



Immaculate Conception Parish, St. Marys

Holy Cross Church, Emmett

St. Stanislaus Parish, Delia/Rossville/Silver Lake



Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Although our Advent season has seemed to move so quickly, we still have a couple of days to do our final preparations. These preparations which we make are not with presents and Christmas parties... and they are not for just any guest... but for Jesus... Emmanuel... God-with-us.

Christmas Prayer



Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wise men. Help us to rise bigger than we are. Amen.

May the Lord bring you and your families the peace of truly believing what Christ accomplished through His birth. May you be abundantly blessed, as you have blest me during my time here in the parishes.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Fourth Sunday of Advent (12-22-13)
& The Nativity of Our Lord (12-25-13)**

208 W. Bertrand

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St. Marys, Kansas 66536

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Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm – Immaculate Conception
7:00pm—St. Stanislaus
Sunday 8:00am—St. Stanislaus
11:00am—Immaculate Conception

Daily Mass Schedule

Monday – Saturday 8:00am—Immaculate Conception
Alternate Thursdays 4:00pm—Rossville Valley Manor
4:00pm—St. Marys Manor

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION Saturdays 3:15pm—Immaculate Conception
Sundays 7:15am—St. Stanislaus

BAPTISMS You must be registered in one of the above parishes or have the permission of the pastor where you live. Required preparation classes are held monthly for both parents and godparents. They are encouraged to attend prior to the birth of the child. Please contact Peg at the office, 437-2408, ext. 8, for further information.

MARRIAGE You must contact the pastor **at least six full months** prior to the desired date of marriage and before making any other arrangements. Please contact the church office for a copy of the up-dated wedding policy or view online at www.marytownyouth.com.

The Joy of Christmas

The angels of God announced good news of great joy on the occasion of the first Christmas. We need to make a bit of effort in order to experience this great Joy in our lives, in our families and in our world, so says the Spiritan Father Munachi Ezeogu, cssp, who hails from Nigeria and is now a pastor in Canada.

What effort do we make? It is rather easy to explain, but difficult to practice. Look at the word JOY. It is made up of just three letters: first J, then O, and lastly Y. J stands for Jesus, O for others, and Y for You. Joy therefore is: **Jesus, Others, before You.**

To know joy in our lives we must place Jesus first in everything. Secondly, we must try to please others before trying to please ourselves. That is the recipe for joy. That is how we can convert the Christmas "joy to the world" into a personal "joy in my life" now and always.

As we listen to the Christmas story we would do well to pay attention to the various people that are mentioned and see whether they try to please Jesus and others before themselves, or whether they seek their own interests first. You will discover that those who practice J-O-Y are the ones who enjoy peace and joy, and that those who practice "self first" are always the unhappy and miserable ones. Here are few examples.

On the negative side we have the innkeeper who turned Jesus and Mary out in the cold night while he enjoyed the warmth of the inn. There's also Herod who wanted above all his job security to the point he was prepared to kill Jesus and others. These people never get to experience the joy of the good news.

On the positive side consider the shepherds who leave everything they own, their flock, in the bush and go to adore Jesus first. Or the magi, the wise men from the East who leave the security of their homeland and make a long and dangerous journey to Bethlehem just to worship the new-born Jesus and give him gifts. These are the ones who receive God's favor, the ones who experience in their hearts the true peace and joy of Christmas. Let us resolve to follow their good example by always placing Jesus and others before self and then the joy of Christmas will always be ours.

May the Infant Savior bless all of you!
Fr. Gerard Senecal, O.S.B., Pastor

Weekly Schedule

(Dec. 22 to Dec. 29)

