

BABY JESUS STATUE PACT: Plea agreement reached in St. Boniface case with Florissant, Mo., man

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EDWARDSVILLE - An agreement was reached Wednesday in the case of an **Infant Jesus** statue that was stolen from **St. Boniface Church** in Edwardsville on December 27, 2015.

Matthew J. Fellhauer (d.o.b. 07/23/90) was facing two Class A Misdemeanor charges — Theft Under \$500 and Criminal Damage to Property — following the theft of the statue which was discovered at the Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville on Jan. 7, 2016. Fellhauer, a resident of Florissant, Mo., who had been visiting friends in Edwardsville, was charged the next day.

The misdemeanor charges were dismissed following a meeting and subsequent agreement between Fellhauer and St. Boniface Church. The defendant agreed to pay restitution for damages and repairs to the statue which was damaged during the theft. Additionally, **Fellhauer will place the Infant Jesus statue in the manger at St. Boniface on Christmas Eve, 2016.**

“St. Boniface showed compassion and a willingness to forgive,” said **Madison County State's Attorney Tom Gibbons**. “I hope the defendant has learned a valuable lesson and appreciates the mercy shown to him by the Pastor and Pastoral Council of St. Boniface.”

Fellhauer was facing fines, probation, and/or up to a year in jail on the Class A Misdemeanor charges. State's Attorney Gibbons also thanked the Edwardsville Police Department for their work in solving the case.