

## About those Shepherds...

By Fr. Dwight Longenecker

The charming story of Christmas night is that the shepherds were a bunch of country bumpkins who were dozing around the fire on the hillside when some angels appeared in the sky and sang “Glory Hallelujah” and the farmers rubbed their chins and said, “Ye know Festus, I speck we oughter go down there to the village and see if we can find this here pretty baby.”

There was more to it than that. Much more.

The Jewish historian Josephus writing in the first century records that at Passover up to 265,000 lambs would be sacrificed in the Jewish temple at Jerusalem. The Passover lamb was called “The Lamb of God” Those lambs had to meet the strict legal-religious regulations of the Jewish faith. They had to be no more than one year old, male and without spot or blemish. Therefore they had to be born in controlled conditions and inspected for birth defects before being raised in protected conditions.

Where did they get that many lambs? The law also said that animals to be sacrificed had to be born within five miles of Jerusalem. Bethlehem is just five miles from Jerusalem. The hillsides around Bethlehem, therefore were a first century lamb factory farm. When the lambs were born they were wrapped up in strips of cloth to protect them and placed in a stone feeding trough in the birthing barn until the priest could come by and inspect them.

This is why the angel said to the shepherds “This shall be a sign for you. You will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” The “manger” was most likely a stone feeding trough, not a wooden crib as we usually see. Jesus was therefore born in the same place and at the same time with the same treatment as the lambs that would be sacrificed.

The shepherds knew they were not going to see just any baby. They were going to see the newborn Lamb of God. That’s why they worshipped him. They knew he was the promised Messiah, the Suffering Servant, the Lamb of God.

Adapted from **Fr. Dwight Longenecker’s Blog**. You can read this article in it’s original context at: [www.patheos.com/blogs/standingonmyhead/2018/12/the-bethlehem-shepherds-were-not-just-country-bumpkins.html](http://www.patheos.com/blogs/standingonmyhead/2018/12/the-bethlehem-shepherds-were-not-just-country-bumpkins.html)

### Free Hockey Game This Friday!

On occasion, parishioners are fascinated to learn that your parish priest plays ice hockey. Sometimes they will say, “I’d like to come watch a game some time. When do you play?” The answer is usually, “LATE on Friday nights!” In response to those who have asked, you will be pleased to know that my next hockey game is Friday, January 4 (which also happens to be my 43rd Birthday!) at the relatively early time of 7:40pm. We play on the Centerpoint Community Ice Rink (southwest entrance) at Silverstein Eye Centers Arena in Independence, MO. Admission is free, especially since you are giving up your time to come support the team. Look for no. 12 in the Purple and Gold.

- Fr. Totton



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# ST. ANN'S PARISH

**Sunday, December 30, 2018**

**Solemnity of the Holy Family**

**This Week's Masses :**

**Saturday 4pm / Sunday 10am**

**\*Tuesday 1/1 Solemnity of Mary 10am Mass\***

**Wed–Fri 1/2–1/4 8am Mass**

**First Friday Adoration 8:30am–Noon**

**Saturday 4pm Mass / Sunday 10am Mass**

**Confessions Heard Saturday at 3pm**

### Legion of Mary

Sherry Kutz, President

Hank Lagerman, Vice President

Carleen Miller, Secretary

Eileen Lagerman, Treasurer

### Faith Formation Team

Teresa Marie Koch–Leader

Roxanne Durando

Greg Kittelson

Terry Miller

### Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight

Steve Van Horn



**Sunday December 30**  
**Feast of the Holy Family**

### Parish Council

Paul Broderick

Randy Dalinghaus

Carole Harris

Diane Hon

Julie Moran

Eric Niemann

Bill Lueckenotte

### Altar Society

Loretta Broderick, President

Pat Clingan, Vice President

Shirley Schwery, Secretary

Lori Broderick, Treasurer

Website: [www.stannplattsburg.org](http://www.stannplattsburg.org)

Email: [stannplattsburg@gmail.com](mailto:stannplattsburg@gmail.com)

Secretary: Penny Harrison

Hall Rental: Leave a message on the office phone.

**To Protect our Children:**

**Report Abuse**

**Ombudsman: Jenifer Valenti – 816.812.2500**  
**Diocesan Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain,**  
**at 816.392.0011 or [chastain@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:chastain@diocesekcsj.org)**



# Ministry Schedule

**Bill Lueckenotte** coordinates scheduling for liturgical ministries. If you anticipate scheduling concerns for the next quarter, please contact him via email [bjlueckenotte@gmail.com](mailto:bjlueckenotte@gmail.com) or telephone (816) 304-6221. Once scheduled, you are responsible to arrange your own replacement / substitute.

