

SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Diocese of Peoria ~ Princeton, Illinois



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

PASTOR NOTE

At the start of a New Year, it is always good to take a moment and reflect upon the last year. I hope you prayerfully review all of the events of this last year in your life and your family's life. I have been reflecting on my own life and the life of our parish. I share with you my reflections on the life of our parish over this last year. I have listed many of the special activities in our parish. Many of them are new events. I did not mention many of the weekly/monthly activities. I'm sure I missed a few things, which certainly was not on purpose. I think it is good for us to remember the many good things that have been happening in our parish. Truly, God has greatly blessed our parish. May God continue the good work in our parish. I wonder what great things He will do in this New Year.

Eucharistic Revival	Parish Library and Coffee Bar
Eucharistic Reflections by Parishioners	Mom's Night Out
Diocesan Traveling Monstrance Holy Hour	Basketball Nights
Growing Disciples Parish Renewal	Renovated some Catechetical Rooms
Growing Disciples Parish Meeting	New Rectory Landscaping
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	New Rectory outside back steps
RCIA Converts	Church sidewalk repairs
Baptisms	Praise and Worship Holy Hour
First Communions	Trivia Nights
Confirmations	Bingo Nights
Marriages	Wine & Cheese Nights
Funerals	Culvers Fund Raisers
World Day of the Sick Healing Mass	Parish Feast Day Celebration
Lenten Small Groups	KC Sweet Corn Sale
Fall Small Groups	First Saturday Devotions
Various other Small Groups	Magi Baby Chest
CCW renamed Altar and Rosary Society	Life Chain
Green House Plant Sale	America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally
KC Monthly Food Pantry Collection	Embraced By Hope Ministry
Fish Fry	Embraced by Hope Memorial Mass
Lent Retreat	KC Blood Drives
Best Lent Ever Program	Altar & Rosary Society Box of Joy
May Crowning	Surrender Novena
Deacon John's 35th Anniversary	End of Life Moral Issues Presentation
Totus Tuus	Our Table Dinner
Rachel's Vineyard Adoration	Advent Retreat
Divine Mercy Parish Event	Altar & Rosary Society Giving Tree
Enrichment of Faith 101: Creed	Outdoor Nativity Set
Enrichment of Faith 102: Sacraments	Altar & Rosary Society Cookie Walk
Cenacle Prayer Groups	Establishment of new Childrens Choir

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

Now, barring the first grace, which is gratuitously given us since it is itself the principle of prayer, it remains ever true prayer is the normal, the efficacious, and the universal means through which God wills that we obtain all actual graces. This is the reason why our Lord insists so frequently upon the necessity of prayer: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you. For every one that asks, receives: and he that seeks, finds: and to him that knocks, it shall be opened." Almost all commentators add that it is as if He said: "Unless you ask, you shall not receive; unless you seek, you shall not find." On this necessity of prayer our Lord constantly insists, especially when it is a question of resisting temptation: "Watch ye and pray that you enter not into temptation: the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." St. Thomas asserts that confidence not based on prayer is presumption, for God, who is not in justice bound to grant us His grace, (Continued on next page)

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 Paula Lough
Admin Assistant	Renee Toomey
Business Manager	Susanna Prushinski
Special Projects/ RCIA Coordinator	stl.susannaprushinski@gmail.com
Religious Ed Coordinator	Rebekah Mead stl.rebekahmead@gmail.com
Maintenance	Tim Hermeyer
Janitors	Aggie Smith, Emily Smith
Magi Baby Chest	Jessica Murphy
Director	stl.jessicamurphy@gmail.com
Magi Baby Chest	Ashley Gray
Asst. Director	stl.ashleygray@gmail.com
Music Director	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
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!

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 8 **The Baptism of the Lord**
7:00am +Mary Dennis by the Mary Dennis Family

Tuesday, January 9 **Weekday**
***7:00am** +Gary Wright by a friend

Wednesday, January 10 **Weekday**
7:00am +Connie Wilcox by Norm & Marie Merkley

Thursday, January 11 **Weekday**
5:15pm +Kathy Lindsey by Lynn Delaney
4:00-5:00 Holy Hour

Friday, January 12 **Weekday**
7:00am +John Needham by Steve & Colleen Harmon

Saturday, January 13 **Vigil of 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
4:00pm +Eric Collins by Amie Neiman

Sunday, January 14 **2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
7:30am People of the Parish
9:00am +Mary McCauley by Chuck & Pam Hanson
10:30am +Bob & Betty Roden by Dave & Susan Boylan

***Mass on Tuesday, January 9th will be at 7am and Adoration & Confession are cancelled in the afternoon.**

Readings for the week of January 7th

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 47-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/
Jn 1:35-42

"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for what He is sending us every day in His goodness." - St. Gianna Molla

(Continued) The Spiritual Life: Excerpt from *The Spiritual Life*

has not pledged Himself to give it except through prayer. God, assuredly, does know our spiritual needs without our exposing them to Him, yet He wills that prayer be the spring that sets in motion His loving mercy, so that we may acknowledge Him as the Author of this gifts He bestows on us.

