



SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIOCESE OF PEORIA ~ PRINCETON, ILLINOIS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he
did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and
took his wife into his home. - Mt 1:23-24*

PASTOR NOTE

This week the Season of Advent pivots to a more direct emphasis on the birth of Jesus. The daily readings include the events immediately before the birth of Jesus. Similarly, all of us are making our final preparations for our family's celebration of Christmas. I hope that all of you have a memorable and beautiful Christmas.

St. Joseph is one of the main figures in the Christmas story who often is easily overlooked. St. Joseph is a quiet but strong figure. He is a man of few words but of great action. He was a just and upright man who followed the Jewish law. When he heard of Mary's pregnancy, without his involvement, he wanted to faithfully follow the law. But, God intervened and an angel announced to him the coming birth of the Messiah. Joseph followed God's plan and remained married to Mary. He helped her throughout her pregnancy. This was complicated when they were required to travel to Bethlehem for the census. He tried so hard to meet her needs. I am sure that he was heart broken when there was no room for them in the inn. He did his best to provide for her in their makeshift lodging in the cave. There he witnessed the miraculous birth of our Savior. Immediately, Joseph took Jesus as his adopted son. He immediately provided for baby Jesus. I'm sure that Joseph was amazed when the Magi came to visit. But this joy was immediately interrupted when an angel in a dream told him of King Herod's plans to kill baby Jesus. Joseph obeyed the angel and took Mary and Jesus down into Egypt. I cannot imagine the hardships they endured being in that foreign land. Joseph worked hard to meet the needs of his family despite such difficulties. After receiving a message from an angel again, Joseph took them to Nazareth. There they settled and Jesus grew in wisdom, age, and strength. This growth was guided by St. Joseph. He taught Jesus to be a man, the carpenter trade, and the way of holiness. Many of the characteristics of Jesus were learned from St. Joseph. At a time not known to us, Joseph passed away surrounded by Mary and Jesus. I am sure that Jesus experienced tremendous grief at Joseph's death. But, He also knew that he would have eternal joy in heaven.

St. Joseph teaches us so many things. He teaches us how to be attentive to God's will. He demonstrates holiness in fulfilling the daily tasks of life. He is an example for all fathers. May St. Joseph help all fathers to be better husbands, better men and better fathers. Joseph was completely devoted to God and following His plan. May all fathers follow Joseph's holy example. As we approach Christmas, may Joseph intercede for us to be completely devoted to Jesus.

NOURISHED IN SPIRIT

What I mean to say is this: First thing in the morning, many of us overly indulge our humanity. We are not only sluggish in getting going to meet the day, but we are sluggish in getting connected with our heavenly goal. The sleep, the snooze alarm, the pampering and primping and so on, can keep us down. Our desire for a few extra "zzz's" can be an insight in our desire for worldliness instead of Godliness. Exaggerated cares for our body can be an insight to our desire for this world and not heaven. This earthly desire at the start of the day can easily transfer to other parts of the day. At the start of the day we are sometimes the most naturally worldly. If we can elevate these first moments, than we may be able to more easily able elevate the other parts of the day.

When we examine our morning routine, at what point do we first think of God and show love towards God? Are our first thoughts and actions directed towards ourselves or to God? In our morning slumber, our inclinations towards our fleshiness must be tamed and put into their proper place. We have been created for God. He wants ourselves totally – even the first moments of our day.

St. Jose Maria Escriva wrote extensively on the spirituality of the first moments of the day. He developed a spiritual concept called the "heroic minute." The heroic minute is our first moment of consciousness. It is that dividing line between sleep and being awake. For most of us at this moment every fiber of our being aims towards our fleshy body. Our flesh wants more sleep. But, Christ has called us to self denial and living in the Spirit – the realm of grace. It is a real moment of combat between the flesh and the spirit. It is a real moment where we can exercise heroic virtue, self control and holy desire. We can discipline ourselves so that we fight the inclination of the flesh and reach toward the reward of the spirit. It is a real moment where we can say "no" to ourselves and say "yes" to God. It is a heroic minute in which we can set the day on the right course – lived for God and not for ourselves.

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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



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, December 19 **Advent Weekday**
 7:00 am +Christine Jordan Kalil
 by Jerry & Katherine Corcoran

Tuesday, December 20 **Advent Weekday**
 5:15pm + Jill Bystry Thompson
 by John and Pat Bystry

4-5:00 Holy Hour

Wednesday, December 21 **St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church**
 7:00am +Richard DeBord by Nancy DeBord

Thursday, December 22 **Advent Weekday**
***7:00am** + Sr. Marlyss Dionne
 by Linda Carter and Bernetta Wood

Friday, December 23 **St. John of Kanty, Priest**
 7:00 am +Russell Gibe by Jennifer Gibe

Saturday, December 24 **Christmas Eve**
 4:00 pm + Paul Scoma by Nancy Scoma
 7:00 pm +Richard Milliron
 by Donna Milliron & Family
 10:00 pm +Mary Johnson by John & Julie Hassler

Sunday, December 25 **The Nativity of the Lord**
 9:00 am People of the Parish

***Mass for Thursday, December 22nd will be at 7am and Adoration is cancelled.**

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

An entire town is wiped out by fire, a tornado rips through several neighborhoods, a bomb claims a maternity hospital and a sudden heart attack takes the life of a soul mate. Life is unpredictable and dramatic. Many buy into the sad illusion that the securities and familiarities we see around us today will remain forever: our homes, our friends, our spouses, our churches, and even our health. We are stunned and shaken by a sudden change, finding ourselves bewildered, mortified, and even embittered. We do not like change, especially change driven by sources beyond our control. Are there any guarantees in life? We often live as if our lives come with lifetime warranties. When they break, they can be fixed or replaced. Such is not the case. Many things are irreplaceable and unable to be fixed. During life's inevitable chaos, God says: "Do not be afraid." Seriously? How can one not be afraid when things are falling apart?

