

SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Diocese of Peoria ~ Princeton, Illinois
Gaudete Sunday, December 15, 2024

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

IN JOY,
WE WAIT



PASTOR NOTE

Advent Retreat: Everyone is invited to the parish Advent Retreat on Sunday, December 15th, 1pm to 6pm. Our church has beautiful stained glass windows. They are packed with symbolism and teach us about of faith. During our retreat, we will reflect on the stained glass windows. They will teach us and fuel our reflection and meditation. Come and learn about our beautiful windows and allow them to draw you closer to Christ. The retreat will include spiritual talks, private reflection, adoration and a chance for confession. Please come for the entire retreat or whatever fits your schedule. Adoration/Confessions begin about 4:45. Benediction will be offered around 5:45.

Youth Group. Our next Youth Group meeting will be on Sun. Dec. 22nd at 6pm. All high school youth are invited.

Magi Gala: The Magi Baby Chest will host a Gala Dinner/Dance on February 15, 2025. Tickets for the Gala make a wonderful Christmas present! Visit our website to purchase your tickets.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Tues. Dec. 24th: 4pm, 7pm, 10pm

Wed. Dec. 25th: 9am

Christmas Extra Confessions: Wed. Dec. 18th, 5pm. Fri. Dec. 20th, 7:30am. Sat. Dec. 21st, 3pm and 5pm. Sun. Dec. 22nd, 11:30am. Mon. Dec. 23rd, 7pm. Tue. Dec. 24th, 12pm.

New Year's Eve Party: Come and join us for a parish party to bring in the new year. Our party is on Tuesday, December 31st beginning at 7pm in Harkrader Hall. The usual first Saturday Wine and Cheese Social of Jan. 4th is cancelled.

End of the Year Giving: Many people consider making charitable gifts near the end of the year in order to assist with tax obligations. As you consider these gifts, I invite you to remember many opportunities here in our parish. A gift to the ADA will help us reach our parish goal. The Magi Baby Chest always welcomes gifts for helping the children and needy families. Thank you for considering an end of the year gift to the parish.

Parish Directory: The parish will be providing a new Parish Directory. Please pick up one of the forms near the doors of the church or visit our website www.stlouisprinceton.org to submit an electronic form. Please complete the form and return it by January 13, 2025.

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

And so it is was with the saints. Undoubtedly, they had to endure long and painful trials; but the martyrs mid their tortures gave testimony that "they had never been so happy." Reading the lives of saints we meet two striking facts: the dreadful ordeals they sustained, the mortifications they willingly embraced; and then their patience, their joy, their peace in these sufferings. They came to love the cross, to lose fear thereof, nay, to sigh after it, to count as lost the day where-in they had but little to suffer. This is a psychological phenomenon which puzzles the worldly, but which is a comfort to men of good-will. No doubt, one could not ask of beginners such love of the cross; but one can, showing them the example of the saints, make them understand that the love of God soothes the pain of mortification, and, if they consent to enter whole-heartedly into the practice of offering small sacrifices within their strength, that they will come themselves to love the cross, to long for it and to find in it true spiritual comfort.

The author of the *Imitation of Christ* expresses this in a text which briefly sums up the advantages of mortification: "In the cross is salvation, in the cross is life; in the cross is protection from enemies. In the cross is the infusion of heavenly sweetness; in the cross is strength of mind, in the cross is joy of spirit. In the cross is height of virtue; in the cross is perfection of sanctity." The love of the cross is but the love of God unto the immolation of self. And this love, as we have said, is the embodiment of all the virtues, the very essence of perfection and therefore the strongest of all the virtues, the very essence of perfection and therefore the greatest defense against our spiritual enemies, the fountain-spring of consolation, the best means of growing in the spiritual life and of assuring our salvation.

*The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all,
but in everything, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.*
(Phil 4:5-6)

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

Admin Assistant Paula Lough

Business Manager Renee Toomey

**Special Projects/
RCIA Coordinator** Susanna Prushinski
stl.susannaprushinski@gmail.com

Religious Ed Coordinator Rebekah Mead
stl.rebekahmead@gmail.com

Catechetical Assistant Bethany Brigham
stl.bethanybrigham@gmail.com

Maintenance Tim Hermeyer

Janitors Tim, Emily and Aggie 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-4pm
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

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 16 Advent Weekday
7:00am + Robert J. Miller by Amie Neiman

Tuesday, December 17 Advent Weekday
5:15pm + Stevie Puhr by Tim & Julie Puhr
4:00-5:00pm Holy Hour

Wednesday, December 18 Late Advent Weekday
7:00am +Forgotten Souls in Purgatory
by Dr. & Mrs. Ascano

Thursday, December 19 Late Advent Weekday
***7am** +Jack & Theresa McNeill
by Leo & Susanna Prushinski

Friday, December 20 Late Advent Weekday
7:00am +Jill Bystry Thompson and Mike Bystry
by John & Pat Bystry

Saturday, December 21 Vigil of the 4th Sunday of Advent
4:00pm + Eugene & Virginia Phalen
by Bill & Sue Phalen

Sunday, December 22 4th Sunday of Advent
7:30am +Andrew J. Wagner by Mary Archer
9:00am +Mary Ann McClain
by Marty & Tracy Makransky
10:30am People of the Parish

***Mass will be at 7am on Thursday, December 19th;
Adoration and Confession for that afternoon are
cancelled.**

On a bright Spring morning, a passerby once saw St. Francis of Assisi hoeing a row of beans and asked him, “What would you be doing right now if you knew this was the last day of your earthly life?” The Saint responded, “I’d keep hoeing this row of beans.” Preparing for this world to end — whether by our death or by Jesus’ glorious coming — invites us to live not in the past or the present, but deeply in the present moment.

