



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2019

Parish Mission

We are one Church: loving Jesus, serving Jesus, and sharing Jesus.

Parish Vision

We are a vibrant Catholic church serving a diverse community in a safe and welcoming environment where we care for all people along their faith journey.

Core Values

Discipleship • Hospitality
Serving • Worship

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 a.m.,
3:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m.
Wednesday 5:15 p.m.
Thursday and Friday 8:00 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
or by appointment

The Day is Coming

Today's Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44. Our liturgical year both concludes and begins with readings on the end-times. As we enter the season of Advent, we are reminded that we are not only preparing to celebrate Christ's birth, we are also preparing for his return. The First Reading fills us with hope for the Second Coming, for on that day everyone in the world will turn to God and there will be an end to conflicts and war.

Until Christ comes again, we must "walk in the light" and turn away from dark, destructive thoughts and deeds. When we live as holy, kind, and loving people, we show that we are ready for God's kingdom, even though we continue doing everyday things such as working, eating, and sleeping. Our lives may not seem radically different from the lives of others, but God can tell the difference.

Jesus warns us of the danger of not getting ready. Disaster struck those who did not prepare for the flood. Disaster struck the master of the house who slept through the swift and sudden arrival—and departure—of the thief. Disaster struck those who were left behind; they were excluded from God's kingdom.

Today we light the first candle of our Advent wreaths. Before you do, sit in darkness. Name whatever evils confront you as you prepare for Christ's return. Then light the candle, and pray for God to expel darkness from you and our world. Rejoice that Christ has already come to lead you into the light of his eternal day.

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1913 Ritter Drive • Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701
573-335-7667 • Fax 573-335-0034 • www.svcape.com
Serving the Catholic Community since April 9, 1836

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 2

6:30 am Netz and Val Mueller †

Tuesday, December 3

6:30 am Keith Kapelski †

Wednesday, December 4

Saint John Damascene

6:30 am John and Rose Toenjes †

5:15 pm Mary Christoff †

Thursday, December 5

6:30 am Marvin Urhahn †

8:00 am Theresa Wibbenmeyer †

Friday, December 6

6:30 am Howard and Loretta Lively †

8:00 am Judy King †

Saturday, December 7

6:30 am Living and Deceased Members of the Lira Madrigal Family

5:00 pm Living and Deceased Members of the Jack Johnson Family

Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 am Living and Deceased Members of the Glen and Bessie Grojean Family

9:00 am Living and Deceased Members of the Todt and Clark Families

10:45 am Jean-Baptiste Tudor †

3:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Parish Family (Bilingual)

Prayer Requests

Please remember **Claudette Lincoln**, the hospitalized, the homebound, the sick of the parish and those who care for them.

Parish Office

contactus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Father Rick Jones, Pastor

Stvcapepadre@gmail.com / 573-335-7667

Father Brian Straus

Assoc. Pastor/Sacramental Priest for CCM, SEMO University
fatherbrian@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Deacon Robbie Huff

Head of Schools, St. Vincent de Paul, Perryville
robhuff@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Deacon Mark Kiblinger

Coordinator of Stewardship and RCIA
mkiblinger@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Deacon Thomas Schumer

Director of CCM, SEMO University
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Debbie Wells, Receptionist

dwells@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

The Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are, and they strive to live in readiness for His coming.

BEST Advent EVER

AMAZING POSSIBILITIES

God Sees Them All.
It's Time You See Them Too!

Join Matthew Kelly, and the Dynamic Catholic team for BEST ADVENT EVER—a free email program that will help you enjoy a few minutes of peace and prayer each day during the hectic Holidays!

» Take the first step toward discovering your amazing future at BestAdventEver.com «

Dynamic Catholic

Women's Council Meeting

The December meeting of the Council of Catholic Women will be held this Monday, December 2, at 6:00 p.m. in the lower meeting room. Dinner will be served.

Birthright donations of 0-3 month and 3-6 month outfits for boys and girls will be appreciated. If you wish to participate in a lively gift exchange, please bring a \$5.00 gift item. Orders for a St. Vincent's Council of Catholic Women shirt will be taken. Two options are available.

All women of the parish are members of the Council and are invited to this fun evening!

