

The background of the entire page is a photograph of three lit purple candles. The candles are arranged in a triangular pattern, with one in the center foreground and two behind it. They are surrounded by greenery, including what appears to be a portion of an Advent wreath with gold and purple ribbons. The lighting is warm and soft, highlighting the flames and the texture of the candles.

3rd *Sunday*
OF ADVENT

SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Diocese of Peoria ~ Princeton, Illinois
Gaudete Sunday, December 17, 2023

PASTOR NOTE

I am truly grateful for an anonymous donation of an outdoor Nativity Scene. It has been set up facing Park Avenue near our parish sign. It is absolutely beautiful. I hope that it will move each of us to discover in a new way the meaning of Christmas. St. Francis of Assisi established the first Nativity Scene. For over 800 years the Church has enjoyed this tradition. I am happy that our parish begins a new tradition by having an outdoor Nativity Scene. I am grateful for this gift which our parish will enjoy for many years.



Youth Group: I regret that because of the busy season we cannot have our usual Youth Group nights. Instead, I invite our high school youth to join me for a Christmas celebration at Culver's on Tuesday, December 19th at 6:15pm. You must provide your own transportation, but I will provide you a delicious meal. Leave your money at home, but bring your appetite!

Thursday Night Men's Study Group will be cancelled beginning Thurs. Dec. 21st and will resume on Thursday, Jan. 11th.

Extra Confessions: Remember that one of the best ways to prepare for Christmas is by making a good confession. I have decided to add extra times this week:

Mon. Dec. 18. 7-8pm.

Tue. Dec. 19. 4pm.

Wed. Dec. 20. 5-6pm.

Thur. Dec. 21. 6-7pm.

Fri. Dec. 22. No extra confessions.

Sat. Dec. 23. 3pm

Christmas Mass Schedule: As we know, next weekend will be busy as we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent and immediately celebrate Christmas. It is a weekend full of many Masses, which is wonderful. But, something had to give or I might have to set up a cot in church! So, I decided to cancel the Sunday, December 24th, 7:30am Mass. I thank you for your understanding.

This is the schedule for Christmas days:

Sat. Dec. 23rd: 4pm Mass.

Sun. Dec. 24th: NO 7:30am Mass. 9am Mass and 10:30am Mass

Sun. Dec. 24th: 4pm Mass, 7pm Mass, 10pm Mass

Mon. Dec. 25th: 9am Mass

Parish New Year's Eve Party: I regret that this year our parish will not be able to host a New Year's Eve Party.

Msgr. Kruse Vacation: I will be away on vacation with my friend, Fr. Dennis Carbonaro. We will enjoy a Caribbean Cruise. While I am away, you will be in my prayers. I have been able to get Mass coverage using a number of priests. I will be away from mid-morning, Fri. Dec. 29th and return in time for Mass in the afternoon of Tues., Jan. 9th.

Continued on next page...

Parish Staff

Pastor	Msgr. James E. Kruse, JCL jameskruse1996@gmail.com cell: 309-634-5822
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YouTube Channel: youtube.com/user/stlouisprinceton
FaceBook Page: www.facebook.com/stlouisprinceton

Keep in touch with us via email or text
Text SLP To 84576 or
Connect with us online at
stlouiscatholicchurch.flocknote.com



Please remember to pray for Vocations
to the Priesthood and Religious Life
especially from St. Louis Parish!

St. Therese, Patroness of Vocations, pray for us!

PASTOR NOTE (continued)

Embraced By Hope Ministry: In October our parish inaugurated this new ministry in our parish. Embraced by Hope offers assistance to families that have suffered the loss of a child due to miscarriage, still birth, infant death or suffer infertility. The Christmas Season focuses upon the birth of our Lord Jesus. For more than a few, His birth is a reminder of a family's loss. Please remember that the Embraced by Hope ministry team can offer assistance in experiencing loss. We have many resources and a listening ear. There is also the rose bud remembrance near the doors of the Church. You may also request a memorial cross. Please reach out to me or Susanna Prushinski who can help in remembering your loss. May you be filled with hope that baby Jesus embraces your baby in heaven.