This same point is on display in the simple advice given by the wild and eccentric John the Baptist. He speaks of the one who is to come who will baptize “with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Luke 3:16). Despite the bizarre awesomeness of this announcement, he tells his listeners to engage in the present moment with simple acts of justice and love as their preparation for Jesus’ coming, sharing their clothes and food, eliminating greedy and underhanded practices, being content with their wages. It’s so undramatic. But how many actually did it? We don’t know. How many of us will commit ourselves to these types of humble and demanding practices in our lives? That’s what we should be doing now in our present moment, not worrying about the future.

Advent challenge: Name one way you are doing the bare minimum towards others in your daily life. Or name something you are doing because you are not content with your financial situation. Pray: “Jesus, if it is your will, help me to stop doing these things this week. Help me prepare for your coming.” Then make the appropriate changes.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

4pm Saturday, December 21st

Altar Servers: Cameron & Sam Lawrence
EMHC: Lynn Delaney, Mandy Robiinson
Lectors: Gene Menard
Sacristan: Mandy Robinson
Ushers: Dan & Cynthia Tracy

7:30 am: Sunday, December 22nd

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

9:00 am: Sunday, December 22nd

Altar Servers: Marshall Gray, Sylvie Viger
EMHC: Tom Jagers, Tim Taylor
Lectors: Tim Kunkel
Sacristan: Lynn Delaney
Camera Operator: Marty Makransky
Ushers: Dan Legner, Quint Quiram, Jim Whiteaker

10:30 am: Sunday, December 22nd

Altar Servers: Anna Ellis, Anaisabela Ramirez-Tz
EMHC: Linda Carter, Patty Daluga
Lectors: Bob Schabow
Sacristan: Linda Carter
Ushers: Bart & Anthony Maciczak, Michael Ellis

EMHC Homebound: Tom Jagers 9/North
Tim Taylor 9/South

EMHC for Nursing Home: Mary Beth Crowe - Hawthorne;
Mandy Robinson - Greenfield; Tim Smith - Goldwater;
Rita Tracey - Liberty

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th

4:00 pm

Altar Servers: Cameron & Sam Lawrence, Sylvie Viger
EMHC: Madeleine Robinson, Tim Taylor
Lectors: Katie Lawrence
Camera Operator: Marty Makransky
Ushers: Dennis Thompson, Tom Tracey

7:00 pm

Altar Servers: Angelo & Patsy Bystry
EMHC: Amy Murphy, Lynn Delaney
Lectors: Gene Menard
Ushers: **Ushers Needed**

10:00 pm

Altar Servers: Anaisabela Ramirez-Tz, Luke Smith
EMHC: Tim Smith, Linda Carter
Lectors: Julie Hassler
Ushers: **Ushers Needed**

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th

9:00 am

Altar Servers: **2 Servers Needed**
EMHC: Pam Whiteaker, Mary Beth Crowe
Lectors: Margaret Martinkus
Ushers: **Ushers Needed**

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
SAT	Men's Holy Hour 7am

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

STEWARDSHIP

Church Monetary Support Through December 8, 2024

Due to the early submission deadline for the bulletin the totals for December 8th were not available at the time of printing. They will be provided in the December 22nd bulletin.

MAGI BABY CHEST

We had a wonderful distribution last weekend and served 185 families! Thank you to all those who donated! **Our next distribution is Saturday January 4th 9AM-12PM.**

High Need Items for This Month: Powdered Formula (Enfamil is the preferred brand), Diapers (Size 4, 5, 6, & 7), Wipes (Unscented Preferred), Jarred Baby Food (Veggies), Baby Lotion & Baby Wash, Diaper Cream, Infant Medicine (Tylenol & Ibuprofen), Prenatal Vitamins, Thermometers, Humidifiers, Sippy Cups, Toddler Socks (Boys & Girls Sizes 12mo-4T), Bottles, New Baby Books (Age Newborn-4 Years), New Winter Clothing (Sizes 12mo-4T), Infant High Chairs, & Car Seats.

Thank you ALL and Merry Christmas! May the three Magi from long ago pray for us today as we strive to provide baby supplies with radical hospitality and love. Amen.

Readings for the week of December 15th

Readings for the week of December 15, 2024
Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 122-3, 4, 5-6(6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 15:25
Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 12:38
Saturday: Sg 28-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 139-45
Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19(4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 139-4



**ST. LOUIS PARISH
ADVENT RETREAT
THIS SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 15TH
1 PM TO 6PM**

Come and learn about our beautiful stained glass windows and allow them to draw you closer to Christ this Advent.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Extra Confession Schedule for Advent

“Confession is an act of honesty and courage – an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God.” St. John Paul II

Wednesday, December 18th - 5pm
Friday, December 20th - 7:30am
Saturday, December 21st - 3pm & 5pm
Sunday, December 22nd 11:30am
Monday, December 23rd - 7pm
Tuesday, December 24th - 12pm



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24th
Masses: *4pm (Children’s Choir); 7pm; 10pm
Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25th: 9am

*4pm Mass will be live-streamed

Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent

Dear Lord, Give us boldness as we move through the motions of the holiday season, to reflect and remind those around us of Your deep and abiding love for them. Allow them to encounter Your love, through us. Amen.



PARISH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas break beginning 11:30am on Thursday, December 19th through Friday, January 3rd. The office will reopen at 8am on Monday, January 6th.

Magi Baby Chest donations for January distribution need to be dropped off **no later than Thursday, December 19th.**

Religious Ed classes will not meet December 23rd through January 3rd and will resume the week of January 6th.

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 as an emergency call to Msgr. Kruse.



We are looking for volunteers to make a dessert or appetizer for our New Year's Eve Parish Party. If you would like to help, please contact Susanna Prushinski at 815-915-6960 by December 27th for planning purposes.