



# 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.

- Jn 1:14

## PASTOR NOTE

Merry Christmas!!! I pray that God will bless each of you in this joyous season. Christmas is such an important Solemnity in the Church that it is celebrated for eight straight days. I hope that you will continue to celebrate Christmas over these next eight days. Keep your decorations up and continue enjoying some Christmas cheer. Maybe come out and join us for one of the daily Masses which still focuses on the joy of Christmas.

January 1<sup>st</sup> is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. This year, it is not a holy day of obligation. Therefore, there will be no vigil Mass on New Year's Eve. In order to mark this important feast, there will be an extra Mass on Saturday morning, January 1<sup>st</sup>, at 9am. I hope you can join us for this Mass. Saturday night we will keep the same schedule of 3pm Confessions and 4pm Mass, where we will celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord.

New Year's Eve parish party, Friday, 7pm until whenever. Come out and join together to ring in the New Year. Heavy appetizers and beverages will be provided. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to join together and enjoy time together. Come for the whole time or for just part of the night. Bring a game or two.

This week, I will be hosting a dear friend of mine, Fr. Dennis Carbonaro. He is a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and is the Spiritual Director of their College Seminary. He was one of my seminary professors back in the 1990's, and preached at my first Mass after my Ordination. During his visit, we will enjoy some day trips and time together. I will maintain the usual Mass schedule and be available as needed. But, generally, I will be taking it easy. Here and there Father may join us for Mass and other parish events. Recently, he suffered a leg amputation and so his mobility is a bit limited. Please welcome Fr. Carbonaro during his visit which will last until January 5<sup>th</sup>. But, please, don't ask him for too many stories about my time in the seminary! Just joking.

As we approach the New Year, I offer prayers for you and your family. Let's all pray that this new year will bring an end to the pandemic as well as bring us many blessings. I am confident that 2022 will be a wonderful year.

## NOURISHED IN SPIRIT BY MSGR. KRUSE

We continue our Litany of the Nativity. I hope that it can inspire you to enjoy a similar experience and even come with your own.

O burning Lantern bright. I praise you. You were the first to illumine the human face of God. Your gentle light reveals the hidden mysteries of God made man. Your light brought joy to the holy family and to the whole world.

O Sacred severance. I behold the emotions as your cord is cut from your tender Mother. Such a moment. I only wonder how she must have felt. Christ is severed from the Immaculate one. There is no going back. Now His journey into our sin has begun. Such sadness as He begins to embrace His sufferings. The first blood of our Savior is shed for our salvation, even at the hands of Joseph, the righteous one. But, behold the mystery: God now has a belly button. God and Man are now one. May we never again be severed from You.

O sacred infant cry. I praise you, the first sounds of our Savior! An infant crying – an infant who is God! See how He has taken on our wounded plight. Ever since Adam's fall, we have been crying out for help. Now God joins our plea! The Son pleads to His Father in the cry of the Holy Spirit. And, all of this in a human noise – a baby crying. I praise your humility. God is no longer far off. He is one with us. As man He cries with us. As God He saves us!

O cold of night, I curse you. How dare you so quickly attack the tenderness of our infant King. But, your sinful chill will end: "As you bite at His heel, He will crush your head."

O sacred swaddling clothes. I praise you as you warm our Savior. Your cloth wraps Christ

at the start of His life and soon He will grow out of you. But, your friend, the sacred shroud, will wrap Jesus at His death. But, do not be afraid, Jesus will also cast that cloth aside as He rises into everlasting glory. O praise the sacred cloths that are used in sacred events!

O holy kisses. I praise you as I see the tenderness of Mary's motherly love. Finally, God can be kissed! And, finally, God can kiss us. What a privilege to be Joseph as He embraces God who gives him a child's kiss! May we be so blessed.



