



SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIOCESE OF PEORIA ~ PRINCETON, ILLINOIS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Come after me, and I will make you fishers
of men.” - Mt 4:19

PASTOR NOTE

Fifty years ago, our nation began years of suffering under the horrendously evil decision of the United States Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion across our nation. I praise and thank those who have prayed for an end to abortion throughout these last fifty years. We rejoiced last summer when this decision was reversed. Truly, the goodness of life has triumphed. But, as we know, the issue of abortion has been relegated to the individual States. So now, our pro-life efforts have shifted to advancing the dignity of life at the State level. I encourage you to help overturn abortion in Illinois, especially through voting for pro-life candidates. But even more, we must re-energize our efforts to meet the needs of expectant mothers, new mothers, and needy families. We have begun this work through our parish Magi Baby Chest. I thank all of you for stepping up to make this such a wonderful success. I am also grateful for so many in our parish who support Rachel's Vineyard, which is a wonderful program to assist people affected by abortion. Healing is possible after abortion. Finally, it is my fervent prayer that abortion will end everywhere, especially in the State of Illinois. May all lives be cherished as a gift from God.

I encourage you to join us for our monthly Holy Hour for Life on the fourth Sunday of the month, 6pm to 7pm. Please join us this Sunday, January 22nd.

On a truly lighter note, I am very happy to announce a new fun event for our parish. I think most of us suffer being a bit downcast during the dark days of January and February. So, let's have some fun! Let's join together for a night of good old fashion Bingo! We will have a Bingo Night on Saturday, February 4, 2023, beginning at 6:30pm in Harkrader Hall. It will be free bingo – no entry fees, no card fees, no cost! Drinks and appetizers will be provided. Bingo Night will be family friendly. No childcare will be provided. People of all ages are invited, so too are non-parishioners. Wonderful, and very worthy, prizes will be provided for each of the bingo games. So, gather your family, bring your friends, or come alone, and let's join together for a night of fun. Bingo Night will replace the usual February Wine and Cheese gathering.

Finally, this coming Saturday our parish will hold First Confessions for nine of our young children. I ask that you offer a prayer for them as they prepare for this important moment in their lives. May this special event bring them closer to our Lord.

NOURISHED IN SPIRIT

Myth #3: Forgiveness means weakness. This is an action packed myth filled with a lot of cultural stuff and even some male bravado. I think that we easily associate forgiveness with weakness because forgiveness is often expressed in emotional terms and at vulnerable moments. It's similar to the concept that real men don't cry. Also, when we forgive, it appears that we are placing the other in a superior position as we humbly bestow forgiveness. Many times forgiveness has the appearance of weakness. For instance, in His supremely weak moment while being nailed to the cross, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them." But, this was only a physical weakness which can be easily translated into a general weakness. Yet, in reality, the cross was Christ's greatest demonstration of power. In fact, forgiveness is one of our greatest powers. After all, the origin of forgiveness lies in God, who is all powerful. This myth often confuses appearance with reality. Don't judge a book by its cover. Forgiveness is not weakness.

Myth #4: Forgiveness means returning to the way things used to be. As we progress through the rhythms of time, there is constant change. We grow up and cannot go back to our childhood. We cannot re-capture the excitement of a graduation, a wedding, or a childbirth. For good or bad, events come and go throughout our life. Things change. Regretfully, these changes can come through difficult circumstances, pain, hurt and abuse. The very things that demand forgiveness can change our lives – even permanently. Sometimes, we can re-capture some of the way things used to be. But, sometimes we cannot. We cannot live in the past. Life is lived today, shaping the future. Forgiveness is not a return to the past; but rather, it is a choice today, moving us towards the future.

Myth #5: Forgiveness means that we will once again be close friends. Friends are truly a gift from God. They open the way to love and communion. Friends can challenge us to become a better person – even a holy person. Or, they can also be a temptation towards sin. And, of course, they can hurt us. Usually these pains are easily forgiven and can bring about mutual growth. However, the wounds can also be very deep and even repetitive. In some cases it would be bad for the friendship to continue. Friends can come and go. Sometimes, they must go for our own good and even theirs. Hopefully, forgiveness can heal the wounds within friendship. But, in some instances, the healing of forgiveness requires a friendship to end.

