*. The video series “Into the Breach” is about the mission of the family. It is designed in hopes to help Catholic men, women, and families lead lives of faith and virtue in today’s world. There are five videos are less than 14 minutes in length. To watch the video series go to:

<https://www.kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html>



Join Musicians and Composers
 Kathleen Basi and Katie Wills

For an Evening of Music & Reflection

Women of God: Uniquely Gifted, Uniquely Called

Ministry on the Move!

Feb 3- St Patrick Parish Parish Center
 1601 N Bishop Ave
 Rolla MO
 doors open at 5:30

Women’s Ministry of St Patrick’s Parish will provide a light box dinner. Must register by Jan 29th

SCAN TO SIGN UP

full details and registration at:
diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-upcoming-events

PRAYER. SILENCE. LECTIO DIVINA.

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST RETREATS

On these silent retreats you can expect:

- Silence and a technology “fast”
- Four conferences given by a monk, intended to lead the retreatant to encounter Christ
- Participation in the Divine Office and Mass with the monastic community
- Specific times for personal prayer and *lectio divina*
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

| MEN’S RETREATS | | WOMEN’S RETREATS | |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Jan. 24–26, 2025 | July 18–20, 2025 | Jan. 17–19, 2025 | July 11–13, 2025 |
| Feb. 21–23, 2025 (full) | Aug. 29–31, 2025 | Jan. 31–Feb. 2, 2025 | Aug. 22–24, 2025 |
| May 16–18, 2025 | Oct. 17–19, 2025 | March 21–23, 2025 | Sep. 12–14, 2025 |
| May 30–June 1, 2025 | Nov. 21–23, 2025 | May 23–25, 2025 | Oct. 31–Nov. 2, 2025 |
| June 27–29, 2025 | Dec. 19–21, 2025 | June 20–22, 2025 | Dec. 12–14, 2025 |

Pricing: \$250 per person.
 Retreat costs includes all the meals, a private room, linen and towels, and retreat director fee.

We are located in northwest Missouri:
 37174 State Hwy V V | Conception, MO 64433

Scan the code to visit our website for more information!

CONCEPTION
 Living the Benedictine Tradition
 ABBEY GUEST CENTER

Are you new to the Parish?

If you are new to the parish, please call the office at 573-885-3520 to register or stop by so we can meet you!

Has your information changed?

If you have moved, disconnected your home phone and only use a cell, or have any other household changes, please let us know so we can update our records.

Remember – if you don't tell us – we won't know!



If you would like to have a Mass said, the suggested amount for the stipend is \$10. Call the office to schedule a Mass Intention, or put your stipend in an envelope with the following Information:

- Your name & phone number
- Who the Mass is for
- If they are deceased
- Specific date (if any) please specify if the intention can be on a weekday or not.


Anointing of the Sick:

It is important to seek the sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation prior to going to the hospital, when you are sick, or nearing death. Contact the office or Father for to schedule a time for the sacrament.



Homebound: If you would like to minister to the homebound by visiting them and bringing them Communion, please contact S. Karen 507-514-3226.


Yoga Class on Tuesdays Offered at Holy Cross:

 For a small fee, Yoga Class offered on Tuesdays at HC from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Diane 314-578-1132 or Donna 573-259-6957.

“Heavenly Cleaner” Volunteers – Please Help:

Holy Cross has a group of volunteers called “Heavenly Cleaners” that clean the church each week. They are divided into teams of 2. Each team cleans the church once a month. The team is asked to freshen up the bathrooms, vacuum the floor, dust, take out trash, and sanitize. If you would be interested in helping with this ministry of the church, please call the parish office.



FlockNote 

Keep in touch with us
VIA EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE

Text: **crawfordcounty**
To: **84576**
OR online at: **HCross.flocknote.com**


Cemetery/ Columbarium:

Many people feel it can be a great help to their grieving family members if the desires of the deceased were planned by him/herself before the time of death. Whether cremation or burial is chosen, consider Holy Cross as yours or your loved one's final resting place. Many people are not aware that the proper practice for cremation is to place the cremains in the columbarium or bury them in the cemetery. If members of our community have the cremains of a loved one in their home, or another place other than the cemetery, they should make arrangements to give their loved ones a place to rest in the columbarium or cemetery with the proper prayers of interment.




Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery plots/niches are available whether burial or cremation is your choice. Contact Louis Raineri 573-259-8920 or the parish office for more information. Sacred Heart in Leasburg and Mount Calvary in Bourbon.

