



**1<sup>st</sup>** *Sunday*  
**OF ADVENT**

**SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**Diocese of Peoria ~ Princeton, Illinois**  
**December 3, 2023**

## PASTOR NOTE

**Happy Advent!** This is such a wonderful season in the Church. The Church encourages us to slow down and prepare for the coming of our Savior. The saints often speak of the three comings of Christ. First, we remember His coming at Christmas. This is such a cause of joy. I hope that we will be well prepared to celebrate Christ's first coming at Christmas.

Next, we contemplate Christ's coming here and now in our life. Jesus so much wants to be a part of your daily lives. He desires that you make room for Him through prayer, participation at Mass and through your holiness of life. This coming of Christ is marked with charity. This coming is truly a challenge and struggle. Allow our Lord to more and more be the master of your life. Give your time to Him by attending Sunday Mass, one of the daily Masses and our parish's times of Adoration. Also, allow Him to come into your life by choosing His way of love and peace by putting aside sinful habits. Make a good confession during this Holy Season of Advent. We have confessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00pm, and Saturdays at 3pm. Call me to make an appointment for confession. Later this month, I will offer extra times for confessions as listed below. Through a good confession we allow Christ here and now to come to us with His mercy and forgiveness.

Finally, the saints speak about Christ's coming at the end of time. We focus on this coming at the start of Advent. Focusing on Christ's second coming at the start of Advent is only right. By focusing on the goal (Heaven), our lives become properly oriented. Christ has created us to be with Him in Heaven. We have to keep our eyes fixed on the goal of Heaven. This right vision helps us here and now to always choose the way of Christ. Advent challenges us to re-orient our lives. We have been made for heaven, not just this world. At the start of Advent, the Church reminds us to look beyond our day to day lives and remember the goal of Heaven. Advent challenges us to choose the goal of Heaven through living a life of holiness.

Advent calls us to open our heart to the three-fold coming of Christ: at Christmas, now in our lives, and at His second coming. May we embrace Him now so that we will be ready to join Him in the glory of Heaven. May we have a good and holy Advent and truly prepare the way of the Lord. Come Lord Jesus! Come into our lives.

**Immaculate Conception:** Fri. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. Holy Day of Obligation. Thurs. Dec. 7, 5:15pm Mass. Fri. Dec. 8, 7am Mass and 6pm Mass

**Extra Confessions:** 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 :** Because Christmas falls on a Monday, some changes for the Sunday Mass schedule needs to change. I need to cancel the Sun., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30am Mass. I regret any inconvenience. This is the schedule for Christmas days:

Sat. Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>: 4pm Mass.

Sun. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: NO 7:30am Mass. 9am Mass and 10:30am Mass

Sun. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: 4pm Mass, 7pm Mass, 10pm Mass

Mon. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>: 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.

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

The Purgative Way: Introduction Continued

Beginners have a certain desire for perfection or for progress, even if this desire be as yet feeble and imperfect. Thus, we exclude from the category of beginners those worldlings – all too numerous – alas! Whose highest purpose is to escape mortal sin, but who have no earnest desire of advancing further. As we have shown above, the desire for perfection is the first step on the way.

Beginners have, however, some attachment to deliberate venial sin and, therefore, they frequently fall. This distinguishes them from souls already advancing along the way of perfection, who although they may from time to time commit some willful venial sins, yet earnestly strive to avoid them. The existence of these attachments is due to the fact that their passions are not as yet subdued; hence, they yielded to temptations of sensuality, pride, vanity, anger, envy, jealousy, and uncharitableness in word and deed. How many persons called devout retain attachments of this kind, which cause them to commit deliberate, venial sins which expose them to fall from time to time into grievous faults!

Different Categories of Beginners:

There are different categories of beginners:

Innocent souls desiring to grow in the spiritual life – children, young men and young women who, not content with the mere avoidance of mortal sin, wish to do something more for God and want to become perfect. The number of these would be greater were priests active in arousing this desire for perfection in Sunday school, at the meetings of parish organizations.