Men's Association Christmas Mass and Dinner

All men of the parish, ages 18 and older, are invited to the annual St. Vincent de Paul Men's Association Christmas Mass and Dinner on Monday, December 2. Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. at Old St. Vincent Church. Immediately following Mass, there will be a smoked chicken dinner hosted by Kolhfeld Distributing. Bring a friend to celebrate the Christmas season with Mass, Christmas carols, and fellowship with the men of the parish. For more information, contact Trent Summers at 573-230-0120 or trent@rlci.com.

Lector Workshop

If you are currently a Lector, or, if you would like to join this ministry, please attend a workshop on Wednesday, December 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the Church. The workshop identify the main responsibilities of what a "Proclaimer of God's Holy Word" does before Mass, during Mass and after Mass. Qualifications for a Lector include being a registered parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul, have a skill in public reading, be confirmed in the Catholic Church and have a willingness to be part of a Lector workshop. For those who find it helpful, the **Lector's Workbook** will also be given out during each of the workshops.

May He Rest in Peace

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Robert Shenimann**, stepfather of Kim Powers and Laurie Welter.

May he and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Join in celebrating the Novena (9 days prior) of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. The Novena begins on Tuesday, December 3, and continues through Wednesday, December 11. At each Novena the Rosary will be prayed along with special prayers of intercession to Our Lady of Guadalupe. After each Novena there will be a time for refreshment and celebration!

The Novenas will take place at the following times in church:

- Tuesday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 8, at 2:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 12, at **5:30 a.m.**

NOVENA A LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE

Participe en la celebración de la Novena (9 días antes) de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Patrona de las Américas. La Novena comienza el Martes 4 de Diciembre y continúa hasta el Miércoles 12 de Diciembre. En cada Novena se rezará el Rosario junto con oraciones especiales de intercesión a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Después de cada Novena habrá momentos de refresco y celebración!

La Novena se lleva a cabo en los siguientes tiempos en la iglesia:

- Martes, 3 de Diciembre a las 7:00pm
- Miércoles, 4 de Diciembre a las 7:00pm
- Jueves, 5 de Diciembre a las 7:00pm
- Viernes, 6 de Diciembre a las 7:00pm
- Sábado, 7 de Diciembre a las 7:00pm
- Domingo, 8 de Diciembre a las 2:00pm
- Lunes, 9 de Diciembre a las 7:00pm
- Martes, 10 de Diciembre a las 7:00pm
- Miércoles, 11 de Diciembre at las 7:00pm
- Jueves, 12 de Diciembre a las **5:30am**



i.d.Cape Disciples Night

On Thursday, December 5, i.d.Cape (young adults) will host their monthly Disciples Night in the lower meeting room. Dinner will begin at 6:15 p.m. and the live-streamed talk will begin at 7:00 p.m. All young adults in their 20's and 30's are invited. The series on the Beatitudes will conclude. Ed Conlin will share his personal stories and practical insights of living with true poverty of Spirit. Bring a friend!

The Week Ahead

Monday, December 2

- 6:00 pm Women's Council Meeting/Party
- 6:00 pm Men's Association Mass/Party

Tuesday, December 3

- 8:00 am Confirmation Prep (SVS)
- 6:30 pm Harvesting Our Tears
- 7:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena

Wednesday, December 4

- 8:00 am Confirmation Prep (SVS)
- 9:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study
- 10:00 am Mass at Chateau Girardeau
- 3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour
- 4:00 pm Centering Prayer
- 5:45 pm PSR
- 6:00 pm Wednesday Evening Bible Study
- 6:30 pm RCIA
- 7:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena

Thursday, December 5

- 9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables (9:00 - 11:00 am)
- 9:30 am Mass at Fountainbleau
- 6:15 pm i.d.Cape Disciples Night
- 7:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena

Friday, December 6

- 7:00 am Adoration of the Eucharist
- 9:00 am Friday Women's Bible Study
- 5:15 pm Benediction
- 7:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena

Saturday, December 7

- 7:00 am Men's Cursillo Group
- 9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables (9:00 - 12:00 noon)
- 3:30 pm Confession
- 6:00 pm Women's Council Bake Sale
- 7:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena

Sunday, December 8

- 8:30 am Women's Council Bake Sale
- 9:00 am Children's Liturgy of the Word
- 2:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena
- 4:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta
- 4:30 pm Confirmation Prep (High School)

Readings - December 8, 2019

Isaiah 11:1-10 • Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

Collection - November 24, 2019

Collection	\$ 28,276.00
E-Tithing	\$ 11,188.00
Total	\$ 39,464.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 31,450.00
Year-to-date Difference	-\$ 44,684.60

Please be a good steward of God's gifts by using Faith Direct or by using your contribution envelope.