Baptisms & Weddings:

 If you are planning a Baptism, there is a preparation class. Please speak with Sister Karen to schedule. If you are planning a wedding, please contact Father Tony. There is a preparation that needs to be done 6 months prior to the wedding.



Funeral Dinners:


 If you are interested in helping with the funeral dinners, please call the office. You will be called upon when a funeral dinner is requested. Help with bringing food, set up, or clean up! Please consider this ministry of the church so we can provide for our grieving families.

 **Misa en español**

CADA 1º Y 3º DOMINGO DEL MES.
MASS IN SPANISH IS EVERY 1ST & 3RD
SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEMS AVAILABLE 

Remove from charging station.
The On button is on the top
Volume Control is on the front.
After Mass, wipe off unit and return to charging station.

 **Pope Francis Prayer Intention**

JANUARY

For the Right to an Education

“Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.”

CubaKofC Membership Invite:



The Cuba Knights of Columbus covers all of Crawford County. CubaKofC is in search of new members to help our order grow and maintain its position as the strong right hand of the Church and service to the community of Crawford County.

CubaKofC consists of the men and women volunteers. The Knights of Columbus Chapter 8920 and the Ladies Auxiliary 8920. These men and women's service helps many local organizations and individuals in need. CubaKofC helps the parishes of Crawford County and community organizations such as the food pantries, Special Olympics, and prolife organizations, as well provides community wide events such as the Kids Christmas Party.

This is a personal invitation to all men and women of our parish to come and join our CubaKofC service community. In our busy lives many people do not think they have time to add another activity. However, your commitment is to do what you can. Maybe it is helping with just one event, attending our monthly dinner social and business meeting, or helping with our Bingo fundraiser. The choice is yours, but many hands will make light work.

Help us Help Others in our parishes, school and community by inquiring into Cuba Knights of Columbus, please join us. You won't regret it. For Further information on how to join please contact District Deputy Louis Raineri at 573-259-8920 or louisraineri8920@gmail.com or Grand Wayne Kuethe.



NOVEMBER 2024 BINGO NEWS

Thursday Nights @ 6:15 p.m. (doors open at 4)
PROGRESSIVES ~ The **First Progressive** is at \$4,750.00, with 9 Hot Balls. The **Second Progressive** will play out and pay \$500.00, \$750.00 or \$1,000.00!!
QUEEN OF HEARTS ~ Will be over \$5,000.
RAFFLE ~ A 36" Blackstone Grill will be raffled and awarded on December 12th. (\$500.00 value)
CANNED FOOD DRIVE ~ Until December 12th. Bring a non-perishable item and receive a free 3 on for each item.
MATCH ONE OF THESE ~ Bring your tally sheet from the previous week. Win a free gas card.
Numbers are: **183110, 183136, 183151, and 183190**

MERRY CHRISTMAS ~ There **WILL NOT** be Bingo on December 26th (Christmas week). There **WILL** be Bingo on January 2nd after New Year's.



Altar Society meets every 2nd Thursday of the month at the Holy Cross Parish Hall. This organization coordinates and works on fundraising events that support our parish, school and youth group. They also help supply the liturgical needs of the parishes. All are welcome to attend and join! Please contact Christy Moreland for more information.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Grades: Preschool (3 years old) – 2nd grade.

HC School is an accredited school with Missouri certified teachers. It offers a Diocesan-developed curriculum in a Christian private school setting. HC School offers Title 1 tutoring for qualifying students. HC school has small class sizes and spacious classrooms. Please contact Mrs. Osentoski for a tour or to register your child.



Check out our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/cubamoschools>

facebook **Holy Cross School**

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Earn Cash for Our School!

Support Holy Cross without spending anything extra!

- Turn in your **Mace Supermarket Receipts**. The school receives 1 point for each \$1 on the receipt. (September – March)
- Turn in used **ink cartridges**. Given to Staples to recycle, the school receives \$2 for each cartridge, up to \$40 a month!
- Turn in **Best Choice UPC codes** found on the labels. Each UPC code is redeemable for 3¢ cents each.

Please deposit your Mace's receipts, Best Choice UPC codes, and ink cartridges in the collection box in the church entrance or bring to the parish office.



Are you VIRTUS certified?

Do you have your background check completed?

Have you signed the Code of Conduct?

If you are not sure, or answered “no” to any of these questions, let us know!

Call or email Michelle in the office to find out if you are VIRTUS compliant! 573-885-3520 or hcccuba@gmail.com

All volunteers and all school parents (both parents) must to be VIRTUS compliant prior to volunteering or your child starting school.