Sat.	12-21	8:00am	IC	Eugene McKenzie (+)
		5:00pm	IC	Arnold & Mary Oestmann (++)
		7:00pm	SS	Parishioners
Sun.	12-22	8:00am	SS	Rosella Bergman (+)
		11:00am	IC	Steve Deiter (+)
Mon.	12-23	8:00am	IC	Lorraine Vande Velde (+)
Tues.	12-24 Christmas Eve.	8:00am	IC	Poor Souls In Purgatory
		6:00pm	IC	Parishioners
		6:00pm	SS	Parishioners
	Midnight Mass	12:00am	IC	Parishioners
Wed.	12-25 Christmas Day	8:00am	HC	Parishioners
		10:00am	SS	Parishioners
Thurs.	12-26	8:00am	IC	Dan McNeive (+)
		4:00pm	RVM	Deceased Manor Residents
Fri.	12-27	8:00am	IC	Bonnie Brunin (+)
Sat.	12-28	8:00am	IC	Michelle Scott Cowger (+)
		5:00pm	IC	Loretta Poell (+)
		7:00pm	SS	Unborn Children
Sun.	12-29	8:00am	SS	Mike Kerwin (+)
		11:00am	IC	Parishioners

Upcoming Events



Sun.	12-22	Fourth Sunday of Advent & Nativity of Our Lord		
		9:15am	SS	Rel. Ed
		6:00pm	IC	Youth Group
Mon.	12-23	7:00pm	IC	No RCIA
Tues.	12-24 Christmas Eve	Noon	IC	Closing of Adoration Chapel
	Offices Closed	6:00pm	IC	Mass
		6:00pm	SS	Mass
		12:00am	IC	Midnight Mass
Wed.	12-25 Christmas Day	8:00am	HC	Mass
	Offices Closed	10:00am	SS	Mass
		6:30pm	IC	No Rel. Ed
		7:00pm	SS	No Rosary & Chaplet-in Church
Thurs.	12-26	12:00 Noon	IC	Opening of the Adoration Chapel
		3:00pm	IC	Blood Mobile at Cent. Bldg.
		4:00pm	RVM	Mass
Sun.	12-29	9:15am	SS	No Rel. Ed
		6:00pm	IC	No Youth Group

Adoration Chapel Closings for Christmas

Christmas ~ Closes at Noon on Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve and reopens at Noon on Thursday, Dec. 26th at Noon.

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00am to Noon and 1:00 - 3:00pm
Friday 9:30am to Noon and 1:00-3:45pm

Main Office Phone Number: 785-437-2408 Extension

Pastor:	Father Gerard Senecal, OSB	unity_pastor@oct.net	5	
Office Staff:	Secretary	Mary Alice Hutley	unity_general@oct.net	0
	Bookkeeper	Colette Peel (St. Stanislaus)	ksgardner43@aol.com	785-584-6612
	IC Religious Education	Carol Michaelis	unity_general@oct.net	
	SS Religious Education	Peg Wehner	unity_reled@oct.net	8
	IC Religious Ed. Asst.	Connie Fischer	cfischer@amcplus.com	785-584-6262
	IC Youth Coordinator, Sr.	Betty Aubert	unity_reled2@oct.net	16
	SS Youth Coordinator	High-Gerry Lou Marstall	glmarstall@yahoo.com	785-437-2295
	Dekat Parish Center	Angie Bittner	angiebittner@yahoo.com	785-221-2644
		Colette Peel	ksgardner43@aol.com	785-584-6612

Immaculate Conception, St. Marys / Holy Cross, Emmett unity_general@oct.net

Dec. 15: Contributions ~
Plate-\$189.
Env.-\$3,653.
The Needy-\$65.
Total-\$3,907.

Thank you for your stewardship and generous support of our parish!



Memorial Christmas Flowers ~

If you would like to purchase a flower in memory of a loved one, please put the money in the collection basket or drop it by the office.

K of C Info ~

The December Family of the Month, K of C Council #657, is the Richard and Lori Schoenfeld family. Richard has been selected as the Knight of the Month. Congratulations to all!

Reminder ~

The Rosary is recited daily and every Sat. night and Sunday morning before Mass.

Remember: It would be nice to remember our parishioners who reside at St. Marys Manor during Christmas time. Each would enjoy receiving card greetings.

Community Blood Drive ~

3:00-6:00pm, Dec. 26th at the IC Cent. Bldg. Sponsored by K of C #657. Make your appointment at www.savealifenow.org or call John Simecka, 437-6123.

