

The background of the entire page is a photograph of two lit purple candles in a wicker basket. The candles are lit, with bright yellow flames. The basket is filled with green evergreen branches and small purple berries. The overall scene is festive and warm.

2nd *Sunday* OF ADVENT

SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Diocese of Peoria ~ Princeton, Illinois
December 10, 2023

PASTOR NOTE

The Mass is a prayer of both the entire community and each individual person. The ritual norms of the Mass provide direction for the entire community and each individual. By following these ritual norms, we adhere to tradition, express our common worship and enter more deeply into the mystery of the Mass. Our parish is very good at following the ritual norms at Mass. But, there are a few things that I wish to highlight and correct.

During Mass we use different postures to express different attitudes of our heart. We stand out of respect. We sit in order to be more attentive and reflective. We kneel as a sign of reverent worship. The ritual norms indicating our posture at Mass help us to be unified in our worship. I have noticed that there are a few places where there is some confusion. I wish to clarify three moments at Mass so that we will be more unified in our proper posture:

1. After the collection, the deacon or priest prepares the gifts of bread and wine. The priest says: "Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father." The ritual norms say that the people *are to rise* and respond: "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands..." Some at Mass are standing as the priest begins his words of invitation. This is incorrect. The ritual norms clearly indicate that the priest invites to prayer, then the people stand, and then the people offer their response.
2. At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, we say or sing the Great Amen. Some are incorrectly standing as we begin the Great Amen. The ritual norms state that the congregation is to remain kneeling during the Great Amen. After the Great Amen, the people stand together as preparation for the Our Father.
3. After receiving Holy Communion, the ritual norms state that the people may kneel or sit. Our parish has a tradition of kneeling together. We continue to kneel until the priest or deacon sits down after purifying the vessels. I would like to change our parish tradition. I ask that we all sit after the priest or deacon has closed the tabernacle. Everyone can be seated while the vessels are being purified.

Receiving Holy Communion is a communal expression of faith. But, it is also a truly personal moment as the individual receives the Body of Christ. The ritual norms offer some clear directives which I wish to review and offer some correction. While each person is in the line to receive Communion, when it is getting close to your turn, you are to bow your head once as a sign of reverence. When receiving Communion, each person has two sets of choices. These are choices for the individual person. Any of the choices are acceptable and none is holier than the other. First, Communion may be received while kneeling or standing.

Second, Communion may be received on the tongue or in the hand. The ritual norms indicate that receiving on the tongue is preferred and follows age-old tradition. Receiving in the hand is an exception, which our Bishop has approved.

When receiving on the tongue, the person's hands are to be reverently placed together at chest height. The priest or other minister shows the Host while saying, "The Body of Christ." The person responds "Amen." The person opens his or her mouth and gently extends his or her tongue and receives the Host. The person makes the sign of the cross and returns to their pew.

When receiving in the hand, *before* stepping directly in front of the priest or other minister, the person makes a type of throne with their hands held at chest height, or a bit higher if you are short. The left hand is placed on top of the right hand. The hands should be as flat as possible in order to prevent the Host from falling. The priest or other minister shows the Host while saying, "The Body of Christ." The person responds "Amen." The Host is placed in the hand. If the person is kneeling, the Host is picked up with the right hand, consumed, the person makes the sign of the cross, and returns to their pew. If the person is standing, while keeping their hands flat, steps to the side. The Host is picked up with the right hand, consumed, the person makes the sign of the cross and returns to their pew. The person *is not* to grab the Host. The person *is not* to pop the Host into their mouth. The person *is not* to consume the Host while walking away. Only after the Host is consumed does the person return to their pew.

Receiving Communion in the hand, requires the use of both hands. One should not extend just one hand to receive. Therefore, if you are impeded from using two hands, such as because of using a cane, or holding a child, receiving in the hand *is not* proper. I love when a child is carried to Communion by a parent. But, it is irreverent to receive with one hand and then manipulate the Host to consume. I fear the Host will drop to the ground. So, please, if you cannot properly use both hands, receive on the tongue.