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 18 Advent Weekday
7:00am +Jean Kelly by Annette Hulslander

Tuesday, December 19 Advent Weekday
5:15pm +Angie Miller by Sandi Lord
4-5:00pm Holy Hour

Wednesday, December 20 Advent Weekday
7:00am +Joseph Kunkel by Paul & Bridgette Castelein

***Thursday, December 21 St. Peter Canisius, Priest and
Doctor of the Church**

***7am** +Richard DeBord by Nancy DeBord

Friday, December 22 Advent Weekday
7:00am +Barb Heuer by Pat Wiggim

Saturday, December 23 Vigil of the 4th Sunday of Advent
4:00pm +Russell Gibe by Jennifer Gibe

Sunday, December 24 4th Sunday of Advent

****7:30am Mass Cancelled**

9:00am People of the Parish

10:30am +Ray DeMarlie by Family

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00pm +Dennis O'Brien by the Family

7:00pm +Joe & JoAnn Lenger by Dan & Sue Legner

10:00pm People of the Parish

Monday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord

9:00am +Phyllis Sims by Ronald and Eileen Behrends

***Mass for Thursday, December 21st will be at 7am;
Holy Hour is cancelled and Confession will be at 6pm.**

****7:30am Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent, December
24th is cancelled.**

Readings for the week of December 17

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1
Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk
1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 /
Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

4:00 pm: Saturday, December 23rd

Altar Servers: Cameron & Sam Lawrence
EMHC: Pat Galassi-Carlson, David Lawrence
Lectors: Gene Menard
Sacristan: Mandy Robinson
Ushers: Dan & Cynthia Tracy

7:30 am: Sunday, December 24th **Cancelled**

9:00 am: Sunday, December 24th

Altar Servers: Angelo & Patsy Bystry
EMHC: Lynn Delaney, Tim Taylor
Camera Operator: Marty Makransky
Lectors: Mary Murphy
Sacristan: Chris Romagnoli
Ushers: Dan Legner, Quint Quiram, Jim Whiteaker

10:30 am: Sunday, December 24th

Altar Servers: **NEED SERVERS**
EMHC: Cindy Behrends, Linda Carter
Lectors: Jeff Peacock
Sacristan: Linda Carter
Ushers: Bart & Anthony Maciczak, Michael Ellis

Christmas Eve, December 24th

4:00 pm

Altar Servers: Elizabeth Keutzer, Luke Smith, (need 1 more server)
EMHC: Dave Lawrence, Tim Smith
Lectors: Steve Bouslog
Sacristan: Tim Smith
Ushers: Tom Tracey (NEED MORE USHERS)

7:00 pm

Altar Servers: Patsy & Angelo Bystry
EMHC: Cindy Behrends, Gene Menard
Lectors: Patty Daluga
Sacristan: Joann Bowman
Ushers: Gary Blessman (Need more ushers)

10:00 pm

Altar Servers: Anaisabela Ramirez-Tz (need 1 more)
EMHC: Linda Carter, Tim Taylor
Lectors: Julie Hassler
Sacristan: Julie Hassler
Ushers: **NEED USHERS**

Nativity of the Lord, December 25th

9:00 am

Altar Servers: **NEED SERVERS**
EMHC: Mary Beth Crowe, Mandy Robinson
Lectors: Margaret Martinkus
Sacristan: Mandy Robinson
Ushers: **NEED USHERS**

We need Ushers for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (see above). Please contact Parish Office to volunteer. Thank you!

ST. LOUIS PARISH SCHEDULE

MASS SCHEDULE

MON, WED, FRI	7:00 AM
TUE, THR	5:15 PM
SAT	4:00 PM
SUN	7:30, *9:00, 10:30 AM

First Saturday Devotion 7:00 AM

*SUN 9:00AM Live-streamed on YouTube & FaceBook (when a volunteer camera operator is available)

RECONCILIATION

TUE, THR	4:00—4:50 PM
SAT	3-3:45 PM

Or, by appointment. Call or email Msgr. Kruse to make an appointment. In order to maintain privacy, he will be in the confessional a few moments before the arranged time. 309-634-5822 | jameskruse1996@gmail.com

HOLY HOUR

TUE, THR	4:00 PM
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PRIVATE PRAYER: The Chapel is open for Private Prayer— Contact the Parish Office for access code.

STEWARSHIP

Church Monetary Support

Due to the early submission deadline for the bulletin the totals for December 10th were not available at the time of printing. They will be provided in the December 24th bulletin.
A total of \$7,877 was collected for the Seminarians over the December 2/3 weekend collection.

The Spiritual Life: Excerpt from *The Spiritual Life* by Adolphe Tanquerey, Desclee and Co., Belgium, 1951.

We have stated that perfection consists essentially in union with God through love. But because God is holiness itself, we cannot be united to Him unless we are clean of heart – a state implying a twofold condition: atonement for the past and detachment from sin and the occasions of sin for the future.

