

Good News

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mary Katharine Deeley

Not long ago, I had the great opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Israel with a group of people. We began our journey each day in prayer. We visited many holy sites; we walked where Jesus walked. Each day our chaplain celebrated liturgy in one of the many churches that mark the location of significant stories in the Bible: where Jesus was born, where he died, where he celebrated his first miracle, at Cana. The prayer was profound, and the members of the group quickly became friends. We still greet each other with gladness and affection.

One of the more moving experiences was a visit to the Church of the Visitation. Located at the top of a small hill, the church welcomes visitors with a wide plaza and a wrought-iron entryway. Immediately to the right of the courtyard is a tall bronze statue of Mary and Elizabeth greeting each other. The figures are slender and visibly pregnant. The artist captured their joy with a slight arch in their backs, their arms beginning to ascend, and their heads lifted up as though laughing in delight. The statue made us smile.

I think about that statue now and believe this is how we should always greet the Lord—with delight, joy, and an understanding that we are pregnant with his grace and presence. We are called to reveal that presence to the whole world. In these last few days before Christmas, reflect on the ways you will show your joy in the Lord's coming.

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Masses

Sun.	7:30	+Maryann Alexander & +Gordon Wills, Sr.
	9:00	Parish
	10:30	+Margie Hardy
	12:00	+Harold Thomecvek
	6:00	+Carmen Guisandi
Mon.	6:15	Special Intention for Mary Alley
	8:15	Special Intention for Katie Scarlett Costello
	12:00	+Gary Pogson
Tues.	6:15	+Anthony & Catherine Cremerius
	8:15	+Chuck Gaia & Poor Souls in Purgatory
	12:00	+William Huntington & +Angelo Lucchesi
Wed.	6:15	+Luke & +Mary Borger
	8:15	+Andrew Welsh & Special Intention for Johnny Costello
	12:00	+Paul Saxon

Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are for Priest Intentions

Sat.	6:15	Special Intention for Elizabeth & Pat Gorman
	8:15	+Violet Mangialardi
	4:30	+Tom Crenshaw & +Jim Bedwell

Prayers are requested for the sick: Tim Corrigan+Jean Donati+Grady Hurley+Lewis Proctor+Paul Zoccola+Gloria Andereck+Trish Gurney+Walker Jackson Kiser+Kathleen Bryant.

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Jean Thomas.

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 20th, 2015— Fourth Sunday of Advent

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Pope Francis has called for a special 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 or Libby Parks at libbykparks@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.

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 31st Vigil Mass qualify for the current year tax substantiation. Checks received in the January 1st 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.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK

Confessions will be held on **Monday, December 21st** from 5-6pm and **Thursday, December 24th** from 12-2pm.



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—Thursday, December 24th
6:15am, 8:15am

Please note: No noon Mass on December 24th

Vigil Masses: 4:30pm (in Church & gym),
6:30pm & Midnight Mass

Nursery offered at 4:30pm Mass Christmas Eve only

Christmas Day—Friday, December 25th
9am, 10:30am & 12 noon

(No 6pm Mass Christmas night)

Nursery not open Christmas Day

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Visit 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 or call 255-1954.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED



Altar Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Hospitality Ministers are needed to serve all Christmas Masses on **Thursday, December 24th** and **Friday, December 25th** and the Solemnity of Mary on **Thursday, December 31st** and **Friday, January 1st**. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/SLCMinisters> to sign up.

DEMONSTRATE YOUR THANKFULNESS THIS SEASON

Each holiday season, St. Louis Church anticipates and relies on a seasonal increase in contributions. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work now and throughout the year.

If you need a convenient way to make recurring contributions or plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions.

Visit our website at www.stlouischurchmphis.org to set up a recurring giving schedule, and click on the Online Giving button or scan the QR code with your smartphone. Thank you for your generosity and support!



BULLETIN DEADLINE CHANGE



The deadline to submit an article for the **Sunday, December 27th** bulletin is **Monday, December 21st** at 10am. The deadline for the **Sunday, January 3rd** bulletins is the **Monday, December 28th** at 10am.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA & LOURDES WITH FR. DEXTER NOBLEFRANCA

Fatima Santiago de Compostela, and Lourdes Pilgrimage, **April 5-15th, 2016** with Fr Dexter Noblefranca. The price from Memphis with 2 meals included every day is \$3790 plus \$148 taxes. There are many extra visits included plus a stop at a Eucharistic Miracle in Santarem, Portugal. If you saw the movie, The Way, you will want to explore Santiago. Fatima and Lourdes are very powerful shrines with messages for today. Itinerary may be seen on www.traveltyme.com or brochures are available in the Church office. A \$400 deposit will hold your place. **Deadline for deposit is Monday, December 28th. This would make a special Christmas gift!** Contact Jeannie Presley at 335-4563 for information.

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 or 692-0663. Thank you.



St. Louis Cradle Roll

St. Louis Cradle Roll welcomes **Walker Jackson Kiser**, born December 10th, son of **Scott and Taylor Kiser**, grandson of **Marty and Claire Kiser**.