Fear is normal and it has a purpose. It is unrealistic, and somewhat unhealthy, to strive to live without any fear. Fear teaches us lessons and can be a catalyst to discovering more profound things. What we do with fear and how we understand it is critical. Fear can either cripple us or move us forward. God does not want fear to cripple us. If we look around at all that can change in our lives and consider what we might have to do, we can easily wallow in the mire of self-misery. Or we can step up to the challenge, as Mary did, and do what needs doing! We can stand tall, as did Joseph, and do the right and just thing! What gives us this courage? Faith.

God is with us. This is the focus of our Advent preparations. We need to be reminded that we are not in this alone. God not only made us and loves us, but God keeps us! In the person of Jesus Christ, God is the sign we need to persevere! Do not be afraid and do not be unbelieving! Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. God has blessed us with the birth of His Son. Trust that He is with us and will not abandon us, even in death. ©LPi

Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

4:00 pm: Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th

Altar Servers: Angelo Bystry, Nate Lough,
Sylvie Viger

EMHC: Dave Lawrence, Tim Taylor

Lectors: Katie Lawrence

Sacristan: Mandy Robinson

Ushers: Dennis Thompson, Tom Tracey, Dan &
Cynthia Tracy

7:00 pm: Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th

Altar Servers: Brennan Roden

EMHC: Patty Daluga, Gene Menard

Lectors: David Roden

Sacristan: Mandy Robinson

Ushers: Tom Ballard, Gary Blessman, Bill Uher

10 pm: Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th

Altar Servers: Anaisabela Ramirez-Tz, Luke Smith

EMHC: Linda Carter, Tim Smith

Lectors: Julie Hassler

Sacristan: Julie Hassler

Ushers: **USHERS NEEDED**

9:00 am: Nativity of The Lord, Sunday, December 25th

Altar Servers: Jessica Carlone

EMHC: Mandy Robinson & Mary Beth Crowe

Lectors: Mario Carlone

Sacristan: Susanna Prushinski

Ushers: Quint Quiram

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

TO YOU GOD ENTRUSTED HIS ONLY SON;

IN YOU MARY PLACED HER TRUST;

WITH YOU CHRIST BECAME MAN.

OBTAIN FOR US GRACE, MERCY

AND COURAGE. AMEN.

POPE FRANCIS



Readings for the week of December 18th

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Next Sunday: Vglt: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29(2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 4-5-6(3)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

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

PRIVATE PRAYER: The Chapel is open for Private Prayer— Contact the Parish Office for access code.

STEWARDSHIP

Church Monetary Support Through December 11, 2022

Due to the early bulletin submission deadline for Christmas, the totals for December 11th were not available at the time of printing and will be in next weekend's bulletin.

Annual Diocesan Appeal

As you finalize your end-of-year charitable giving plans, please prayerfully consider a gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal if you have not already done so. If you have not yet participated, you should have received an additional pledge card from the Diocese just a few weeks ago. Alternatively, there are donation envelopes at all the entrances to the church. We are so grateful for the generous support of the 158 parishioners who have already responded. We have received pledges of \$62,770 toward our goal of \$98,028. It is a privilege to know that our gifts help reflect Christ's love to the many people whose lives are touched by the numerous ministries of the Diocese of Peoria!

FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND CHANGE:

With Christmas falling on our usual weekend to collect, we are moving the Food Pantry collection to the following weekend, **December 31-January 1**. This is only the second time in over ten years we have made a change due to where a Holiday lands on the calendar. With school out for Christmas break there is more strain on families who struggle with food insecurity. All the high need items are in short supply. Those are: breakfast cereal, peanut butter, mac & cheese, canned fruit, hamburger helper and boxed potatoes (especially mashed). Thanks to all who donate so generously each month.



Christmas Mass Schedule

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

Nativity of the Lord
December 25th - 9am

©LPI

*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.*

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas beginning at 11:00am on Thursday, December 22nd through Monday, 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 to Msgr. Kruse's cell phone as an emergency call.

New Year's Eve

2023

ST. LOUIS PARISH
NEW YEAR'S EVE
PARTY
HARKRDER HALL

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 or call the office.

CCW

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.

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.

MAGI BABY CHEST

Donations Needed for MBC

Please consider giving to this wonderful cause!

We are in need of baby wash, baby lotion, nursing covers, Dreft Laundry Soap (moms really like this brand), baby toys, toddler socks boys & girls, (Sizes 2T-4T), pacifiers and diapers (sizes 3, 4, and 7). We are in **high need** of wipes (unscented preferred). For monetary donations—please make checks payable to St. Louis Church.



*Note on diapers...

The purchase size does not matter because we open all the diapers and rubber band them into individual packs of 15 to give out to families. We do not give out whole boxes of diapers.