Finally, if a person is not able to receive Communion for a variety of reasons, that person is asked to cross their hands in front of their chest *before* they approach the priest or other minister. This will clearly indicate that you request a blessing instead of Communion.

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

Different Categories of Beginners:

There are different categories of beginners:

Converts from sin, who after having transgressed grievously, return to God with all sincerity and who, in order to withdraw further from the brink of the abyss, want to press forward in the ways of perfection. Here again we may say that these would be far more numerous if confessors would take heed to remind their penitents that in order not to fall back, they must advance, and that the safest means of avoiding mortal sins is to tend to perfection. (Continued on next page)

Parish Staff

Pastor	Msgr. James E. Kruse, JCL jameskruse1996@gmail.com cell: 309-634-5822
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Maintenance	Tim Hermeyer
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Parish Office

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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, December 11 <u>St. Damasus I, Pope</u>
7:00am +Arlene Vander Velpen by Geraldine Woodlief
Tuesday, December 12 <u>Our Lady of Guadalupe</u>
5:15pm +Christine Jordan Kalil by Jerry and Katherine Corcoran
4-5:00pm Holy Hour
Wednesday, December 13 <u>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</u>
7:00am +Ray DeMay by The Mermaids
Thursday, December 14 <u>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</u>
5:15pm +Corso & Robbins Family by Fran Robbins
4-5:00pm Holy Hour
Friday, December 15 <u>Advent Weekday</u>
7:00am +Dioscoro C. Soco by Amie Neiman
Saturday, December 16 <u>Vigil of the 3rd Sunday of Advent</u>
4:00pm +Mary Josephine Miller by Barbara Bass
Sunday, December 17 <u>3rd Sunday of Advent</u>
7:30am People of the Parish
9:00am +Stevie Puhr
10:30am + Jill Bystry Thompson by John & Pat Bystry

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

(Continued) The lukewarm, those who after having given themselves once to God and having advanced in the way of perfection have fallen into a state of remissness and tepidity. These, even if they had once reached the illuminative way, need to return to the austere practices of the purgative way and begin once more the work of perfection. To aid their efforts, one must carefully put them on their guard against the dangers of carelessness and lukewarmness and teach them to combat their causes, which are generally frivolity or fickleness, listlessness and a sort of sluggishness.

THE LITURGICAL CORNER

Unlike the angels, who are created spirits without bodies, men and women are bodily creatures. Sight, sound, taste are all ways in which the human person experiences reality. The worship of the Church, while fundamentally spiritual, makes use of the sensible to express itself. A beautiful hymn expresses our praise to the Lord; the Church is decorated for each season of the Church year in order to help us better to enter into the spirit of that season. The Advent season has a special color which designates it: purple.

For the four weeks of Advent, the priest wears vestments of purple, and you will see purple used in other places within the Church. You will remember that purple is also used during Lent to symbolize penance, but purple has a different meaning in the Advent season. The purple of the Advent season is to remind us of the color of the sky just before dawn fully breaks, that particular purple hue which streaks across the morning sky. It's a sign that dawn is not far away. The darkness of the entire night is soon over, and in a sense we see the world coming to life again. Our Lord Jesus Christ is spoken of as "the Dawn from on high that breaks upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1: 78 - 79). He is the Light of the world, the light which came into the darkness of the world in order to scatter it. We come to life, that is spiritual life, every time Christ rises in our hearts, every time we welcome Him as the Light which guides all our thoughts, words and actions. This is the meaning of the Advent wreath. Each week another candle is lit; the light is growing, until Christ, who is forever the Light of the world, is celebrated in the Masses of Christmas.

Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

4:00 pm: Saturday, December 16th

Altar Servers: Cameron & Sam Lawrence
EMHC: Dave Lawrence, Mandy Robinson
Lectors: Sophia Oester
Sacristan: Mandy Robinson
Ushers: Dan & Cynthia Tracy

7:30 am: Sunday, December 17th

Altar Servers: *Servers needed, please check in at Sacristy*
EMHC: Mary Beth Crowe, Rita Tracey
Lectors: Mary Paula Schmitt
Sacristan: Joann Bowman
Ushers: Tom Ballard, Tom Tracey, Bill Uher

9:00 am: Sunday, December 17th

Altar Servers: Luke Smith, Dominic Vasquez
EMHC: Linda Carter, Gene Menard
Camera Operator: Marty Makransky
Lectors: Mario Carlone
Sacristan: Quint Quiram
Ushers: Dan Legner, Quint Quiram, Jim Whiteaker

10:30 am: Sunday, December 17th

Altar Servers: Anna Ellis, Anaisabela Ramirez-Tz
EMHC: Cindy Behrends, Tim Smith
Lectors: David Roden
Sacristan: Tim Smith
Ushers: Bart & Anthony Maciczak, Michael Ellis

EMHC Homebound: Linda Carter 9/N
Gene Menard 9/S

EMHC for Nursing Homes: Mary Beth Crowe—
Liberty; Patty Daluga—Aperion; Lynn Delaney—
Hawthorne; Paula Lough—Greenfield

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 3, 2023

Amount Budgeted	\$	6,750.00
Amount Received	\$	<u>6,283.00</u>
Amount Over (Under)	(\$	467.00)

Fiscal Period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Amount needed to date:	\$	155,250.00
Amount Received to date:	\$	<u>154,211.00</u>
Over/(Under) budget to date:	(\$	1,039.00)

Readings for the week of December 10

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14(8)/Pt 38-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3, 4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)
1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

THANK YOU!

To all who donated food and volunteered for the 23rd Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner. It was a wonderful success and over 200 dinners were served!

-Kathy Farrell

Second Sunday OF ADVENT

Come, Infant Jesus! I pray to
You and Your Most Holy Mother
this Advent season. I pray for
peace: peace in the world, peace
in my home, peace in myself.



OUR LADY

OF Guadalupe

PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS

PRAY FOR US
DECEMBER 12



Let not your heart
be disturbed...
Do not grieve nor be
disturbed by anything.
Am I not here,
your mother?

-Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego

Extra Confession Schedule for Advent

"When you confess your sins, you take the nails out of Jesus."
-St. John Vianney

Monday, December 18th - 7-8pm
Tuesday, December 19th - 4pm
Wednesday, December 20th - 5-6pm
Thursday, December 21st 6-7pm
Saturday, December 23rd - 3pm

MAGI BABY CHEST



The Magi Baby Chest had its biggest distribution EVER! We served **164 families** and gave out over 4,800 diapers! Thank you to everyone who supports us. It was such a wonderful day. Another BIG thank you to Gene and Barbara Menard for dressing as Santa and Mrs. Claus for the kids. They absolutely loved it and it brought so much joy. Merry Christmas!

Our next distribution will be Saturday January 6th from 9AM to 12PM. Follow us on Facebook!

High Need Items for January: baby laundry soap, dish soap, kid's toothbrushes, kid's toothpaste, toddler socks, diaper cream, bottles, infant medicine (tylenol and ibuprofen), baby wash, toddler winter hats/gloves, Enfamil (yellow can) formula, diapers (sizes 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7), unscented wipes, winter clothes sizes (NB to 4T), boys and girls gently used clothes (sizes 12mo-4T).



ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

Christmas Party: The Altar & Rosary Christmas Party will be held this Tuesday, December 12th at 6pm in Harkrader Hall. We will be collecting donations for the Christ Child Society.

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: Thank you to all who took an ornament from the Angel Tree! Please place your wrapped gift under the tree in the church or drop it off at the parish office 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).

THANK YOU!

To all who donated cookies and volunteered to help at our Cookie Walk!! Thanks to your generosity we had an amazing assortment of delicious cookies and treats!! We are so blessed to have such generous parishioners!
-Pat Galassi-Carlson, Cookie Walk Chairperson



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24th
Masses: 4pm (Children's Choir); 7pm; 10pm
Christmas Day Monday, December 25th: 9am



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!