Banns of Marriage

Banns of Marriage are announced for the second time for **Chanler Hansen** and **Joel Stark** and for the first time for **Julie Varnado** and **Scott Fleming**.

ROSARY BRIGADE INTENTION

Pray that all are blessed with peace & joy in this season filled with hope.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
 First Reading 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28
 or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
 Psalm Psalm 84
 Second Reading 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 or
 Colossians 3:12-21
 Gospel Luke 2:41-52

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 13, 2015

Total collection	\$38,881
Envelopes	33,360
Electronic	4,356
Loose	1,165
Budget requirements	\$40,385
Total registered families	1,711
Donated by envelopes	434 families
Donated electronically	74 families
Non-participants	1,203 families
30% of families participated . . . 70% did not	
Visit www.stlouischurchmphis.org to give online.	

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet on **Wednesday, January 20th** from 10:30-11:30am in the Clunan Center.

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.

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

Junior and Senior High Youth Groups will meet on **Sunday, January 10th**. Junior High will meet from 4:30-5:45 pm 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 and on Instagram at st.louis_youth_ministry.



2016 CALENDARS

2016 Calendars are available in the Narthex. Please take one per family.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOUP KITCHEN

St. Vincent de Paul is raising funds for the replacement of windows vandalized at the soup kitchen. Please visit this link to donate: <https://www.gofundme.com/xhe99>.

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.

MARDI GRAS DINNER & PARADE

The 9th Annual St Louis Mardi Gras Dinner and Parade will be held **Saturday, January 30th** 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 or 359-2893 for more information.



Catholic Charities
of West Tennessee

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 ccwttn.org or return the envelope found in the narthex with check payable to Catholic Charities.

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.

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.

WOW—WOMEN OF THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

Please join us every Tuesday in the Clunan Center Meeting Room to discuss the Gospel of Mark. We are using the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible which can be purchased at St. Paul's Book Store. Meeting time is Tuesdays from 11:30am-12:30pm. WOW will not meet on **Tuesday, December 22nd**.



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.

FAITH MAGAZINE

In the Diocese's print publication, Faith West Tennessee, you will read about local Catholics who put their faith in action. For \$18 a year (\$1.50 per month) the magazine will help you to explore your faith and to evangelize. Please make checks payable to St. Louis and drop in collection basket or leave in church office. Donations over \$18 help to cover working costs of the Memphis Diocese's communications.

WATCH ON TUESDAY, DEC. 22ND, 7:00 P.M.
WMC 5 ACTION NEWS
THURSDAY, DEC. 24TH, 10:35 P.M.
(AFTER THE LATE LOCAL NEWS AND LEADING UP TO MIDNIGHT MASS FROM THE VATICAN)

COME HOME ^{for} CHRISTMAS
A FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT TO BENEFIT THE PROGRAMS OF
 Catholic Charities of West Tennessee

ST. MARY'S SOUP KITCHEN

Are you looking for that perfect gift for that special someone, family, friend, coworker, or boss, who has everything? Make a tax deductible donation to St. Mary's Soup Kitchen. An acknowledgement card will be mailed to them per your donation. Contact Nancy at 522-9420 or mail donation and names to St. Mary's Catholic Church, 155 Market, Memphis, TN 38105.

BOWLING FUN NIGHT

St. Louis Fun Night at Billy Hardwick's All-Star Lanes each Tuesday from 6:30-8:30pm. Cost is \$5 and includes shoe rental. No registration required.

NURSERY & CRY ROOM

Children are always welcome at St. Louis Catholic Church. We strive to provide a church home for all. However, it is distracting to others if children play loudly and talk during Mass. Parents are encouraged to take advantage of our nursery or cry room in order to allow all present to fully experience the celebration of Mass. Infants and children through 3 years old are welcome in our Nursery, which is well-staffed by professional childcare providers who are part of our Mother's Day Out team. Staff members are assisted by teenagers who have completed the Red Cross Babysitting Certification Course. There is no charge for the nursery.

KNITTING & CROCHETING MINISTRY



The St. Louis Knitting Ministry meets on Sundays from 1-3pm. People who crochet (in preferred yarn) are also needed. Beginners are welcome. Members supply their own materials (donations welcomed!). Needs and demands are growing tremendously to wrap newborns and sick in God's love. Call Charlotte B. Parry at 820-0531 for information.

Reminder: Federal regulations prevent hospitals from divulging patient information. If you would like a visit from a priest; contact the church office at 682-6606 or jan.odonnell@stlouis.cdom.org.

EMAIL UPDATES

St. Louis Church has an email database which is used to send out news about parish events and activities. Contact jan.odonnell@stlouis.cdom.org if you would like your email address to be included or updated.

MADONNA CIRCLE SWEEPSTAKES

Madonna Circle 80th Anniversary Mardi Gras Gala Sweepstakes will be held on **February 27, 2016**. Contact any Madonna Circle member or Amy Ryan at amyryan@me.com for information.