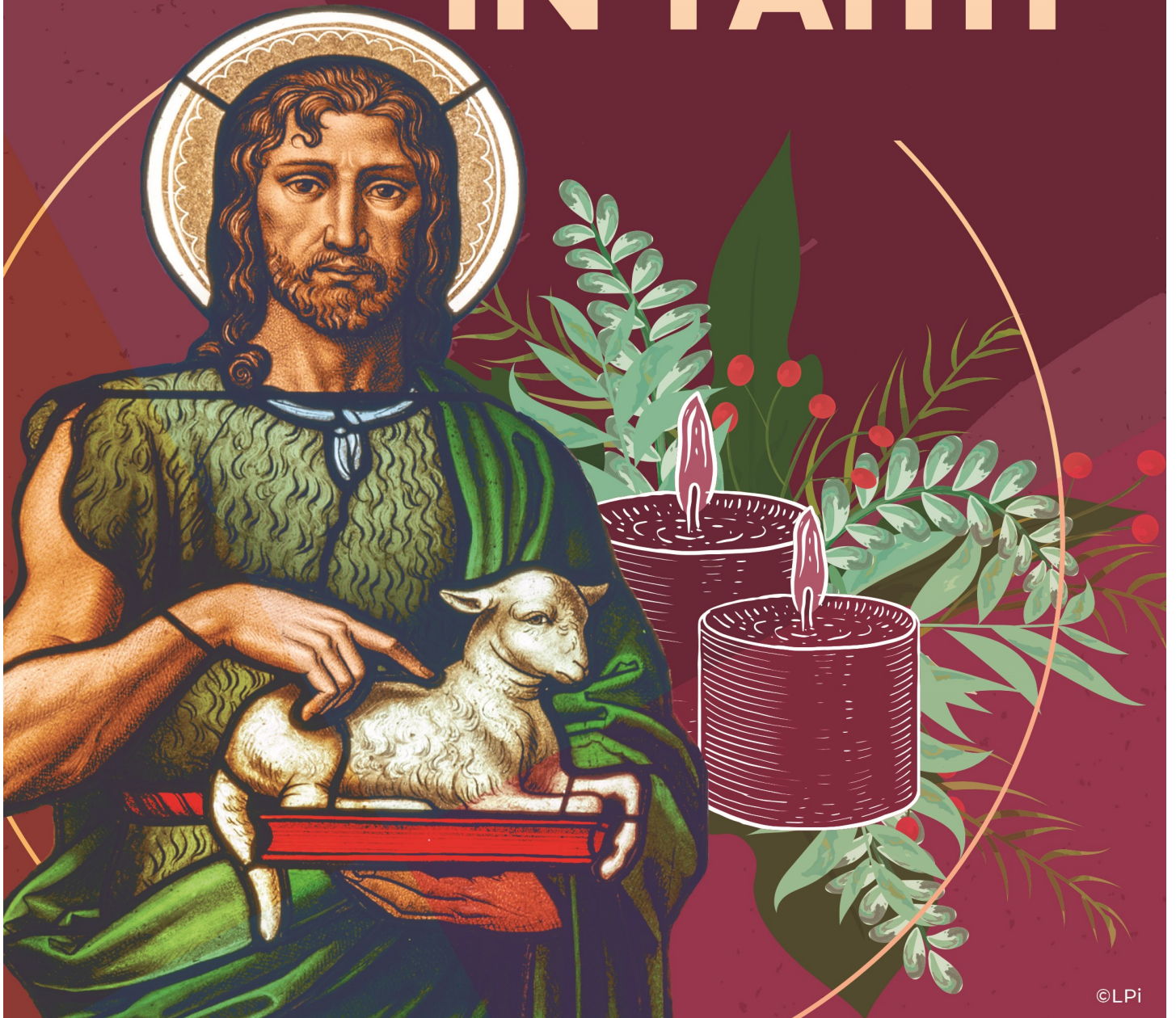


SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Diocese of Peoria ~ Princeton, Illinois  
Sunday, December 8, 2024

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOLD ON  
IN FAITH



## PASTOR NOTE

**Immaculate Conception:** The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is the Church's annual celebration remembering that Mary was conceived without sin. It is the patronal feast day of the United States and the Diocese of Peoria. It is usually a Holy Day of Obligation. However, this year its celebration does not follow the usual manner because December 8<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday. The celebration of the Second Sunday of Advent (this year, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>) takes priority over the celebration of the Immaculate Conception. This year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is moved to Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Tylka has dispensed the diocese from the usual obligation to attend Mass. There is no obligation to attend Mass. However, considering that it is such an important feast, Mass will be offered on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7am and at 5:15pm.