Parish Staff

Pastor	Msgr. James E. Kruse, JCL jameskruse1996@gmail.com cell: 309-634-5822
Deacon	John Murphy Wk: 664-1155/Hm: 646-4723
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Magi Baby Chest	Jessica Murphy
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Parish Office

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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

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 23 **St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr;**

St. Marianne Cope, Virgin,

7:00 am + Virginia Phalen by Amie Neiman

Tuesday, January 24 **St. Francis de Sales, Bishop**

and Doctor of the Church

5:15pm +Donald Carlson by Joanne Stocking

4-5:00 Holy Hour

Wednesday, January 25 **The Conversion of St. Paul**

the Apostle

7:00am +Jack & Theresa McNeill

by Paul & Bridgette Castelein

Thursday, January 26 **Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops**

5:15pm +Andrew J. Wagner by Mary Archer

4-5:00 Holy Hour

Friday, January 27 **St. Angela Merici, Virgin**

7:00 am +Christine Jordan Kalil

by Alan and Lynne Weber

Saturday, January 28 **Vigil of Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00 pm +Grace Miller by Mandy Robinson

Sunday, January 29 **Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30 am +Dennis O'Brien

by Tim & Kathy Hermeyer

9:00 am People of the Parish

10:30am +Liz Dahlen by Linda Carter

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Drop Your Nets and Be Free

There are times I wish I had no obligations. It would be great to take my wife's hand, hop in the car, and drive into the sunset. Where we were going would not matter as much as the fact that we would have nowhere we had to be. There would be nothing we had to do. No bills. No commitments. No problems. Freedom!

Life doesn't work like that, however. When Jesus came along and asked some fishermen to drop their nets and follow him, they did just that. Wow! In some ways, they experienced true freedom. That is what Jesus offers all of us. Yet, true freedom looks quite different than my dream scenario.

In living in the true freedom that Jesus offers, there are things we must do and places we must go. That is because freedom only exists in following God's will, not our own. We are called to be and called to give ourselves completely to God without reservations. We always have the free will to not respond to His call, but we will find that a negative answer may complicate our lives even further. God's path for us calls on us to give freely of what we have been given. Saying no to that call means we carry the weight of those gifts. We were never meant to keep them. The path of God's will may seem long and winding, but it is the one that leads us into that sunset. It is the way to true freedom.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

4:00 pm: Saturday, January 28th

Altar Servers: Emily Jaeger, Anaisabela Ramirez-Tz
EMHC: David Lawrence, Mandy Robinson
Lectors: Mary Paula Schmitt
Sacristan: Mandy Robinson
Ushers: Dan & Cynthia Tracy, Colleen Sissel

7:30 am: Sunday, January 29th

Altar Servers: Brady Peach
EMHC: Rita Tracey, Mandy Robinson
Lectors: Margaret Martinkus
Sacristan: Joann Bowman
Ushers: Gary Blessman, Dennis Thompson,
Tom Murphy

9:00 am: Sunday, January 29th

Altar Servers: Angelo & Patsy Bystry
EMHC: Gene Menard, Tim Smith
Camera Operator: Marty Makransky
Lectors: Steve Harmon
Sacristan: Chris Romagnoli
Ushers: Dave & Judy Moore, Tom Giehl

10:30 am: Sunday, January 29th

Altar Servers: Elizabeth Keutzer, Brennan Roden
EMHC: Mary Beth Crowe, Paula Lough
Lectors: Jeff Peacock
Sacristan: Linda Carter
Ushers: Ken Lough, Pat Mason

EMHC Homebound: Gene Menard 9/S
Tim Smith 9/N

EMHC for Nursing Homes: Cindy Behrends—
Greenfield; David Lawrence—Hawthorne; Rita Tracey—
Liberty; Gerry Woodlief—Aperion

Next weekend, January 28 & 29, the Knights of Columbus will be collecting nonperishable food items and monetary donations for the Bureau County Food Pantry. We have all seen our grocery bills go up due to inflation and those with a fixed income really struggle. Seniors are now seeking assistance at the Food Pantry in greater numbers than ever before. 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.

Readings for the week of January 22nd

Sunday: Is 8:23—9:3 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 (1a) 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17
Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd 4:5-6/Mk 3:22-30 Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 70:8a, 10, 11/Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18
Thursday: 2 Tim 1:1-8 or Tit 1:1-5/12/Ps 132:1-2, 35, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25
Friday: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40/Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday: Zep 2:3, 12-13/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 10 (Matthew 5:3)/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a



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!

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

The totals for January 15th were not available at the time of printing and will be in next weekend's bulletin.

End of Year Contribution Statements

BY REQUEST ONLY, 2022 contribution statements are now available. If you desire a statement to prepare your personal income tax return, please call or email the parish office, and one will be provided to you. Please indicate if you would like the statement mailed to your residence, or provided electronically via email. Note: contributions made to the Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA) will receive a separate statement directly from the Catholic Diocese of Peoria, in compliance with IRS requirements for charitable giving. The faithful sharing of your "treasure" is sincerely appreciated!