Follow St. Vincent Parish and stay up to date!

Find the parish on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/svcape/>

Find the parish on Instagram at [stvincentcapegirardeau](https://www.instagram.com/stvincentcapegirardeau)



Ministries

Saturday, December 7 • 5:00 p.m.

Servers Vita Galati, Ryan Schoolman, **Volunteer**
Lectors Neal Tanner, Don Kaverman
Eucharistic Ministers Stephen Fenwick, Nancy Glosemeyer, Jim Govreau, Barb Hagler, Don Kaverman, Sue Kaverman, Pat McDonald, Tedd Powers, Elizabeth Rolwing, Shane Sinn
Sacristans Gene Heuring, Judy Heuring
Musician Dale Haskell

Sunday, December 8 • 7:30 a.m.

Servers Emmett Pfeifer, Blake Schreckenberg, **Volunteer**
Lectors Stone Cook, Addie Cook
Eucharistic Ministers Pat Brase, Becki Essner, Becky Lively, Gary Lively, Joshua Sander, Susan Todt
Sacristans Jane Unterreiner, Wayne Unterreiner
Hospitality Millie Hinkle, Rae Anne Kloss, **Volunteers**
Musicians Lenny Kuper, Marlene Glenn, Jane Schnurbusch, Bailey Schnurbusch

Sunday, December 8 • 9:00 a.m.

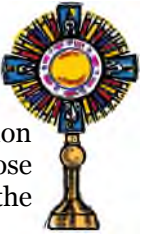
Servers Kyle Boehme, Sam Galati, Jacob Mahnke
Lectors Denise Trampier, Carol Glueck
Eucharistic Ministers Beverly Brown, Patricia Heisserer, Jean Hillman, Flo Johnson, Hugh Protzel, Scott Raines, Lisa Seabaugh, Bonita VanGennip, Ginny Wene, Sue Wibbenmeyer
Sacristans Diane Himmelberg, Mike Himmelberg
Hospitality Lisa Church, Maria Gates, Barbara Hess, Jean Hillman, Pat Hillman, **Volunteers**
Musicians Parish Choir

Sunday, December 8 • 10:45 a.m.

Servers Brycen Clark, Nicholas Dial, Courtney Tatum
Lectors Jennifer Hendrickson, Cindy Heischmidt
Eucharistic Ministers Shery Clark, Linda Gosche, Mary Gosche, Chris Janet, Jill Janet, Kathy Mattes, Tim Powderly, Stephen Slaten, Amanda Strohmeier, Lester Wells
Sacristans Mary Kay McCrate, **Volunteer**
Hospitality Jill Bruenderman, Jennifer Hendrickson, Madeline Hendrickson, Ralph Hendrickson, Amanda Mitsdarfer, Patrick Mitsdarfer, Lori Powderly, Bradley Shuh, Rachel Shuh
Musicians Mike Renick, Cheryl Oberhaus

Liturgical Ministers may sign up at <https://secure.rotundasoftware.com>.

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration



First Friday Adoration of the Eucharist will take place following the 6:30 a.m. Mass on December 6. Consider spending time with the Lord in prayer and adoration during the day. Adoration will close with Eucharistic Benediction at 5:15 p.m. allowing those who finish work at 5:00 p.m. an opportunity to come for the final prayers and benediction.

Women's Council Bake Sale



On the weekend of December 7 - 8, the Women's Council will host a bake sale after all Masses. The items available will be packaged for gift giving. This is an excellent opportunity to pick up gift items for friends, co-workers and service personnel. Please be generous and support the efforts of the Women's Council.

Women's Council Members: If you would like to make donations of cookies or candy, please bring items to the upper meeting room by 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 6. Volunteers are needed to help with the packaging of baked items. There are two shifts: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. All help will be appreciated!

Secular Franciscan Order

Second Sunday of Each Month • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Saint Francis Medical Center • St. Agatha Room

The Secular Franciscan Order is laity following the Rule St. Francis wrote, approved by the Pope, to support one another in living a simplified life - from Gospel to Life from Life to Gospel. Come and see! Contact Anita Tygett at 573-335-1538.