<b><u>Parish Staff</u></b>	
<b>Pastor</b>	Msgr. James E. Kruse, JCL jameskruse1996@gmail.com cell: 309-634-5822
<b>Deacon</b>	John Murphy Wk: 664-1155/Hm: 646-4723
<b>Trustees</b>	Dan Legner Mary Paula Schmitt
<b>Admin Assistant Business Manager</b>	Paula Lough 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 Janitor</b>	Tim Hermeyer Emily Smith
<b><u>Parish Office</u></b>	
616 S Gosse Blvd., Princeton, IL 61356	
<b>Office hours: Monday—Friday 8am-1pm</b>	
<b>Phone: (815) 879-0181</b>	
<b>E-mail: stlparishoffice@gmail.com</b>	
Website: www.stlouispinceton.org	
YouTube Channel: youtube.com/user/stlouispinceton	
FaceBook Page: www.facebook.com/stlouispinceton	
<b>Keep in touch with us via email or text</b>	
<b>Text SLP To 84576 or</b>	
<b>Connect with us online at</b>	
<b>stlouiscatholicchurch.flocknote.com</b>	

The Parish Office will be closed the following dates for Christmas: Thursday, December 23rd through Friday, December 31st.

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.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*Congratulations to Bruce & Anita Obenhaus  
who are celebrating their 71st Anniversary  
On January 2nd.*

Please let us know if you will be celebrating your 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2022! Contact the parish office by phone at 815-879-0181 or email stlparishoffice@gmail.com

### **Mass Intentions**

Monday, December 27 **St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**  
7:00 am + Margie Jo Sellitto

Tues, December 28 **The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**  
5:15 pm +Mary Miller by Joann Bowman  
4-5:00 pm Holy Hour

Wed, December 29 **St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr**  
7:00 am + Father Thomas F. Kelly

Thursday, December 30 **Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas**  
5:15 pm +Charles & Cathy Lovgren  
by Maureen Harney  
4-5:00 pm Holy Hour

Friday, December 31 **Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas**  
7:00 am +Bartlett L. Kassabaum  
by Jim & Nancy Carlson

Sat, January 1 **Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
the Mother of God**  
\*9:00 am +William "Bill" Simon by Family  
4:00 pm \*Ray DeMarlie by Teresa DeMarlie

Sunday, January 2 **The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the  
Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops  
and Doctors of the Church**  
7:30 am +Beth Uher by Chuck and Pam Hanson  
9:00 am +Todd Hermeyer by Tim & Julie Puhr  
10:30 am People of the Parish

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### **Readings for the week of December 26, 2021**

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Col 3:12-21 /Lk 2:41-5  
Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35  
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40  
Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18  
Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



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!***

## Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

### 9:00 am: Saturday, January 1st

Lectors Mary Murphy  
EMHC Pat Galassi-Carlson

### 4:00 pm: Saturday, January 1st

Altar Servers Cameron & Sam Lawrence

Lectors David Roden

Sacristan Mandy Robinson

Ushers **(Ushers needed—please contact parish office to volunteer)**

### 7:30 am: Sunday, January 2nd

Altar Servers Brady Peach

Lectors Rita Pacunas

Sacristan Joann Bowman

Ushers Gary Blessman

### 9:00 am: Sunday, January 2nd

Altar Server Patsy Bystry, Elizabeth Keutzer

Camera Operators Marty Makransky

Lectors Mario Carlone

Sacristan Quint Quiram

Ushers Jim Whiteaker, Quint Quiram

### 10:30 am: Sunday, January 2nd

Altar Server Anna Ellis, Jackson Mason

Lectors David Roden

Sacristan Susanna Prushinski

Ushers Ken Lough, Pat Mason **(Additional Ushers needed—please contact parish office to volunteer)**

EMHC for Homebound: Mandy Robinson, Mary Beth Crowe, Patty Daluga, Linda Carter, Pat Galassi-Carlson, Rita Tracey

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### Schedule Changes for January Events:

The New Year's Eve Party will replace the recurring monthly Wine & Cheese Party. There will not be a Catholic Forum Q&A in January.



### A Holy Hour for Life

Benediction, Rosary, and other Prayers

All are welcome to gather in prayer on the fourth Sunday of each month from 6-7 pm in the Church for the intention of respect for the sacredness of all human life.