Reminder: The surveys that were mailed out are to be returned by this weekend, Dec. 21-22.

Rosary ~

There will be a Rosary for Karen Crow, who is fighting pancreatic cancer, at Sacred Heart Oratory, Delia, Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 4pm.

Christmas Mass at Holy Cross, Emmett ~There will be an 8:00am Mass Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, at Holy Cross, Emmett.

Community Health Ministry Care Package items needed for our troops:

Socks, men's crew or work black or white; Drink singles (like you add to bottled water) or coffee singles; Toothbrushes, floss & chapstick; Rice Krispie Treats; Protein bars or powders, Jerky or slim jims; Instant oatmeal packets; Small gifts such as cards or anything else. Community Health Ministry, 407 Ash, Wamego KS 66547, (785-456-7872)

Thank You ~

The Community Food Pantry would like to thank the I.C. Religious Education teachers and students for their donation of food. Special thanks to the 5th Grade class for visiting the pantry and collecting food for us. God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and generosity.



St. Stanislaus, Rossville / Silver Lake/Delia

ksgardner43@aol.com

Dec. 15: Contributions ~
Plate-\$182; Env.-\$1,795; Retired Rel.-\$40; Cath. Charities-200; Imm. Conception-\$10; LEAVEN-\$43. Total-\$2,295; Building Pledge-\$3,215.

Faith Direct: Bldg. Fund-\$955; Cath. Charities-\$21; Christmas-\$20; Imm. Concept-\$1; Ret. Religious-\$1; Env.-\$665. Total-\$1,663.

Thank You for your stewardship and generous support of our parish! (Please write a separate check for the building pledge donations, as we have to do a separate deposit.)

Christmas Flowers ~Forms for purchasing a Christmas flower in memory of a loved one are located at the back of church.

St. Stanislaus Parish Cookbook ~

Copies of the cookbook are available at the Parish Office. Ask after Masses or contact Colette at 584-6612, June, 584-6080 or Helen, 584-9919. These cookbooks make nice Christmas gifts. Cost is \$12.00.

Rosary ~

There will be a Rosary for Karen Crow, who is fighting pancreatic cancer, at Sacred Heart Oratory, Delia, Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 4pm.

What a Blessing! ~ If you wish to make a cash donation please put it in an envelope marked "Poor & Needy" and drop it in the collection.

Please Pray ~

For the repose of the soul of Leonard Schmitz of Seneca. Leonard is the cousin of Debbie Manuel, Rosalyn Neary and Colette Peel. May his soul rest in peace.



Damiani Dekat

Services Provided Parishes and Communities:

Perpetual Adoration:	Please contact the office if you wish to participate in this beautiful and prayerful devotion.
Religious Education:	Contact Peg Wehner (IC and HC), 437.2408 or Connie Fischer (SS) [cfischer@amcplus.com], 785-584-6262
Youth Group:	Contact Gerry Lou Marstall, (IC) 437-2295 or Angie Bittner(SS) 785.478-6803
St. Marys Food Pantry:	Please contact Mary Poell @ 437-2448 or Tina Roth @785-584-6466 for assistance.
Ministry to the Sick:	Parish contacts are: Betty Aubert, IC (437-6118) Janet Wehrly, HC (535-8021); Colette Peel, SS (582-5846).
Hall Rentals:	For rental information at any parish, please contact the parish office: 437-2408 or: for SS --Colette Peel (584-6612); for IC --e-mail to unity_general@oct.net ; or for HC --Galen Rezac (535-2482).
Prayer Chain Coord.:	Holy Cross -Janet Wehrly (535-8021), St. Stanislaus -Darlene Berry (584-6258), Immaculate Conception -Mary Ellen Reese (437-6163) or Marj Guerich (437-2473).
SS Music Ministry	(Youth Choir) Angie Bittner, 221-2644 or Jen Womack, 969-5882 (Adult Choir) Helen Lytle, 584-6335 or June Burgett, 584-6080

WILL YOU PLEASE HELP?