### Parish Staff

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

### Parish Office

616 S Gosse Blvd., Princeton, IL 61356  
**Office hours: Monday—Friday 8am-1pm**  
**Phone: (815) 879-0181**  
**E-mail: stlparishoffice@gmail.com**

Website: [www.stlouisprinceton.org](http://www.stlouisprinceton.org)  
YouTube Channel: [youtube.com/user/stlouisprinceton](http://youtube.com/user/stlouisprinceton)  
FaceBook Page: [www.facebook.com/stlouisprinceton](http://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](http://stlouiscatholicchurch.flocknote.com)

### Mass Intentions

Monday, December 4 **St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

7:00am +Tony Slupko by Geraldine Woodlief

Tuesday, December 5 **Advent weekday**

5:15pm +Virginia Phalen by Amie Neiman

4-5:00pm Holy Hour

Wednesday, December 6 **St. Nicholas, Bishop**

7:00am +Joan Wagner by Dave and Rochelle

**\*Thursday, December 7 Vigil of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

5:15pm +Peter J. Fiocchi by Richard Fiocchi

4-5:00pm Holy Hour

**\*Friday, December 8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

7:00am +Mike Milligan by Paul & Bridgette Castelein

6:00pm People of the Parish

Saturday, December 9 **Vigil of the 2nd Sunday of Advent**

4:00pm +Eric Collins by Amie Neiman

Sunday, December 10 **2nd Sunday of Advent**

7:30am +Liliana Maeve Sutton by Jim and Connie Sutton

9:00am People of the Parish

10:30am +Joan Smith by Jim and Kelly Becker

**\*Mass for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Holy Day of Obligation**

## **THE LITURGICAL CORNER**

*Beginning today, the First Sunday of Advent, our parish bulletin introduces a new feature: **THE LITURGICAL CORNER**. Many of our parishioners who have a deep love for the Mass and other forms of worship and devotion in the Church have expressed a desire to learn more about their faith. For the next six months we will help spread the good news about the Church's life of worship by means of this new feature. These weekly articles were written by Fr. Dennis Carbonaro, a good friend of Msgr. Kruse.*

Today begins the holy season of Advent. Just as the civil year has a starting date, January 1, so too does the liturgical, or Church, year. It begins with the season of Advent. From the perspective of our lives as Catholics, today is New Years Day for us! In this part of the country we are blessed to have the various natural seasons of Fall, Spring, Summer and Winter and the changes that go along with them. The Church year has its own rhythm as well. The mystery of God is so immense that it becomes necessary to focus for a few weeks at a time on a certain aspect of the life of Christ. Advent comes from a Latin word which means "coming." We all recognize one meaning of the Advent season as a preparation for the solemn feast of Christmas. But actually Advent has *two* aspects to it.

From the first Sunday of Advent until December 16, the Church is actually preparing for Christ's *second* coming in glory. We recall this at each Mass when we pray: We proclaim Your death O Lord, and profess Your resurrection, *until You come again*. This is the more important aspect of Christmas, since Christ is not being born all over again. His first coming at Bethlehem happened so that we might be saved from our sins and join Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit when He comes again. This is why making a good confession during the Advent season is a truly excellent way of preparing for Christmas.

From December 17 through December 24 the Church then focuses on remembering His first coming to us as man. The nine days before Christmas may be considered as a novena, a special intense time of preparation to recall God's greatest gift to us: His only Son!



## Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

### 4:00 pm: Saturday, December 9th

Altar Servers: Gabby & Gretchen Carden  
 EMHC: David Lawrence, Mandy Robinson  
 Lectors: Julie Hassler  
 Sacristan: Julie Hassler  
 Ushers: Dan & Cynthia Tracy

### 7:30 am: Sunday, December 10th

Altar Servers: *Servers needed, please check in at Sacristy*  
 EMHC: Tom Jagers, Rita Tracey  
 Lectors: Margaret Martinkus  
 Sacristan: Lori Atilano  
 Ushers: Tom Ballard, Tom Tracey, Bill Uher

### 9:00 am: Sunday, December 10th

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

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

Altar Servers: Jackson Mason, Anaisabela Ramirez-Tz  
 EMHC: Linda Carter, Mandy Robinson  
 Lectors: Marcia Obenhaus  
 Sacristan: Linda Carter  
 Ushers: Bart & Anthony Maciczak, Michael Ellis

**EMHC Homebound:** Lynn Delaney 9/S  
 Tim Taylor 9/N

### EMHC for Nursing Homes:

Pat Galassi-Carlson—Liberty Hawthorne; Colleen Harmon—Aperion; Nancy Scoma Greenfield; Rita Tracey—Liberty

The Glimmer of Comfort Grief Support Group will meet **this Tuesday, December 5th from 1 - 3 pm** at 521 S. First Street, Princeton. Women who have lost a child (children) due to an illness, suicide, accident, addiction or miscarriage are welcome. This gathering affords the fellowship, support and understanding of other women who know the grief involved in losing a child. The door is always open. Please, if you know someone who could use this kind of help, please pass this information on to that woman. Questions? - Call Jeanie Gelsomino at (815) 866-6571 Thank you