Please join us this Sunday, December 26th

## ST. LOUIS 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

(SUN 9:00AM Live-streamed on YouTube & FaceBook)

### OUTDOOR DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(AT ANDERSON ST ENTRANCE)

SAT	5:00—5:15 PM
SUN	10:00—10:15 AM

### 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— if you need the access code please contact the parish office.

## STEWARDSHIP

### Church Monetary Support Through December 19, 2021

*Due to the holiday early submission deadline for the bulletin, totals for December 19th were not available at the time of printing. They will be provided in next weekend's bulletin.*

All in the name of  
**Jesus**

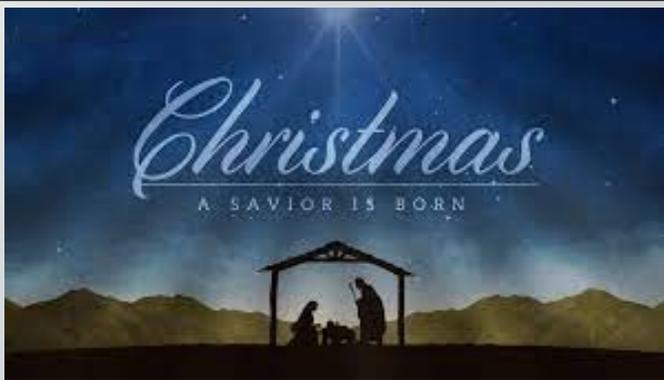
We are so grateful for your generous response to Monsignor Kruse's follow-up letter regarding the Annual Diocesan Appeal! Since the campaign kicked off back in September, we have now received cards from 192 parishioners, and pledges of \$68,180 toward our goal of \$92,318! We are hopeful that, with everyone's participation, soon we can surpass 250 pledges! Please, if you have not already done so, fill out and return the pledge card that was mailed to you. There are also pledge cards located at all the entrances to the church. Especially at this time of year when we reflect with gratitude on our many blessings, 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.



# Merry Christmas

“In switching on the light of the Nativity scene, we wish for the light of Christ to be in us. A Christmas without light is not Christmas. Let there be light in the soul, in the heart; let there be forgiveness to others; let there be no hostilities, which are dark. Let there be the beautiful light of Jesus. This is my wish for all of you, when you turn on the light of the crib.”

-Pope Francis

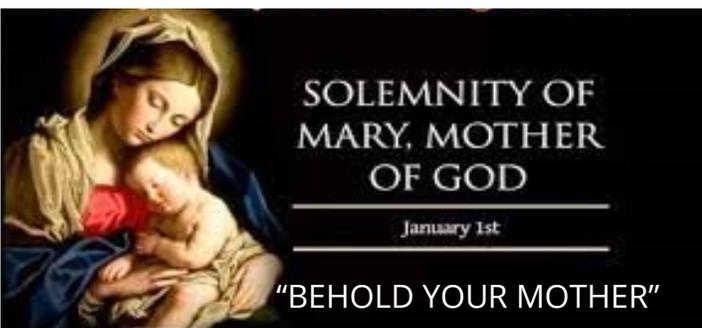


## Feast of the Most Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sunday, December 26th

“Let the peace of Christ control your hearts;  
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”

~Colossians 3:15

“The humble, simple souls, who are little enough to see the bigness of God in the littleness of a Babe, are therefore the only ones who will ever understand the reason of His visitation. He came to this poor earth of ours to carry on an exchange; to say to us, as only the Good God could say: ‘you give me your humanity, and I will give you my Divinity; you give me your time, and I will give you My eternity; you give me your broken heart, and I will give you Love; you give me your nothingness, and I will give you My all.’ - Venerable Fulton J. Sheen



“From Mary we learn to surrender to God’s Will in all things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God!” -St. John Paul II

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**Friday, December 31st - 7pm**

Join your parish family in Harkrader Hall to ring in the New Year. Heavy appetizers and beverages will be provided.

Come for the whole time or for just part of the night. Bring a game or two.