Adorers of the Holy Eucharist:

- ✠ Sun., 8-9am;
- ✠ Mon., 10-11am.
- ✠ Fri., 8-9pm(temporary)
- ✠ Sat., 12-1pm; 8-9pm; 9-10pm.

Call Mary Ellen (437-6163) or Mary Alice (437-2408).

O, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Picture Books and CD'S ~ The picture books from the Abbot are on sale now for \$35.00 a book and the Abbot's CD's are \$15.00. They are available at the IC church office.

Parishes' Wedding Policy Available On-Line: The parish wedding policies for Immaculate Conception and St. Stanislaus churches are available to view/print at: www.marytownyouth.com

Christmas Mass and Schedule:

(Christmas Masses) IC & SS & HC

Dec. 24
6pm-IC
6pm-SS
Midnight-IC



Dec. 25
8am-HC
10am-SS

Catholic Charities ~

Our country and the state of Kansas have seen an increase in the number of those living in poverty. During the holidays, as you share warm feelings and gifts with your friends and family, please consider the less fortunate who never imagined they would be at Catholic Charities' doors. Please make a donation to this year's Catholic Charities Christmas collection to allow the agency to help our brothers and sisters in need.

Adoration

Please call these coordinators for assistance:
Mary Ellen Reese: Mon. thru Fri, 6pm to 6am.
Joe Mulford: 6am to Midnight on Saturdays and Sundays.
Mary Alice Hutley: 6am-6pm Monday thru Friday.

We need someone to take the 8-9pm hour (temporarily) on Friday evenings until the first of March. If someone could help out, please call Mary Alice, 437-2408 or Mary Ellen, 437-6163.

RCIA-Becoming a Catholic ~
No RCIA Dec. 23rd.

Registering In Your Parish

~ If you are 18 years of age or older, and live in the parishes of Immaculate Conception or St. Stanislaus, **please make sure you are registered at the appropriate parish office.** This will be important if you are asked to be a sponsor for a Confirmation, or a godparent for a Baptism, or if you plan to be married in any of those churches.

Christmas Mass Schedules for St. Bernard's, Alma and Paxico ~

Dec. 24:
5pm at St. Bernard
7pm at Paxico
9pm at Alma
9pm at St. Bernard
10pm at St. Joseph, Flush

Dec. 25:
9am at St. Bernard
9am at St. Joseph, Flush

Community Health Ministry ~

Needs your help. Please consider adopting a family this holiday season. They have several families in the St. George area who need to be adopted for Christmas. If you can help in any way, please contact Community Health Ministry, 785-456-7872.

ST. MARYS FOOD PANTRY Any food or monetary donations would be greatly appreciated.

We are in continuous need of: peanut butter, jelly, applesauce, canned fruit, tomatoes, tomato sauce, corn, tuna, mac & cheese, spaghetti and sauce, egg noodles, cream soups, cereal, pancake mix and syrup, soda crackers, pork & beans, peas, green beans, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry detergent, T-paper, shampoo, bar soap. Send monetary gifts to Community Food Pantry, 503 N. 5th Street, St. Marys, KS 66536. Thank you for helping meet these needs.

Please save your Best Choice labels for the Food Pantry. Thanks

Feast Days for the Week

Sun.,	Dec. 22,	Fourth Sunday of St. John of Kanty
Tues.,	Dec. 24,	The Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
Weds.,	Dec. 25,	The Nativity of the Lord
Thurs.,	Dec. 26,	St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Fri.,	Dec. 27,	St. John, Apostle, Evangelist
Sat.,	Dec. 28,	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Natural Family Planning ~

This New Year, resolve to drop the burden of contraception and embrace the freedom of **Natural Family Planning!** To help with your resolution, classes in the Sympto-Thermal Method of **Natural Family Planning** are offered for a reasonable course fee at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Ave, beginning Sun., Jan. 19, 1pm. Call Dana or Eric Runnebaum at 785-380-0062 or the Couple to Couple League of Kansas City at 913-894-3558 for more info. **Online registration required at www.ccli.org**



Christmas is a time to open our hearts to God and his gifts. Just like the rest of the year.

VeryBestQuotes.com
Photo: Alex27