

Good News

Second Sunday of Advent

Mary Katharine Deeley

One of the most memorable questions I have ever been asked came out of a conversation with a spiritual director. During my marriage-preparation retreat, he asked about the upcoming wedding. I told him about all the preparations and how I felt like I was on top of things. He gently said, "I know you are prepared, but are you ready?" It was the first time I really thought about the difference. We were certainly prepared. The flowers had been ordered, the ceremony set, and the caterer knew exactly what we wanted. We were in control. But being ready for the great unknown of marriage, a lifelong vocation, was another thing altogether. Being ready suggested that we won't always be in control and that, no matter what happens, we were in it for life and would face whatever comes together.

The prophet Isaiah describes John the Baptist as the one who prepares the way of the Lord. He will do this by preaching to and baptizing those who come to him. The preparation for the coming Messiah is in his hands. He poses the question, "Are you ready for the one who is to come?" Thinking beyond our religious practices and Christmas preparations, what does that really mean for us? Maybe this year it means looking into our own hearts for the longing for Christ. Perhaps we will make a room for him in our busy lives and our busier thoughts. We might even stop our preparations long enough to remember just who is coming and invite him in. Are you ready?

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Masses

Sun.	7:30	Parish
	9:00	+Sue Hughes
	10:30	Special Intention for the Houston Family
	12:00	+Mimi Uhlmann
	6:00	+Theresa Higgins & +Jeanne Fisher
Mon.	6:15	Special Intention for Johnny Costello
	8:15	Special Intention for Mary Catherine & Carter
	12:00	+James Boone
	6:00	Special Intention for Betty Gorman
Tues.	6:15	+Luke Schanzer
	8:15	+Grace Catherine Goodwin
	12:00	+Lewis Perkins
	6:00	Special Intention for Sonya Davis
Wed.	6:15	Special Intention for John Paul Nelson
	8:15	+Gordon Wills
	12:00	+Michael Dorian
Thurs.	6:15	+Bob & +Eleanor Hunting
	8:15	+Ann Breaux & Special Intention for Wilson & Winnie Nelson
	12:00	+Betty Craven Hayes
Fri.	6:15	Special Intention for Jan Glaser
	8:15	Special Intention for Pat Joseph & Elizabeth Ann Gorman
	12:00	+Joseph & +Marion Gatti
Sat.	6:15	Special Intention for Marx Pilapil
	8:15	Special Intention for Bob Winterrowd
	4:30	Special Intention for Bridgett & Johnny Costello

Prayers are requested for the sick: Tim Corrigan+Jean Donati+Danette Brown+Brennan Griffin+Stephanie Podraza+Kimberly Newport+Grady Hurley+Joy Wills.

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Leo Butler+Lance Strode+Deacon Jim Champion.

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.

December 6th, 2015— Second Sunday of Advent

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Pope Francis has called for a special Jubilee Year of Mercy to begin this **Tuesday, December 8th**, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. St. Louis Parish will participate in this Year of Mercy by offering the Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Church at 2:30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and following the 8:15am school Masses on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Special confession times and other programs will also be offered.

On **Sunday, December 13th** at 10:30am Mass, Msgr. John McArthur will celebrate the *Rite of Opening the Door of Mercy*. In Catholic tradition, the Holy Door represents the passage to salvation—the path to a new and eternal life, which was opened to humanity by Jesus. Churches in Dioceses around the world will celebrate this rite to begin the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Volunteers are needed to lead the Divine Mercy Chaplet. To volunteer, contact Susan Smith at Sbsmith408@aol.com or Libby Parks at libbykparcs@gmail.com.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK

Confessions will be held on **Tuesday, December 8th** and **Thursday, December 10th** from 5-6pm.



YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

SPECIAL GUEST—PJ ANDERSON

St. Louis Youth Ministry is excited to again present Nashville Contemporary Catholic Singer/Songwriter PJ Anderson at both Youth Group meetings this Sunday! Junior and Senior High Youth Groups will meet on **Sunday, December 6th**. 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. 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).



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

On **Monday, December 7th** 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!

FEAST OF

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

SECOND COLLECTION

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

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

The Second Collection on **Saturday, December 12th** and **Sunday, December 13th** will be for the Retirement Fund for the Religious.

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 8th**. Flowers, recipient's name and a map to their home may be picked up in the church office.



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 21st**.



PERPETUAL ADORATION

Signups will be held on **Saturday, December 5th** and **Sunday, December 6th** 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 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 or call 255-1954.



ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Please join the Altar Guild for Mass and a luncheon at noon on **Monday, December 14th** in the home of Anita Harris, 6811 Briarmeadows Dr. All ladies are invited and welcome to attend.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet on **Wednesday, December 23rd** from 10:30-11:30am in the Clunan Center.

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 17th**. We welcome the church choir again this year. Call Cathy or Fred at 685-1934 by **Monday, December 14th** 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.



ST. LOUIS CHOIR

How much do you love Christmas music? How often do you catch yourself singing at the top of your lungs to Christmas music in your car? Would you like to perform Christmas music in a group?