<b>Saturday, Dec 29: 4 pm</b>	
Sacristan	Sophia Durando
Servers	Oskar, Zak and Eli Kittelson
Lectors	Clare Pelzel and Judy McKowen
EMHC	Della Mallen and Elaine Stoll
Usher	Open
<b>Sunday, Dec 30 10 am</b>	
Sacristan	Rachel Friedl
Servers	Philip Richey, Mark Durando, Ryder Dalinghaus, Carter Watton
Lector	Paul Broderick and Terry Miller
EMHC	Mary Ann Downey and Karen Trotter
Ushers	JC Roberts, Whitlow, Mindy Beall and Vince Seiler
<b>NURSING HOME MINISTRY</b>	
Oakridge: Mary Ann Garton	
<b>MONEY COUNTERS:</b> Eric Niemann and Cathy Hanson	

<b>Saturday, January 5, 4 pm</b>	
Sacristan	Kasandra Lueckenotte
Servers	Billy Lueckenotte, Zak and Eli Kittelson
Lectors	Clare Pelzel and Steve Tinnen
EMHC	Della Mallen and Judy McKowen
Usher	Open
<b>Sunday, January 6, 10 am</b>	
Sacristan	Veronica Durando
Servers	Paul and Mark Durando, Ryder Dalinghaus, Jon Friedl
Lector	Karen Trotter and Terry Miller
EMHC	Mary Ann Garton and Pat Clingan
Ushers	JC Roberts, Herman Gillotte, Eric Niemann, Vince Seiler
<b>NURSING HOME MINISTRY</b>	
Oakridge: Ann Martin	
<b>MONEY COUNTERS:</b> Eric Niemann and Volunteer	

**2019 Annual Catholic Appeal**

We have an opportunity to commit our support to diocesan programs and ministries that no single parish could provide on its own.

Our theme, "**The community of believers was of one heart and mind**" **Acts 4:32**, appropriately recognizes our unity as the people of God to work together for the betterment of all

Our overall parish goal is 100% participation.  
No gift is too small. Please join our efforts.

The (monetary) goal for St. Ann's parish is \$11,850  
Our generous gifts/pledges to date total: \$11,340  
Thank you for all your help and support of the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal.

### Weekend Collection Dec 23-24, 2018

Envelopes: \$ 2224 Plate: \$218 Candles: \$27  
Mass Stipend \$140 **Total Parish: \$2609**

**2nd Collection: Jan 5-6 Subscription Sunday Catholic Key**

**Collections:**  
**Dec to Date: \$ 9,908.00**  
**Dec Budget: \$11,831.42**  
**Year-To-Date: \$ 67,181.68**  
**Yearly Budget: \$141,977.48**

**Thank you for supporting St. Ann's Parish**


1st Saturday Mass and Confessions at Mir House of Prayer.

**Fr. Christian Malewski,**  
Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, offers Confession at 7:00 am and Mass at 8:00 am every first Saturday of the month at  
Mir House of Prayer, 6492 NE Hwy 6 in St. Joseph

**MEETINGS and EVENTS**

**Parish Council Mtg - Jan 16, 2019 6 pm Church Hall**  
**Adoration: 1st Friday of month - Jan.4 - 8:30am - Noon**  
**Altar Society Mtg; Jan 11, 2019- 11:30 AM at Pizza Hut**  
**Knights of Columbus: 3rd Tues. of the month 6:45 pm**  
**Donut Sunday - Dec 23 - Volunteers needed**  
**LEGION OF MARY will be meeting on Monday evenings at the home of Sherry Kutz.**  
**Please see Terry or Carleen Miller for directions.**


*The Power of Prayer*



**Prayer Corner**  
"To everything there is a season and time... for every purpose under heaven." **Ecc. 3-11**


"..a time to heal.."

**JB Lile, Tricia Wolf, Breanna Beall, Nancy Totton, Amy Dobrowsky, Loretta Broderick, Lori Eckles, Meryle Young, Tonia Vigilante**



**HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE FOR ST. ANN'S & ST. JOSEPH'S Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**

**Dec 31 - 6 pm at St. Joseph, Easton**  
**Jan 1 - 10 am at St. Ann, Plattsburg**  
**This is a Holy Day of Obligation.**



We offer our most sincere thanks to all who participated in the adoption of families this Christmas. The gifts were delivered on Christmas Eve and were greatly appreciated.

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating 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 Diocesan Ombudsman, Jenifer Valenti, at 816.812.2500 or [JeniferValenti@att.net](mailto:JeniferValenti@att.net), 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 Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or [chastain@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:chastain@diocesekcsj.org) for more info.

 *Mass Intentions*

<b>Sunday, Dec 30: 10 am</b>	<b>Tim Watton+</b> <b>By Pam and Richard Whalen</b>
<b>Tuesday, January 1st: 10 am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 2nd:</b>	<b>James Maples +</b> <b>By Lee and Barbara Schwery</b>
<b>Thursday, January 3rd</b>	<b>Jean Gassman +</b> <b>By Steve and Sue Tinnen</b>
<b>Friday, January 4th</b>	<b>Helen O'Connor+</b> <b>By James and Pat Baker</b>
<b>Saturday, January 5th</b>	<b>Rev. Douglas C. Hall +</b>
<b>Sunday, January 6th</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>

**Holy Day Ministry Schedule**  
**January 1st, 2019 10am**

**Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**

Sacristan	Rachel Friedl
Servers	Jon Friedl, Billy Lueckenotte, Carter Watton, Mark Durando
Lectors	Dino Durando and Bill Lueckenotte
EMHC	Della Mallen and Judy McKowen
Ushers	Vince Seiler, JC Roberts, Eric Niemann, Herman Gillotte

We are excited to announce the planning and formation of a new choir!



If you've ever wanted to praise the Lord in song with others, and for more information please call Roxanne Durando at 816-724-9478.



**DONUT SUNDAY**

**Donut Sunday Sign-Up Sheet**  
on table in Narthex.  
**We need volunteers!**