Q&A Town Hall Event for High School Youth

Catholic high school youth are invited to join Bishop Rice and area Catholic youth for a Question/Answer Town Hall Event on Sunday, December 8, beginning with Mass celebrated by Bishop Rice at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary Cathedral. Lunch will be provided followed by a Town Hall Question and Answer time with Bishop Rice and games in the school gym. All Catholic high school teens and their Youth Group leaders are invited to participate! Please RSVP to Father Brian or to Mary Kulla, mkulla12@gmail.com.

Mañanitas to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Thursday, December 12

Morning Praise and Mass will take place on Thursday, December 12 at 5:30 a.m. in church. This will include the Rosary and songs of praise to Our Lady of Guadalupe. The regular 6:30 a.m. Mass will be bi-lingual this morning.

Mañanitas a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Jueves, 12 de Diciembre

La alabanza y Misa de Mañana se llevará a cabo el Jueves 12 de diciembre a las 5:30am en la iglesia. Rosario y algunas canciones de alabanza a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe se llevará a cabo alrededor de las 5:30am. Nuestra Misa regular de 6:30am será bilingüe esta mañana.

If you would like to take up the offertory gifts at one of the weekend Masses in the upcoming months, please contact Debbie Wells at the parish office or email her at stvincentscares@gmail.com.



Baptismal Prep

Parents and godparents are required to attend a baptismal preparation class before a child is baptized in the Catholic faith. The next class is scheduled for Sunday, December 15, at 4:30 p.m. and will be held in the upper meeting room. Please contact the parish office to register for the class and to fill out a baptismal registration form.

Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. • 6:00 p.m. • 11:00 p.m. (carols at 10:40 p.m.)

Christmas Day
8:00 a.m. • 10:00 a.m. • 12:00 noon (Bilingual)

Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day)

New Year's Eve, December 31
5:15 p.m.

New Year's Day, January 1
8:00 a.m. • 10:00 a.m. • 12:00 noon (Bilingual)



On Christmas, all parishes of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau will be conducting a collection to help fund the education of seminarians and help to meet the needs of retired priests. This is an opportunity to show gratitude for those who have and those who will serve the diocese. You are asked to use Faith Direct or the envelope in your envelope packet.

Need a Christmas Gift?

Applied snowman pillows, handmade by the parish office staff for the Christmas Bazaar, are available for purchase. The cost per pillow is \$20 or you can buy two for \$35. Stop by the parish office or call 573-335-7667 to reserve your pillows.

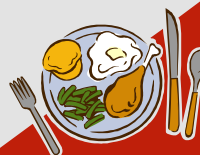


Food for the Fathers

A Ministry Opportunity

Each Tuesday Food for the Fathers, a parish ministry, will supply a warm meal for three priests and a seminarian. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please sign up at <http://signup.com/login/entry/67699625678106404>. You will need to enter your email address but will NOT need to register an account on SignUp.com. Sample meals are listed. If you don't like the choices, change your selection to include an entrée and two side dishes (no desserts, please!). Choose the date you would like to provide the meal. SignUp.com will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Then, on the date chosen, deliver the meal between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. to the rectory.

If you prefer not to sign up online or have questions, please contact Beverly in the parish office at 335-7667 and she can sign you up.



Celebrating the Sacraments Celebrando los Sacramentos

Marriage: Please contact the parish office at least **six months** in advance. (If you have been married before, an annulment may need to be done first.)

Matrimonio: Por favor comuníquese con la oficina parroquial por lo menos con **seis meses** de antelación. (Si usted ha estado casado antes, una anulación del matrimonio puede necesitar ser hecha primero.)

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Baptism: Your family needs to be registered in the parish for three months prior to the baptism. It is necessary to schedule baptismal preparation classes six weeks prior to your child's baptism. Taking the baptism class prior to birth is encouraged! Contact Deacon Mark Kiblinger at the parish office (573-335-7667).

Bautismo: Es un requisito ser inscritos en la parroquia por lo menos 3 meses antes de bautizar. También los padres tienen que celebrar la santa misa cada fin de semana. La clase de preparación para el bautismo para padres y padrinos es cada último lunes del mes. Favor de comunicarse con Padre Rick una semana antes al 573-335-7667.