If the answer to any of the above questions is "Yes," then you should join the St. Louis Choir! There is still plenty of time to prepare for Christmas during Advent. Please email Choir Director Ray Mullins at rmullins@stlouismemphis.org.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

St. Louis Church and School will again sponsor a Giving Tree for Christmas. Tags stating items needed will be in baskets in the Narthex and in the hallways outside the church office. Please take a tag and return the unwrapped gift to the church office, with the tag attached, by **Sunday, December 20th**. All gifts will be distributed by Catholic Charities.

ANGEL OF HOPE

The Angel of Hope Memphis welcomes those interested to attend a candle lighting service at the Angel of Hope here at St. Louis Catholic Church on **Sunday, December 6th** at 7pm.

ROSARY BRIGADE INTENTION

Pray for our young parishioners who will receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on **Saturday, December 12th**.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Psalm Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)
Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel Luke 3:10-18

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 29, 2015

Total collection	\$35,553
Envelopes	27,860
Electronic	6,671
Loose	1,022
Budget requirements	\$40,385
Total registered families	1,711
Donated by envelopes	379 families
Donated electronically	77 families
Non-participants	1,255 families
27% of families participated . . . 73% did not	
Visit www.stlouischurchmphis.org to give online.	

SAVE THE DATE!

MEN'S CLUB RETREAT

The Men's Club Retreat will be held on **February 19th-21st** in Cullman, AL. Speaker is Fr. Mike Johnston, who is a friend of Msgr. McArthur's from Nashville.

SAVE THE DATE!

WOMEN'S MORNING OF SPIRITUALITY

Women's Morning of Spirituality: **Saturday, April 9th** at the Church of the Incarnation from 8:15am-1:30pm with a Continental Breakfast beginning at 7:15am. Keynote Speaker is Kelly Nieto. Witness Speaker is: Leslie Harden. Music with Bethany and Kevin Paige. Celebration concludes with Mass.

LEBONHEUR

Thank you to all of the angels who help with the LeBonheur Ministry. Next lunch is **Saturday, December 19th**. Check our sign up at: www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0948afae2c7-parish. Call Cathy at 685-1934 or 496-2025.

PRISON MINISTRY

Each Christmas, we supply 600 inmates of C.C.A. Prison in Mason, Tennessee, a Christmas package containing a white towel, large bar of soap, large toothpaste, pen, and four Christmas cards. We would appreciate cash or check donations so the items may be purchased in bulk. Donations may be left in the church office. Christmas cards will be needed to fill the packages.

SAVE THE DATE!

MARDI GRAS DINNER & PARADE

The St. Louis Men's Club will sponsor the annual Mardi Gras Dinner and Parade on **Saturday, January 30th**. The theme will be "Favorite Sports Teams". Email Greg Crone for information at croneg@bellsouth.net.

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. Did you know they have a program called St. Sebastian Veterans Services which works with Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness? Donate at ccwtn.org or return the envelope found in the narthex with check payable to Catholic Charities.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

Tuesday, December 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the Clunan Center Meeting Room, there will be a Baptismal Preparation Class. Parents planning to have a child baptized are expected to attend one of these sessions. Contact the church office at 682-6606 to register.

QUEEN OF PEACE

Rosary, Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration begin at 6:00 p.m. on **Monday, December 14th** at St. Louis Church. Mass begins at 7:00 p.m.

SERRA CLUB HOLY HOUR

The Serra Club of Memphis will hold its monthly Holy Hour on **Thursday, December 10th** at 7pm at St. Louis Church. The Holy Hour is dedicated to praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. All Catholics are welcome.

WEDNESDAY EVENING GLOW RUNS

We start our runs every Wednesday at 6pm sharp, no matter the weather. Walkers welcome! Meet us on the north side of the Clunan Center before we start to get the route. Wear reflective gear and bring something that glows or a runners lite, the more colors the better! For more info or to get on the weekly email list, contact Ray Johnson at ray@johnson.org or text/call 704-281-4575.

ROOM IN THE INN

"For I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." Matthew 25:35



St. Louis Parish is participating in a ministry in Memphis called Room in the Inn by sponsoring and running the Inn ten nights this winter in partnership with Colonial Cumberland Presbyterian Church (1500 S. Perkins Rd.). We will feed, shelter and provide fellowship to 12-14 homeless men and women on our scheduled nights. Donations of new socks and underwear are greatly needed and financial donations to defray costs of supplies would be very welcome. A warm place on a cold night can mean the difference between life and death. We need your help. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/SLCRITI> to volunteer. For information call Pam Scarbrough at 763-0295 or Ann Drennan at 674-2117.

Parish Religious Education News

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS NEEDED

St. Louis Church is seeking three additional volunteer teachers for Parish Religious Education classes. PRE is offered for grades Kindergarten through 8th for students who do not attend Catholic schools. Parishioners willing to assist in these programs are asked to contact Sonya Fleck at 921-1833.

R.C.I.A.

RCIA, or the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, is the process through which non-Catholics come into the Catholic Church. For more information, contact Deacon Jeff Drzycimski, Director of Religious Education, at 682-6606, ext. 1953, or deaconjeff@thecatholiccafe.com.



Canon Center
3PM, Dec 13th
Tickets available through TicketMaster.com