Please help us, keep our children safe. The training provides us the knowledge on how to recognize signs of abuse and what to do if we suspect abuse happening. If we ALL are certified and have the training, the likelihood of a child being harmed is greatly reduced.

Call the office if you would like to have an in-person VIRTUS class, or go to www.virtusonline.org to register and take the 2-hour class online.

If you or a family member have experienced abused in the past, please contact our victim assistance coordinator through the Diocese, Jacqueline Baldwin at 573-694-3199.

KEEPING OUR PROMISE
TO PROTECT
Child and Youth Protection



Breaking the Silence of Abuse:

As a diocese, we are committed to breaking the silence of abuse. When someone is reporting abuse, we must



acknowledge their pain and how difficult it is to talk about it. False allegations are very rare. Our initial response to someone who is

disclosing abuse for the first time must be compassionate. For those who need to report abuse, encourage them to contact our Victims Assistance Coordinator, Jacqueline Baldwin, (573-694-3199) and to make use of the appropriate State of Missouri hotline (1-800-392-3738) or the [Attorney General's clergy abuse online form](#). All of this information is also on our website, under the 'report abuse' tab. For those who want information, or want you to convey a message to Bishop McKnight, please encourage them to write to us at reportabuse@diojeffcity.org.



Need Support Now? If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.

Online Counseling Services:

Catholic Charities Counseling services is now providing professional in-person and online therapy across the Diocese of Jefferson City. To learn more simply visit ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/counseling



QUILTING GROUP

EVERY TUESDAY

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Starting Tuesday, January 7th,

from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.,

the group will gather at the

Golden Echoes Center

(401 N. Spring St., Steelville).

They will continue meeting there every Tuesday until St. Michael's Church renovations are complete.

All are welcome to join and help make quilts for those in need!

Service Opportunity in Our Community:

Drivers are needed to drive veterans to the VA hospital in Columbia MO. The local DAV (Disabled American Veterans) have the vehicles. Drivers do not have to be veterans. This is unpaid. You do get free meals! Call 885-1390 or 885-3680 to volunteer or for more info. Veterans needing a ride, call 885-1390 to schedule.



Ministerial Alliances and the Food Pantries:

In Cuba, the Cuba Ministerial Alliance (CMA) “runs” the food bank and cooperates with the Life Line Pregnancy Center.



Holy Cross has a St. Martin De Porres envelope to help the poor. The monies collected from this fund help support the Cuba Food pantry.

Crawford Country Mobile Food Market



3rd Thursday of each month

Begins at 10:30 a.m. at the

Cuba Food Pantry

Local Food Pantry Hours:

Cuba: (573-885-6703)

Thursdays 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Fridays 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Steelville: (573-775-4827)

Last 2 Tuesdays of the month hours: 2-4 p.m.

Bourbon: (573-732-4888)

Saturday 9-12pm.

Thrift shop: Mon. Tues. & Thur. 9-4p.m. and Sat. 9-12p.m.

**Always looking for
volunteers!
Call today to help!**

Feed the Hungry:

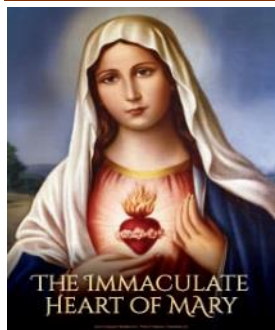
Our Local food banks are in need of food. The cost of food has gone up! To help, there is a “food basket” in the entryways of our churches. Please bring nonperishable food items and place them in the baskets. The food items will be sent to the 3 food pantries in our three towns.



Civilize it!

Our political discourse has become increasingly rancorous and bitter. The U.S. bishops began a campaign leading into the 2020 election to restore civility to our public and political discourse called Civilize It: Dignity Beyond the Debate. The Missouri Catholic Conference highlighted the campaign last year with a special episode of MCC from the Capitol with Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski. This year, the U.S. bishops are again challenging the faithful to answer Pope Francis' call to seek "a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good." Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics encourages people to commit to seeking the truth, building bridges, and finding solutions together that promote the common good. Individuals can sign the pledge, and sign up to receive additional materials, by visiting the USCCB Civilize It webpage. www.usccb.org/civilizeit

Prayer to the Immaculate heart of Mary:



O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. Patroness of the Diocese of Jefferson City, you know what we need. We are certain of the power of your intercession, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who taught us to "love one another, as I have loved you" took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Bring under your mantel of protection all who provide care for the sick and minister to their needs, as your Son implores us to do for one another.

V. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

R. Do not despise our pleas and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

the **WORD** among us Parish

The Word Among Us features uplifting, and thought-provoking meditations based on the daily Mass readings.

Please pick up a copy as each issue becomes available and experience the joy of hearing from God each day!

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your request known to God." Philippians 4:6



The God Minute is a short, daily Christian prayer that includes peaceful music, scripture and a reflection to bless your day with the Lord. It's only 10 minutes. Take a few God Minutes each morning and see how your day rises in abundance. A Catholic devotional by the Congregation of the Mission - the Vincentians.

<https://www.thegodminute.org/wix-podcast-player>

Jefferson City Diocesan Women's Ministry:

The Women's Ministry of Jefferson City was established to help the women of our diocese connect with each other so that we can support each other in our spiritual journeys. We find inspiration and comfort in praying with each other, in talking with each other, and in sharing the stories of our faith journeys.



<https://diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry/>

For opportunities to get involved in the ministry, please contact Barb Prasad, Director of Women's Ministry at bpsasad@diojeffcity.org or (573) 635-9127 ext. 222 "Like" the Women's Ministry page on Facebook to keep up with events and news, and to get to know women in your parish and deanery.

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070216385915

Please Listen to the Diocese of Jefferson City Podcast.



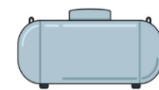
Prayer is how we orientate ourselves as stewards of God's gifts. In this month's podcast, we continue our discussion with Fr. Stephen



Jones about the Four Pillars of Stewardship. These series are designed to help us deepen our understanding of the Spirituality of Stewardship as we approach the Catholic Stewardship Renewal in **October**. Listen to the podcast at <https://diojeffcity.org/podcast/> or use the QR code above.

Propane Offer:

Boland Energy Boland is willing to offer employees and parishioners the **fixed rate of \$1.69**. This fixed rate will expire May 31, 2025. The only stipulations are: the delivery must be a minimum of 250 gallons delivered at a time and customers must own their tank. If you would like to partake in this offer, please call Boland Energy at: 636-239-9400 and tell them the code word "Holy Cross".



FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

Preparing for a Great Marriage:

The Catholic Church teaches that marriage is a covenant, a contract and a bond between a man and a woman that forms a partnership for life. The marriage bond is a unique and exclusive relationship between husband and wife for the sanctification of the couple and for the procreation and Christ-centered nurturing of children in a family.

The family, with its foundation in marriage, is a fundamental unit of the Church. Marriage is also a basic social institution of human society. Marital love is at the service of the couple, the children, the community, and of the world. Because of its timeless importance, the Church teaches that marriage between two baptized Christians is a sacrament, a source of grace and a sign of God's love for the world.

Every sacrament needs preparation for its fruitful celebration. The Church wants to ensure that those entering the life-long commitment of marriage are adequately prepared for the riches and the responsibilities that are intrinsic to it. This is why the Diocese of Jefferson City has a policy for marriage preparation. It is not to make the couple "check the boxes" or "jump through hoops." In her efforts of remote, proximate and immediate preparation, the Church is not trying to make it more difficult to get married, but rather provide the best opportunity for equipping the couple to live a shared life of love, compassion and nurturing grace.

Engaged? Congratulations!

Our Marriage Ministries have programs just for you, scheduled throughout 2024. Learn more and register for a Pre-Cana Conference or Engaged Encounter at diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation.



Marriage Resources:

Marriage preparation – USCCB –
www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/marriage-preparation

Marriage & Family Life –
www.archstl.org/marriage-family-life/resources/sexuality

Natural Family Planning – www.diojeffcity.org/natural-family-planning-2/

Pre-Marriage Inventory © is a comprehensive, user-friendly tool for lay individuals, couples or professionals who are helping couples prepare for marriage, and who become trained as FOCCUS Facilitators.
www.foccusinc.com/foccus-inventory.aspx

Prepare/Enrich provides training for premarital counseling, coaching, and education, investments in your couples' futures. www.prepare-enrich.com

Pre-Cana is one component of the marriage preparation options available to couples that are considering marriage within the Catholic Church. The conference itself consists of presentations by couples and individuals on topics that are a practical as well as a spiritual nature.
www.diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/pre-cana-registration/

SAVE THE DATE!

MARRIAGE RETREAT

Living in the Trinity with Mary

MARCH 14-15, 2025

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