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Holy Orders and Consecrated Religious Life:

Would you like to talk about how to be a Priest, Permanent Deacon, Religious Brother or Religious Sister? Come to a gathering on the last Thursday of each month for snacks and discussion about this way of life. For more information, call Father Rick at the parish office (573-335-7667) or email him at stvcapepadre@gmail.com.

Orden Sagrado y vida religiosa consagrada:

¿te gustaría hablar de cómo ser sacerdote, diácono permanente, hermano religioso o hermana religiosa? Ven a una reunión el último Jueves de cada mes para algunos bocadillos y discusión sobre esta forma de vida. Para más información, llame al Padre Rick en la oficina parroquial (573-335-7667) o stvcapepadre@gmail.com.

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Anointing of the Sick: If you are going to the hospital for a planned surgery, please call the parish office so this Sacrament can be celebrated with you.

Unción de los enfermos: Si usted va al hospital para una cirugía planificada, por favor llame a la oficina parroquial para que este Sacramento pueda ser celebrado con usted.

Job Opportunities

Regional Director - Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri is searching for a high-performing community leader to serve as Regional Director for the southeast region. If you are mission-focused and passionate about serving the vulnerable in our communities, please visit www.ccsomo.org/employment.

Diocesan Superintendent of Schools - The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau has an opening for Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2020. The diocesan school system includes 23 elementary and 3 high schools. Requirements: Practicing Catholic, advanced degree in Educational Administration, certifiable in State of Missouri, and experience in Catholic school administration, preferably on a diocesan level. Ability to promote Catholic mission of the schools is a high priority. Must also be willing to travel throughout the diocese. Competitive salary, excellent health benefits, and retirement based on diocesan guidelines. Send cover letter and resume to Janet L. Smith, Chancellor, 601 S. Jefferson, Springfield, MO, 65806. You may also call 417-866-0841 or email jansmith@dioscg.org to request an application packet.

High School Principal - The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau is seeking a principal for Notre Dame Catholic High School in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, effective July 1, 2020. Qualified applicant must be an Active Catholic, have Missouri principal certification, have a Master's degree in School Administration (or be working towards it) with 3-5 years of Catholic school experience. Administrative experience preferred.

Please contact Anne Buckley at the Catholic Center, 417-866-0841, abuckley@dioscg.org to request an application packet.

47th Annual March for Life



You are invited to attend an amazing pro-life pilgrimage by accompanying hundreds of thousands of marchers in the nation's capital on January 24, 2020. Organized by the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau's Voice for Life lay apostolate, a bus will leave at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, from St. Vincent De Paul Church, Cape Girardeau. The mission of Voice for Life (VFL) is to support life from conception to natural death. It promotes awareness and conducts advocacy campaigns in accordance with Catholic teaching on life issues. For information, contact Kathleen Keesee, kkeesee@charter.net or 573-986-3320.

Attention: Adult Catholic Men

You are invited to the Cape Girardeau-area



Thursday, January 23, 2020 • 6:30-9:00 p.m.
St. Vincent de Paul Parish • Cape Girardeau, Missouri

An evening of Adoration, Confession, and a Manly Meal with discussion.

To help plan for food please RSVP to
SEMOCatholicManNight@gmail.com,
SEMO Catholic Man Night on Facebook or 573-837-2556

**If you are interested in helping with this event,
please contact Tony Buehrle at 573-979-5013.**

IS CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD ON YOUR GROCERY LIST?

Welcome to St. Vincent de Paul

If you would like to register for the parish, change your address, or simply have questions, please fill out the form and place it in the collection basket. You may also mail it to the parish office at 1913 Ritter Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Please free to contact parish office staff anytime during regular office hours, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You may email the parish office at contactus@svparish or call 335-7667. A parish registration form is available at <http://www.svcape.com/Parish/>.