January 22: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

The rose on the Altar is in memory of the more than 60 million children who have lost their lives and the millions of women and families that have been wounded by abortion in the US. We thank our merciful God for the overturning of Roe vs Wade and we continue to pray for the protection of all unborn children in every state. May those with hardened hearts and minds come to see the value of all human life. Please pray to end Abortion.



A Holy Hour for Life

Benediction, Rosary, and other Prayers

This Sunday, January 22nd 6-7pm

All are welcome to gather in prayer in the Church for the intention of respect for the sacredness of all human life.

Invitation to Become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

During Mass, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) are an important ministry in the parish. I am grateful to the many volunteers who assist during Mass and bring Holy Communion to the homebound. We need more volunteers to help at Mass and visit our homebound.

I invite you to consider volunteering as an EMHC. This is a tremendous service to the parish and can help you grow closer to our Eucharistic Lord. Considering that this volunteering is directly related to the Eucharist, there are some requirements to volunteer. The Diocese summarizes these requirements as: being at least aged 18 and a "Catholic of excellent character and obvious spiritual devotion and who live their faith in harmony with the Gospel and the laws of the Church." EMHC's must attend a training session; serve at least two Masses a month; bring Communion to the homebound at least one time a month; and, receive a mandate from the Bishop.

There will be a training session of Sunday, February 5th at 1pm in the church. During this session I will explain the requirements in more detail as well as explain the manner of distributing Holy Communion. This session may be about 90 minutes. Anyone interested in becoming an EMHC is invited to attend.

I ask that all current volunteers also attend this training session. At this meeting I will discuss some aspects of distributing Communion and visiting the homebound. Also, at this meeting I will lead a prayer and re-commissioning for our volunteers. I hope that you can attend.

Please contact me if you have any questions.
Thank you. Msgr. Kruse

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Why join the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization that was founded in 1882 with the goal of providing charitable services, promoting Catholic education, and fostering strong relationships within the Catholic community.

- Becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus, an individual can make a positive impact on their community. The organization is known for its commitment to providing charitable services.
- Being a member of the Knights of Columbus provides an opportunity to grow spiritually and become more involved in the Catholic faith.
- The Knights of Columbus offers a strong sense of community and fellowship.

Interested in joining? Know anyone that would be interested in joining? Let us know! Contact Bob Schabow at bschab57@gmail.com | 815-303-8701

Visit the website below to join the Knights of Columbus
<https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-kofc.html>

CATECHIST'S CORNER

Welcome back to the Catechist's Corner! In Level 3 (4th-6th grade), we have started learning the Morning Offering. This beautiful prayer is traditionally said first thing in the morning, as a way of giving all of our day – the good and the bad, our successes and failures, and all that we do – back to God.

The Morning Offering also reminds us that Mary intercedes for us throughout the day. She holds us, her children, in her Immaculate Heart. Finally, this prayer reminds us to pray for the intentions of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Did you know that the pope offers a specific prayer intention for each month? For January 2023, he offers his prayers for educators; for February 2023, he asks us to join him in praying for parishes.

Do you say the Morning Offering? If not, I encourage you to cut out the version below and tape it up somewhere you'll see it every morning when you get up. How comforting to start the day knowing that no matter what happens, God can use all of it for good!

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. Amen.

Parish Greenhouse Looking ahead to SPRING, we will meet to plan for the 2023, Parish greenhouse plant sale. If you enjoy planting seeds and nurturing their growth, please consider attending. We will meet at 6pm, January 31st, in Harkrader Hall.

Enrichment of Faith 101 Class: Starting Wednesday Feb 1st 6:00-7:15 and held on most Wednesdays until April 26th. This class will help us to discover or rediscover the what and why of our Catholic belief in order to deepen and enliven our faith in Jesus Christ and all that He has revealed to us through His Church. The class is structured to introduce us to the use of scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and even give a taste of some of the Church Fathers and saints and to be able to linger and move forward at a pace set by the participants.

If you are interested in the class and the date/ time don't work for you, please let me know I would be happy to set up other sessions. This class will be lead by Susanna Prushinski. Please sign-up for the class by contacting Susanna or call the parish office.

815-915-6960 | stl.susannaprushinski@gmail.com

CCW

Our next CCW Meeting will be a potluck supper (meat will be provided) this Tuesday, January 24th at 6pm. All women of the Parish are invited. After the potluck supper we will celebrate the new year together with bingo, laughs and wonderful prizes. Msgr. Kruse will be the Caller for bingo, so you won't want to miss this fun night! - Mandy Robinson, CCW President