

*Third Sunday of*  
**ADVENT**



**Saint Louis Catholic Church**  
**Diocese of Peoria ~ Princeton, Illinois**

## PASTOR NOTE

All of us are very familiar with the bible stories of the birth of Jesus. Our nativity sets teach us so much about Christmas. But, there is so much more to the events that we do not easily call to mind. There are a lot of details that we may overlook or blend together. We need to go deeper into the Scripture writings to understand the events of Christmas. Knowing the story better will help us have a better Christmas and grow deeper in our faith.



On December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1pm to 6pm, we will have our parish Advent Retreat. During the retreat I will provide reflections and insights in the Scripture events surrounding the birth of Jesus. We will discuss the important people like Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist, the angels and more. Examining these people and the stories will give us a greater appreciation of the birth of Jesus. They will challenge us to grow deeper in our faith.

The retreat will also have some social time so that we can get to know each other better. The retreat will close with Eucharistic Adoration beginning at about 4:30pm. During Adoration we will have quiet prayer time, recite the Rosary, pray Evening Prayer, and confession will be available. We will close with Benediction at about 6pm.

I encourage you to join us for the Advent Retreat. Come for the whole time, or come for just a part of it. Come for the whole time of Adoration or come for just some of it, especially Benediction. I pray that our Retreat will help us have a new appreciation of the events and people surrounding the birth of Jesus. I hope that it will bring many blessings to each of us and to our whole parish.

## NOURISHED IN SPIRIT

Beep. Beep. Beep. The alarm clock sounds. Slam. The snooze button is pushed. Another moment of sleep is enjoyed. Then, Beep. Beep. The snooze again. The sleep again. Beep, again. And, finally, crawling out of bed – the beginning of a new day. Slumbered dreams give way to awakened reality.

This is how millions of people, including myself, begin the day. For almost all of us, our day begins with a battle: the battle between peaceful slumber, the snoozed alarm, the groggy awakening and the start of a new day. This early morning battle is not only a natural part of our day, but, it is actually an important part of our spiritual life. In this newsletter, I want to talk about the details of our morning wake up routine. Lately, I have shared with you some very deep theological points. In this letter, I want to share some lighter, more practical suggestions.

Through this newsletter, I would like you to join me in declaring war on the sinister and “belched out of hell” snooze button on our alarm clocks. Let me explain. To begin, I would like you to think about your normal wake up routine. Almost all of us have patterns and routines in our morning movement from sleep to meeting the day’s first requirements. Do you get up at a set time? What are the first things you do? How long does it take you to get going? Are you always getting up on the wrong side of the bed? Do you offer some prayers immediately after awaking? How much coffee do you need? Do you use the snooze button?

We must examine our morning wake up routine for many reasons. First, our routine can give us insights into understanding our general spiritual life. The morning wake up is a battle between our lower human powers and our higher powers. God created us to need sleep. Not only is it necessary for our bodies, but it is a wonderfully natural and acceptable pleasure in this world. All of us need sleep. And, nearly all of us enjoy getting it. But, we have been called by God to go higher. We were not made for bodily pleasure. We were made for the divine pleasures of heaven. God the Son became a man so that we can be lifted up to be like God.

Start to finish, Christianity is about perfecting our humanity and being raised up to an eternal participation in God. Our morning routine can give us insights to our readiness each day to immediately lift ourselves up from our earthly ways to our heavenly ways.