Name _____

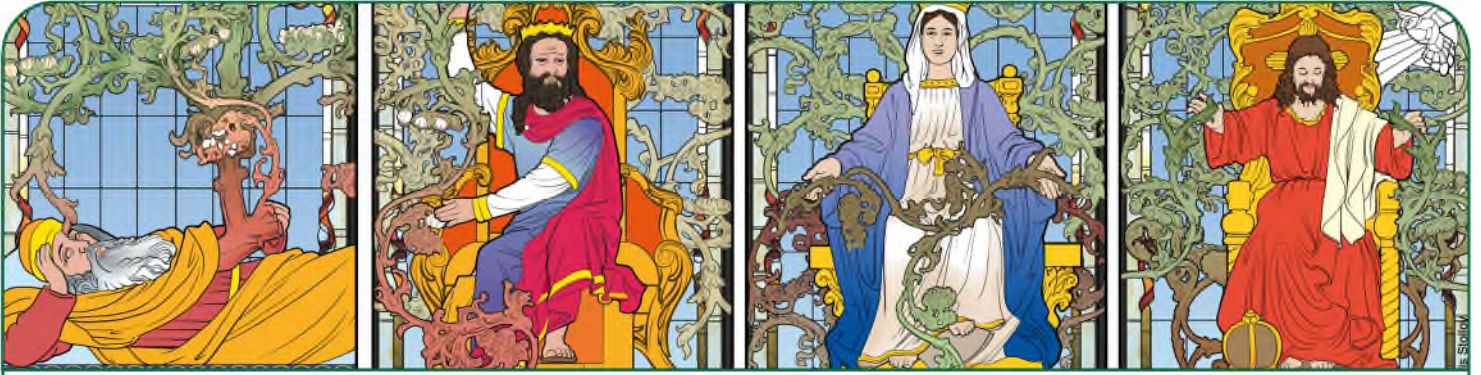
Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

- I am new to Cape Girardeau. I am new to St. Vincent de Paul Parish.
- I have been attending St. Vincent Parish and would like to register as a member.
- Please change my address to the one shown above.
- I would like to sign up for Faith Direct.
- I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith.
- I would like to register my child/children for Parish School of Religion.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 2

Far and Wide

The soldier is certain that Jesus can heal his servant, even from a distance. He sees that Jesus is the presence of God, sheltering and protecting people. In Jesus, God's holy presence spreads out beyond Jerusalem to wherever Jesus goes, to whoever asks for his help. Use a map to find places in the world that are the farthest from you and pray for the people there. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 4:2-6; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Matthew 8:5-11.*

Tuesday, December 3

St. Francis Xavier

Jesus is the one on whom the Spirit rests, bringing the peace for which people yearn. St. Francis Xavier, recognizing that he was blessed to know the one filled with this Spirit, devoted his life to sharing the Gospel. Although thousands of people came to know God through the revelation of his Son, not everyone welcomed this missionary. But he persisted. Persevere in the Spirit of peace today by letting go of a mean or angry thought. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Luke 10:21-24.*

Wednesday, December 4

Food for Life

Every day in our world some people have more than they can eat while others go hungry. God promises a world in which everyone has enough to eat and there are no more tears of hunger, no more pleas for help. By healing and feeding all who come to him desperate for physical and spiritual aid, Jesus fulfills God's promise. This ministry did not end with Jesus. It continues with the next generation of followers: us. Volunteer for a meal program that helps the local poor to share the good news that God is fulfilling his promises. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29-37.*

Thursday, December 5

Built to Last

Sometimes we think we're doing what our Lord wants, when we're doing what we want. By becoming human, God surprised everyone and revealed how much about the divine we have to learn. We must listen closely to the words of God's Son and not imagine that we know best. Only when we truly know what our Lord is calling us to do will we be like "a strong city" and a house built on rock. Read chapters 5 through 7 of Matthew's account of the Gospel and reflect on the passage that most surprises and challenges you. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Matthew 7:21, 24-27.*

Friday, December 6

Gifts

God's name is revered by all who long for justice and who turn to him for instruction. Jesus heals the two blind men because they "see" that he leads people to such reverence for God. They're so happy to be healed that they refuse to keep the healing a secret. St. Nicholas, who is honored today, brought joy to people by secretly leaving gifts. Surprise someone with an anonymous gift. In this way, you will revere God, the source of all gifts. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 9:27-31.*

Saturday, December 7

St. Ambrose

During St. Ambrose's lifetime, many people denied that Jesus was fully divine. Yet if Jesus did not fully share in the divinity of his Father, then God hadn't become truly present to us at the Incarnation. St. Ambrose knew that the Jesus who came to "bind up the wounds of his people" perfectly and completely revealed the love of God. Share God's love today by visiting someone who might feel forgotten or alone. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8.*



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