

Dear Padre,

Does the Bible say that Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy at the Annunciation?

The announcement of Jesus' birth in Luke begins, "In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin's name was Mary" (Luke 1:26-27). This Scripture passage taken out of context could possibly give the impression that "in the sixth month" refers to Mary. However, it refers to Mary's cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John the Baptist. The proper context is a few verses before this one that reads, "Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months" (Luke 1:24).



Regarding Mary's pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1:31, 35). Gabriel also informs Mary, "And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren" (Luke 1:36).

In general, women already in their sixth month of pregnancy would likely be aware of their condition, and it would not be easy to conceal from others. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| December 15 | December 16 | December 17 | December 18 | December 19 | December 20 | December 21 |
| Advent Weekday | Advent Weekday | Advent Weekday | Advent Weekday | Advent Weekday | Advent Weekday | Fourth Sunday of Advent |
| Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a | Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 | Gn 49:2, 8-10 | Jer 23:5-8 | Igs 13:2-7, 24-25a | Is 7:10-14 | Is 7:10-14 |
| Mt 21:23-27 | Mt 21:28-32 | Mt 1:1-17 | Mt 1:18-25 | Lk 1:5-25 | Lk 1:26-38 | Rom 1:1-7 |
| | | | | | | Mt 1:18-24 |



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd.... Yet, precisely for this reason, they are the places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed. A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family, and so many other wounds that afflict our society.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 9, 2025

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CHRIS ROLWES
 (314) 852 7471
 ROLWESPLUMBING@GMAIL.COM
 FIND US ON FACEBOOK
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St. James Catholic Church
 201 N. Missouri Street
 Potosi, MO 63664

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025



(Photo courtesy of Jeremy Boyer)

E-MAIL:
stjameschurch@centurylink.net

WEBSITE:
www.stjames-potosi.org

FACEBOOK: St. James Catholic Church

PHONE NUMBER: 573-438-4686

PSR: Phone: 573-366-5235
stjamespsr@gmail.com

Mass Schedule December 2025

Mon: 8:00 AM (St. Joachim)

Tues: 8:15 AM (St. James)

Wed: 8:15 AM (St. Joachim)

Thurs: 8:00 AM (St. James)

Fri: 8:00 AM (St. Joachim)

Sat: 8:00 AM (1st Sat. of the Month @ St. James)

Saturday: 4:00 PM
 (1st & 3rd weekend @ St. James; 2nd & 4th weekend @ St. Joachim)

Sunday: 8:00 AM (St. James)
10:00 AM (St. Joachim)

Confessions:

Saturday: 3:15-3:45pm
 Prior to Sat. evening Mass or by appointment



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Dec. 15th
 @ St. Joachim

Tuesday, Dec. 16th:
John Politte

Wednesday, Dec. 17th
 @ St. Joachim

Thursday, Dec. 18th:
Bess Lalumondiere

Friday, Dec. 19th:
 @ St. Joachim

Saturday, Dec. 20th : George Lalumondiere

Sunday, Dec. 21st:
Parish Family

St. James Parish Family

201 N. Missouri Street
Potosi, MO 63664



December 21st

Lector:

Saturday 4pm: Paul Villmer
Sunday 8am: Mary Susan Campbell

Eucharistic Ministers:

Saturday 4pm Sunday 8am
C: Vikki Neier Glenda Farrow
L: Annette Portell Jim Politte
R: Maureen Mills Donna Kennon

Servers

Saturday 4pm: Lane & Madison Battreal
Sunday 8am: Ava West

Music:

Sat: 4:00pm. Chala Short
Sun: 8:00am Rebecca Richards
Sun: 10:00am Anita Govero or The Little Way Band



Heavenly Dusters

Diane Mull 12/19-12/26
Jeanne Degonia 1/2-1/9
Faye Jarvis 1/16-1/23

Altar Linens

Faye Jarvis 12/8-12/15
Glenda Farrow 12/22-12/29
Connie Scott 1/5-1/12

Money Counters

Becky & Rhonda 12/16
Jeanne & Rhonda 12/23
Pat & Tina 12/30

(FYI: The office is open on Mondays if you would like to count on Mondays.)