**Parish Staff**

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**Keep in touch with us via email or text**  
**Text SLP To 84576 or**  
**Connect with us online at**  
**[stlouiscatholicchurch.flocknote.com](http://stlouiscatholicchurch.flocknote.com)**

**Mass Intentions**

Monday, December 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
7:00 am +Mary Kunkel by Gary and Sara Kunkel

Tuesday, December 13 **St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**  
5:15pm + Pearl Easterbrook by Nancy Scoma  
4-5:00 Holy Hour

Wednesday, December 14 **St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**  
7:00am +Margaret Malamphy  
by Tom & Mary Murphy

Thursday, December 15 **Advent Weekday**  
5:15pm + Edward Carlson by JoAnne Stocking  
4-5:00 Holy Hour

Friday, December 16 **Advent Weekday**  
7:00 am +Helen Rich

Saturday, December 17 **Vigil of the 4th Sunday of Advent**  
4:00 pm +Stevie Puhr

Sunday, December 18 **4th Sunday of Advent**  
7:30 am People of the Parish  
9:00 am +Hank Skibinski by Bernie Skibinski  
10:30am + Peter Fiocchi by Richard Fiocchi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Season That Gives Back

I don't have anything left to give.

You can't pour from an empty cup.

All I do is give. Who is giving to me?

Raise your hand if these thoughts have ever run through your head. I'm sure they occur to all of us from time to time. We can become so easily depleted by the fast pace of life and whatever vocation God has called us to, whether that's parenthood, a demanding professional career or the caretaking of friends and family (or as so often happens, a hybrid of all three). Many of us also undergo certain seasons — seasons of the year, but also seasons of life — that seem to sap us of energy and leave us totally empty.

In these times, it seems impossible to continue in the spirituality of Everyday Stewardship. Graciousness, mindfulness, prayerfulness, gratitude, accountability — maintaining some semblance of these characteristics in our daily life feels not only overly optimistic, but totally impossible.

The Church gives us certain liturgical seasons that are meant to fill us up, almost like spiritual pit stops. Advent is one such season, and the Scriptural passages we reflect on at Mass during these four weeks are filled with images of nature defied. We see the dry steppe blooming. We see the weak made firm. We see the frightened made strong. We see the lame walk. We see the Virgin give birth.

If you think you don't have anything left to give this Advent, think again. This is the season of miracles when what we thought was depleted brings new life. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

## Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

### 4:00 pm: Saturday, December 17th

Altar Servers: Chris Harmon, Elizabeth Jaeger  
 EMHC: David Lawrence, Gene Menard  
 Lectors: Julie Hassler  
 Sacristan: Julie Hassler  
 Ushers: Day & Cynthia Tracy

### 7:30 am: Sunday, December 18th

Altar Servers: Brady Peach  
 EMHC: Mary Beth Crowe, Rita Tracey  
 Lectors: Mary Paula Schmitt  
 Sacristan: Lori Atilano  
 Ushers: Tom Ballard, Tom Tracey

### 9:00 am: Sunday, December 18th

Altar Servers: Luke Smith, Dominic Vasquez  
 EMHC: Patty Daluga, Tim Smith  
 Camera Operator: Marty Makransky  
 Lectors: Herb Rhees  
 Sacristan: Chris Romagnoli  
 Ushers: Dan Legner, Quint Quiram, Jim Whiteaker

### 10:30 am: Sunday, December 18th

Altar Servers: Anna Ellis, Nate Lough  
 EMHC: Dave Boylan, Cindy Behrends  
 Lectors: Jeff Peacock  
 Sacristan: Linda Carter  
 Ushers: Bart & Anthony Maciczak, Michael Ellis

**EMHC Homebound:** Patty Daluga 9/N  
 Tim Smith 9/S

**EMHC for Nursing Homes:** Paula Lough—  
 Greenfield; Jane & Tim Taylor—Hawthorne; Rita  
 Tracey—Liberty; Gerry Woodlief—Aperion



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!*

### Readings for the week of December 11th

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12  
 Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26  
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14  
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3, 4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30  
 Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38  
 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19  
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
 Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-1

## 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	4:30—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.

## STEWARDSHIP

### Church Monetary Support Through December 4, 2022

Amount Budgeted	\$ 6,500.00
Amount Received	<u>\$ 7,524.00</u>
Amount Over (Under)	\$ 1,024.00

Fiscal Period July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	
Amount needed to date:	\$149,500.00
Amount Received to date:	<u>\$151,596.00</u>
Over/(Under) budget to date:	\$ 2,096.00



## Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel at the Basilica is inscribed with the following prayer, requesting the intercession of the Blessed Mother under her title as the Patroness of Latin America:

Dearest Lady of Guadalupe, fruitful Mother of Holiness, teach me your ways of gentleness and strength. Hear my prayer offered with deepfelt confidence to beg this favor.... O Mary, conceived without sin, I come to your throne of grace to share the fervent devotion of your faithful Mexican children who call to you under the glorious Aztec title of "Guadalupe" the virgin who crushed the serpent. Queen of Martyrs, whose Immaculate heart was pierced by seven wounds of grief, help me to walk valiantly amid the sharp thorns thrown across my pathway. Queen of Apostles aid me to win souls for the Sacred Heart of my Savior. I plead this through the merits of your merciful Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

## ADVENT PARISH RETREAT

*Grow deeper in your faith this Advent*

**Sunday, December 18th - 1pm to 6pm**

Msgr. Kruse will offer reflections and insights in the Scripture events surrounding the birth of Jesus. Plus, Adoration, Confession, and time for fellowship.

If you are not able to attend the entire time, **please still come** and feel free to come and go as needed.

*New Year's Eve*  
**2023**

ST. LOUIS PARISH  
NEW YEAR'S EVE  
PARTY

HARKRDER HALL  
7PM-?

Join us to celebrate New Year's Eve! Childcare will not be provided but children are welcome to attend.

If you would like to bring an appetizer or dessert for the New Year's Eve Party, please let Susanna Prushinski know so she can plan accordingly for festive food and drink for the evening. Contact Susanna at 815-915-6960 or [stl.susannaprushinski@gmail.com](mailto:stl.susannaprushinski@gmail.com) or call the office.

## MAGI BABY CHEST



Our 3rd distribution was a great success! We served 80 families and it's all because of **you**. Families felt loved and supported, just as Christ intended. **Thank you!**

Here is a list of needed items for January: Baby Wash, Baby Lotion, Nursing Covers, Dreft Laundry Soap, Baby Toys, Toddler Socks Boys & Girls, (Sizes 2T-4T), Pacifiers.

**Next Mom's Night Out:** Friday, December 16th 6-9pm. Childcare will be available. **This event is for St. Louis Parish Mom's only.**

## CCW

### **Christmas Party**

The CCW Christmas Party will be held this Tuesday, December 13th at 6pm in Harkrader Hall.

### **CCW Christmas Memorial Flowers**

CCW Christmas Memorial Flowers: Order forms for Christmas Memorial Flowers are located at the Church entrances. Please complete the form and return it with your donation in the collection basket, or to the parish office prior to **Monday, December 19th**. Please carefully print all names. If you have any questions, please call Ginger Murphy at 815-646-4731.

### **Angel Tree**

The wrapped gifts can be placed under the tree by the altar rail in the church by **Tuesday, December 13th**. Please **securely attach the paper ornament to the gift to identify the recipient!** Thank you for helping to continue this Christmas mission! Any questions, call Peg Sandberg (815-219-5313).

### **Annual Cookie Walk**

Thank you for helping to make our Annual Cookie Walk a success! All those who baked their delicious cookies and to all those who volunteered to work after each Mass. We couldn't have done it without you. God Bless you all! Pat Galassi-Carlson, Chairman

## Youth Group Night



All High School students are invited to join us on **Sunday, December 18th from 6-7:30 pm**

We will meet in the Youth Group Room for a short bible study, followed by games and prayer time.



## *Christmas Mass Schedule*

Christmas Eve - December 24th  
4pm, 7pm, 10pm

Christmas Day, December 25th - 9am

## *Advent Extra Confession Times*

Monday, December 19th - 7pm  
Tuesday, December 20th - 4pm  
Wednesday, December 21st - 5pm  
Thursday, December 22nd - 7pm  
Saturday, December 24th - 12pm  
Saturday, December 24th - 3pm

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven  
is close at hand.*