

## Good News

### First Sunday of Advent

*Mary Katharine Deeley*

We begin this Church year as we left the last one— with a description of the signs that will come before Christ appears. But where Mark warns of the coming judgment for the enemies of God, Luke, with great subtlety, shifts the nuance so that people will hear the hope of salvation. “Stand erect and raise your head,” he calls out. At the end of the Church year, we meditate on Christ’s coming in glory to judge the living and the dead. In the beginning, we remember the Incarnation: God’s emptying himself to become fully human and to come into the world. Both events are heralded by and will mean great change for us and for the world.

Change happens when God breaks into the world, regardless of the time. In account after account in the Bible, we watch as God visits people and changes their names (Abraham and Peter), their lives (Jeremiah, the apostles, the woman at the well), and heals their separation and brokenness (the blind man, the paralytic, and Lazarus). Also, sinners are punished (Dives and Jezebel) and landscapes are altered (Isaiah’s vision of valleys lifted up and mountains laid low). This saving action continues throughout history, especially within the Church and among the saints.

Advent is a time to remember that Christ came to change the world and each of us. Have we allowed ourselves to be changed? Are we willing to be shaped by the hand of God, called by a different name, and given a place in Christ’s mission? Let’s hope so because, ready or not, here he comes.

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## Masses

Sun.	7:30	+John Francis Kearney
	9:00	+Jim Hill
	10:30	+ Mary Jorgensen
	12:00	Parish
	6:00	+Sean Michael Bolton
Mon.	6:15	+Luke Schanzer
	8:15	Special Intention for Maury Wade III & Mary Catherine Costello
	12:00	Special Intention for Clay & Casey Tidwell’s 40th Anniversary
Tues.	6:15	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
	8:15	Special Intention for Mike Denegri
	12:00	+Jim Craven
Wed.	6:15	+Frank Novarese
	8:15	Special Intention for John & Ann Carroll
	12:00	+John & +Lorraine Hough & Special Intention for Annette Mariencheck
Thurs.	6:15	+Edward & Mae Boywid
	8:15	+Bob & +Eleanor Hunting
	12:00	+Catherine Ann Mack
Fri.	6:15	Miracle for Clare Marie Wilson
	8:15	Special Intention
	12:00	+Anthony Lucchesi
Sat.	6:15	Miracle for Clare Marie Wilson
	8:15	+Robert Crenshaw
	4:30	+Jim Bedwell

Prayers are requested for the sick: Don Dowling+Peggie Sue Weir+Tim Corrigan+Jean Donati+Frankie Stentz+Danette Brown+Thomas Holland+Deacon Jim Champion+Sarah Beth Overcash+Duane Sell+Brennan Griffin.

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Lem Eatherly.

## Information

**Sacrament of Baptism**—Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays following noon Mass. Parents are asked to attend an instructional class prior to the baptism. Please call the parish office to schedule a baptism.

**Adults interested in the Catholic Faith**—to learn more about the Catholic Faith, please contact Deacon Jeff Drzycimski at 682-6606, ext. 1953 for information about our R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program.

**Sacrament of Marriage**—Please contact one of the priests for an appointment at least 6 months in advance of the proposed wedding date. Diocesan policy requires that certain guidelines be met.

**Funerals**—please call the parish office to make funeral arrangements; our staff will be happy to assist you.

**Ministry to the Sick**—When a family member is ill, home-bound, or hospitalized, please call the parish office to request prayers and to arrange a pastoral visit. The priests and our lay Ministers to the Sick make regular visits to the sick and home-bound.

**Counseling Services**—St. Louis Parish participates in the Parish Family Counseling Program of the Diocese of Memphis. Professional available; fees are based on one’s ability to pay. Contact Anne McInnis at 722-4711.

**Nursery**—a nursery is provided in the Clunan Center each weekend at 4:30 pm, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, and noon Masses on Sunday.

# November 29, 2015— First Sunday of Advent

## ADVENT CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK

Confessions will be held on **Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** and **Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 5-6pm.



## YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

Junior and Senior High Youth Groups will meet on **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. Junior High Youth Group will meet from 4:30-5:45pm and Senior High Youth Group will meet from 7-9pm. Both groups meet in the St. John Paul II Youth Ministry Center. For the calendar and other information, visit [www.stlouisyouth.org](http://www.stlouisyouth.org). You may also visit the Facebook page at St. Louis Catholic Church Youth Ministry and follow the Youth Group on Twitter at [St\\_Louis\\_Youth](https://twitter.com/St_Louis_Youth) and on Instagram at [st.louis\\_youth\\_ministry](https://www.instagram.com/st.louis_youth_ministry).

## ADVENT SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Here is a chance, as a family, to do a positive simple service for Advent. St. Louis has over 300 homebound and/or active older parishioners. Each Christmas we deliver a flower to them from the church. Msgr. McArthur is asking for families to volunteer to deliver just one—yes, just one flower to these families. God will bless your service and generosity. Deliveries will begin **Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Flowers, recipient's name and a map to their home may be picked up in the church office.



## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

During the month of November, every year we remember our loved ones who have died. We invite you to write the names of your beloved in the Book of Remembrance which will be located in the Narthex throughout November. This book will be a sign of our prayers for all those deceased and of our communion with them through the death and resurrection of Christ.

## DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET SIGN UP

In honor of the year of Mercy, Msgr. McArthur is starting the Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Church. The Chaplet will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 2:30pm (so moms picking up kids can attend). It will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:45am (following the children's mass). We are in need of volunteers on every day but Wednesdays. Please contact Susan Smith at [Sbsmith408@aol.com](mailto:Sbsmith408@aol.com) or Libby Parks at [libbykpark@gmail.com](mailto:libbykpark@gmail.com).