## *1st Sunday of Advent*



## 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 November 19, 2023

Amount Budgeted	\$ 6,750.00
Amount Received	\$ <u>6,853.00</u>
Amount Over (Under)	\$ 103.00

### Through November 26, 2023

Amount Budgeted	\$ 6,750.00
Amount Received	\$ 5,841.00
Amount Over (Under)	(\$ 909.00)

Fiscal Period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Amount needed to date:	\$ 148,500.00
Amount Received to date:	\$ <u>147,928.00</u>
Over/(Under) budget to date:	(\$ 572.00)

### Readings for the week of December 3

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19(4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37  
 Monday: Is 21:5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11  
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24  
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37  
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 89, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27  
 Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38  
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6, 8  
 Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14(8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8



*Congratulations to the following couple  
 celebrating their 50th Plus Anniversary!  
 Robert & Patricia Law December 20, 1969*



## The Immaculate Conception OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

-DECEMBER 8-

*Holy Day of Obligation*

*Mass Schedule:*

Vigil Mass—Thursday, December 7th at 5:15pm  
4pm Adoration & Confession

Mass—Friday, December 8th at 7am & 6:00pm

*Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us!*

### MAGI BABY CHEST



At our Culver's Share Night, the Magi Baby Chest gained \$1200 in donations! What an amazing night. Thank you to everyone who came out to support us!

If you're interested in volunteering, we'd love to have you! Please contact Jessica Murphy or Ashley Gray (contact information located in the bulletin). Thank you to everyone who donated their time to these young families. God Bless!

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE:** Last weekend the Knights of Columbus collected 225 nonperishable food items and \$1,798 in monetary donations for the Bureau County Food Pantry. There were many high need items donated and the Pantry was very appreciative. The number of families needing help continues to grow dramatically every month. St. Louis parishioners have now contributed 27,703 nonperishable food items and \$157,468 in monetary donations since we started collecting for the Food Pantry in August of 2012. The food insecure in our area are most appreciative. God bless you all for your continuing generosity!

### Schedule Changes

The Catholic Forum for Sunday, Dec. 3rd is cancelled.

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, December 8th in observance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

St. Louis Parish Advent Retreat

## The Mystery of the Mass

December 3, 2023

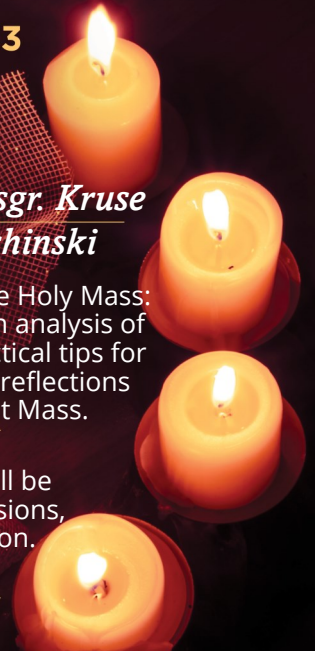
1:00 - 6:00 pm

Harkrader Hall

*Featuring talks by Msgr. Kruse  
and Susanna Prushinski*

This retreat will focus on the Holy Mass: the mystery of the Mass, an analysis of the Eucharistic prayer, practical tips for praying during Mass, and reflections on the priest praying at Mass.

Following the retreat there will be Eucharistic Adoration, confessions, evening prayer and Benediction.



### ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

**The annual Christmas Cookie Walk** will be held in Harkrader Hall **after** all Masses **this** Saturday, December 2nd and Sunday December 3rd. To start the Holiday season, join us for donuts & coffee after the Sunday, 7:30am & 9am Masses.

**Christmas Party:** The Altar & Rosary Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, December 12th at 6pm in Harkrader Hall. Cost is \$15 per person which includes your meal, drinks and entertainment! You don't want to miss the PHS Madrigals performance at our party! We will be collecting donations for the Christ Child Society. If you haven't already done so, please sign-up for the Christmas Party. The sign-up sheet is located on the Information Table outside Harkrader Hall. You can drop your check for the dinner in the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office. All women of the parish are welcome!

**Christmas Memorial Flowers:** Christmas Memorial Flowers: Please pick up an order form for 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.

**Angel Tree:** The Angel Tree has a couple ornaments left. Each ornament identifies a gift for a client at Gateway Center. As you take an ornament, please write your name & phone number by the gift number on the papers on the podium by the tree! **The wrapped gifts can be placed under the tree in the church by Tuesday, December 12th.** 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).