

SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Diocese of Peoria ~ Princeton, Illinois
The Nativity of the Lord



*And the Word became flesh and made
his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth. -John 1:14*

PASTOR NOTE



Merry Christmas!!!! I pray that you and your family will enjoy many blessings on this Holy Day. Christmas is a time to remember what truly matters in life: our faith, our family, our many blessings. I pray that you will enjoy time with your family. Our new born King choose to come to us in abject poverty. He embraced the poverty of humanity's sinfulness. By His birth we are saved! He came born into the family of Mary and Joseph. He desired to bless family life, heal its many wounds, and use the family as a step to eternal communion with His Father in heaven. May our infant King bless your family.

I praise and thank God for our wonderful parish family. I am grateful for the many kindnesses that you have shown to me. I am also very grateful for our wonderful and dedicated parish staff. I encourage you to offer them a word of thanks for their hard work. In so many ways our staff is like a family working towards the greater good of our parish. As a sign of my gratitude to our staff, I have offered them an extended Christmas vacation. The Parish Office will be closed this week and re-open again on Wednesday, January 3rd.

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.

During this time, the following adjustments will be made to our parish calendar:

Wednesday Euchre on Wed. Dec. 27th is cancelled and will return on Wed. Jan. 3rd.

Thursday Night Men's Study Group will be cancelled Dec. 28 and Jan. 4th.

The Saturday Men's Holy Hour is canceled Dec. 30th and Jan. 6th.

There will be no parish New Year's Eve party.

First Saturday Devotions is cancelled on Jan. 6th. You are encouraged to do the devotions at home. Remember, attending any Mass on Saturday (including the Saturday night Vigil Mass) fulfills the devotions.

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

Division of the First Book

Once we know the end, we must determine the means necessary for its attainment. Fundamentally, they may be reduced to two: prayer, through which grace is obtained, and mortification through which we correspond to grace. Mortification assumes different names according to the point of view from which we consider it. It is called penance when it prompts us to atone for our past faults; mortification properly so called, when it sets upon the love of pleasure in order to reduce the number of faults in the present and obviate their recurrence in the future; it is called warfare against the capital sins, when it combats those deep-rooted tendencies that incline us towards sin, and warfare against temptation, when practiced by way of resistance to the onslaughts of our spiritual enemies. Hence the five following chapters:

Chapter 1: Prayer of beginners

Chapter 2: Penance, to atone for the past

Chapter 3: Mortification, to safeguard the future

Chapter 4: Warfare against capital sins

Chapter 5: Warfare against temptation

All of these means clearly presuppose the practice in some degree of the theological and the moral virtues. No one can pray, no one can do penance, and mortify himself, without a firm belief in revealed truth, without the expectation of a heavenly reward, without love of God, without the exercise of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. We shall speak of these virtues when we treat of the illuminative way wherein they attain their full development.

A Savior has been born! Luke 2:11

Parish Staff

Pastor	Msgr. James E. Kruse, JCL jameskruse1996@gmail.com cell: 309-634-5822
Deacon	John Murphy dcjohnmurphy@icloud.com Cell: 815-878-4723 Hm: 646-4723
Trustees	Dan Legner Mary Paula Schmitt
Admin Assistant	Paula Lough
Business Manager	Renee Toomey
Special Projects/ RCIA Coordinator	Susanna Prushinski stl.susannaprushinski@gmail.com
Religious Ed Coordinator	Rebekah Mead stl.rebekahmead@gmail.com
Maintenance	Tim Hermeyer
Janitors	Aggie Smith, Emily Smith
Magi Baby Chest Director	Jessica Murphy stl.jessicamurphy@gmail.com
Magi Baby Chest Asst. Director	Ashley Gray stl.ashleygray@gmail.com
Music Director	Matthew Ernat stl.matthewernat@gmail.com

Parish Office

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Phone: (815) 879-0181
E-mail: stlparishoffice@gmail.com

Website: www.stlouisprinceton.org
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!

The Glimmer of Comfort Grief Support Group for women who have lost a child (children) because of an illness, suicide, accident, addiction or miscarriage will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 521 S. First St. Princeton from 1 - 3 pm. All ages are welcome and will enjoy conversations with other women who understand the grief of losing a child. Questions? Call Jeanie Gelsomino at (815) 866-6571

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

Our Table: St. Louis Parish hosted Our Table on December 11th. We served 70 people. The only leftovers was some ice cream that we donated for the Altar & Rosary Christmas party. Everyone enjoyed the meal. Many thanks to all the people who helped make this meal successful. Marcia Obenhaus

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 25 <u>The Nativity of The Lord</u> 9:00am +Phyllis Sims by Ronald and Eileen Behrends
Tuesday, December 26 <u>St. Stephen, First Martyr</u> *7:00am +Ron DeBrock by Rosemary DeBrock
Wednesday, December 27 <u>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</u> 7:00am +Ron Hulslander by Annette Hulslander
Thursday, December 28 <u>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</u> 5:15pm +Adelaida Green by Marcia Obenhaus 4-5:00pm Holy Hour
Friday, December 29 <u>St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr</u> 7:00am +Mary Dennis by the Mary Dennis Family
Saturday, December 30 <u>Vigil of The Holy Family</u> 4:00pm +Wayne Whalen by Bill and Susan Phalen
Sunday, December 31 <u>The Holy Family</u> 7:30am People of the Parish 9:00am +Donald Lindsey by Lynn Delaney 10:30am +Russell Smith by the Tim Smith Family