## FEAST OF

### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is on **Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Mass will be celebrated at 6pm on **Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** and at 6:15am, 8:15am, 12noon and 6pm on **Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**. *This is a Holyday of Obligation.*

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

### PROVIDING HELP BRINGING HOPE CAMPAIGN

Please support the work of Catholic Charities of West Tennessee during this season of Advent and their annual Providing Help....Bringing Hope campaign. Camp Love & Learn is their annual summer camp for at-risk youth. You may donate at [ccwtn.org](http://ccwtn.org) or by returning the envelope found in the pews. There will be a second collection this weekend **Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>** for the campaign.

## SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

The second collection next weekend **Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** will be for the St. Louis chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

## CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

At Christmas Masses, lovely poinsettias decorate the altars. If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special, please use the envelope in your packet. Your donation will be recognized in the bulletin Christmas weekend. Deadline for donations is **Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**.



## PERPETUAL ADORATION

Signups will be held on **Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** in the Narthex following all Masses. A chart will be available showing the days and times adorers are most needed.

Visit [www.tinyurl.com/SLCCAdoration](http://www.tinyurl.com/SLCCAdoration) to sign up to volunteer for one hour per week or as a substitute.

The only slot with **no** adorer is **Saturdays at 12pm**. Many slots have only one adorer and there is a great need to have at least two adorers per shift.

Contact Jan O'Donnell with questions by email at [jan.odonnell@stlouis.cdom.org](mailto:jan.odonnell@stlouis.cdom.org) or call 255-1954.

## ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet on **Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** from 10:30-11:30am in the Clunan Center.

## EKKLESIA THURSDAY



Advent is upon us, which means it is time once again to contemplate the coming of Christ 2,000 years ago (as well as His coming again at the end of time). And so we welcome the Christmas season as the perfect opportunity to study the teaching and tradition to which our Catholic faith bears witness. Delving into Sacred Scripture is one way to do this. So, what do Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John say about Christmas and how do they prepare us for the Advent season? Our very special guest (and St Louis Church parishioner) Patrick Gray, professor of religious studies at Rhodes College, will lead us in a study of the distinctive contributions these Gospel writers make to the Christian tradition. The program is entitled, "Advent, the Gospel and the Gospels."

Join us for a very special Advent edition of Ekklesia Thursday in the Clunan Center on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Dinner will be served at 6pm and the cost is only \$5.00 per person. You **MUST** sign up by 3pm on **Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** so that we know how many dinners to order. Reservations for dinner, childcare and to volunteer may be made by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/StLouisEkklesia> or calling the church office at 682-6606. Babysitting will be provided if 5 or more children are signed up.

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

On **Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm we will have our Christmas potluck dinner in the Clunan Center after the Immaculate Conception Mass at 6pm. RSVP to Linda Clark phone 569-1355. Thank you for your continued generosity. We hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving. God bless!



## A ROSARY INVITATION

All our welcome to join a group to pray a rosary for our priests/church, city, country and world at St. Louis Church on the first Thursday of every month at 7pm. Our rosary will be on **Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. For more information contact Susan Smith at 755-9447.

## FLEUR DE LIS

The holiday season is upon us! Our Christmas dinner will be a traditional ham dinner with all the fixings and it will be held in the Dining Hall on **Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**. We welcome the church choir again this year. Call Cathy or Fred at 685-1934 by **Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** to make your reservation. Members who have paid their dues eat free, for everyone else it is \$8 per person. We will collect canned goods to donate to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.



## ROSARY BRIGADE INTENTION

Pray that Advent is a time for us to strengthen our commitment to our Christian faith.

## NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading	Baruch 5:1-9
Psalm	Psalm 126
Second Reading	Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Gospel	Luke 3:1-6

## PRAYERS FOR THE ARMED FORCES

Please keep the men and women serving in Iraq, and other conflict areas around the world, in your prayers as well as their families. Pray especially for Jonathan Paul Morales, Robert Bender, Desiree Bender, Brad Israel, Capt. Charlie Kennedy, and Philip Principi.

## OFFERTORY REPORT

Week of November 22, 2015

Total collection	<b>\$38,712</b>
Envelopes	32,351
Electronic	4,896
Loose	1,465
Budget requirements	\$40,385
Total registered families	<b>1,711</b>
Donated by envelopes	414 families
Donated electronically	73 families
Non-participants	1,224 families
28% of families participated . . . <b>72% did not</b>	
Visit <a href="http://www.stlouischurchmphis.org">www.stlouischurchmphis.org</a> to give online.	

## LEBONHEUR

Thank you to all of the angels who help with the LeBonheur Ministry. St. Louis Parish was named the *2015 Faith Connection Group of the Year* by LeBonheur. There is a plaque honoring our group on the table outside the church office. Next lunch is **Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**. Check our sign up at: [www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0948fae2c7-parish](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0948fae2c7-parish). Call Cathy at 685-1934 or 496-2025.



## SAA-SDS GINGERBREAD HOUSE

St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School invites you to The Gingerbread House—A Sweet Shopping Extravaganza on **Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**. The Gingerbread House features over 60 vendors! There is a Ladies Night Preview Party on **Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** from 6:30-9:30pm. Cost for Ladies Night is \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. The Gingerbread House is open for shopping **Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** from 8am-4pm and admission is \$5. Santa will stop by from 10am-2pm. For more information, contact ebennet@saa-sds.org or call 435-5826.