The first task, then of beginners is purification of the soul. We may add that the union of the soul with God will be the more intimate as the soul grows in purity and detachment. The purification is more or less perfect according to the motives that inspire it and according to the effects produced by it.

The purification remains imperfect, if it is inspired chiefly by motives of fear and hope – fear of hell, and hope of heaven and heavenly gifts. The results of such a purification are incomplete. The soul, indeed, renounces mortal sin, which would deprive it of heaven, but it does not renounce venial faults, even deliberate ones, since these do not deprive it of its eternal welfare.

There is, then, a more perfect purification, which, though not excluding fear and hope, has for its ruling motive the love of God, the desire to please Him and hence to avoid whatever constitute even a slight offence. Here is verified the word of the Savior to the sinful woman: “many sins are forgiven her because she hath loved much.”

It is at this second purification that souls should aim, still the spiritual director must remember that for many a beginner it is not possible to rise thereto at the outset, and whilst speaking of such of the love of God, he will not forget to offer them motives of hope and of fear which made a stronger impression.



Youth Group
Christmas Celebration
 Tuesday, December 19th 6:15pm
 At CULVER'S!

All High School Youth are invited to join Msgr. Kruse at Culvers for a Christmas Celebration.



You must provide your own transportation, but Msgr. Kruse will provide you a delicious meal. Leave your money at home, **but bring your appetite!**

Extra Confession Schedule for Advent

"When you confess your sins, you take the nails out of Jesus."
 -St. John Vianney

Monday, December 18th - 7-8pm
 Tuesday, December 19th - 4pm
 Wednesday, December 20th - 5-6pm
 Thursday, December 21st 6-7pm
 Saturday, December 23rd - 3pm



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24th
 Masses: 4pm (Children's Choir); 7pm; 10pm
 Christmas Day Monday, December 25th: 9am

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas beginning at 11:00am on Thursday, December 21st through Tuesday, January 2nd.

If you have an immediate need for a Priest for a medical emergency or funeral planning please call the Parish Office (815-879-0181) and select **option 5**. Your call will then be transferred as an emergency call to a Priest.

THE LITURGICAL CORNER

Everyone wants to be happy. This is a fundamentally human desire. But many people seek happiness in various places and situations which ultimately frustrate them. Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, is called "Gaudete Sunday." 'Gaudete' is a Latin word which means "rejoice." Traditionally the priest does not wear purple today, but rather the color of *rose*. Rose is created by mixing purple and white. Since white is the liturgical color of rejoicing, the Church finds it necessary to express, in advance, some of its joy which will be full on the Solemnity of Christmas. So it joins to the purple the white of rejoicing, thus creating the rose color. In a sense, we are so filled with joy that Christ has come to us that we simply cannot wait until Christmas to express it. Real joy, real happiness comes when we follow Jesus Christ, live by His love, follow His teachings. Once we recognize Christ for Who He is, the Son of God, it no longer makes sense to us to live any other way than by following Him. This Christian joy is a unique gift of Christ. It does not necessarily mean that everything is perfect in our lives. That will be only in heaven. Christian joy is a gift of Christ which is present, even in the midst of adversity and trial. Christ is with us in all the circumstances of our lives. So as we await His second coming, when every tear shall be wiped away and death itself will be destroyed, we do so as the prayer of the Mass invites us: "in *joyful* hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

MAGI BABY CHEST

The Magi Baby Chest had its biggest distribution EVER! We served **164 families** and gave out over 4,800 diapers! Thank you to everyone who supports us. It was such a wonderful day. A BIG thank you to Gene and Barbara Menard for dressing as Santa and Mrs. Claus for the kids. They absolutely loved it and it brought so much joy. **Another BIG thank you to the Evangelical Covenant Church, First United Methodist, and St. Patrick's in Sheffield for doing their Christmas giving for us this year. Merry Christmas!**

Our next distribution will be Saturday January 6th from 9AM to 12PM. Follow us on Facebook!

High Need Items for January: baby laundry soap, dish soap, kid's toothbrushes, kid's toothpaste, toddler socks, diaper cream, bottles, infant medicine (tylenol and ibuprofen), baby wash, toddler winter hats/gloves, Enfamil (yellow can) formula, diapers (sizes 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7), unscented wipes, winter clothes sizes (NB to 4T), and boys/girls gently used clothes (sizes 12mo-4T).

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

Christmas Memorial Flowers: Please complete the form and return it with your donation in the collection basket, or to the church office prior to Monday, December 18th. Please carefully print all names. If you have any questions, please call Ginger Murphy at 815-646-4731. Please make checks payable to St. Louis Altar & Rosary Society.