Staff

**Rev. Anthony Dattilo-
Pastor**

AnthonyDattilo@archstl.org
Phone: 573-436-0580 (St. Joachim Rectory)

**Rev. Vince Nyman-
Associate Pastor**
Phone: 314-614-0718

Angie Mitchell
Office Manager (part-time)

Vicki Thurmond
Parish Secretary (part-time)
stjameschurch@centurylink.net

Judy East: Custodian

Tommy Roy: On Call Maintenance

St. James PSR
Dr. Melissa Cordia
Co-Coordinator
Laura Allen
Co-Coordinator
Jamie Thompson
Co-Coordinator
stjamespsr@gmail.com

Weekly Collection 12/07/2025

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Envelopes: | \$2340.00 |
| Loose: | 400.00 |
| Online Giving | 15.00 |
| Maintenance: | 40.00 |
| St. Vincent de Paul: | 745.00 |
| Votive: | 52.75 |
| Stained Glass Window | 280.00 |
| Christmas Flowers | 233.00 |
| Immaculate Conception | 75.00 |

Total Giving: \$4180.75
of Contributors: 46

Thank you for your generosity!



December 14, 2025 3rd Sunday of Advent

"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." JAMES 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can

****FORMED****

Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.

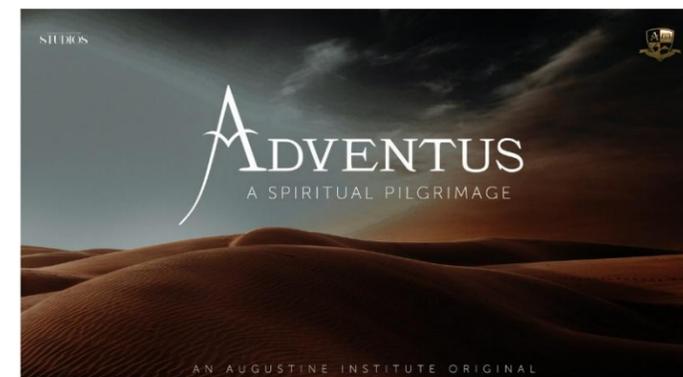
30 Minutes BC

30 Minutes BC creatively explores the profound emotions and intimate struggles of Mary and Joseph during the final 30 minutes before the birth of Jesus. As the clock ticks down, the couple navigates a whirlwind of hope, joy, and uncertainty, turning to God amidst it all.

Is Christmas Pagan? What Catholics Believe About Christmas

Dr. Michael Barber answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Christmas. Is Christmas a pagan holiday? Why is Christmas celebrated on December 25? What happened at the "first Christmas"? Find out the answers to these and more!

*Go to <http://signup.formed.org>
*Enter our parish's zipcode 63664
*Enter your name and your email address.
*Enjoy!



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Good News!

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent (A)
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 / James 5:7-10 / Matthew 11:2-11

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod's prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn't it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, "Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand," or, to quote an unnamed saint, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●

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formed
Forming Catholics for Life.

Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



Interested in Becoming Catholic? (OCIA: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

During this Advent Season, the Catechumens and Candidates are eagerly awaiting the coming of Jesus in Baptism and the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Please pray for Catechumens: Keith Blankman, Joey Thebeau, Judy Vance, Caitlyn Gibson, Anthony, Lilly Pashia and family, Jerry Randall, Chris McCoy and Inquirer, Jerry Goza.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, in being fully received, or in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, contact the parish office, or call coordinator, Joyce Politte 636-328-1343. All are welcome.

**J.M.J.
12/14/25
St. James and St. Joachim-Christmas
Country Church Tours**

When I was pastor of St. Joseph in Apple Creek and St. Maurus in Biehle, Mary Jane Buchheit a parishioner came up with the idea of the Christmas Country Church tours. It started with seven Churches and now it is over thirty churches.