This is likewise the way in which tradition has understood the teaching of our Lord. The Council of Trent, making its own the teaching of St. Augustine, tells us that God does not command the impossible, for He commands us to do what we can and to ask His help for what we cannot do, His grace helping us to ask for it. This manifestly implies that there are things which without prayer are impossible. Such is the conclusion the Roman Catechism draws: "Prayer is the indispensable instrument give us by God in order to obtain what we desire: there are things, in fact, impossible to obtain without aid of prayer.

Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

4:00 pm: Saturday, January 13th

Altar Servers: Gabby & Gretchen Carden
EMHC: Lynn Delaney, Mandy Robinson
Lectors: Gene Menard
Sacristan: Mandy Robinson
Ushers: Dan & Cynthia Tracy

7:30 am: Sunday, January 14th

Altar Servers: *Servers needed, please check in at Sacristy*
EMHC: Mary Beth Crowe, Rita Tracey
Lectors: Margaret Martinkus
Sacristan: Joann Bowman
Ushers: Gary Blessman, Dennis Thompson,
Tom Murphy

9:00 am: Sunday, January 14th

Altar Servers: Jessica Carlone, Sylvie Viger
EMHC: Pat Galassi-Carlson, Gene Menard
Camera Operator: Marty Makransky
Lectors: Herb Rhees
Sacristan: Quint Quiram
Ushers: Tom Giehl, Dave & Judy Moore

10:30 am: Sunday, January 14th

Altar Servers: Anna Ellis, Luke Smith
EMHC: Cindy Behrends, Linda Carter
Lectors: Patty Daluga
Sacristan: Linda Carter
Ushers: Ken Lough, Pat Mason

EMHC Homebound: Pat Galassi-Carlson 9/S
Linda Carter - 9/N

EMHC for Nursing Homes: Mary Beth Crowe—Hawthorne; Nancy Scoma—Greenfield; Tim Taylor—Aperion; 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 24, 2023

Amount Budgeted	\$	6,750.00
Amount Received	\$	<u>13,809.00</u>
Amount Over (Under)	\$	7,059.00

Fiscal Period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Amount needed to date:	\$	175,500.00
Amount Received to date:	\$	<u>184,729.00</u>
Over/(Under) budget to date:	\$	9,229.00

Christmas Collection \$ **5,782.00**

Due to the holiday schedule, the bulletin totals for December 31st were not available at the time of printing. They will be provided in the January 14th bulletin.

THE LITURGICAL CORNER

Clothing is important. What we wear and how we dress tells us and others what we think of them. The same is true of Mass. We should dress appropriately for Mass, for what we wear tells us and others how important we believe the Mass is, and how important God is in our lives. Because the priest is the sacred minister of the sacred mysteries, he is given special clothing to wear during the celebration of the Mass.

St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests, once said that the priest should be very simple in his own personal lifestyle, but when it comes to the Mass, nothing should be spared, since nothing is more important than giving God perfect worship and adoration. That is why sacred vestments and vessels are made of quality material, because the use for which they are intended is of the highest significance and for the most important spiritual actions. Sometimes people think that it is a waste of money to purchase beautiful things for the Church, when there are so many other needs to attend to. But of course, one can and should do both. In fact, when the Liturgy is beautifully celebrated, with appropriate dignity and reverence, it is a sign that we take God very seriously in our lives. And the more we take God seriously, the more we are motivated to be just as serious in putting into practice in our daily lives all the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. If we celebrate Mass casually, as if it were the same as any other gathering, we will remain lukewarm in the living out of our faith. But if we put everything we can into the Mass - and that includes beautiful music, beautiful vestments and vessels - then we are likely to be inspired to take that beauty into the world by a Christian life which is beautifully lived, by loving one another and serving one another out of reverence for Christ.

THANK YOU

FROM
DEACON JOHN

I would like to thank everyone for the cards and gifts given to me this Christmas. I am very blessed to be here at St. Louis Parish. May you all have a blessed New Year. Deacon John



BAPTISM OF THE LORD

“John saw Jesus approaching him, and said: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29

Baptism Preparation

Please contact Rebekah Mead to schedule baptismal prep classes and the ceremony.
stl.rebekahmead@gmail.com | 815-303-2330

MAGI BABY CHEST



Happy Epiphany to you from the Magi Baby Chest!!

If you are starting the new year off on a charitable leaf, please consider volunteering for the Magi Baby Chest! We would love to have you! Jobs include organizing baby items, working Saturday distribution days, bundling diapers, and doing laundry, etc. Please contact Jessica Murphy or Ashley Gray for further details. Contact information is in the bulletin.

Our next distribution will be Saturday February 3rd from 9AM to 12PM.

**Donation Reminder: We cannot accept gently used toys/stuffed animals, used cribs, used mattresses, or used car seats of any kind. Please freshly launder any gently used baby clothes before drop off. Donations can be dropped off at any of the collection tubs around the church entrances or to the parish office Mon-Fri 8AM to 1PM. Appointments can also be made for drop offs if needed. Contact Jessica Murphy or Ashley Gray with any questions and thank you for your support! We wouldn't be here without your generosity!



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Parish Schedule Changes

Mass for Tuesday, January 9th will be at 7am and Confessions and Holy Hour are cancelled in the afternoon.

The Catholic Forum Q&A for January 7th is cancelled.