

## Good News

### Third Sunday of Advent

*Mary Katharine Deeley*

I love waterfalls. When I am out hiking, I will take any side path that leads to a waterfall. The first time I swam in a waterfall pool was memorable. I am not sure where this love came from, but there is something about the motion and sound of the water as it is falling that soothes my mind and enlivens my soul. I also know that waterfalls can be dangerous: The force of the water can sweep everything over the edge. Still, when Jesus refers to his living water in the encounter with the woman at the well (John 4), I immediately think of water falling into a pool and the abundant life that grows around the area.

For Christians, water signifies both life and death. At creation, God said, "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures" (Genesis 1:20). God then used the waters of a flood to destroy wickedness on earth (while saving Noah and others). Water washes us clean and keeps us alive. On a recent trip to Israel, I had an opportunity to stand in the Jordan River and renew my own baptismal vows. I was struck by the power of the words and the coolness of the water. It also occurred to me that simply renewing my vows was not enough. Our promise, inherent in the Creed, is that we will live a life transformed by grace with the help of the Holy Spirit. That is both comforting and challenging. But Jesus, who is living water, whose Spirit brings us life and whose fire is ready to purify and make us ready, is with us now and forever.

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## Masses

Sun.	7:30	+Maureen O'Connell Shuler
	9:00	+Mimi Uhlmann
	10:30	Parish
	12:00	+Allen & +Armantine Keller
	6:00	+Virginia Walsh & +Sean Michael Bolton
Mon.	6:15	Special Intention for Pat Joseph & Elizabeth Ann Gorman
	8:15	+Theresa Higgins
	12:00	+Addie Mae Pugh
Tues.	6:15	+Dr. Samuel R. Thompson
	8:15	Special Intention for Edison Gorman
	12:00	+Theresa Higgins
Wed.	6:15	Special Intention for Oren Haddock
	8:15	Special Intention for Mary Francis Sky
	12:00	+Catherine & Steve Casey & Special Intention for Kay & Daniel Yancey
Thurs.	6:15	Special Intention for John Riley
	8:15	+Richard W. Walpole
	12:00	Special Intention for Winnie & Wilson Nelson
Fri.	6:15	+Gordon Wills
	8:15	Special Intention for Tony Maranise
	12:00	+Dr. Fox Miller
Sat.	6:15	+Andy & +Laura Blalack
	8:15	+Secunda Mangialardi & Special Intention for Mary Daisy
	4:30	+Ed Crenshaw & +Joan Rutschman Naramore

Prayers are requested for the sick: Tim Corrigan+Jean Donati+Danette Brown+Brennan Griffin+Stephanie Podraza+Kimberly Newport+Grady Hurley+Joy Wills+Lewis Proctor+Paul Zoccola+Gloria Andereck+Theresa Peribery+Karen Mustachia+Jean Thomas.

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Fr. Joseph Paolozzi+John Caradonna+Aline Wray.

## 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015— Third Sunday of Advent

## JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Pope Francis has called for a special Jubilee Year of Mercy. On **Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** 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.

St. Louis Parish offer 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. Volunteers are needed to lead the Divine Mercy Chaplet. To volunteer, contact Susan Smith at [Sbsmith408@aol.com](mailto:Sbsmith408@aol.com) or Libby Parks at [libbykparcs@gmail.com](mailto:libbykparcs@gmail.com).

## THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

**"No one can be excluded from God's mercy,"**

**Pope Francis**

Below are the Corporal and Spiritual Acts of Mercy. We are called this year to act personally and collectively.

### The Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry  
Give drink to the thirsty  
Clothe the naked  
Shelter the homeless  
Visit the sick  
Visit the imprisoned  
Bury the dead

### The Spiritual Works of Mercy

Admonish the sinner  
Instruct the ignorant  
Counsel the doubtful  
Comfort the sorrowful  
Bear wrongs patiently  
Forgive all injuries  
Pray for the living  
and the dead

In the next year numerous events of prayer, devotion, education and ministry will be offered so that you can actively participate in the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The opposite of Mercy is Cruelty, or at best Apathy. Search for ways to increase mercy in this world.

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



## ADVENT CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK

Confessions will be held on **Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** from 5-6pm.



## SECOND COLLECTION

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

## CHRISTMAS SECOND COLLECTION

Each year at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, our parishes take up a Second Collection for Villa Vianney, the senior priests' residence. The funds we gather help to cover the costs of running Villa Vianney. Located in Cordova, the residence is a place for senior Diocesan priests to live comfortably and safely. Although the pace of life is slower at Villa Vianney, our senior priests continue to offer Masses for our intentions, support parishes while a pastor is away, and advise groups like Cursillo. Their priesthood lasts a lifetime, and they are still loved and still needed. Please give generously to the Second Collection to Villa Vianney.



## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve—Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
6:15am, 8:15am

Please note: No noon Mass on December 24<sup>th</sup>

Vigil Masses: 4:30pm (in Church & gym),  
6:30pm & Midnight Mass  
*Nursery offered at 4:30pm Mass Christmas Eve only*

Christmas Day—Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
9am, 10:30am & 12 noon  
(No 6pm Mass Christmas night)  
Nursery not open Christmas Day

## PERPETUAL ADORATION

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



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.

## 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>**.

## ALTAR GUILD MEETING

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

## TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

According to IRS regulations, for the church to post donations to the current year, your December dated check must be **in the church office** by **Thursday, December 31, 2015**. December dated checks collected at the December 31<sup>st</sup> Vigil Mass qualify for the current year tax substantiation. Checks received in the January 1<sup>st</sup> collection are posted to the new year regardless of the date on the check. If you bring your check to the church office, the envelope will be stamped with the date it was received to comply with IRS regulations. Thank you.

## ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet on **Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** 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 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.



## 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](mailto:rmullins@stlouismemphis.org).

## Banns of Marriage

Banns of Marriage are announced for the first time for **Rebecca Baucke** and **Lou Posey** and for **Chanler Hansen** and **Joel Stark**.

## ROSARY BRIGADE INTENTION

Pray that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord.

## NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading	Micah 5:1-4a
Psalm	Psalm 80
Second Reading	Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel	Luke 1:39-45

## 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 December 6, 2015

Total collection	<b>\$61,017</b>
Envelopes	52,813
Electronic	7,161
Loose	1,043
Budget requirements	\$40,385
Total registered families	<b>1,711</b>
Donated by envelopes	470 families
Donated electronically	76 families
Non-participants	1,165 families

32% of families participated . . . **68% did not**  
Visit [www.stlouischurchmphis.org](http://www.stlouischurchmphis.org) to give online.



## 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 20<sup>th</sup>**.

All gifts will be distributed by Catholic Charities. Volunteers are needed to help distribute gifts and food on **Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** and **Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** from 9:30am-12pm and from 1-3pm at Catholic Charities, 1325 Jefferson Ave. Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/GFGCDistro2015> or contact Lucie at 722-4797.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**MEN'S CLUB RETREAT**

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

**YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS**



Senior High Youth Group will meet from 7-9pm on **Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**. Junior High Youth Group will meet from 4:30-5:45pm on **Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**. 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 and on Instagram at st.louis\_youth\_ministry.

**YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER**

Lucchesi's Ravioli and Pasta Company will donate \$5 from the sale of each \$25 gift card purchased to St. Louis Youth Ministry. Deadline to order gift cards and receive them by Christmas is **Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**. Gift cards **must** be purchased by contacting Dan Wilson at [dan.wilson@mainline.com](mailto:dan.wilson@mainline.com) or 496-8870. Gift cards **may not** be purchased at the Lucchesi's store for this fundraiser.

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**

Patrick Koch, a Life Scout of Boy Scout Troop 341, is working on his Eagle Scout project of collecting new and used children's books for Catholic Charities. Your donations would be greatly appreciated. A collection box will be available in the Narthex of the Church for the next two weekends. You may also contact him at [pkoch@stu.cbhs.org](mailto:pkoch@stu.cbhs.org) or 692-0663. Thank you.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**WOMEN'S MORNING OF SPIRITUALITY**

Women's Morning of Spirituality: **Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>** 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 19<sup>th</sup>**. Check our sign up at: [www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0948afae2c7-parish](http://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.

**MARDI GRAS DINNER & PARADE**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual St Louis Mardi Gras Dinner and Parade will be held **Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>** at 6pm. Please come out for a fun evening of authentic Louisiana-themed food and an exciting Mardi Gras Parade. If you would like to enter a "float" in the parade, please contact Greg Crone at [croneg@bellsouth.net](mailto:croneg@bellsouth.net) or 359-2893 for more information.



**Home for Christmas**  
JOHN ANGOTTI  
Kallen  
Wendy MOTEN  
Canon Center  
3PM, Dec 13th  
Tickets available through [TicketMaster.com](http://TicketMaster.com)

**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 [ccwtwn.org](http://ccwtwn.org) or return the envelope found in the narthex with check payable to Catholic Charities.

**OFFERTORY CHECKS**

Many parishioners make their weekly offertory contribution by check and do not use their envelope. This requires the office staff to look up the account number. If you do not know your account number, please contact Anna Shelton at 255-1952 or [anna.shelton@stlouis.com.org](mailto:anna.shelton@stlouis.com.org).



**Pope Francis' Prayer for  
Jubilee Year of Mercy**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

**ROOM IN THE INN  
NEEDS YOUR HELP!**



Please look at our Signup Genius link <http://tinyurl.com/SLCRITI>.

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 especially need drivers and shepherds to spend the night. Donations of new socks and underwear for men and women are greatly needed. Also financial donations to defray costs of supplies would be most welcome. Remember, a warm place on a cold night can mean the difference between life and death. For information call Pam Scarbrough at 763-0295 or Ann Drennan at 674-2117.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

Thanks to Linda Clark and her 'grand helpers' for a wonderful SVDP Christmas dinner meeting after Immaculate Conception Mass Monday night. We had over 50 attend along with our Council President Gloria Hyden and Walk for the Poor Chair Amy Marcell plus all our priests. Last weekend was our envelope collection and we can always use more help. In November St. Louis SVDP helped 10 families as follows; 3 on MLGW for \$886.41, 4 on rent for \$1,000, 1 motel \$128.69, 1 heater \$117.93, 1 clothing \$25, + \$625 in Cash Saver food cards. Rick James, St. Louis Parishioner & owner of Cash Saver is very generous with SVDP by giving us free cards for clients. We also bought \$490.85 in M. Palazola produce that was given away at the Holy Names soup kitchen on Wednesdays by Marilyn Allen and her group that work the kitchen on Wednesdays. Our total expenditures for November \$3,764.73 to help the poor in Memphis. We appreciate St. Louis School; Teddi Niedzwiedz and Vickie Shaw for having a successful food drive that helped a lot of people Thanksgiving. Thanks to Msgrs McArthur for donating the Thanksgiving Mass food collection to SVDP. It will be used in December. Also thanks to Melyne Strickland and Haden Kane for coordinating St. Louis families with our SVDP friends that need help to provide clothing, food, toys and to make Christmas possible for many families. December is a hard month for many that ask for our help. If you would like to share with others, we can use home visitors plus donations. Thank you for your continued support. God bless.

**QUEEN OF PEACE**

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

***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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:deaconjeff@thecatholiccafe.com).