I invite the parishioners of St. James and St. Joachim to join me, Fr. Tony, to go and visit some of the churches in Perryville area and get in the Christmas spirit. The Tour is on Friday, December, 19 from 2:00-8:00p.m. We will meet at 1:00p.m. at St. James Church and travel down to St. Joseph's Church in Apple Creek. I will give my list of must see churches. You will have to provide your own transportation. I recommend that you bring food (maybe a sandwich, fruit, or snacks to eat for the tour). Some churches may have Christmas snacks. They may also ask for donations. It is a great experience that really puts one in the mood to celebrate Christmas with great joy.

God bless and Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!
Fr. Tony Dattilo

Caring Hearts Christmas Meal

Join us for a Christmas meal on Friday December 19 from 11:30am-12:30pm at the Caring Hearts Family Resource Center located in the shopping center next to Save a Lot grocery store.
RSVP to Mande by 12-12-25 at 573-436-2000

Bulletin Advertising

We are now accepting advertisers for the back of our bulletin. The cost is \$180 per year. This will help offset the cost of paper & ink for the bulletin. Please call or email the office for more details. If you are interested, all we need is a business card to get you added onto the back. Thanks!

December Reconciliation Services

St James Reconciliation Service with Confessions will be on Tuesday December 16, 2025 from 6:00-8:00pm. Three priests will hear Confessions: Fr Dyer Fr Huber and Fr Tony. Please take advantage of this opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation!



Christmas Country Church Tour Announcement

The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Saint Mary's of the Barrens Church) in Perryville, Missouri, will be participating in the 20th annual Christmas Country Church Tour. The tour will take place on December 18 and 19, from 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The participating churches welcome visitors to view their Christmas decorations and to spend a few moments in silent prayer during the Advent season. Here at the Shrine, a tree will be decorated with prayer petitions from local students. There will be live music both nights from 4:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served in the Visitor Center, where unique Christmas items, including nativity sets, will be on display. If you have any questions, please call the Association of the Miraculous Medal at 1-800-264-MARY (6279) or visit our website at www.amm.org. We look forward to your visit.

Parish Calendar

Dec 15: Rural Clinic here; St. Vincent de Paul meeting at 6pm

Dec 16: Reconciliation Service with 3 priests 6pm-8pm

Dec 17: PSR Christmas Play & Choir Celebration @6pm

Dec 20: St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Day

Dec 22: Men's Faith Sharing Group 6:30pm

Dec 23: Decorating for Christmas after 8:15am Mass

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Mass 4pm

Dec 25: Christmas Day Mass 10am

Ladies Sodality

We would like to welcome new members to join our Ladies Sodality. Our next meeting is on January 7th from 5:30pm-6:30pm in the Parish Hall. Please consider joining us!

Attention!!

Sign up sheets are posted in the vestibule of church for the Holy Day, Mary, Mother of God and also for our Christmas Masses. If you would like to volunteer for any of the lector, servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers and Giftbearers, please sign up on the sheets or you can also email or call the office. We are still in need of volunteers for 10am Mass and the Holy Day. Thanks so much!!

New Office Hours!

We are now open 9-3 Monday-Thursday. Vicki is in the office on those days and Angie is available on Tuesdays. We are still having issues with the voicemail system and apologize for any inconvenience this may be causing. We are working to get that fixed hopefully soon. You can email us at stjameschurch@centurylink.net if needed.

THE COUNCIL'S CORNER

We want to thank all those who helped cook and all those who attended our Fifth Sunday Brunch! It was well attended and enjoyed by all. Our next Fifth Sunday Brunch will be March 29.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ERIC AUBUCHON @ 314-605-6268

St. James PSR NEWS

There are some calendar updates for PSR as there have been a few changes.

*Our "Welcome Baby Jesus" party has been moved to 12/10. This is a regular PSR night.

*Our Parish Christmas play & choir celebration will be on 12/17. As this is also a regular PSR night, all children will participate and families are encouraged to attend.