**Advent Retreat:** Everyone is invited to the parish Advent Retreat on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **Christmas Mass Schedule:**

Tues. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: 4pm, 7pm, 10pm

Wed. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>: 9am

**Christmas Extra Confessions:** Wed. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, 5pm. Fri. Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30am. Sat. Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, 3pm and 5pm. Sun. Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11:30am. Mon. Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm. Tue. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 31<sup>st</sup> beginning at 7pm in Harkrader Hall. The usual first Saturday Wine and Cheese Social of Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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, Desclee and Co., Belgium, 1951.

To avoid sin is not sufficient; we must grow in perfection. Here again, what is the great stumbling-block if not the love of pleasure and a dread of the cross? How many would wish to be better than they are, to aim at perfection, were it not that they shrink from the effort required, from the trials sent by God to His best friends? Such persons must be frequently reminded of what St. Paul said time and again to the first Christians, that is to say, that life is a struggle; that we should blush for shame if we show less courage than those who strive for an earthly reward and who in order to assure victory deprive themselves of sundry pleasures, willingly submitting to a stern and arduous discipline: "And indeed that they may receive a corruptible crown: but we an incorruptible one." Do we dread pain? Let us ponder the terrible sufferings of Purgatory which will be our lot for years should we persist in living heedless of mortification and ready to wiser are the children of this world! Many a one undergoes hard labor and at times endures harsh treatment that he may earn a living and secure decent comfort in his declining years; and we would be loath to impose a hardship on ourselves for the sake of an eternal abode in the kingdom of heaven! Is this rational?

We must, then, realize that there is no perfection, no possible attainment of virtue without the practice of mortification. How can we be chaste without deadening that sensuality that urges us so strongly toward evil and dangerous pleasures? How can we be temperate unless we curb our greediness? How practice poverty, nay justice, if we do onto combat greed? How be humble, meek, kind, if we exercise no control over the passions of pride, anger, envy, jealousy, that lurk in the recesses of every heart? There is not one virtue which, in our fallen condition, we can practice for any length of time without effort, without struggle and, hence, without the practice of mortification. We can, therefore, say that "Just as a lack of mortification is the cause of all our vice, mortification is the foundation and the source of all our virtues."

We can go further and add that mortification, notwithstanding the privations and sufferings it imposes, is even here on earth rich in goods of the highest order. The mortified Christian is as a rule more truly happy than the worldling who abandons himself to every pleasure. This is what our Lord Himself teaches when He says: "Every one that has left house or brethren... shall receive a hundredfold and shall possess life everlasting."

## Parish Staff

<b>Pastor</b>	Msgr. James E. Kruse, JCL jameskruse1996@gmail.com cell: 309-634-5822
<b>Deacon</b>	John Murphy dcjohnmurphy@icloud.com Cell: 815-878-4723 Hm: 646-4723
<b>Trustees</b>	Dan Legner Mary Paula Schmitt
<b>Admin Assistant</b>	Paula Lough
<b>Business Manager</b>	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>Catechetical Assistant</b>	Bethany Brigham stl.bethanybrigham@gmail.com
<b>Maintenance</b>	Tim Hermeyer
<b>Janitors</b>	Tim, Emily and Aggie Smith
<b>Magi Baby Chest Director</b>	Jessica Murphy stl.jessicamurphy@gmail.com
<b>Magi Baby Chest Asst. Director</b>	Ashley Gray stl.ashleygray@gmail.com
<b>Music Director</b>	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](http://www.stlouisprinceton.org)  
YouTube Channel: [youtube.com/user/stlouisprinceton](https://youtube.com/user/stlouisprinceton)  
FaceBook Page: [www.facebook.com/stlouisprinceton](https://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](http://stlouiscatholicchurch.flocknote.com)

## MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 9 *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
**\*7:00am** +Liz Dahlen by Tom & Colleen Yucas  
**\*5:15pm** +Richard Bloch by the Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, December 10 *Our Lady of Loreto*  
5:15pm +Hilaire & Frances Castelein  
by Paul & Bridgette Castelein  
4:00-5:00pm Holy Hour

Wednesday, December 11 *St. Damasus I, Pope*  
7:00am +Bill Sharkey by Annette Hulslander

Thursday, December 12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*  
5:15pm +Phyllis Sims by Joe Kunkel Family  
4:00-5:00pm Holy Hour

Friday, December 13 *St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*  
7:00am +Beth Uher by Bill & Janet Politsch

Saturday, December 14 *Vigil of the 3rd Sunday of Advent*  
4:00pm +Rick Taylor by The Taylor Family

Sunday, December 15 *3rd Sunday of Advent*  
7:30am +Connie Helms by Carl & Rita Pacunas  
9:00am People of the Parish  
10:30am +Mary McCauley by Don & Diane Evans

**\*Monday, December 9th: Mass times will be 7am & 5:15pm for The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is the patronal feast day of the United States and the Diocese of Peoria. (Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)**



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!***

**OUR LADY**  
OF  
*Guadalupe*  
PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**PRAY FOR US**  
**DECEMBER 12**

## THANK YOU!

To all who donated food and volunteered for the 24th Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner. It was a wonderful success and 260 dinners were provided!  
-Kathy Farrell



“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*

## Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

### 4pm Saturday, December 14th

Altar Servers: Gabby & Gretchen Carden  
 EMHC: Lynn Delaney, Mandy Robinson  
 Lectors: Julie Hassler  
 Sacristan: Julie Hassler  
 Ushers: Dan & Cynthia Tracy

### 7:30 am: Sunday, December 15th

Altar Servers: *Servers needed, please check in at Sacristy*  
 EMHC: Mary Beth Crowe, Rita Tracey  
 Lectors: Mary Murphy  
 Sacristan: Lori Atilano  
 Ushers: Wayne Stone, Tom Tracey

### 9:00 am: Sunday, December 15th

Altar Servers: Jessica Carlone, Sylvie Viger  
 EMHC: Tracy Makransky, Gene Menard  
 Lectors: Steve Bouslog  
 Sacristan: Quint Quiram  
 Camera Operator: Marty Makransky  
 Ushers: Dan Legner, Quint Quiram, Jim Whiteaker

### 10:30 am: Sunday, December 15th

Altar Servers: Jackson Mason, Luke Smith  
 EMHC: Linda Carter, Tim Smith  
 Lectors: David Roden  
 Sacristan: Linda Carter  
 Ushers: Bart & Anthony Maciczak, Michael Ellis

**EMHC Homebound:** Mandy Robinson - North  
 Tracy Makransky - 9/North  
 Gene Menard - 9/South

**EMHC for Nursing Home:** Cindy Behrends & Pam Whiteaker  
 - Goldwater; Mary Beth Crowe - Hawthorne; Paula Lough &  
 Shirley Steele- Greenfield; Rita Tracey - Liberty

### Readings for the week of December 8th

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2,3,4,5,6(3)/Phil 1:4,6,8-11/Lk 3:1-6  
 Monday: Gn 3:9-15,20/Ps 98:1,2,3ab,3cd,4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38  
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2,3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14  
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2,3,4,8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30  
 Thursday: Zec 2:14-17/Jdt 13:18bcd, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47  
 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2,3,4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19  
 Saturday: Sr 48:1-4,9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
 Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/b/s 122:3,4,5,6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Welcome to  
 the newest  
 members of our  
 Catholic  
 Christian family!