***Mass for Tuesday, December 26th will be at 7am and Confessions and Holy Hour are cancelled**

Readings for the week of December 24

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
Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18
Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8 and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18
Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40

Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Wayne Whalen
and for consolation for his family

Eternal Rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon his soul. May his soul, and the souls of all of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace. Amen

Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

4:00 pm: Saturday, December 30th

Altar Servers: Gabby and Gretchen Carden
EMHC: Lynn Delaney, Mandy Robinson
Lectors: Katie Lawrence
Sacristan: Mandy Robinson
Ushers: Dan & Cynthia Tracy

7:30 am: Sunday, December 31st

Altar Servers: *Servers needed, please check in at Sacristy*
EMHC: Mary Beth Carlson, Rita Tracey
Lectors: Rita Pacunas
Sacristan: Joann Bowman
Ushers: Tom Ballard, Tom Tracey, Bill Uher

9:00 am: Sunday, December 31st

Altar Servers: Jessica Carlone, Sylvie Viger
EMHC: Pat Galassi-Carlson, Gene Menard
Camera Operator: Marty Makransky
Lectors: Steve Harmon
Sacristan: Quint Quiram
Ushers: Dan Legner, Quint Quiram, Jim Whiteaker

10:30 am: Sunday, December 31st

Altar Servers: Jackson Mason, Luke Smith
EMHC: Linda Carter, Mandy Robinson
Lectors: Marcia Obenhaus
Sacristan: Linda Carter
Ushers: Bart & Anthony Maciczak, Michael Ellis

EMHC Homebound: Pat Galassi-Carlson 9/5
Gene Menard 9/N

EMHC for Nursing Homes: Mary Beth Crowe—
Hawthorne; Colleen Harmon—Aperion;
Tom Jagers—Greenfield; Rita Tracey—Liberty

Thank you for serving your parish!

"Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do
with it is your gift back to God."

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 Through December 10, 2023

Amount Budgeted	\$	6,750.00
Amount Received	\$	<u>8,606.00</u>
Amount Over (Under)	\$	1,856.00

Fiscal Period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Amount needed to date:	\$	162,000.00
Amount Received to date:	\$	<u>162,817.00</u>
Over/(Under) budget to date:	\$	817.00

Due to the early submission deadline for the bulletin
the totals for December 17th were not available at the
time of printing. They will be provided in the January
31st bulletin.

Immaculate Conception	\$	830.00
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THE LITURGICAL CORNER

This feature is called "The Liturgical Corner." We often hear the word "liturgy" used. It is a Greek word, meaning "work of the people." In the time of ancient Greece, the word "liturgy" indicated some public service done for the good of people, often performed by the influential and the wealthy. We know how much the Greeks loved theater. Someone would have to pay to equip the cast with costumes and the chorus with its musical instruments. This public service done by influential people was called a "liturgy," that is, a work of the people.

When the first Christians followed the Lord's command at the Last Supper - Do this in memory of Me - they realized that a work was being performed for them by THE influential Person, Jesus Christ. His wealth was the immense wealth of divine love. So when the Christians went to the Eucharist, they borrowed the word "liturgy" from its common use, and saw that it was appropriate to use that word to describe what they were about when they gathered for worship. Those two ideas, that it was public and a service, was borrowed to explain how the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy (the Mass) was public prayer, service rendered to God the Father through Jesus Christ.

The first document written at the Second Vatican Council was The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. In paragraph seven of that Constitution, we read these words: "The liturgy is rightly seen then as an exercise of the priestly office of Jesus Christ...In it full public worship is performed by the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, that is, by the Head and His members." Jesus Christ is the High Priest at every Mass, worshipping the Father in and through His Body, the Church. We should never think that it is only "we" who are offering worship to God, but remember that it is "we" in union with "Christ." As the prayer of the Mass says: "Through Him, with Him, in Him, O God Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, forever and ever."

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Christmas Mass Schedule

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

MAGI BABY CHEST



The three wise Magi made a long journey to adore and present gifts to our savior baby Jesus. Magi, please pray for us today that we can show that same devotion to our Lord. Merry Christmas from the Magi Baby Chest!



A 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.

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).



Our hearts are on fire today with love of You, o Lord. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we pray for the strength and courage to share the love that we feel today, tomorrow and each day, with those who need it most, helping to build Your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

"The things of God can wait, we think and we say. And yet he is the most important thing, ultimately the one truly important thing. Why should we not also be moved by curiosity to see more closely and to know what God has said to us? At this hour, let us ask him to touch our hearts with the holy curiosity and the holy joy of the shepherds, and thus let us go over joyfully to Bethlehem, to the Lord who today once more comes to meet us. Amen." Pope Benedict XVI, Christmas 2012

"And you, Mary, the Virgin of expectation and fulfilment, who hold the secret of Christmas, make us able to recognize in the Child whom you hold in your arms the heralded Saviour, who brings hope and peace to all. With you we worship him and trustingly say: we need You, Redeemer of man, You who know the hopes and fears of our hearts. Come and stay with us, Lord! May the joy of your Nativity reach to the farthest ends of the universe!"

Pope John Paul II, Christmas 2003

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