From Dr. Melissa Cordia

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

St. James Food Pantry provided food to 250 families (677 individuals) on Nov.15th. We only packed for 200 families. If it hadn't have been for the 500 items collected by our PSR students, we would have run out of food! Thanks to all our amazing volunteer! Also thanks to those who bought turkeys or contributed financially. Our mission thrives because of you!

If God is the center of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts.

St. Vincent de Paul

***St. Vincent de Paul collection:
Canned meat, canned chili w/meat, spaghetti w/ meat,
canned stew, tuna***

Christmas Eve:

4pm Mass at St. James
4pm Mass at St. Joachim
10pm Mass at St. Joachim

Christmas Day

8am Mass at St. Joachim
10am Mass at St. James





**ST. JAMES CHRISTMAS PLAY/
CONCERT DECEMBER, 17TH @ 6:00PM
COME JOIN US**



Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 14, 2025

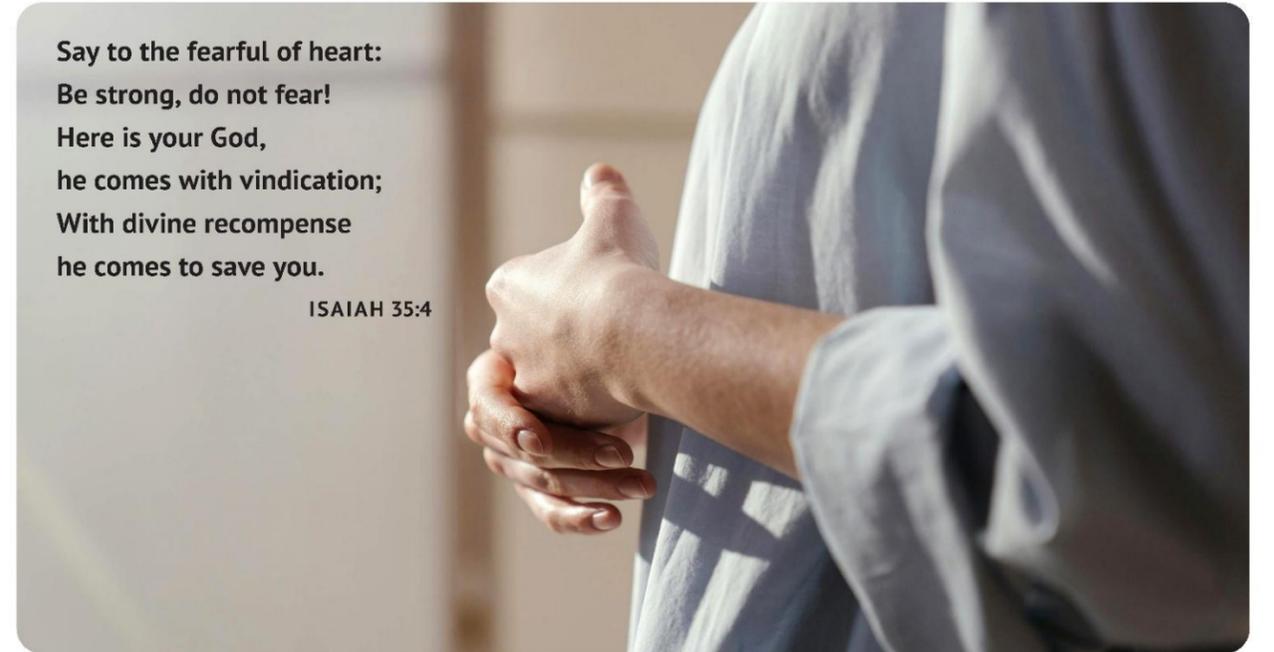
Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10 / James 5:7–10 / Matthew 11:2–11



Say to the fearful of heart:
Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense
he comes to save you.

ISAIAH 35:4



The Gift of Questions

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

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Reflect

Do I welcome questions, mine and others, as a way to grow in faith?



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
FR. THOMAS M.
SANTA, CSSR