### Erica White-Hart

who was confirmed on October 24, 2024

### Owen Lundeen

who received First Communion and  
 was confirmed on November 1, 2024

## 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 November 24, 2024

Amount Budgeted	\$6,975.00
Amount Received	<u>\$5,532.00</u>
Amount Over (Under)	( \$1,443.00 )

### Through December 1, 2024

Amount Budgeted	\$6,975.00
Amount Received	<u>\$7,379.00</u>
Amount Over (Under)	\$ 404.00

### Fiscal Period July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Amount needed to date:	\$153,450.00
Amount Received to date:	<u>\$151,928.00</u>
Over/(Under) budget to date:	( \$ 1,522.00 )

### SEMINARIAN SUPPORT

**\$1,745.00**

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE:** The weekend of November 24th, the Knights of Columbus collected 204 nonperishable food items and \$1,390 in monetary donations for the Bureau County Food Pantry. About one-half of the items were high need, the rest were Thanksgiving related. The Pantry staff was pleased with both the quantity and quality of the items donated. St' Louis parishioners have now given 30,347 nonperishable food items and \$205,636 in monetary donations since the Knights started collecting for the Pantry in August of 2012. Thanks to all who have shared their "treasure" with the less fortunate of our community. God bless you!

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



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

Mark your calendar for the St. Louis Parish New Year's Eve Party on Tuesday, December 31st beginning at 7pm in Harkrader Hall.

**ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY**

**Christmas Party:** The Altar & Rosary Christmas Party will be held Tuesday, December 10th at 6pm in Harkrader Hall. Please remember to bring your layette for the Christ Child Society.

**Christmas Memorial Flowers:** An order form for Christmas Memorial Flowers is available on the information tables. Please complete the form and return it with your donation in the collection basket, or to the church office by Thursday, December 19th. Please carefully print all names. If you have any questions, please call Ginger Murphy at 815-878-4731.

**Angel Tree:**

The Angel Tree is decorated with ornaments! Each ornament identifies a gift for a client at Gateway Center. As you take an ornament, please record your name and phone number next to the corresponding ornament number on the donation list located on the podium by the tree. The wrapped gifts can be placed under the Angel tree by **Saturday, December 14th**. 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).

**The Annual Christmas Cookie Walk** will be held in Harkrader Hall **after** all Masses this Saturday, December 7th and Sunday December 8th. Please join us to start the Holiday Season with donuts & coffee after the Sunday, 9am Mass. Thank you! Pat Galassi-Carlson, Chairman Christmas Cookie Walk 815-719-2752

**MAGI BABY CHEST**

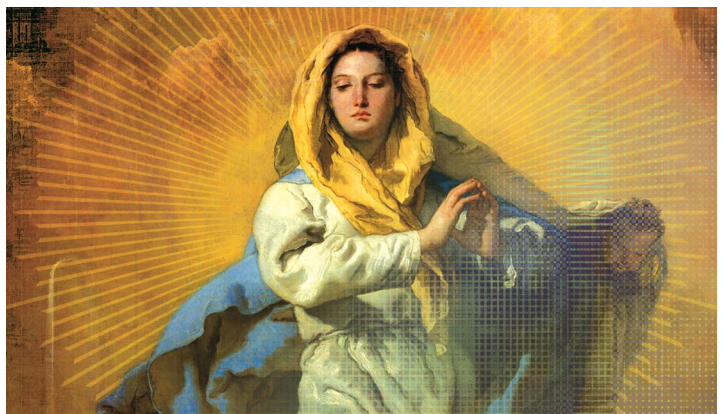


We had a very successful distribution this Saturday! Further details to follow. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies and nativity sets. It really spread Christmas joy to our families!

A **BIG** thank you to Susan Barlow and Rachel Bystry for offering to donate their famous cheesecakes to the Valentine Magi Gala! We will have enough for ALL the guests and it is such a blessing for our event. We can't wait to eat them! If you haven't already, don't forget to get your tickets online or at the parish office. Invites located around the church entrances and online at [www.stlouisprinceton.org/magi-baby-chest](http://www.stlouisprinceton.org/magi-baby-chest).

Another THANK YOU to the Evangelical Covenant Church and St. Patrick's in Sheffield for doing their annual Christmas giving tree for us again this year. We receive so many baby supplies from them over the holidays and we are so grateful to have such charitable members of our community.

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.



FEAST OF THE

**IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION**



©LPI

*Monday, December 9th*

*"O Mary, Conceived Without Sin, Pray for Us Who Have Recourse to Thee"*